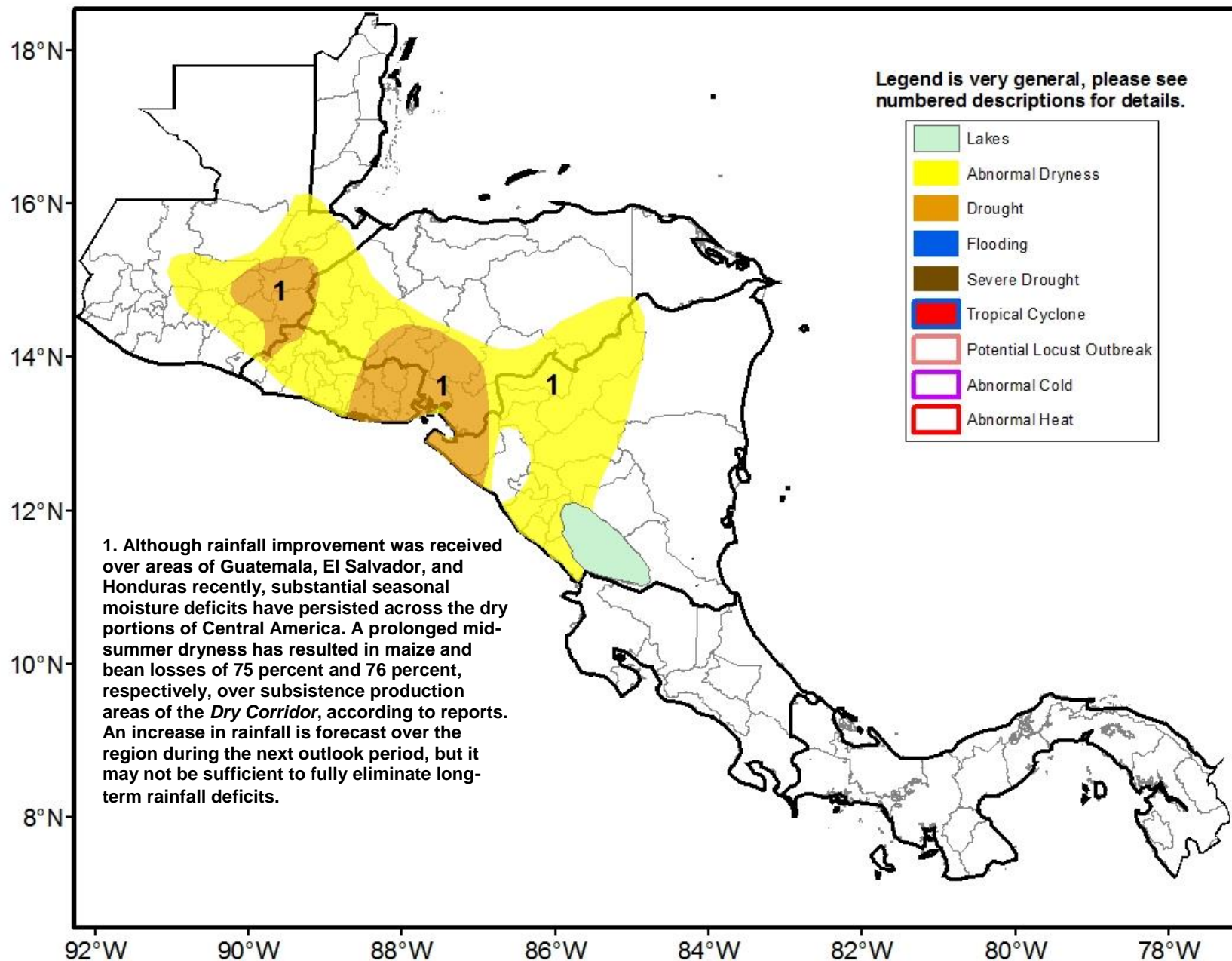




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 13 – 19, 2018

Increased rainfall helps to mitigate moisture deficits across the Gulf of Fonseca region.



Relief to moisture deficits observed over parts of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

During early September, a much needed increase in seasonal rainfall was received across the Gulf of Fonseca region and parts of southern and eastern Guatemala, with weekly precipitation accumulations in excess of 100mm according to satellite rainfall estimates. Heavy rainfall amounts (>100mm) were also received across parts of southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Despite the increase in rainfall, analysis of rainfall anomalies since early August still depicts widespread seasonal moisture deficits prevailing throughout eastern Nicaragua, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and north central Guatemala, where several local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation. However, several provinces in southern Guatemala and western El Salvador are now experiencing above-average moisture conditions due to enhanced rainfall over the last two weeks. Since early June, below average conditions are noted 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, there is the potential for enhanced rainfall across northwestern Guatemala to help provide additional moisture relief over the region. Elsewhere, more seasonable accumulations are expected throughout the remainder of Central America during mid-September.

