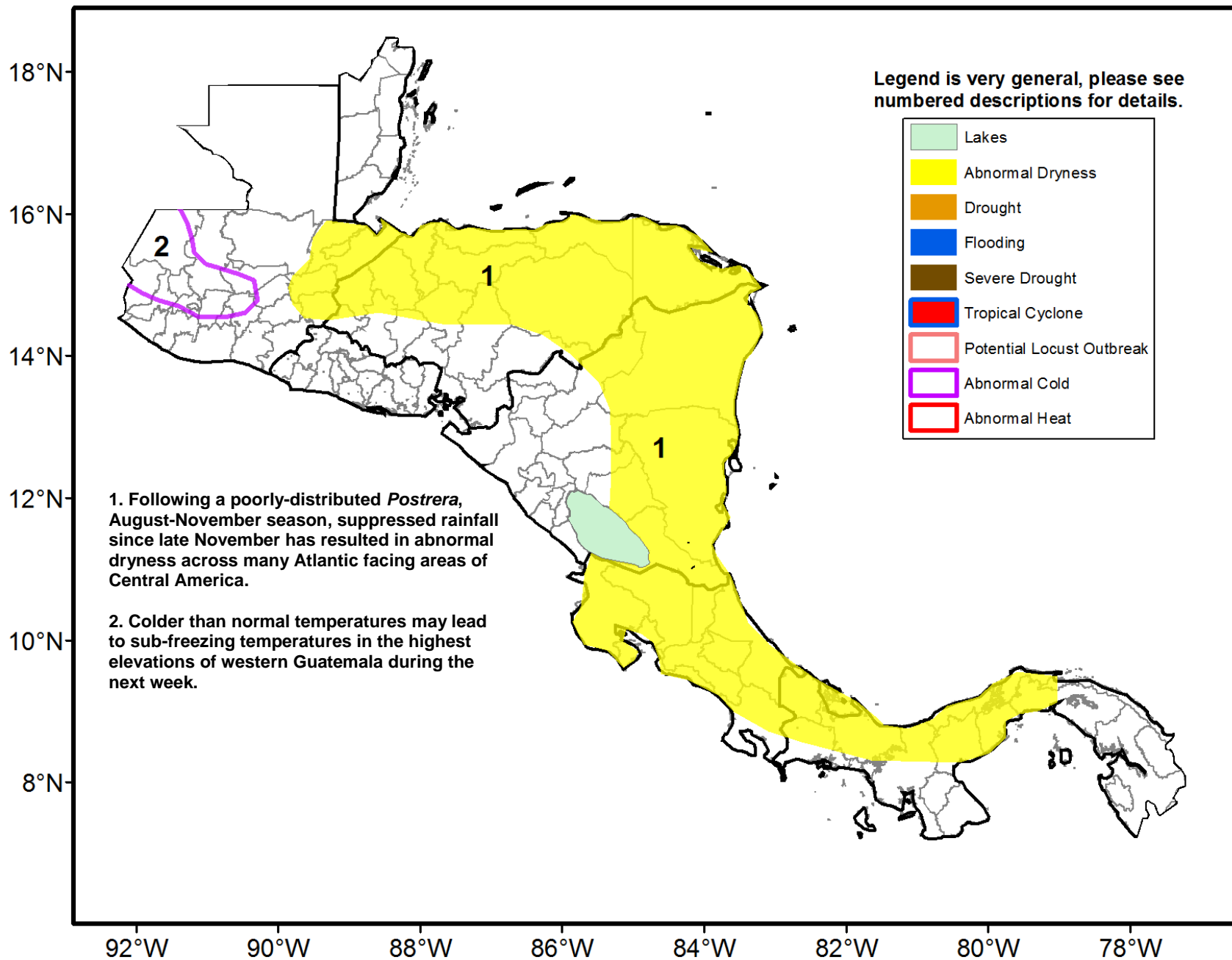




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 20 – 26, 2018

Increased amounts of precipitation received across the Gulf of Honduras region.



Favorable December rainfall expected to continue over parts of northern Honduras during late December.

As forecast, increased amounts of weekly rainfall were received across parts of the Gulf of Honduras region and over some departments of northern Honduras, however, little to no rainfall was registered over Guatemala as models were expecting last week. Since mid-November, late season Postrera and early season Apante related moisture deficits (50-200mm) continue to prevail across much of Central America. Much of the short term abnormal dryness follows a poor rainfall distribution since earlier this summer, as several local areas have failed to receive adequate rainfall totals due to dry spells and anomalous low number of rain days. 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, models suggest the continuation of average to above-average rainfall over the Gulf of Honduras region, where the northern departments of Honduras may see weekly rainfall accumulations in excess of 25mm. Portions of northern Guatemala may also see favorable amounts ranging between 2-25mm. Due to another strong low pressure system forecast over the southeastern United States, colder air is expected over Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean during the next few days. As a result, 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 late-December.

