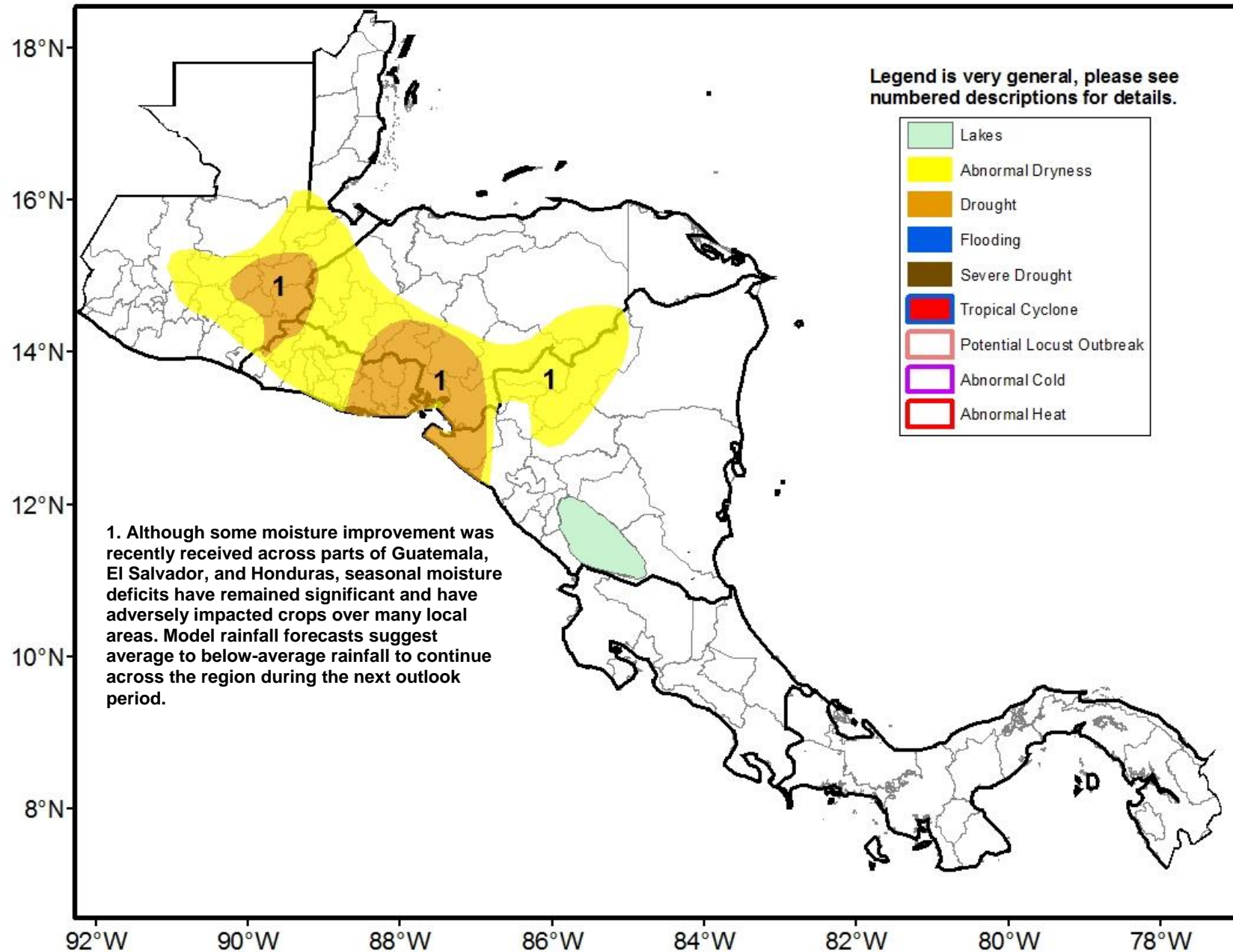




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 16 – 22, 2018

A poor performance of the May-August rainfall season has led to droughts over parts of Central America.



Prolonged dry spells negatively impacted crops over areas of Central America.

An analysis of rainfall accumulation since mid-May to present has indicated widespread, below-average rainfall across northern Central America, with seasonal deficits ranging between 200-500 mm over the eastern and western portions of Guatemala and along the Gulf of Fonseca region. In eastern Guatemala, despite some wet episodes during previous periods, little to no rainfall was received from mid-June to early August, which has already resulted in unfavorable crop conditions over the Jutiapa, Zacapa, El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, and Chiquimula departments, based on reports. Over the past thirty days, although some areas of Central America have experienced increased rainfall, much of Guatemala, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua continued to experience below-average rainfall, with deficits 50-200 mm. During the past week, heavy rainfall was observed over scattered areas of Central America, including southwestern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, the Gulf of Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. However, limited amounts with little to light and below-average rainfall fell throughout the interior of Central America.

For the upcoming outlook period, enhanced and above-average rainfall is forecast across southern Guatemala and western El Salvador, which should help continue to reduce or eliminate moisture deficits over some local areas. In contrast little to light and likely to be below-average rainfall is expected near the Gulf of Fonseca, southeastern Honduras, and central Nicaragua, which could increase moisture deficits and exacerbate dry conditions over the region.

