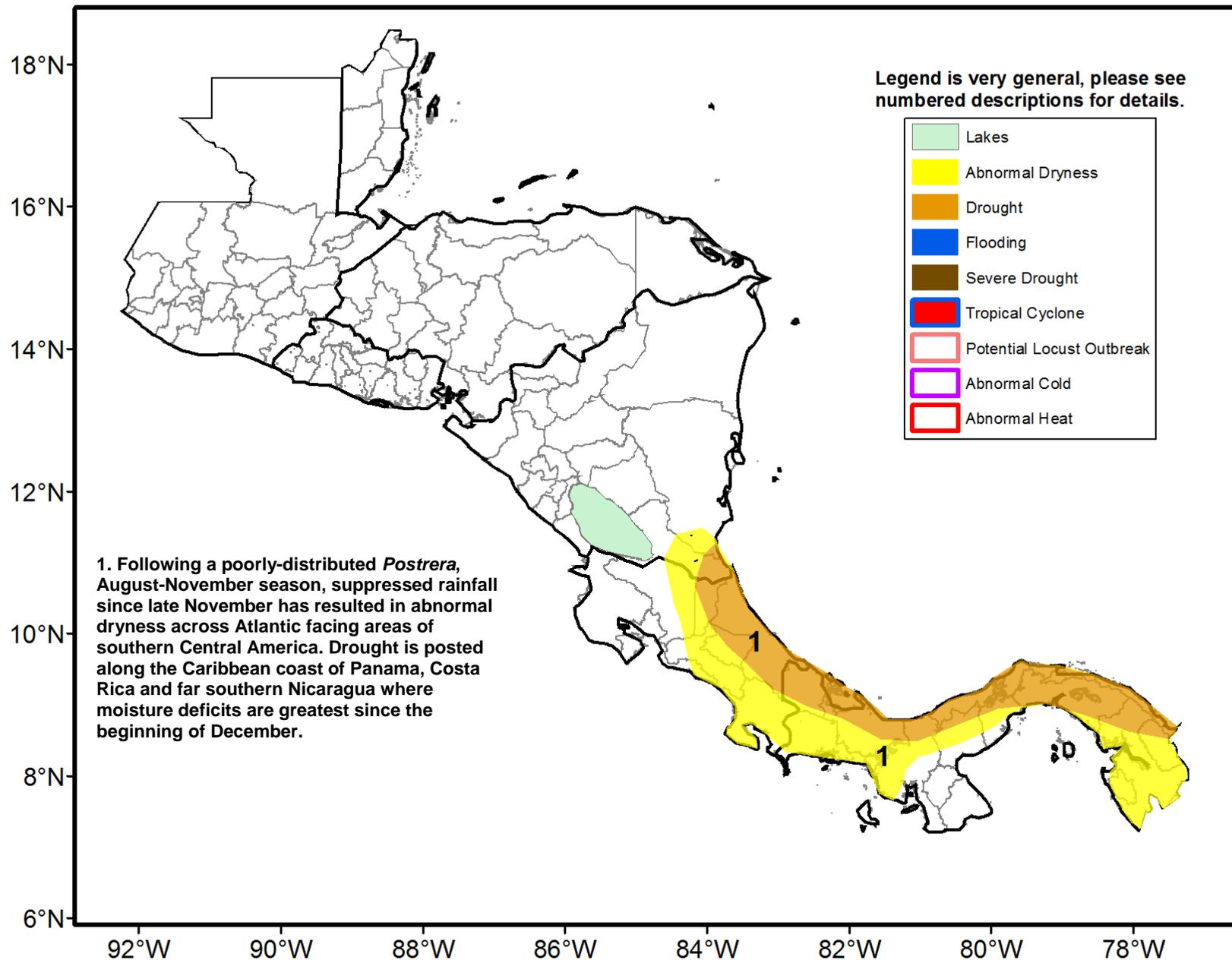




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 28 – April 3, 2019

Increased rainfall amounts received across parts of Costa Rica and Panama.



Increased rainfall expected over northern Central America.

Compared to the previous several weeks in March, increased amounts of weekly precipitation were observed across many Atlantic facing departments in Central America during the last seven days. Satellite estimated rainfall and local gauge measurements show heavy rainfall amounts in excess of 100mm over the Limon region of Costa Rica, with lesser, but favorable weekly accumulations across parts of northern Honduras. Over the past 30 days, rainfall has registered near average over many areas, with slightly below-average conditions continuing across some parts of Costa Rica, Panama, and northern Honduras. Since late December of last year, however, many regions 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 another 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. Climatologically, rainfall is expected to gradually increase over next few weeks throughout the Yucatan, northern Central America region, and over the southern Caribbean associated with on beginning of the Primera rainfall season. While the favorable 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.

