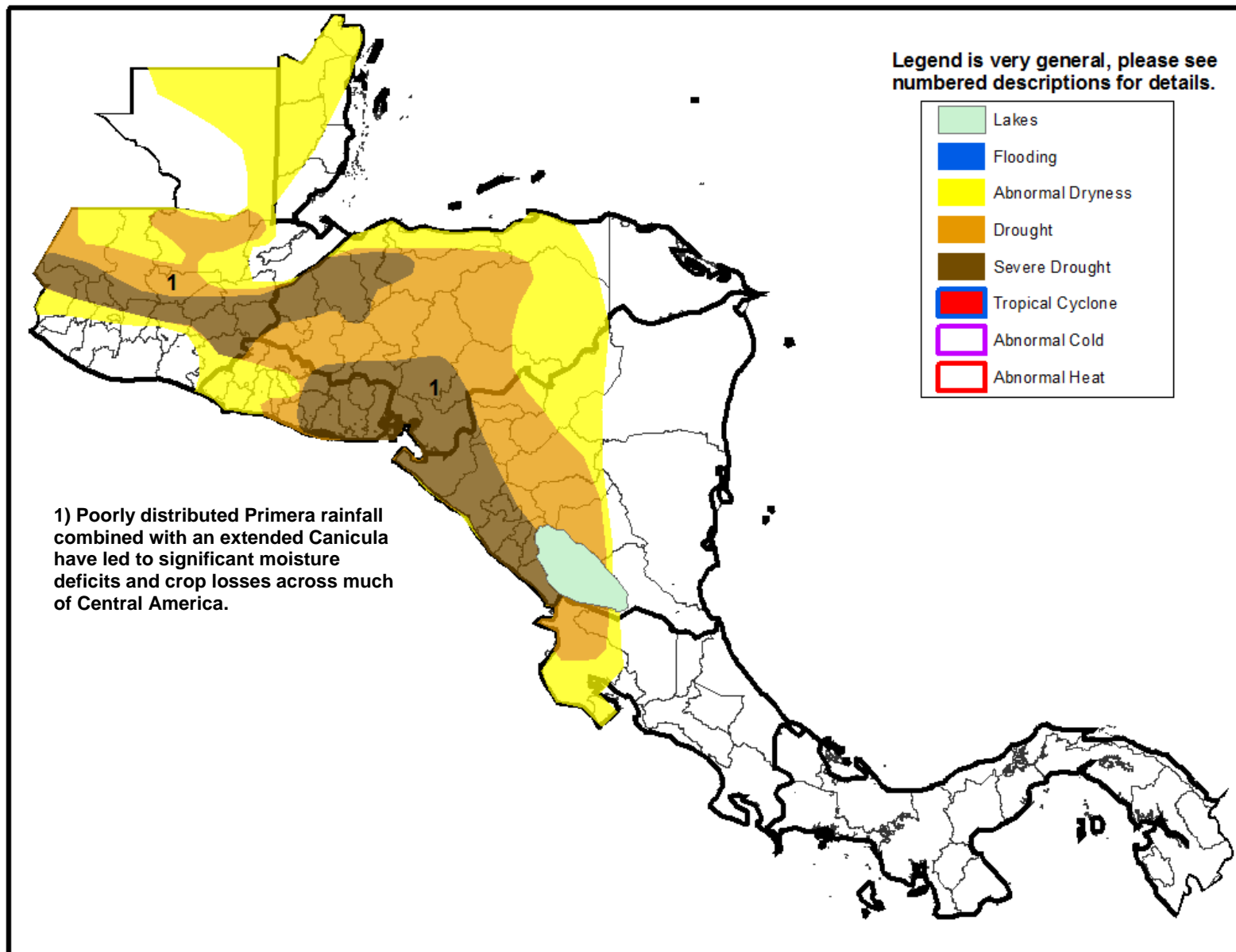




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 3 – September 9, 2015

- Suppressed rains continue throughout Central America to start the month of September.



## Rainfall remained significantly below normal last week. Forecast shows potential for increased rains.

During the last week, very poor seasonal rainfall continued across Central America following a brief period of slightly increased rains during mid-August. The highest precipitation accumulations were received in the Petén region of Guatemala with observations of more than 100mm during the last week according to satellite estimates. Parts of Honduras, near the Gulf of Fonseca region, along with Pacific coastal regions of Nicaragua received almost no rainfall. Rainfall has been poorly distributed and low in quantity for many areas, especially in southern Honduras. In the last 30 days, nearly all of Central America has experienced below-average rainfall, as the largest moisture deficits (<25 percent of normal) have been mainly observed in the Gulf of Fonseca region, parts of southern Honduras and western Nicaragua. The drier-than-average rainfall has been preceded by a poor *Primera* rain season which has reportedly led to degraded ground conditions and crop losses earlier this year. With the approaching climatological onset of the *Postrera* rains, heavy rainfall is required to help offset both short-term and long-term moisture deficits.

For next week, a substantial increase in rainfall is forecast across many Pacific facing departments in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, as well as southwestern Honduras. This may be an indication of the onset of the *postrera* rains. A quick and robust onset of the season is extremely well-needed. Even so, eastern Honduras and Nicaragua look to stay drier than normal. No tropical activity is expected to affect the region during the next seven days.

