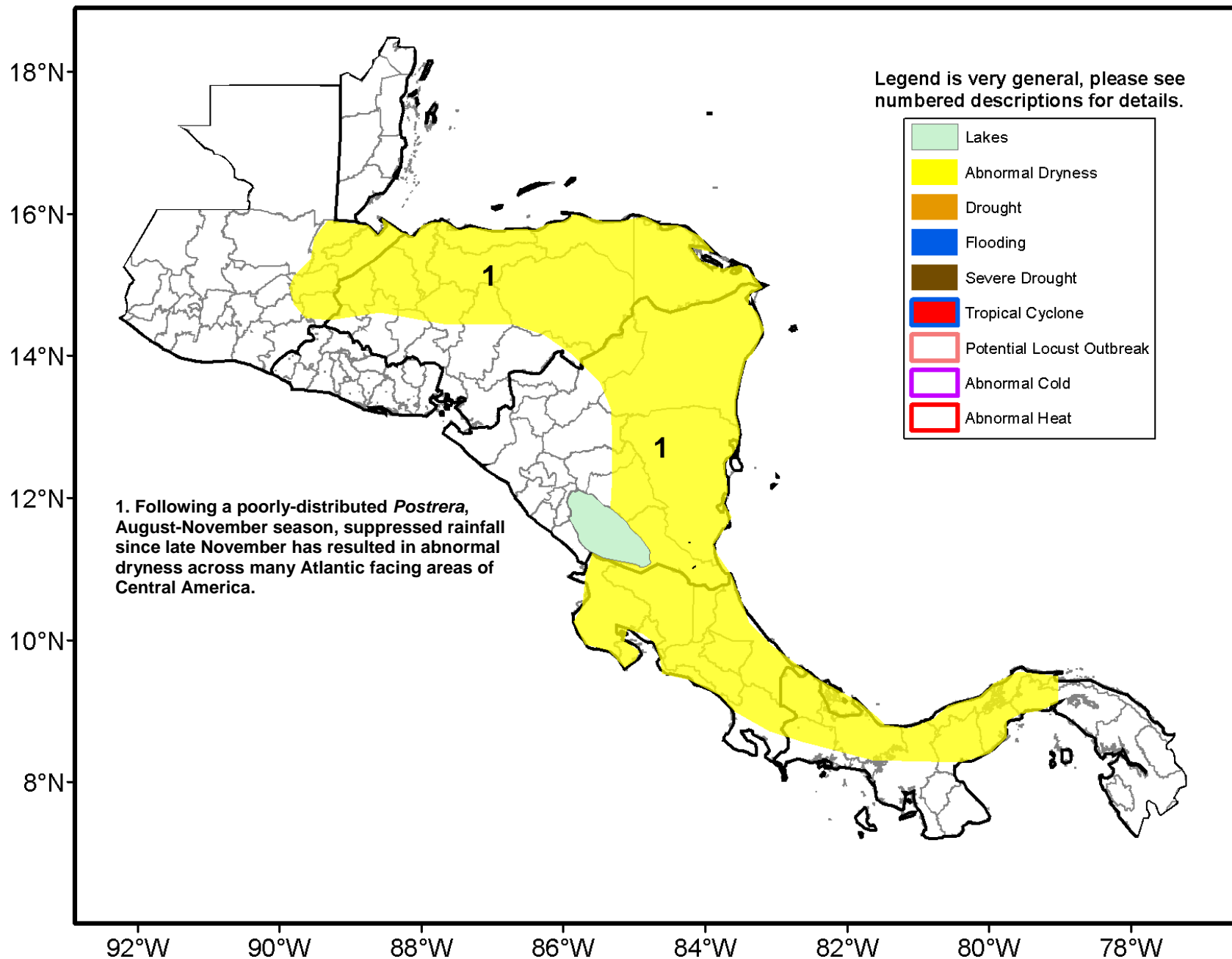




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 3 – January 9, 2019

Mostly dry conditions predominated across the region during the last week.



Dryness strengthens further over southern Central America countries.

Over the past week, light or moderate weekly rainfall were received across parts of the Gulf of Honduras region and where local gauge measurements reported accumulations of about 5-20mm in coastal Belize and Honduras. As much as 51mm was reported in Gracias A Dios. However, very limited rainfall amounts were again received further south across much of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for the fifth 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 or even 5% 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 a return of more seasonable rainfall across the southern Caribbean is possible, with increased amounts expected for parts of eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Further north, seasonable amounts of precipitation are 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 early January.

