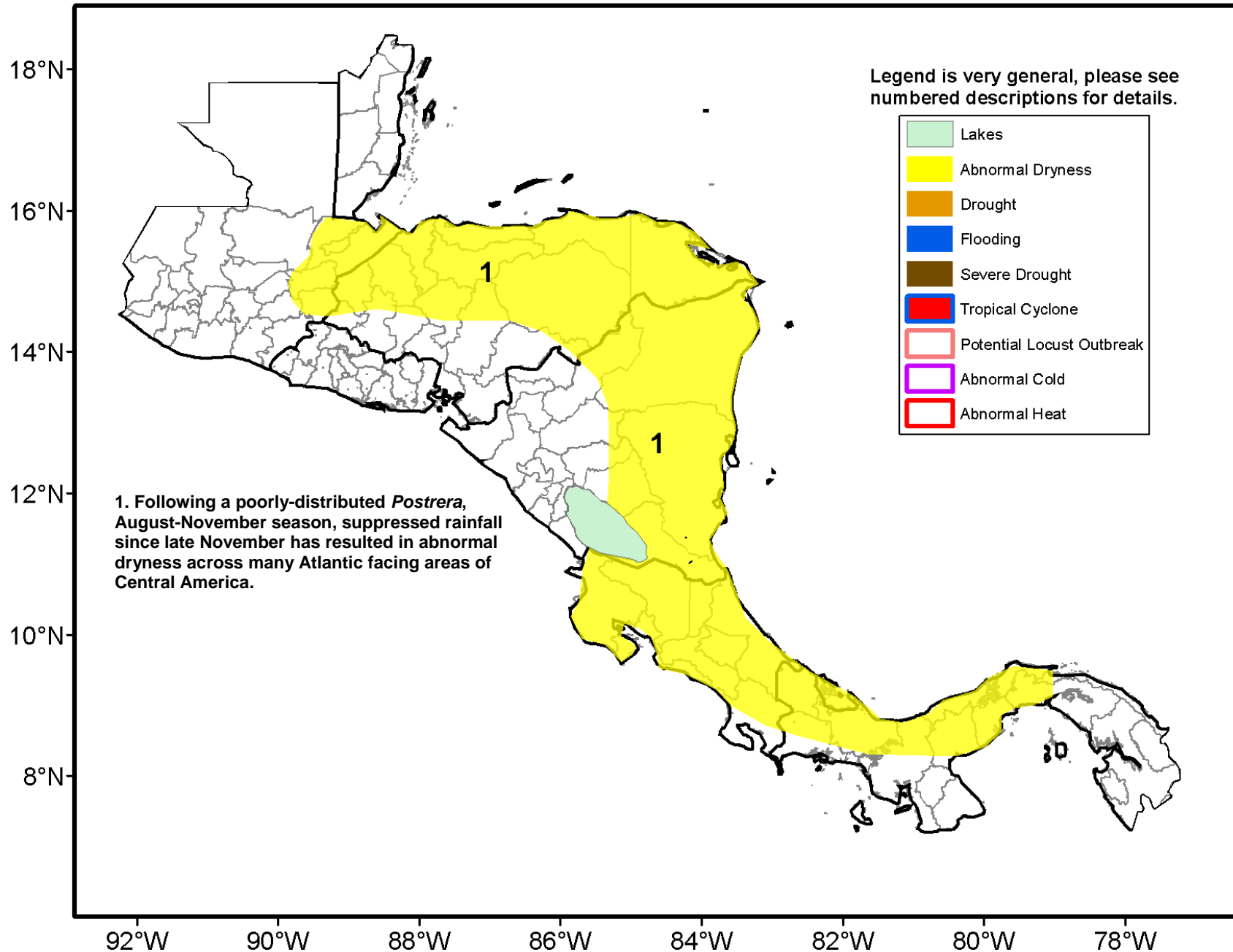




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook December 27, 2018 – January 2, 2019

Increased rains received across northern Honduras during the last week.



## Dryness strengthens over southern Central America countries.

Over the past two weeks, increased amounts of weekly rainfall were again received across parts of the Gulf of Honduras region and where local gauge measurements reported accumulations in excess of 50 and 100mm in the Atlantida and Colon departments, respectively. However, very limited rainfall amounts were again received further south across much of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for the fourth consecutive week. Since late-November, early season Apante related moisture deficits continue to strengthen across southern Central America and the southern Caribbean, where many local areas have received less than a quarter of their normal rainfall accumulation over the last 30 days. Much of the abnormal dryness follows a poor rainfall distribution since earlier this summer. 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 return of more seasonable rainfall across the southern Caribbean, with increased amounts expected for parts of eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Further north, lesser amounts of precipitation is forecast for Guatemala. Nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to be near normal over northern Central America, lessening the risk for sub-freezing temperatures in the higher elevations of Guatemala and Honduras during late December and early January.

