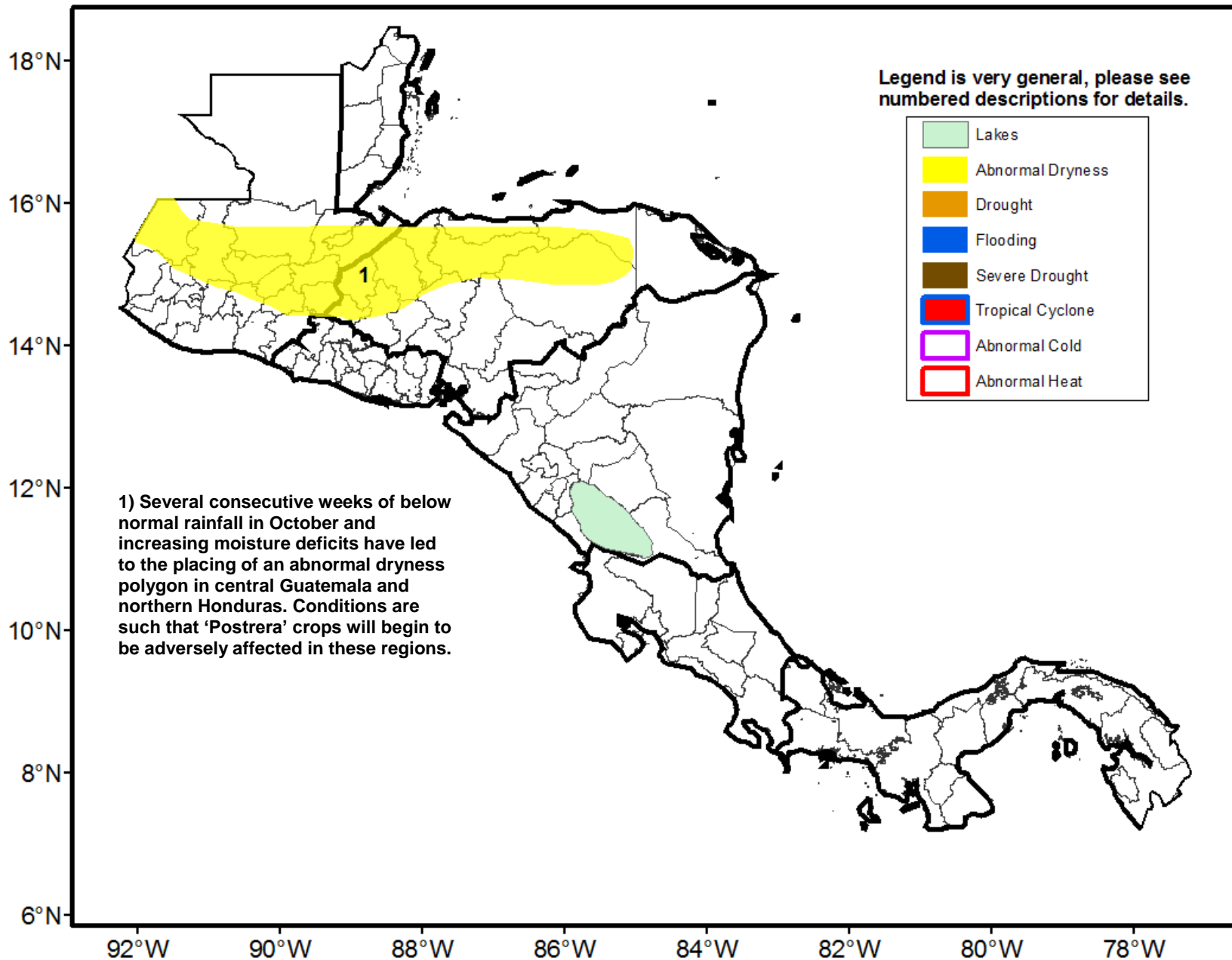




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 20 – October 26, 2016

- Sporadic rain and moisture deficits during the 'Postrera' season have led to a swath of abnormal dryness.



Heavy, flooding rains were observed last week, but enhanced precipitation did not spread into regions that most need it.

Over the last 7 days, heavy rain was observed over many parts of El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. Local areas received more than 200mm, which was enough to cause flash flooding in several locales and overwhelm the Grande de San Miguel River in El Salvador. Other areas of Nicaragua and southern Guatemala also received ample rainfall. Rains were unable to reach farther north into northern Guatemala and Honduras where negative anomalies are present for the week. These same areas have seen repeated weeks of below-average rain during the last month. According to TRMM, local portions of central Guatemala and northern Honduras have received less than 50 percent of their normal rain over the past 30 days. As a result of persistent below-average rainfall and rapidly increasing moisture deficits, 'Postrera' season cropping activities will likely be adversely affected. Satellite vegetation health products continue to indicate mostly neutral vegetation conditions. However, degradation is expected to show up in observations moving forward as soil moisture is already significantly diminished.

During the upcoming outlook period, a drier pattern is forecast for the region, diminishing any flooding concerns. Heavier rains are expected to be suppressed farther south into Nicaragua, where total greater than 150mm are possible. Below-average rain and little relief are in the forecast for abnormally dry portions of Guatemala and Honduras.

