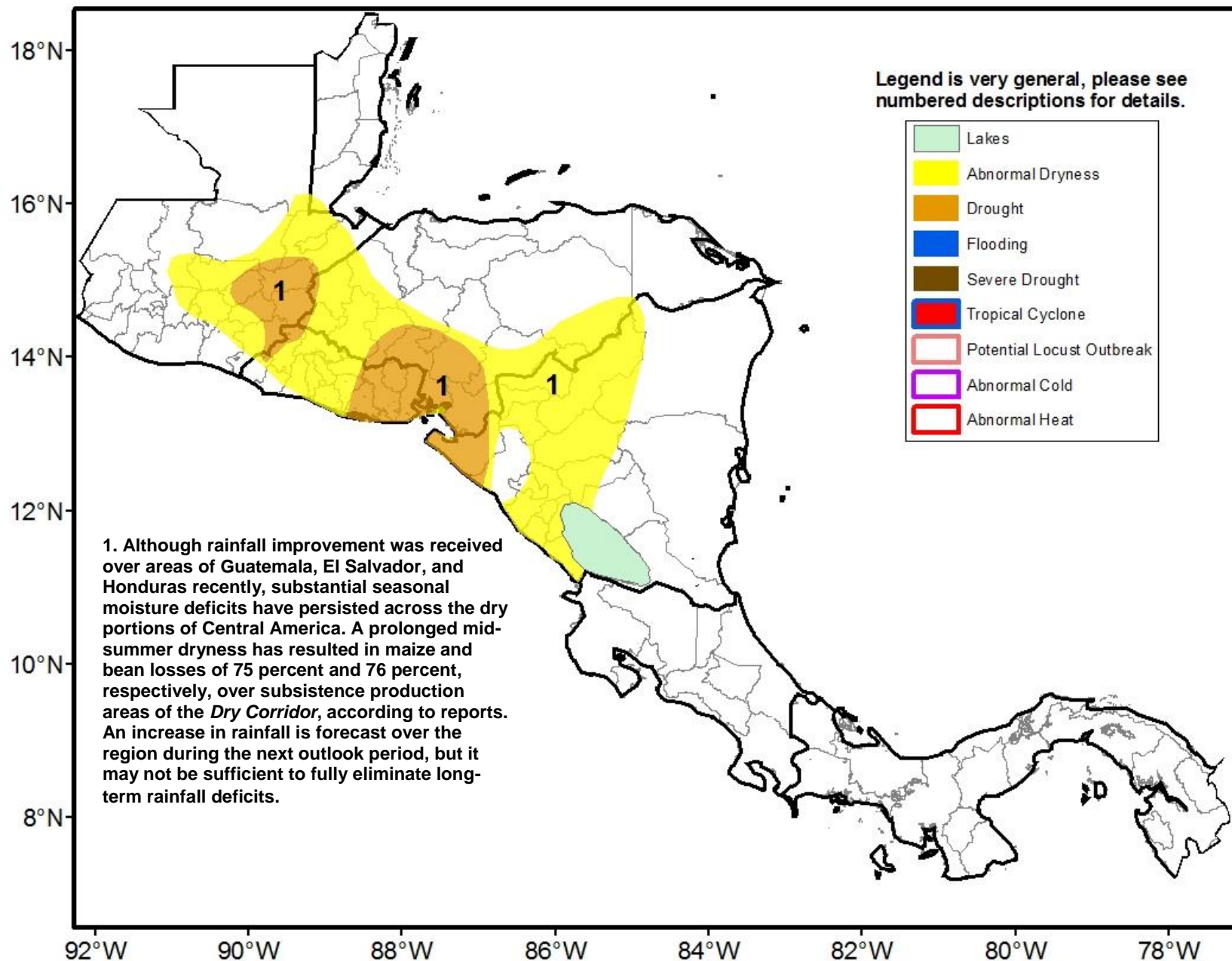




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 6 – 12, 2018

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



Enhanced rainfall expected to begin along the Pacific Rim

During the past week, torrential rainfall was observed over southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua and the southern Caribbean, while little to light rainfall was recorded throughout central Guatemala, southeastern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. Over the Gulf of Fonseca, consistent, below-average rainfall from the past several consecutive weeks strengthened moisture deficits. Thirty-day negative anomalies currently exceeded 200 mm over southern Honduras. Otherwise, large (> 100 mm) thirty-day negative anomalies were widespread throughout central Guatemala, western Honduras, and western Nicaragua. An analysis of the rainfall performance since early June to present has indicated prevailing drier than average conditions across northern Central America from Guatemala, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua, with the largest seasonal deficits ranging between 300 – 500 mm over east-central Guatemala, western Honduras, and the Gulf of Fonseca. The poor rainfall distribution since the start of the *Primera*, May-August, season has already adversely impacted crops and reduced yields over many areas and its continuation could also negatively impact cropping activities during the early period of the *Postrera*, August-November cycle.

For next outlook period, an enhancement in rainfall is expected along the Pacific Rim of Central America, with torrential rainfall over western and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southern Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. Moderate to heavy rainfall is forecast over Honduras and central Nicaragua.

