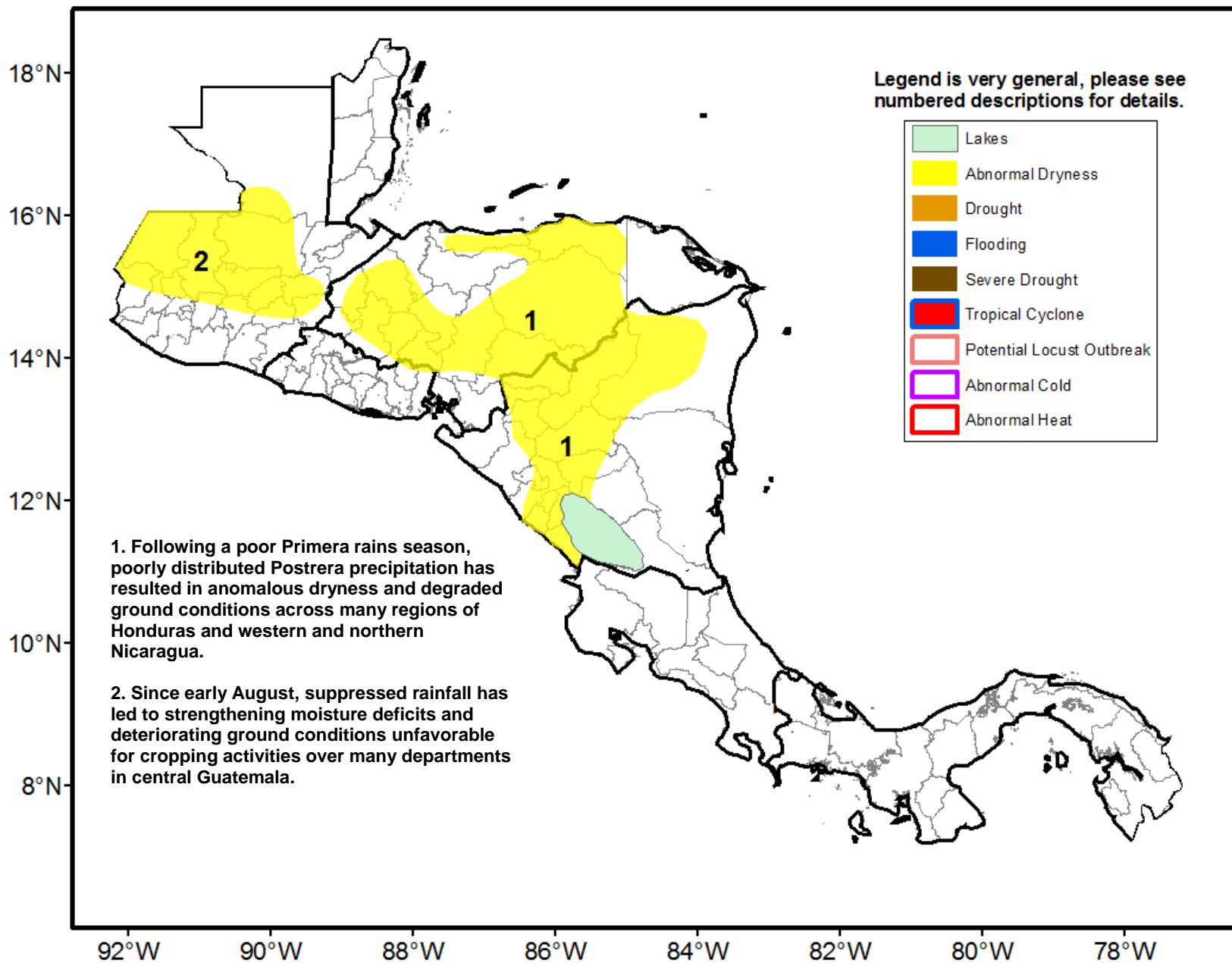




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 25 – October 31, 2018

Widespread and heavy rains affected most of the region.



After heavy rainfall this past week, a substantial decrease is expected for the last week of October.

Widespread above-average rainfall occurred across Central America last week. Many of the most torrential rains occurred in Nicaragua, where a large portion of the country received at least 100mm of rainfall and local areas as much as 1500mm according to satellite estimates. The torrential rains caused rivers to swell and have resulted in fatalities. Other areas receiving heavy rainfall (>100mm) include northern Guatemala, southern Belize, and several places along Central America's Pacific coastline. Since the beginning of August, considerable moisture deficits persist throughout many departments of central Guatemala. Poor and sporadic rains resulted in moisture deficits of 20-50% of normal, but some improvement has been observed since last week. Similar conditions exist in many parts of Honduras and portions of Nicaragua, which have experienced a substandard Postrera rainfall performance to date. Long-term deficits still exist, despite recent heavy rains erasing short-term deficits. The low totals and extended dry spells have led to the degradation of vegetation health. Low VHI values are present over central Nicaragua and southeastern Honduras. Local portions of northern Guatemala and along the southern mountains also exhibit low VHI values. Other areas, such as central Guatemala, have shown improvement.

Much less rain is forecast across the region during the final week of October. Some heavier showers are possible in central and western Guatemala, and along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua, but otherwise, totals should remain less than 50mm. This pattern will result in a return to drier than normal conditions over Nicaragua. Typical wetter conditions should persist for Costa Rica and Panama.

