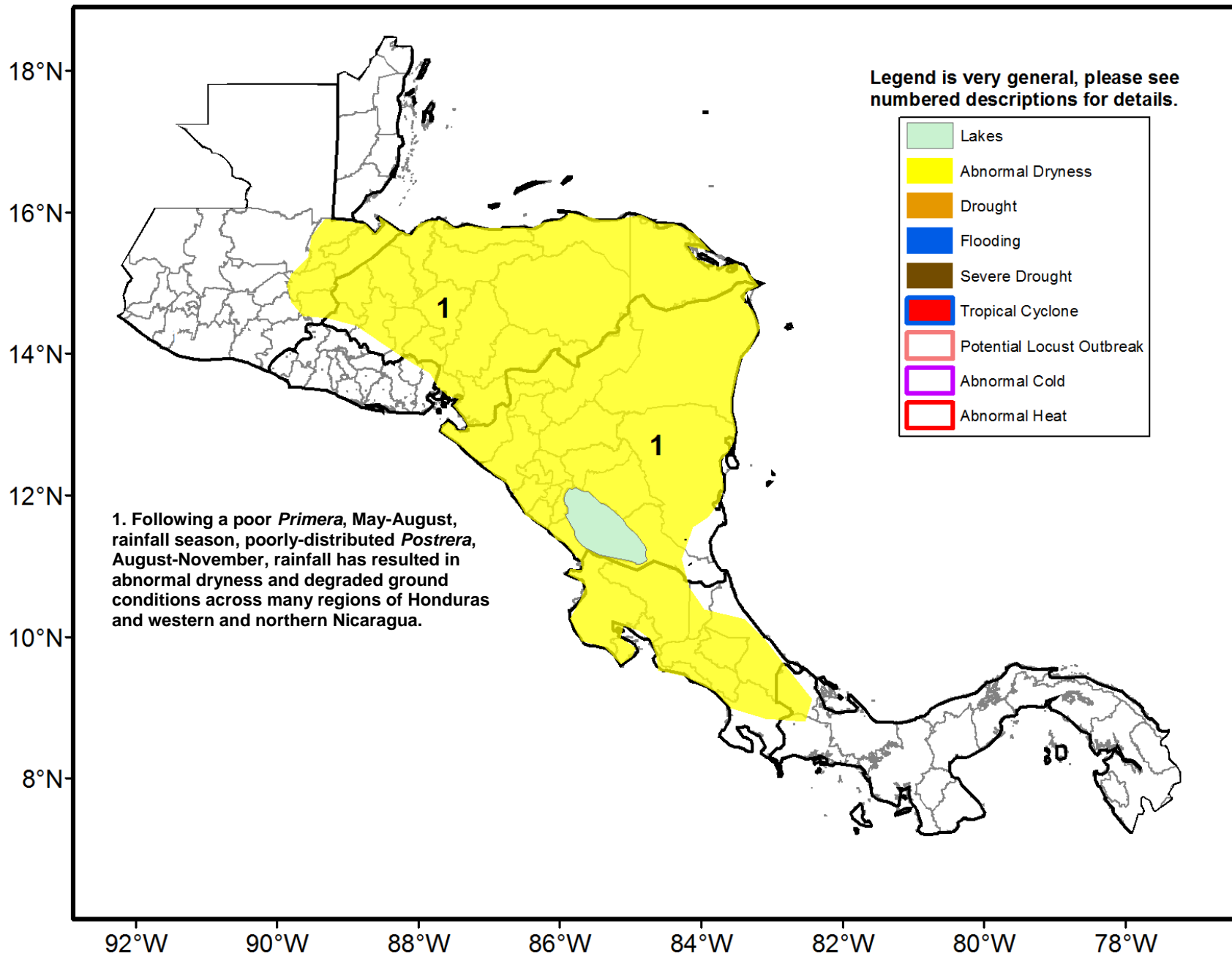




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 6 – 12, 2018

Suppressed precipitation continues over many Atlantic facing departments of Central America.



No moisture relief for anomalously dry areas in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

According to satellite rainfall estimates, light to locally moderate rainfall was received over northern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and the Atlantic facing departments of Costa Rica and Panama. Little to no precipitation was received across interior Central America and over the Pacific basin. Since early November, moderate to strong short-term moisture deficits (50-200mm) have prevailed across much of Central America, and have resembled a generally suppressed rainfall season since the beginning of August. The poor August-November precipitation performance was attributed to an uneven rainfall distribution both in time and space throughout the region. Despite an enhancement in rainfall over Nicaragua during October, suppressed rainfall returned which helped to strengthen moisture deficits again over the region. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the poor rainfall performance with deteriorated ground conditions concentrated over many parts of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and central Costa Rica, which is likely to adversely affect cropping activities throughout the region

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest a favorable increase in precipitation over several anomalously dry areas in northern Guatemala, northern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Lighter, but favorable amounts of precipitation are also expected across many Pacific facing departments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica. Nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to remain above-freezing in the higher elevations of Guatemala in early December.

