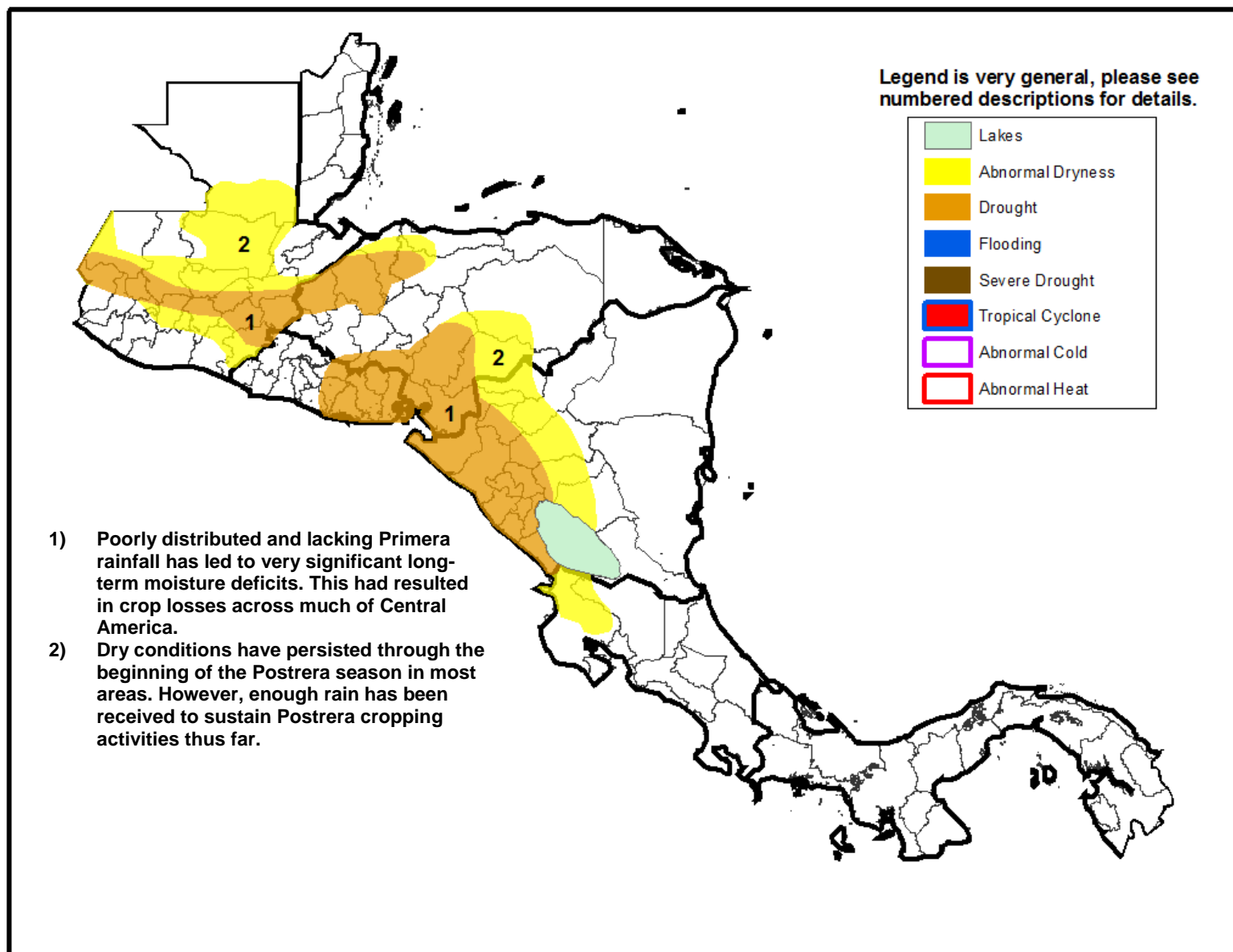




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 24 – September 30, 2015

- Despite slightly increased rainfall for some, significant long-term moisture deficits remain entrenched across the region.



The chance of widespread heavy rain next week brings hope for some long-term dryness relief

During the last week, rainfall conditions were mixed. Moderate to locally heavy rains were observed across most of the region, more than 100mm in some cases. Areas along the western coast of Nicaragua and into central Guatemala received only light rains (<25mm) according to TRMM estimates. Generally positive rainfall anomalies were located over Honduras while primarily below normal conditions existed elsewhere. Over longer time scales, going back to the third dekad of June, the worst deficits are observed over western Nicaragua, central Honduras and central Guatemala. Observed rainfall in these areas has been less than 50% of climatology according to TRMM estimates. Lesser long-term moisture deficits are ubiquitous across Central America; with wide spread percent-of-normal values less than 80%. Underperforming rainfall, going back to the start of the Primera rainfall season, has led to serious ill-effects for cropping activities across the region. For some of the hardest hit areas, almost total Primera crop losses have been reported, especially in the dry corridor. Though still below average in many areas, Postrera rainfall has been sufficient for the first stages of crop growth.

Widespread heavy rains are in the forecast, leading to near or above-normal rainfall conditions over the next 7 days for Costa Rica and points north. Upwards of 150mm are possible for many areas, especially southern and western Guatemala, where a bit of localized flooding is not out of the question. Only Panama and portions of eastern Nicaragua seem likely to experience suppressed rainfall. Rainfall, as forecast, would be a help to crops and water availability, but several sustained weeks of above average rainfall will be necessary before concerns are substantially alleviated.

