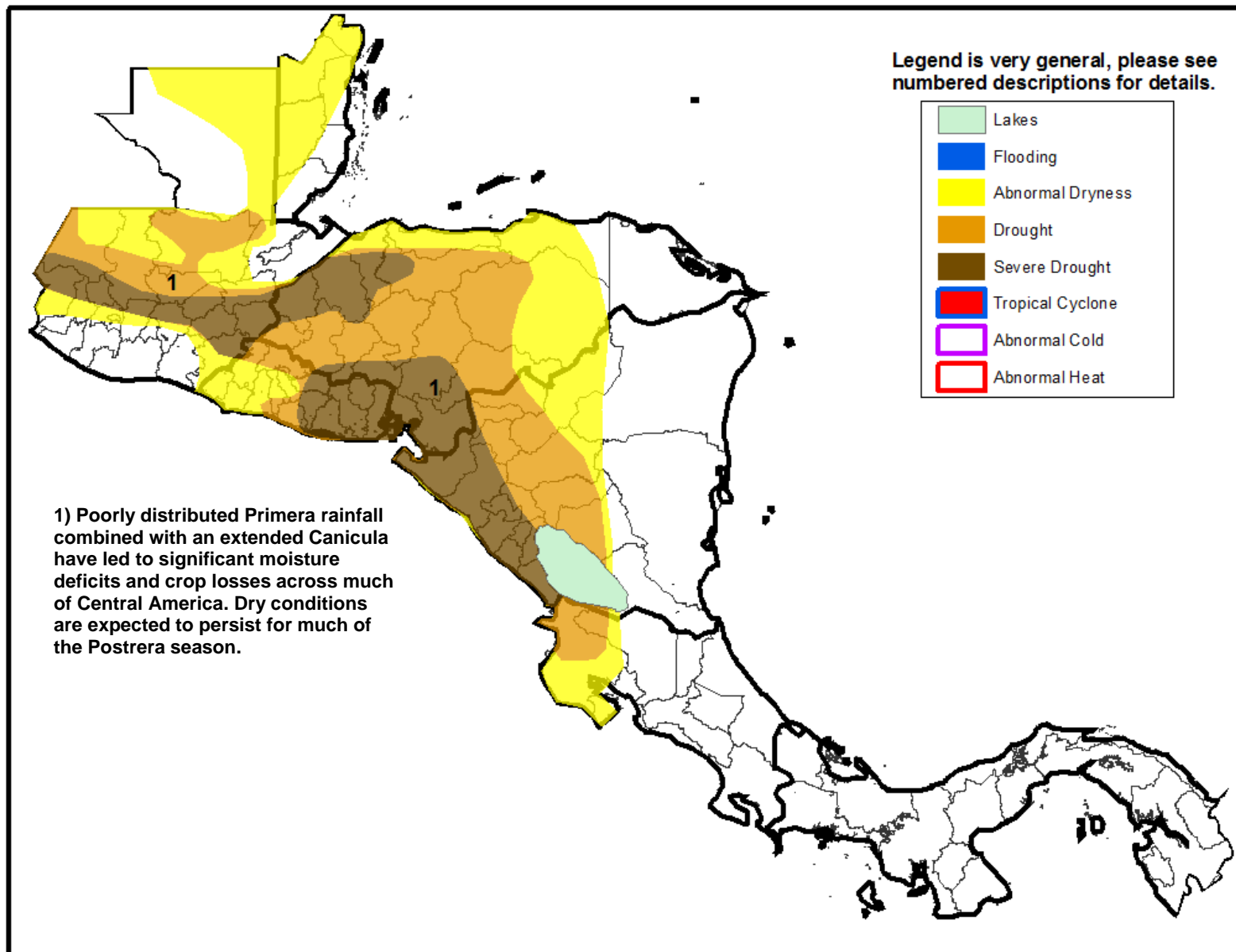




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 10 – September 16, 2015

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



**Rainfall conditions were mixed during the past week. Look for drier-than-normal conditions during the upcoming outlook period.**

During the last week, some regions received more seasonable rainfall while others still did not. Areas along the eastern facing coast of Nicaragua, western Honduras, local portions of Guatemala, and El Salvador received heavy rainfall over the past 7 days. TRMM estimates indicate more than 150mm fell in many of these areas. Other portions of the region, most notably western Nicaragua and central Honduras, received only light, unevenly distributed rains. Despite the increase in rainfall for some, it was not yet enough to significantly improve moisture deficits. Moisture deficits are evident throughout the entire region on time scales of 30 days and longer. The worst short and long-term dryness persists in the Gulf of Fonseca region, and throughout southern Honduras and western Nicaragua. Central portions of Guatemala are especially hard hit as well. Some of these areas have recorded less than 25% of normal rainfall since the 1<sup>st</sup> dekad of August. This year's poor *Primera* rain season followed by an extended Canicula, has led to serious ill effects for cropping activities across the region. For some of the hardest hit areas, almost total crop losses have been reported, especially in the dry corridor. As a result labor and food stocks have been significantly diminished.

Mostly near-normal or dryer-than-normal conditions are forecasted for the upcoming outlook period. This is not encouraging for a favorable start to the *Postrera* season. The best chances for heavier rainfall appear to be in southern Guatemala, southern Honduras, El Salvador and local parts of southern Nicaragua. Amounts could potentially exceed 150mm in these areas.

