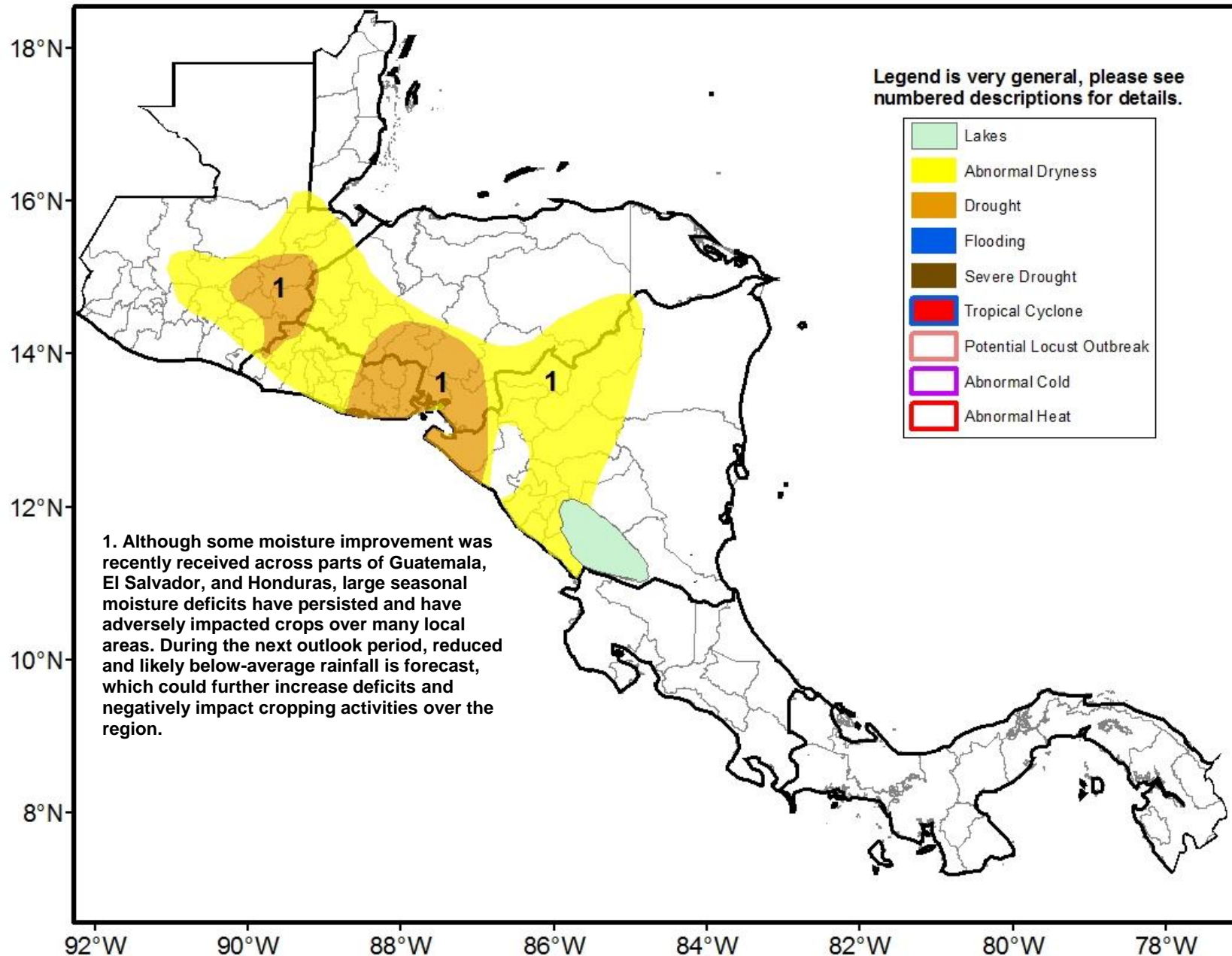




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 30 – September 5, 2018

Below-average rainfall during August has maintained droughts over parts of Central America.



## Limited and likely below-average rainfall expected during late August to early September

During the past observation period, unevenly-distributed rainfall continued over Central America. Torrential rainfall was again received over northern and southwestern Guatemala, the western two-thirds of El Salvador, and the southern Caribbean, while little to light rainfall was registered throughout the interior of the region. As a result, weekly rainfall totals were mostly below-average and contributed to maintaining dryness over eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. Since the beginning of August, rainfall deficits have ranged between 100-200 mm over eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua. Moreover, since late May to present, below-average rainfall has affected northern Central America, with cumulative rainfall accounting for only between 25-50 percent of the average over the Gulf of Fonseca and localized areas of southern Honduras and north-central Nicaragua. An analysis of recent vegetation health indices depicted stressed vegetation over many local areas of eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and northwestern Nicaragua. Agricultural losses and damaged crops have already been reported over many local areas due to droughts.

During the upcoming outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggested limited and likely below-average rainfall over southeastern Honduras and central Nicaragua. This could strengthen rainfall deficits further and negatively impact cropping activities during the ongoing August-November, *Postrera* season. In contrast, torrential rain is expected to continue over southern Guatemala and parts of western El Salvador.

