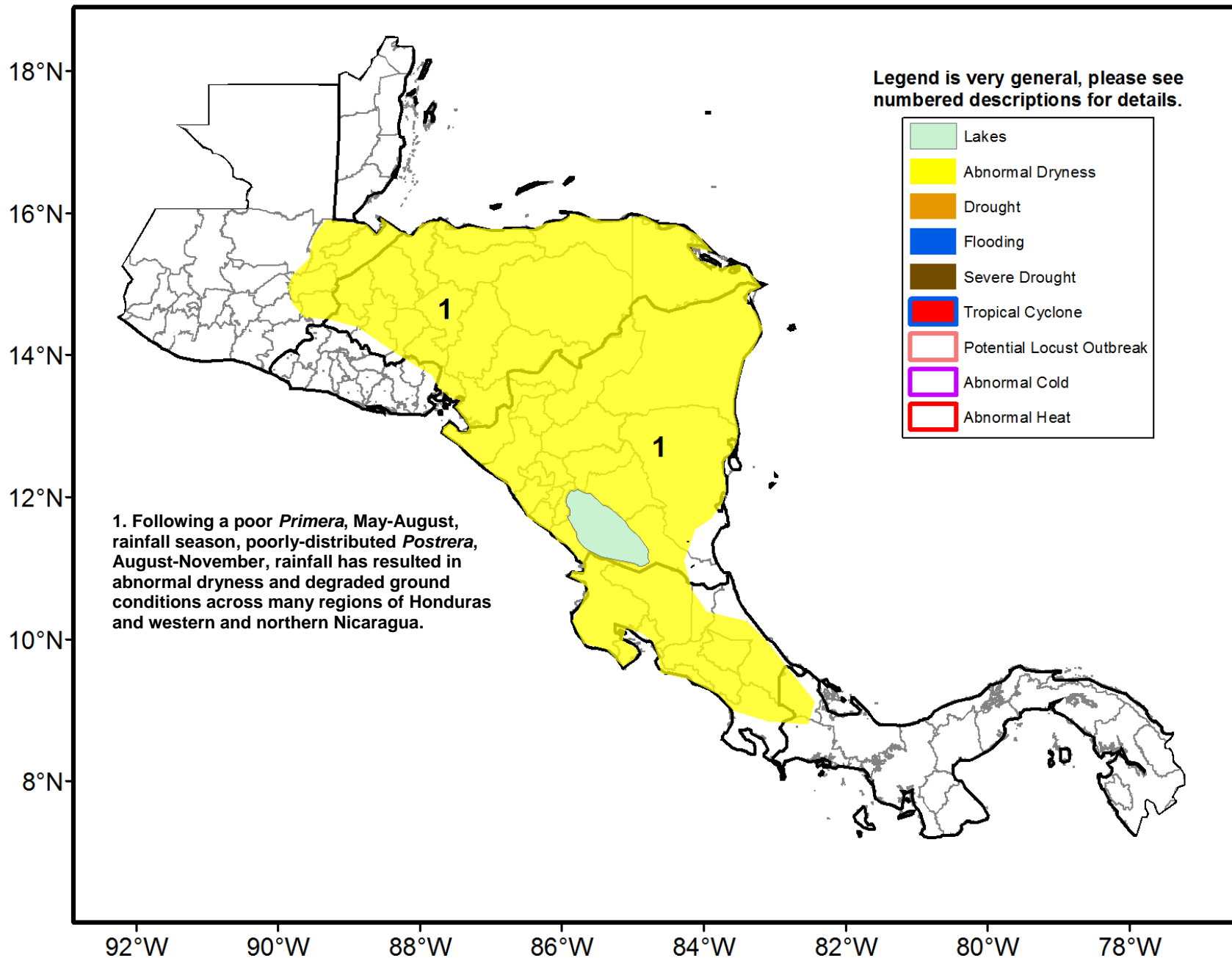




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 13 – 19, 2018

Below average rainfall continues over many Atlantic facing departments of Central America.



## Increased rainfall amounts expected for many parts of northern Central America.

According to satellite rainfall estimates, increased weekly amounts were received across many parts of eastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras, with little to no precipitation received across interior Central America and over the Pacific basin. Since early November, moisture deficits (50-200mm) continue to prevail across much of Central America. While the short term, 30-day negative anomalies have weakened compared to the previous week, it is more indicative of the driver climatological conditions expected during December, and suggests little opportunity for moisture relief for much of interior Central America following a poor August-November precipitation performance. Much of the anomalous dryness has been attributed to an uneven rainfall distribution both in time and space throughout 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, increased amounts of precipitation are forecast for several areas in the northern Central America. Many areas in northern Honduras may see weekly rainfall accumulations in excess of 50mm, with lesser but well distributed amounts between 5-25mm throughout northern Guatemala and Belize. Nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to be below average over Guatemala and Honduras, with the possibility of sub-freezing temperatures in the highest elevations during mid-December.

