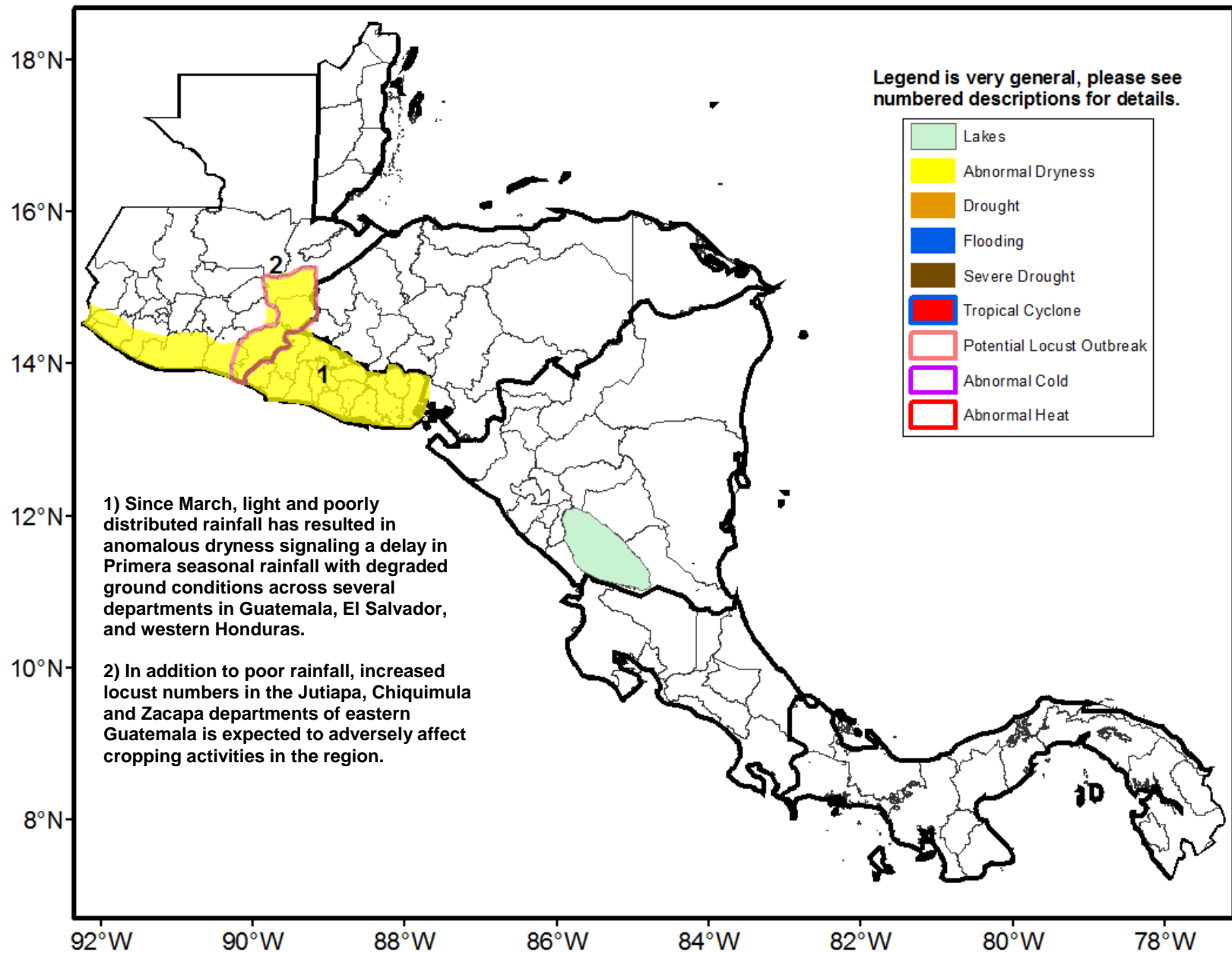




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 27 – May 3, 2017

- Despite increased moisture in late April, several areas experiencing a delay in Primera rainfall.



A poor start to the Primera rains experienced throughout parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

During the last seven days, early season rainfall activity continued into middle to late April, however much of the higher rainfall accumulation were received on the Atlantic side of Central America, leaving many Pacific facing department devoid of seasonal rainfall. According to satellite rainfall estimates, a wave disturbance in the Caribbean triggered enhanced rainfall over the Gulf of Honduras which brought moderate (25-50mm) rainfall amounts to northern portions of Guatemala and Honduras, and lighter amounts (5-25mm) towards the south. With another week of low rainfall, running 30 days rainfall anomalies continue to depict a strengthening of dryness mainly throughout Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and northern Nicaragua, suggesting a delayed onset of Primera rainfall in April. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices show largely moderate values with locally low values across parts of central and eastern Guatemala. Locally low values are also observed across parts of western Honduras as of early April which indicating a deterioration of ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest increased rainfall accumulations mainly over the higher elevations of Guatemala, and southern Honduras, with reduced amounts along many Pacific facing departments in the region. This is expected to help mitigate early season moisture deficits for several interior departments, however many local areas in southern Guatemala and El Salvador may experience a strengthening in dryness into early May.

