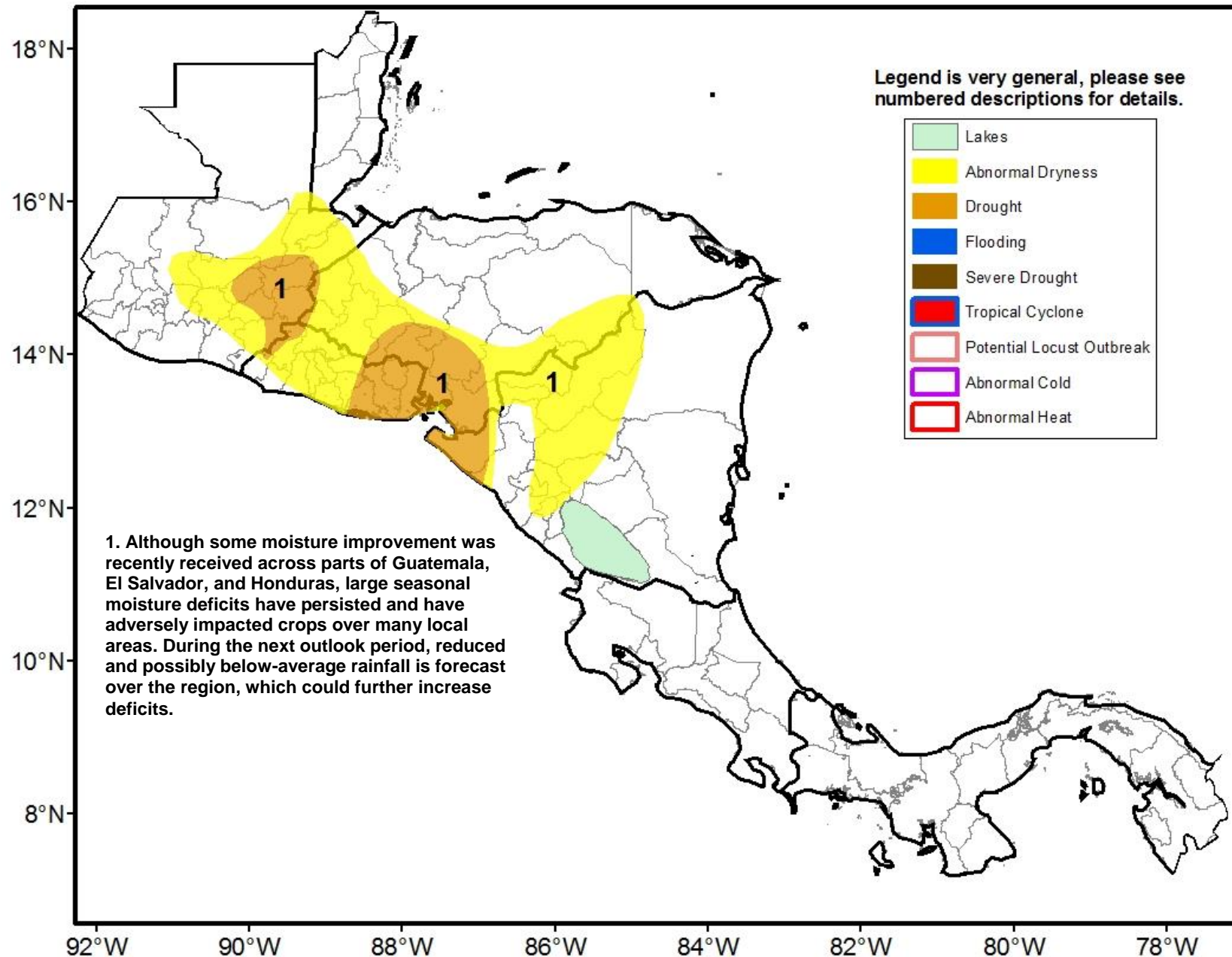




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 23 – 29, 2018

A prolonged mid-summer dryness has resulted in droughts over Central America.



Uneven rainfall distribution forecast to continue during the next outlook period.

During the past observation period, heavy downpours were observed over southwestern Guatemala, El Salvador, eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and coastal areas of the southern Caribbean. Moderate to locally heavy rain was also registered over the western parts of the Petén department of northern Guatemala, Gulf of Honduras, western El Salvador, and eastern Nicaragua. Meanwhile, little to light rainfall was registered across much of the interior of Central America. While this past week's enhanced rain contributed to erode thirty-day rainfall deficits over El Salvador, dry conditions persisted and prevailed over northern Central America. The largest deficits were recorded over east-central Guatemala, southern Honduras, and west-central Nicaragua, where percent of average rainfall fell below 50 percent. Since late May to present, large (> 300 mm) seasonal moisture deficits were recorded over eastern Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca. The lack of rainfall has already resulted in crop reduction and losses over many local areas of the region.

During the upcoming outlook period, limited with little to light rainfall is forecast over the Gulf of Fonseca, which is likely to increase deficits further and worsen conditions on the ground. In contrast, heavy downpours are expected to continue over western Guatemala, local areas of northwestern Honduras, Atlantic coasts of Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean.

