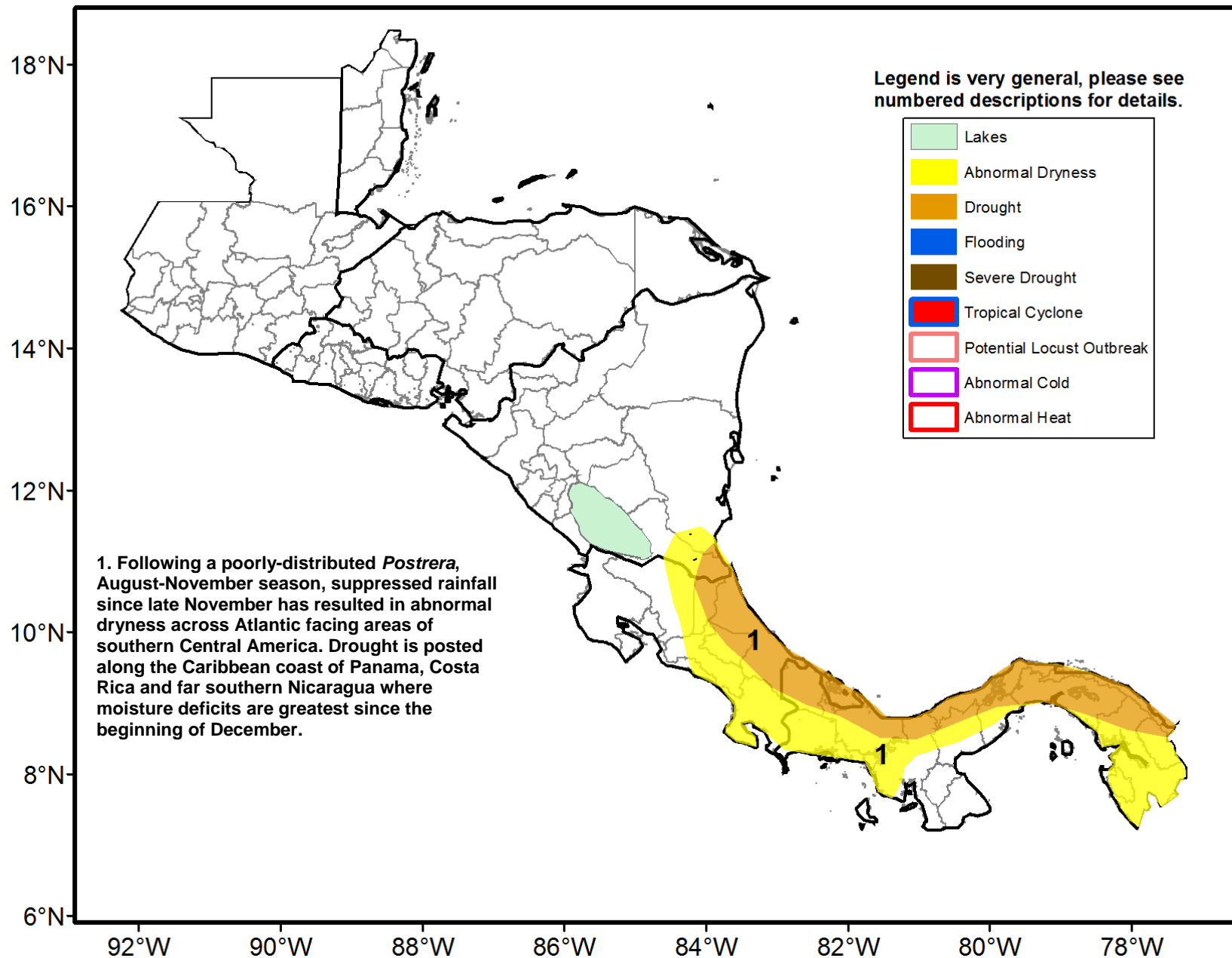




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 21 – March 27, 2019

Decreased rainfall amounts received during the middle of March.



Increased rainfall expected over northern Central America.

During the middle of March, limited amounts of precipitation were received across Central America. Satellite estimated rainfall product depicts locally light to moderate weekly rainfall amounts were received over parts of central and northern Guatemala, as well as, over many coastal departments of Costa Rica. Local rain gauge reports in Limon, Costa Rica registered over 50mm during the last seven days. Over the past 30 days, rainfall has registered near average over many areas, with slightly below-average conditions continuing across parts of Costa Rica, Panama, and northern Honduras. 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.

During the next outlook period, models suggest a favorable increase in precipitation, with well distributed weekly amounts 10-25mm, and possibly locally heavier amounts (>25mm) over central and northern Guatemala, and northern Honduras. Portions of the southern Caribbean are also expected to receive higher rainfall (10-25mm) over 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.

