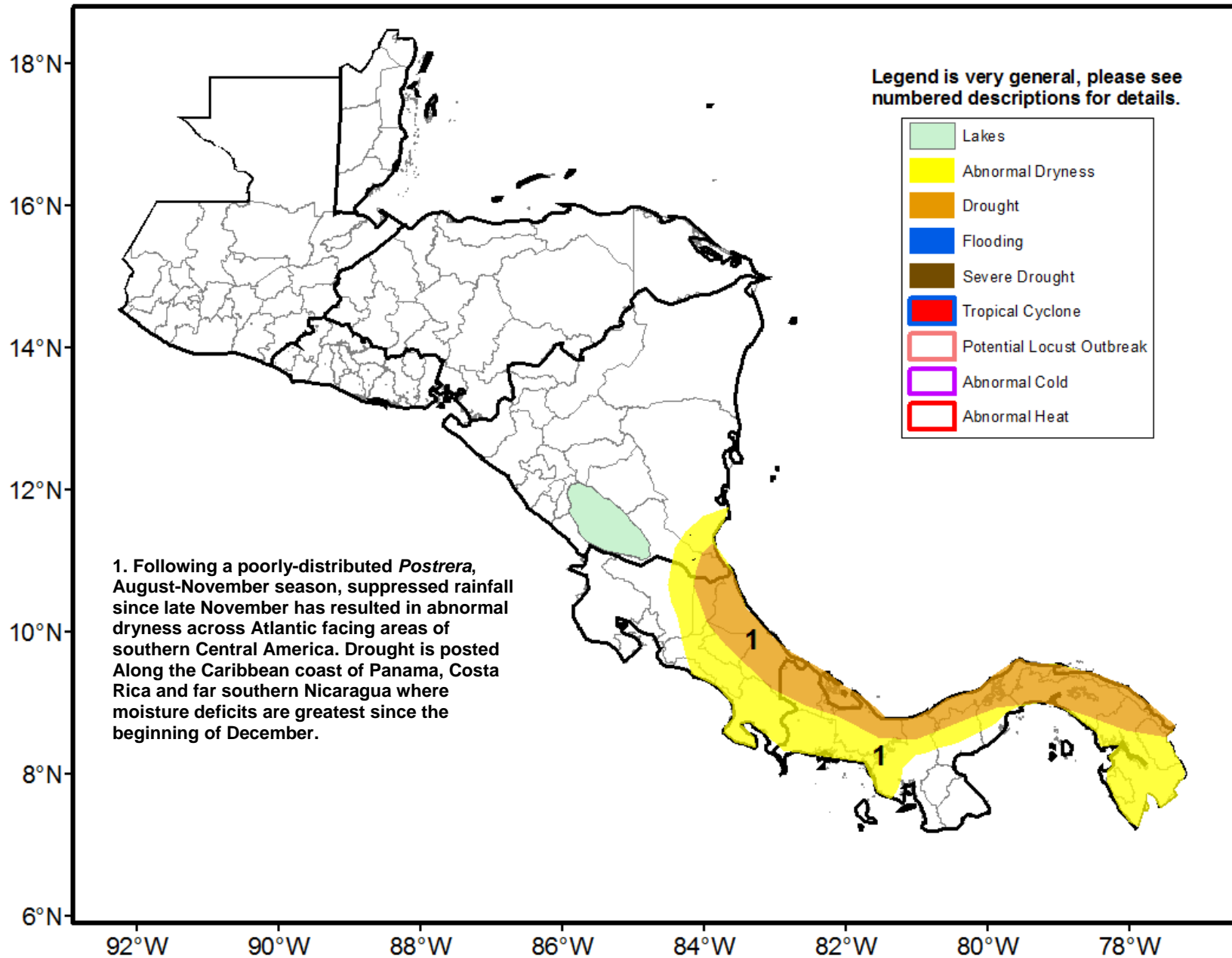




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 7 – 13, 2019

Insufficient rainfall since December of the past year has led to dryness in the southern Caribbean.



The forecast reduced rainfall expected to sustain dryness over the southern Caribbean.

During late January to early February, drier weather conditions prevailed over Central America. Suppressed rainfall was observed across the interior of the region. However, some local coastal areas such as northern and eastern Honduras received light (< 20 mm) rainfall. An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since early January to date indicated near-average rainfall throughout northern Central America but below-average rainfall farther south over Costa Rica and Panama. The lack of rainfall began even earlier as rainfall anomaly since December of the past year to present displayed negative anomalies over the southern Caribbean and along the Atlantic coastlines of Central America. Seasonal deficits were largest (> 100 mm) over Costa Rica and Panama. The poor rainfall distribution since the beginning of the current season might have already negatively impacted the *Apante*, December – April, cropping activities over many local areas of the region. Recent vegetation indices from remote sensing techniques exhibited very poor and below-average conditions over many areas, including northern and central Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, central Nicaragua, and localized areas of central Costa Rica and western Panama. Also, insufficient rainfall, strong winds, and dry soil may favor environments, conducive to forest fires over many local areas.

During the next outlook period, near-average weather pattern, with mostly suppressed rainfall, is expected to continue over Central America. This is likely to help sustain dryness and drought conditions over the dry portions of the region. Though, little to light rainfall is possible over local areas along the Atlantic Basin. As for temperature, near-average minimum temperature is forecast over the region, although it can fall near or to freezing point, potentially affecting the livelihoods of residents over elevated terrains.

