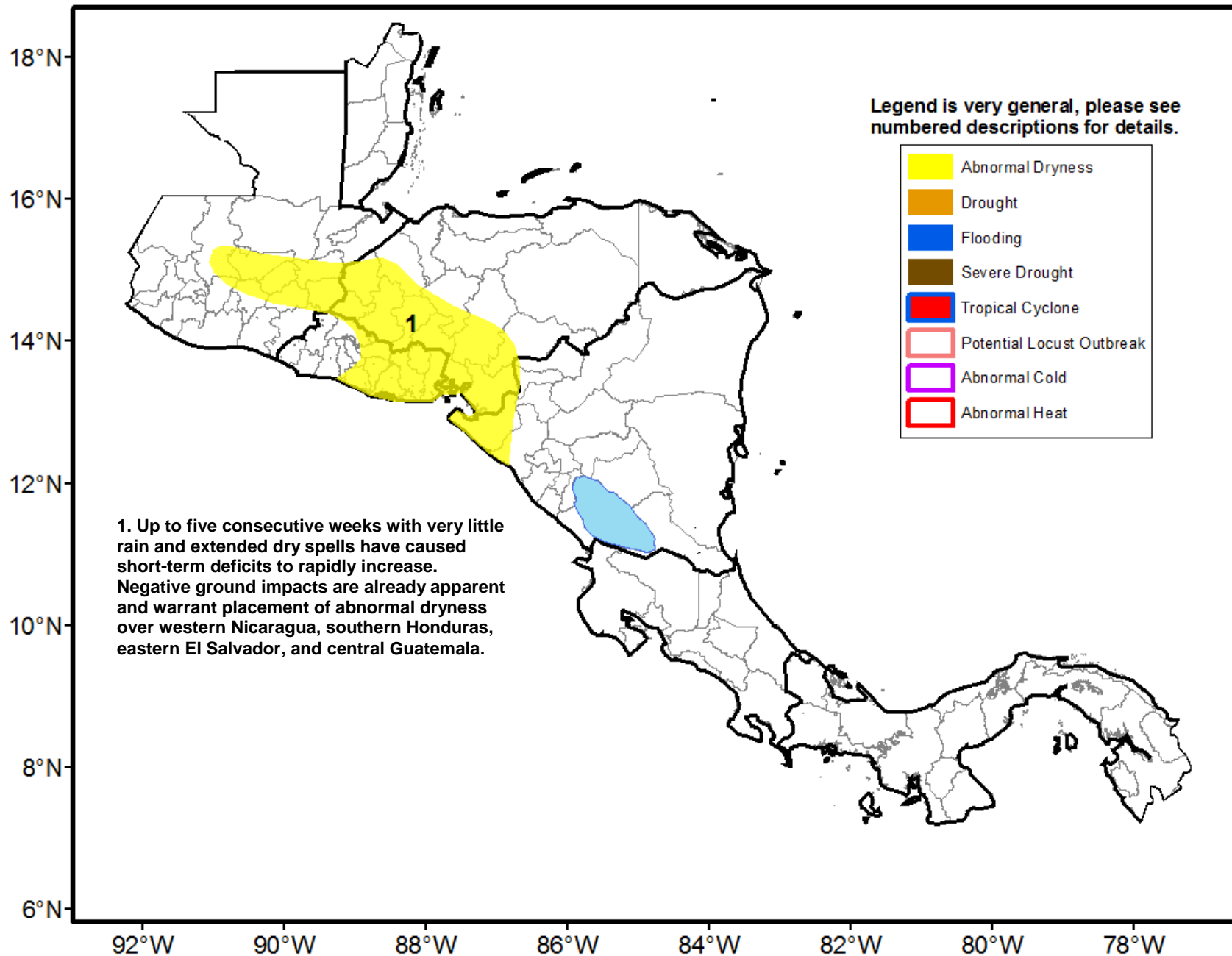




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 26 – August 1, 2018

Many consecutive weeks of poor rainfall in the Gulf of Fonseca region have led to abnormal dryness



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

Heavy and above-average rain was again mostly relegated to the southern Caribbean during the last 7 days. Parts of southern Nicaragua and Costa Rica received more than 200mm according to satellite estimates. The Petén department and Izabal region of Guatemala received more than 100mm of rainfall. Many other areas of central and southern Guatemala saw light and scattered rains. The dry spell continued in El Salvador, southern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. After receiving little rain this past week, many areas have seen almost no rainfall for 5 consecutive weeks. Analysis of CMORPH 30-day anomalies reveals eye-popping deficits exceeding 300mm in El Salvador. A much wider region, which now extends into eastern Guatemala, exhibits 100mm+ negative anomalies. As a result of the intense and prevalent dryness, vegetation health, according to VHI and field reports, is degrading rapidly. VHI values decreased the most in eastern Guatemala where negative anomalies have most recently started to grow. Meanwhile, ground conditions look favorable in the wetter regions to the south and east.

The forecast offers small hope for rainfall recovery during the outlook period. Models predict that the current suppressed pattern may start to change by the end of the period. Some moderate showers may move into areas that are in the midst of log dry spells, but totals will likely be too low to provide great relief. Heavier rainfall may take place in southern Guatemala while northern areas will be suppressed well below normal. The heaviest rains (100-200mm) should continue along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and over the southern Caribbean.

