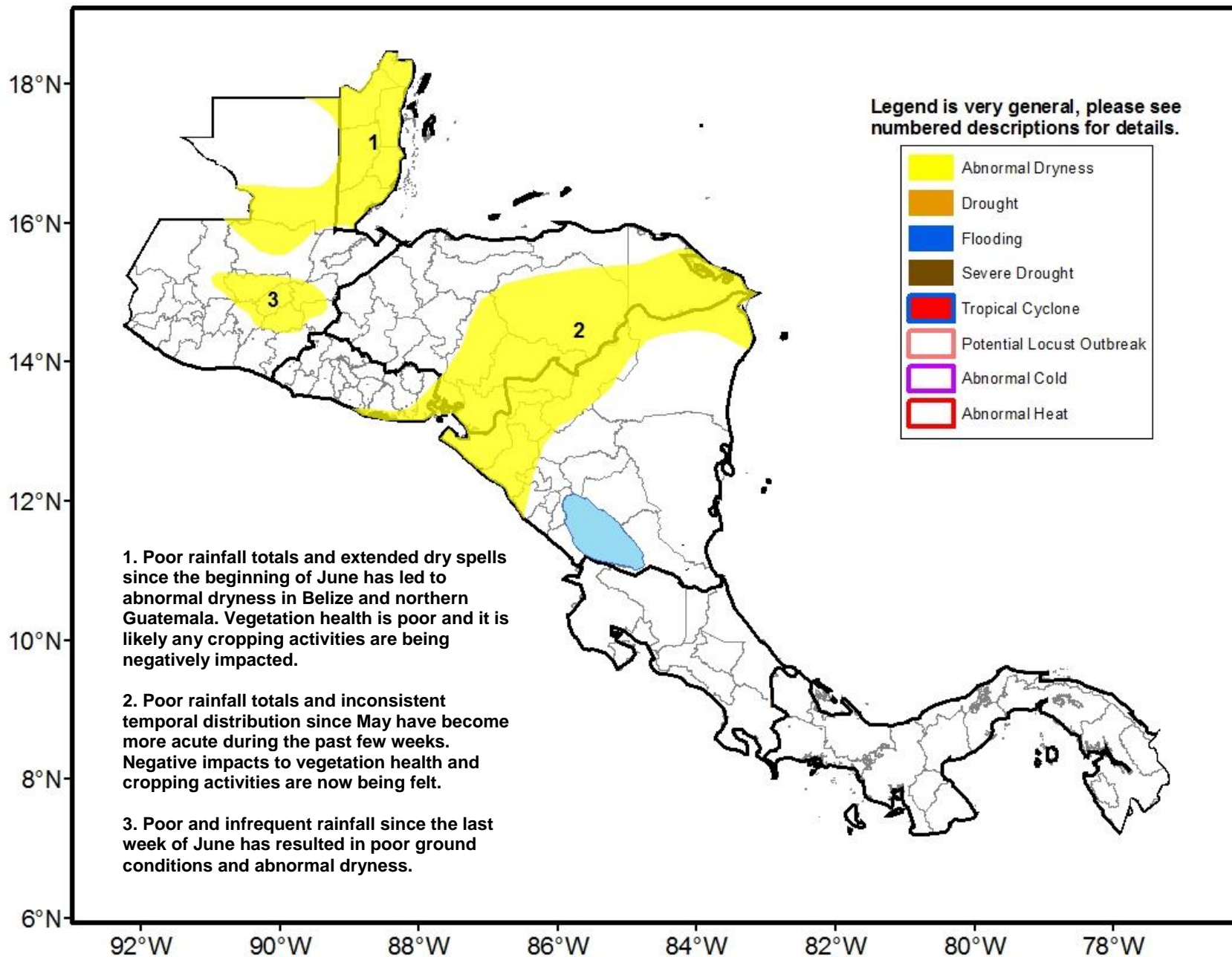




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 25 – July 31, 2019

Abnormal dryness remains entrenched as pattern of poor rains continues.



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 local areas did observe heavy rains (>100mm). These areas were scattered about the region, but the greatest totals of greater than 200mm were observed in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Many other areas, including central/northern Guatemala, Belize, several portions of Honduras, and western Nicaragua received light rains totaling less than 25mm. These amounts often resulted in negative 7-day anomalies ranging from 10mm to 100mm. The third 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 even 200mm, and correspond to less than 50% of normal in many locations. Such conditions are especially widespread in Honduras and northern Nicaragua. Only a few scattered local areas in the region are exhibiting moisture surpluses. Despite these rainfall deficits over the past 6 weeks, and some cases longer, observations of very low vegetation indices remain localized in Honduras and Nicaragua. More widespread impacts on vegetation health are observed in Belize and northern Guatemala. 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.

The forecast during the upcoming outlook period is for continued suppression of rainfall for many parts of Central America. Any heavier rainfall amounts of greater than 50mm are most likely in southwestern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. This pattern will serve to exacerbate abnormal dryness for these areas.

