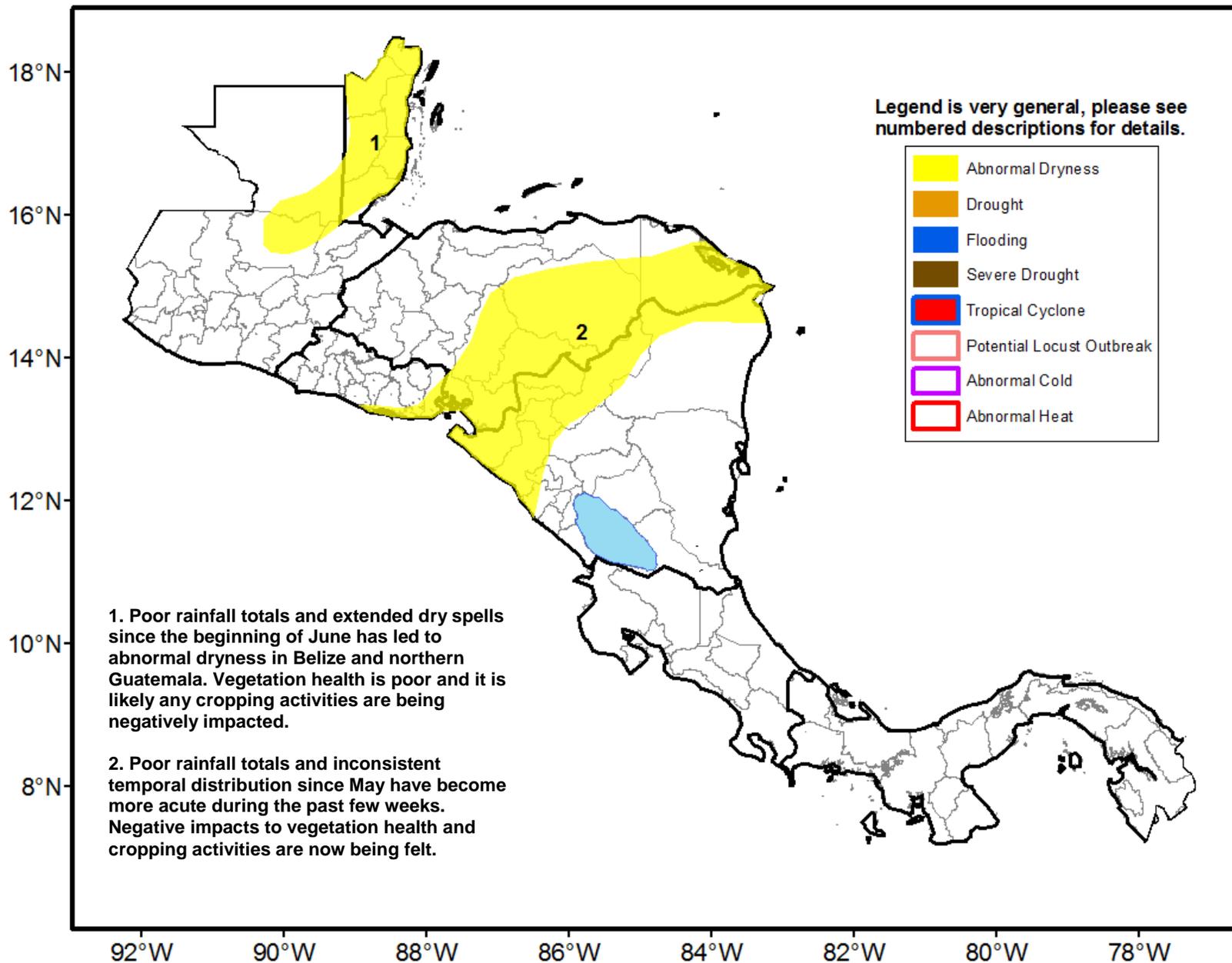




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 18 – July 24, 2019

Abnormal dryness is building in the region after an extended period of insufficient and poorly distributed rain.



Rains were once again poorly distributed throughout Central America last week.

During the past week, rains were broadly suppressed across the Central American region. Some areas did observe heavy rains (>100mm). These include southern Nicaragua, parts of Costa Rica and Panama, parts of southern Guatemala, and El Salvador. Many other areas, including central Guatemala, Belize, several portions of Honduras, and northern Nicaragua received light rains totaling less than 25mm. These amounts are, in many cases, well less than expected during mid-July. The second week of July was a continuation of the pattern that has been in place since early June. Substantial rainfall deficits are evident in Belize, central/northern Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The observed deficits exceed 100mm and are less than 50% of normal in many locations, especially widespread in Honduras and northern Nicaragua. Very few places in the region are exhibiting moisture surpluses. Despite these rainfall deficits, and even poor longer-term performance in Honduras and Nicaragua, widespread lowering of vegetation health index values has not yet been observed. However, analysis of other indicators of ground conditions, such as soil water index, reveals that insufficient moisture is present in central Honduras and western Nicaragua. Significant impacts on vegetation health are also observed in Haiti and northern Guatemala.

Normal rainfall performance is forecast for many parts of Central America during the outlook period. However, some areas, including northern Guatemala, central Honduras and western Nicaragua are likely to remain relatively dry with totals of less than 25mm. Such a pattern will serve to exacerbate abnormal dryness for these areas.

