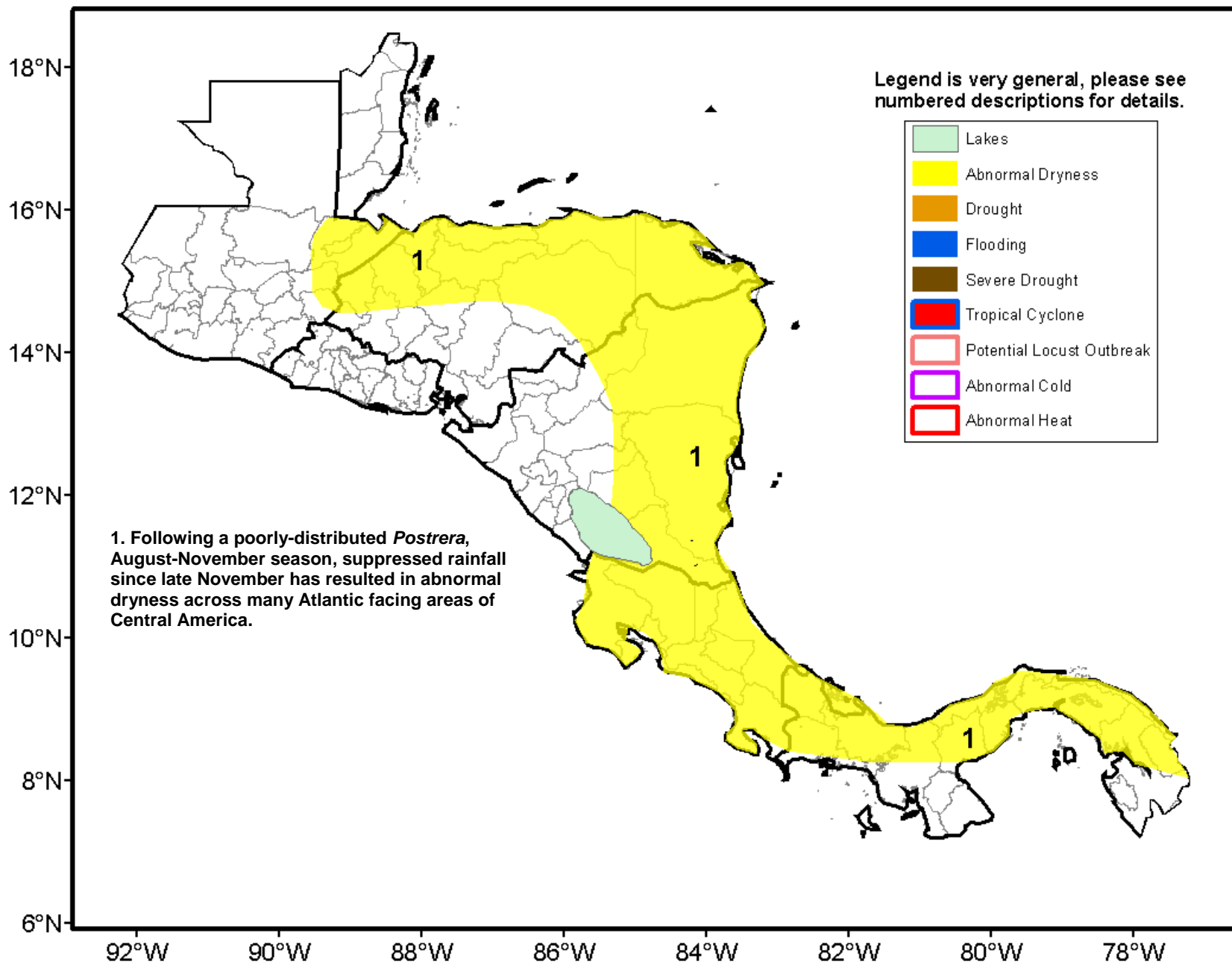




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 10 - 16, 2019

Mostly dry conditions predominated across the region during early January.



Dryness continues to strengthen over southern Central America countries.

Over the past week, very little rainfall was observed throughout the region according to satellite rainfall estimates. Local gauge measurements reported accumulations of about 6-16mm in parts of Honduras and coastal Belize. However, very limited rainfall amounts were again received further south across much of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for the 6th consecutive week. A measurement of 30mm of rain was reported in Limon, Costa Rica. Since early December, seasonal 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, central Costa Rica, and eastern Panama which is likely to adversely affect cropping activities throughout the region.

During the next week, models suggest seasonable rainfall is possible across the southern Caribbean. Some increased amounts with respect to climatology are possible for parts of Belize, central Guatemala, and northeastern Honduras. Nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to be near normal over Guatemala, lessening the risk for sub-freezing temperatures there, but a bit cooler than normal in Honduras during the coming week.

