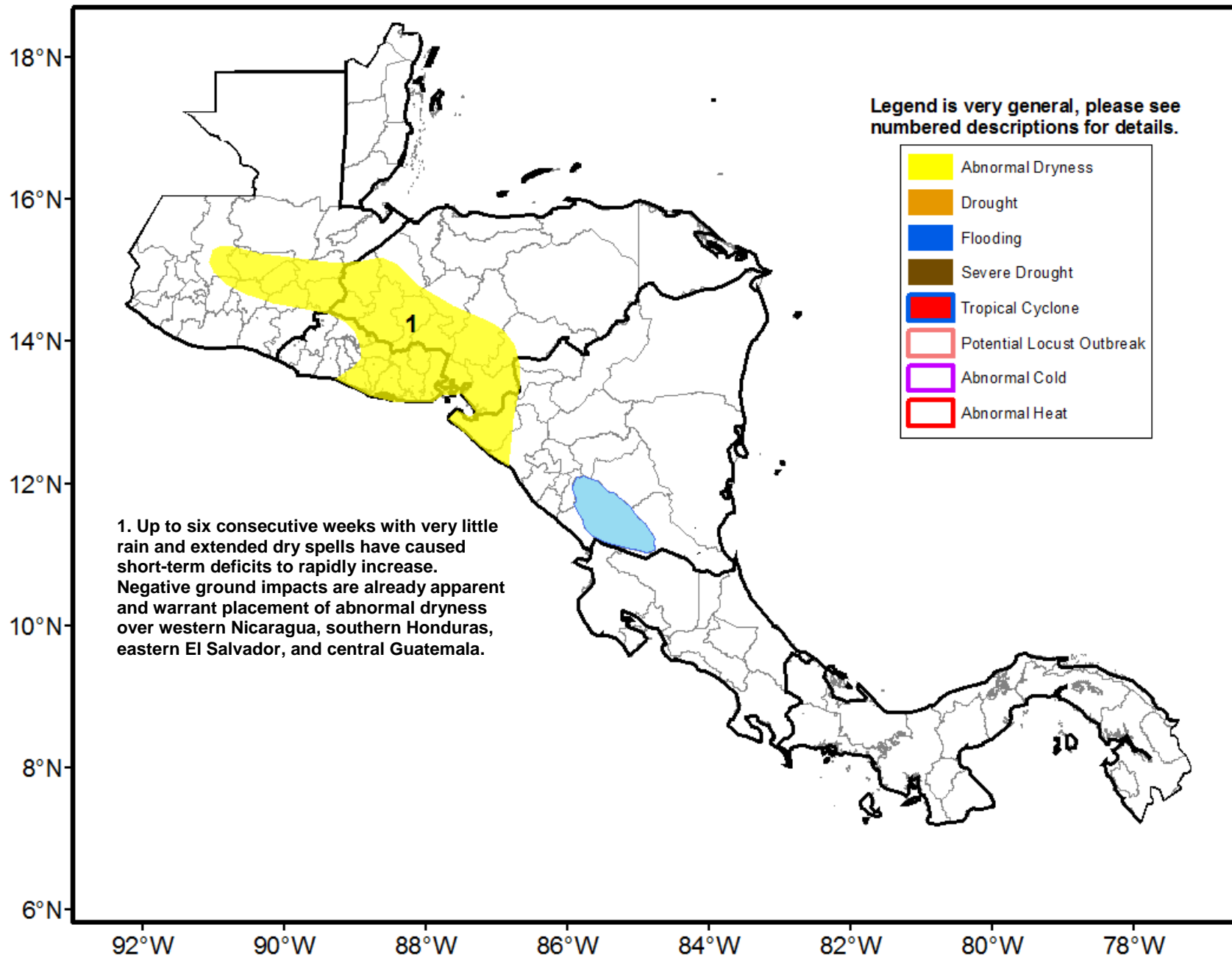




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 2 – August 8, 2018

Many consecutive weeks of poor rainfall have led to expanding and deepening abnormal dryness



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

Torrential and above-average rain was again mostly relegated to the southern Caribbean during the last 7 days. Far southern Nicaragua and many parts of Costa Rica and Panama received at least 150mm according to satellite estimates. Southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and southwestern Honduras received an increase in rainfall this past week, with more than 100mm observed locally. The remainder of Central America experienced only unusually light rains. 7-day deficits of 25-100mm are widespread. While having received some rain over the last few days, many areas of El Salvador and southern Honduras registered rainfall for the first time in 6 weeks. Analysis of CMORPH 30-day anomalies reveals eye-popping deficits exceeding 300mm in El Salvador. Large 30-day and also 2-month rainfall deficits (>100mm) are increasingly evident in many areas of Guatemala. As a result of the intense and prevalent dryness, vegetation health, according to VHI and field reports, has degraded significantly. Additional products are indicating inadequate moisture for cropping as well. Meanwhile, ground conditions look favorable in regions to the south and east that have been wetter.

The forecast for the outlook period is wetter than it has been for weeks. Models predict increased rains over the southern half of Guatemala, El Salvador, and parts of southern Honduras. Total rainfall could exceed 100mm in some places and may reach 200mm in southwestern Guatemala. Some heavier rain is also likely along the east coast of Nicaragua. Moderate rains typical for early August are expected in most other areas.

