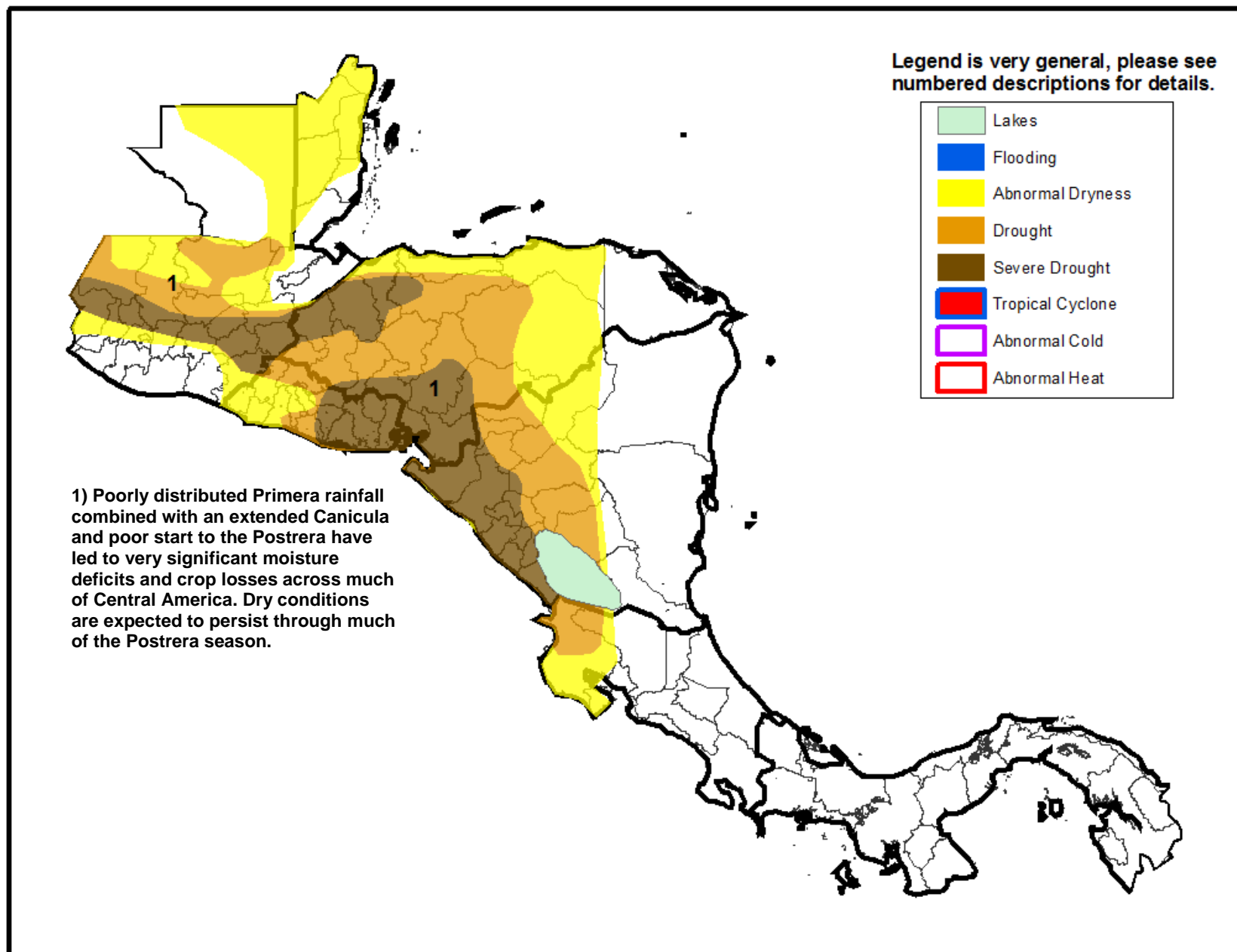




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 17 – September 23, 2015

- Suppressed rains continued throughout much of Central America through the middle of September.



Rainfall remained generally below normal during the past week. Some locally heavier rainfall is possible next week.

During the last week, most regions received near or slightly below normal rainfall. The Gulf of Fonseca region, central Guatemala, and northwestern Honduras were the driest areas. Parts of Central America that received greater amounts of rainfall included localized portions of El Salvador, southern Nicaragua and Costa Rica. TRMM estimates indicate that more than 150mm fell where the heaviest precipitation occurred in Costa Rica. Yet another dry week for western Nicaragua and Honduras has led to further deepening of already substantial moisture deficits. Some of these areas are showing TRMM rainfall totals less than 25% of normal over the last 30 and 90 day periods. Central portions of Guatemala are especially hard hit as well. Long-term moisture deficits are ubiquitous across Central America; with wide spread percent-of-normal values less than 80%. 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.

Scattered heavy rains are in the forecast, leading to near or above-normal rainfall conditions over the next 7 days for most of Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. Upwards of 150mm are possible in local areas where the heaviest showers occur. Eastern Nicaragua, southward into Costa Rica and panama, are likely to experience suppressed rainfall. Eastern Nicaragua has the greatest chance of receiving the most unseasonably low rainfall.

