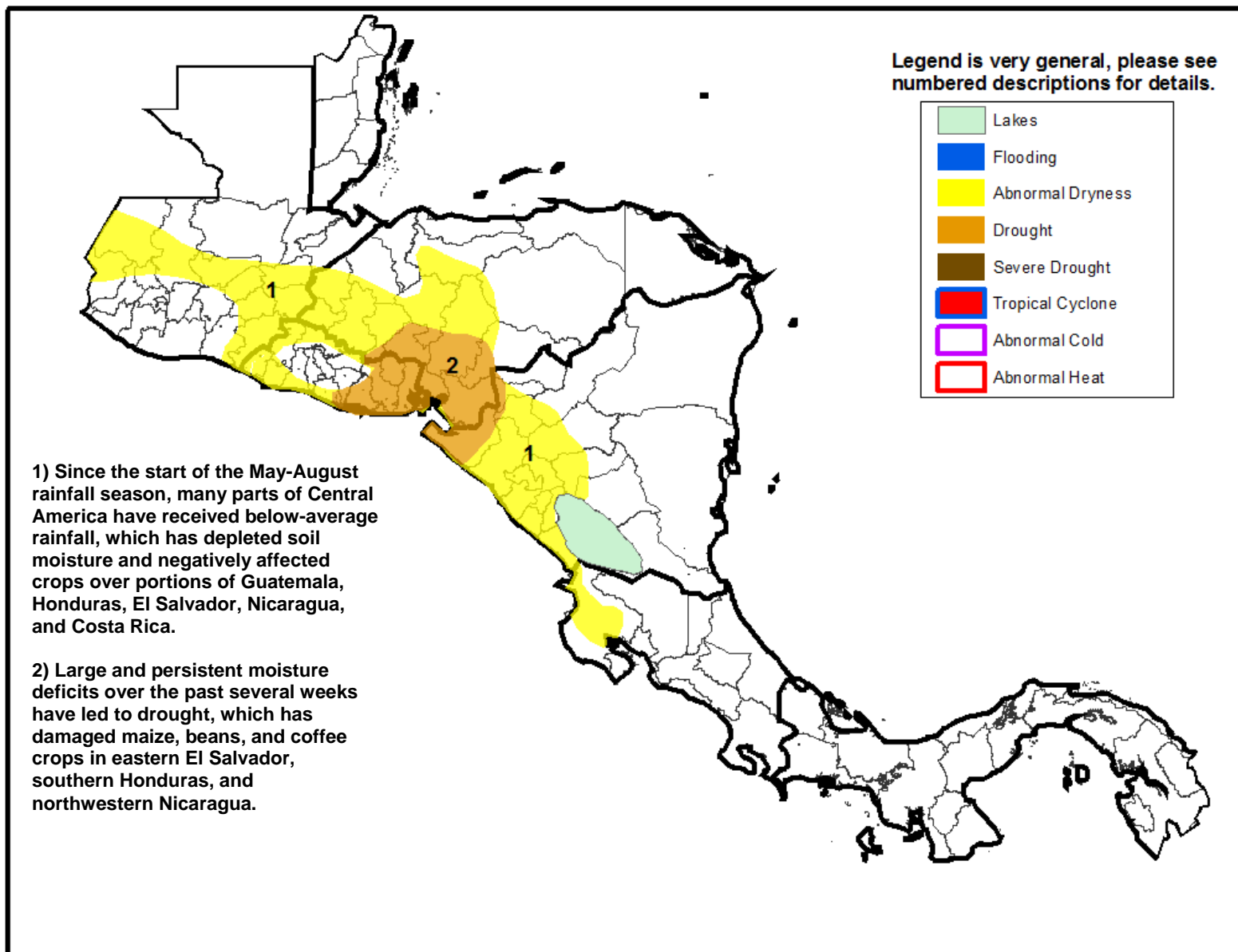




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 23 – 29, 2015

- Insufficient rainfall observed across much of Central America since the beginning of July.



Average to below-average rainfall expected to persist across Central America.

During the past week, a slight increase in rainfall was observed throughout Central America relative to that during the prior period. Suppressed rain was again recorded across the interior of Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy rain fell across southern Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, southern Belize, southeastern Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean, according to the TRMM rainfall estimates. Since the beginning of July, large (> 100 mm) rainfall deficits have been registered across the eastern and western highlands of Guatemala, western and easternmost Honduras, El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. Due to an uneven distribution of rainfall during the past four weeks, rainfall deficits have persisted over the dry portions of Central America, which has led to further depletion of soil moisture and deterioration of crops over many local areas, including eastern and central El Salvador and eastern Guatemala, according to the most recent vegetation and soil moisture indices.

During the next outlook period, rainfall forecasts indicate continued localized, moderate rain over southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, and southwestern Honduras. Heavy downpours are also expected along the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras and localized areas of Costa Rica and Panama. Conversely, light rain is forecast across much of Honduras and western Nicaragua, which is likely to sustain moisture deficits in the region.

