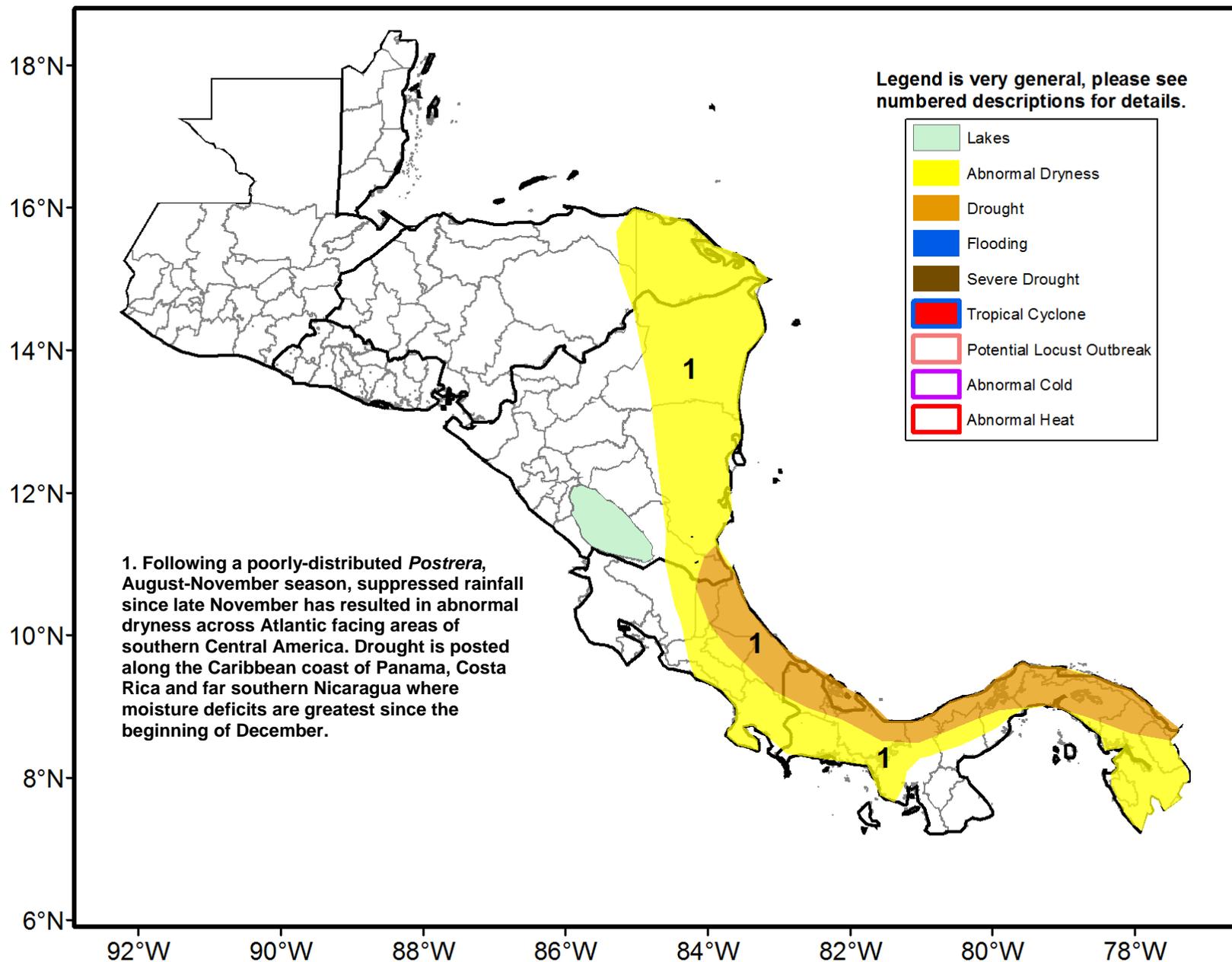




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 14 – March 20, 2019

Seasonably dry conditions prevailed during the last week.



Increased rainfall may continue over the southern Caribbean during the next week.

During the last seven days, decreased amounts of precipitation were received across Central America compared to the previous week. Light to moderate weekly rainfall amounts ranging between 5-25mm were received over the southern Caribbean and over some interior departments of Guatemala. Over the past 30 days, rainfall has registered near average over many areas, with slightly below-average conditions continuing across parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Since December of last year, however, many local areas have experienced more considerable anomalous dryness, which follows a generally poor rainfall season throughout much of last year. The consecutively failed rains and long-term absence of sufficient moisture is expected to be unfavorable for the development of crops. Reportedly, poor rainfall has already negatively impacted ground conditions where there are increased concerns for water shortages over Costa Rica and Panama, according to media reports.

During the next outlook period, models suggest another week of increased rainfall for several Atlantic facing departments and some interior departments of western Honduras, and in central and western Guatemala. The highest amounts (>25mm) are expected for portions of southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. While rainfall forecast is not expected to greatly mitigate long term dryness, the increase in rainfall may help to provide partial relief to dryness over the region.

