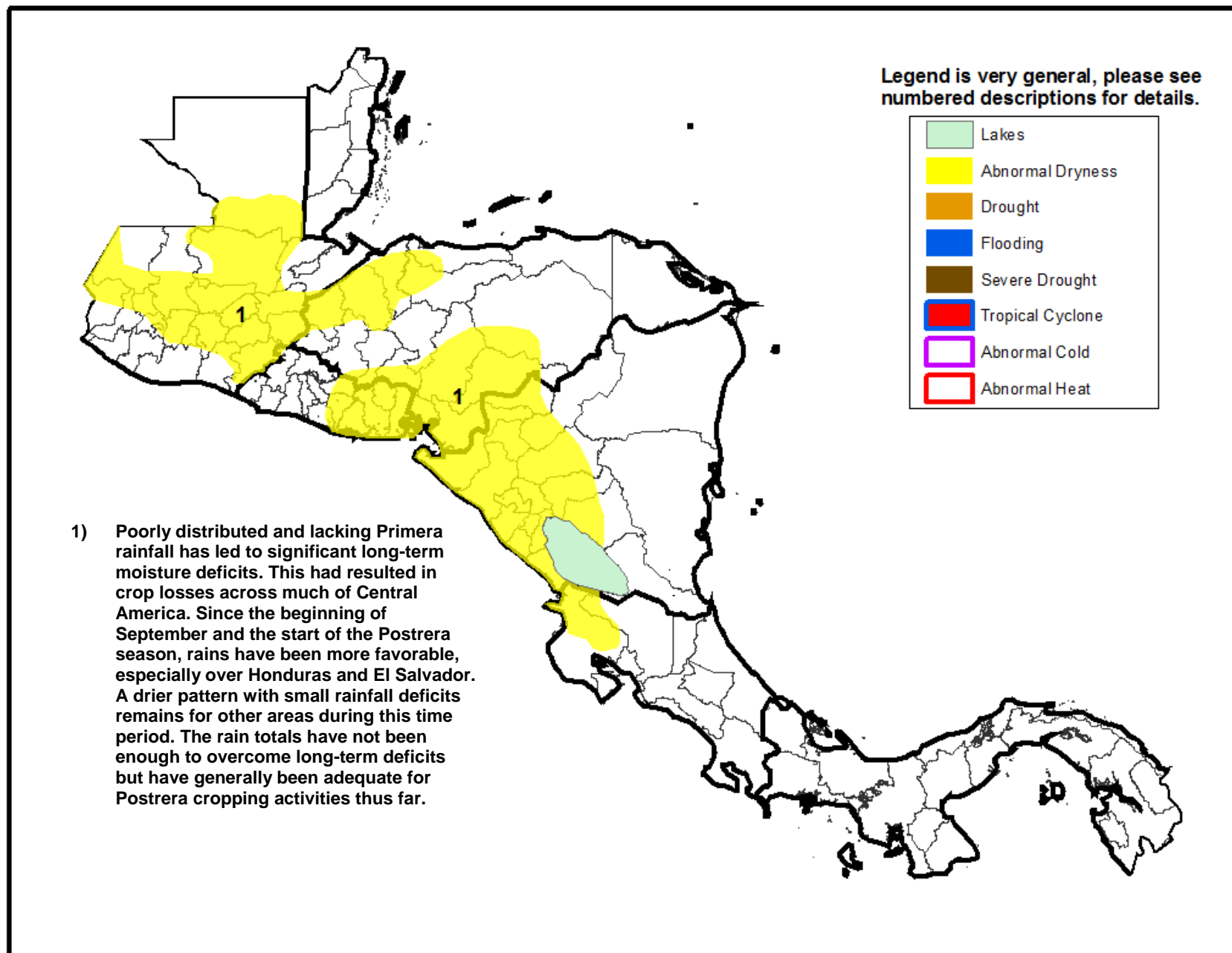




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 24 – September 30, 2015

- Areas of heavy rain resulted in swollen rivers and flooding reports, especially across Honduras and Guatemala



During the next week, heavy rains may continue for Guatemala and El Salvador but most other regions should dry out substantially.

During the last week, widespread moderate to heavy rains were observed throughout Central America. The heaviest rains (>100mm) were reported in southern/central Honduras and several areas in Guatemala according to TRMM estimates. Within some of these areas, particularly around Tegucigalpa Honduras and in southern Guatemala, most of the rain fell over a short period, leading to flooding. Conversely, eastern Nicaragua and northern Guatemala received the most anomalously light rains. Totals did not exceed 25mm in some cases. Since the start of September and the Postrera season, most of El Salvador and Honduras exhibit near to above-normal rainfall, while other areas still exhibit below-normal rainfall. Even so, Postrera rainfall has generally been sufficient for early crop growth. Over longer time scales, dating to the end of June, the worst deficits are observed over western Nicaragua, central Honduras, and central Guatemala. There, observed rainfall has been less than 50% of climatology according to TRMM estimates. Recent rainfall has resulted in some improvement to these long-term moisture deficits, but the effects remain apparent in vegetation indices. Lesser long-term moisture deficits are ubiquitous across Central America; with wide spread percent-of-normal values less than 80%. Underperforming rainfall, dating to the start of the Primera season, had already led to serious ill-effects for crops across the region.

Heavy rains are in the forecast for Guatemala, leading to near or above-normal rainfall conditions over the next 7 days. Upwards of 200mm are possible for some areas, especially southern and western Guatemala. Flooding is possible with heavy rains falling over some of the same areas for a second straight week. Most other areas are expected to return to below normal rainfall conditions according to forecast models.

