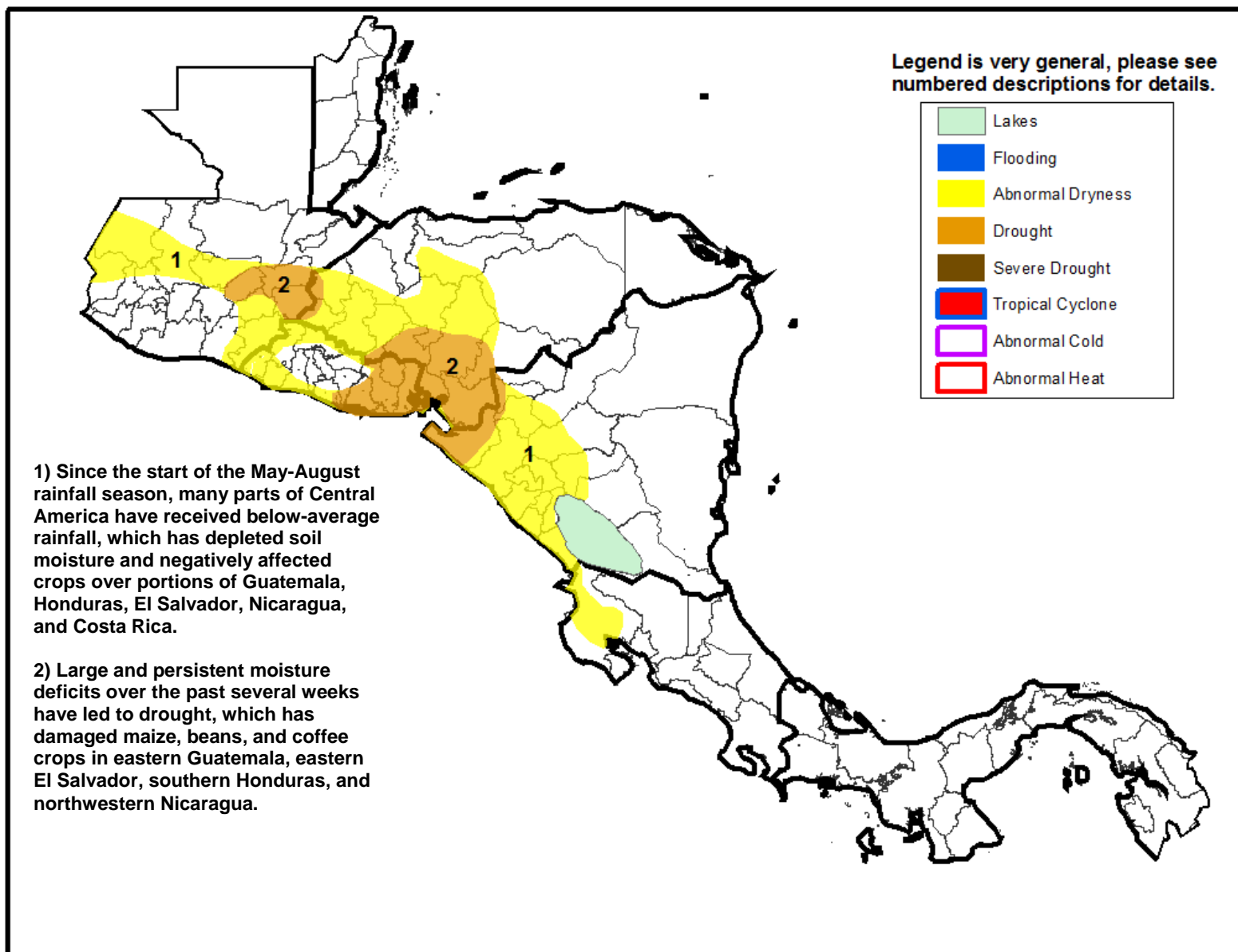




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 30 – August 5, 2015

- The lack of rain over the past thirty days has destroyed maize and bean crops in eastern Guatemala.



Persistent dryness has negatively impacted crops of Central America.

Over the past thirty days, below-average rainfall has been observed across much of Central America, with large (> 100 mm) rainfall deficits over the northern half of Guatemala, western Honduras, along the Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Honduras, Atlantic region of Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica. The drier than average conditions, associated with the extended *Canicula*, mid-season dry period, have already resulted in significant losses in maize and bean crops over the El Progreso, Zacapa, and Chiquimula departments of eastern Guatemala, according to media reports. During the past week, moderate to heavy rain fell over southern Guatemala, central Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean, while little to light rain was recorded throughout the interior of Honduras. Despite the enhancement in rainfall along the Pacific Basin of northern Central America and Atlantic regions of Nicaragua since July, seasonal deficits have persisted throughout Central America. Rainfall totals have accounted for only between 50-80 percent of the average since the beginning of May. Consistent and well-distributed rain is needed to fully eliminate accumulated rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture to improve crop conditions over many local areas of Central America.

For next week, light to locally moderate rain is forecast throughout Central America. Heavy rain is expected along the Gulf of Honduras, Atlantic littorals of Nicaragua, and Pacific Basin of Costa Rica. However, the forecast rain will likely to be below-average and could sustain moisture deficits.

