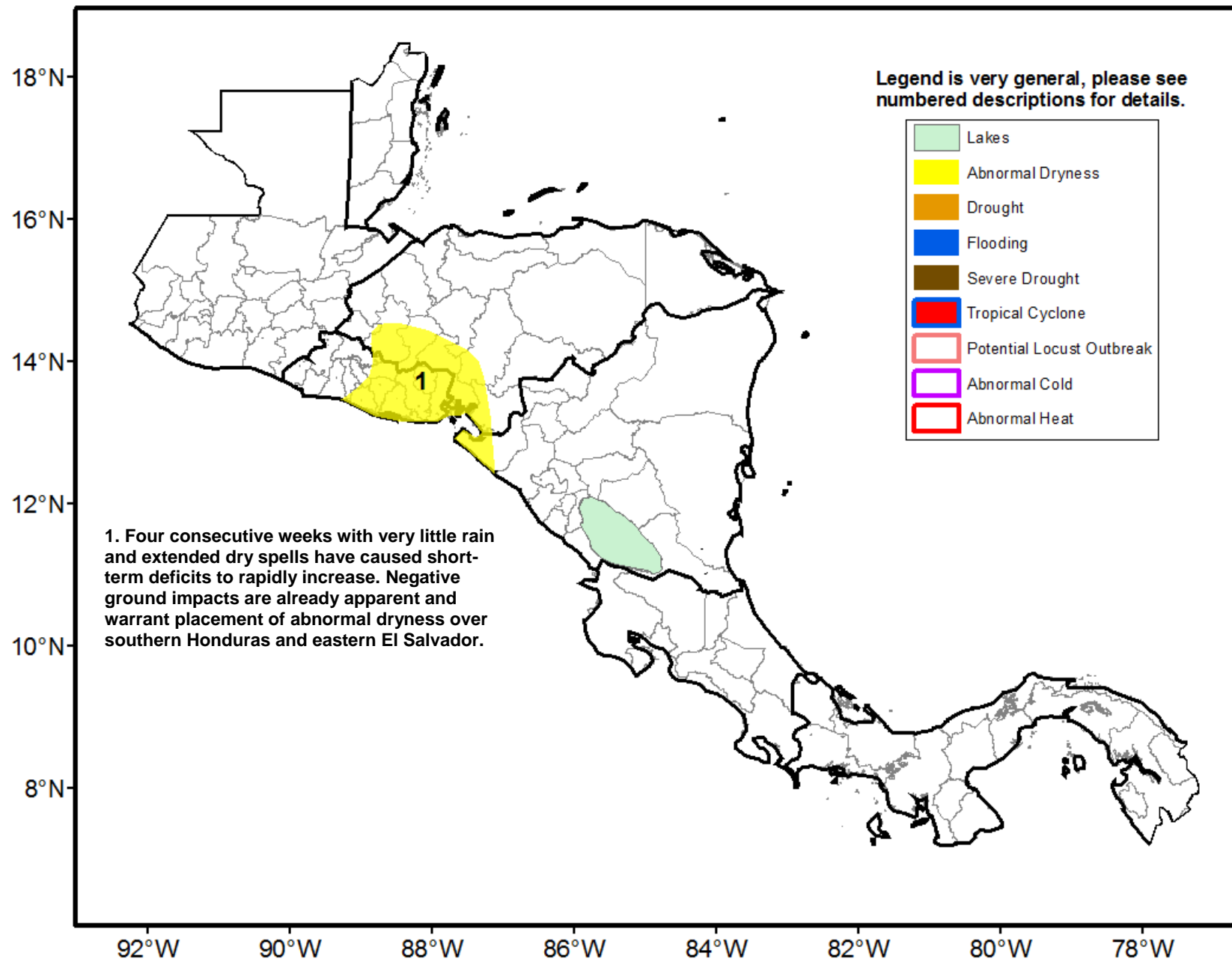




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 19 – July 25, 2018

Several consecutive weeks of poor rainfall in the Gulf of Fonseca region has led to abnormal dryness



Rainfall was widely lighter than normal for mid-July across the region.

Rain was generally suppressed over most of Central America during the last 7 days. Only a few areas in the southern Caribbean and the Gulf of Belize region received above-average rainfall. While most areas experienced rainfall deficits, the largest (over 100mm) are found in eastern Nicaragua. Some portions of southern Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala exhibit significant deficits, having only received a few millimeters of rainfall. The dry spell in southern Honduras and El Salvador has been in place for about 4 weeks and has led to large and increasing 30-day rainfall deficits. Deficits exceed 200mm in an expanding area of eastern El Salvador and southern Honduras. Some of these same regions have experienced more than 20 consecutive days without rain. As a result, vegetation health, according to VHI and other products, is degrading rapidly. VHI values are also low in much of Guatemala, despite more frequent rainfall and lesser negative anomalies. Meanwhile, ground conditions look favorable in the wetter regions to the south and east.

During the next week, models forecast little change to the current pattern. The heaviest rains (100-200mm) are likely to continue along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and eastern Honduras. The Gulf of Fonseca region is expected to remain dry. Though some locally heavier thunderstorms may occur, the rainfall pattern over Guatemala and Belize is expected to be slightly suppressed for another week.

