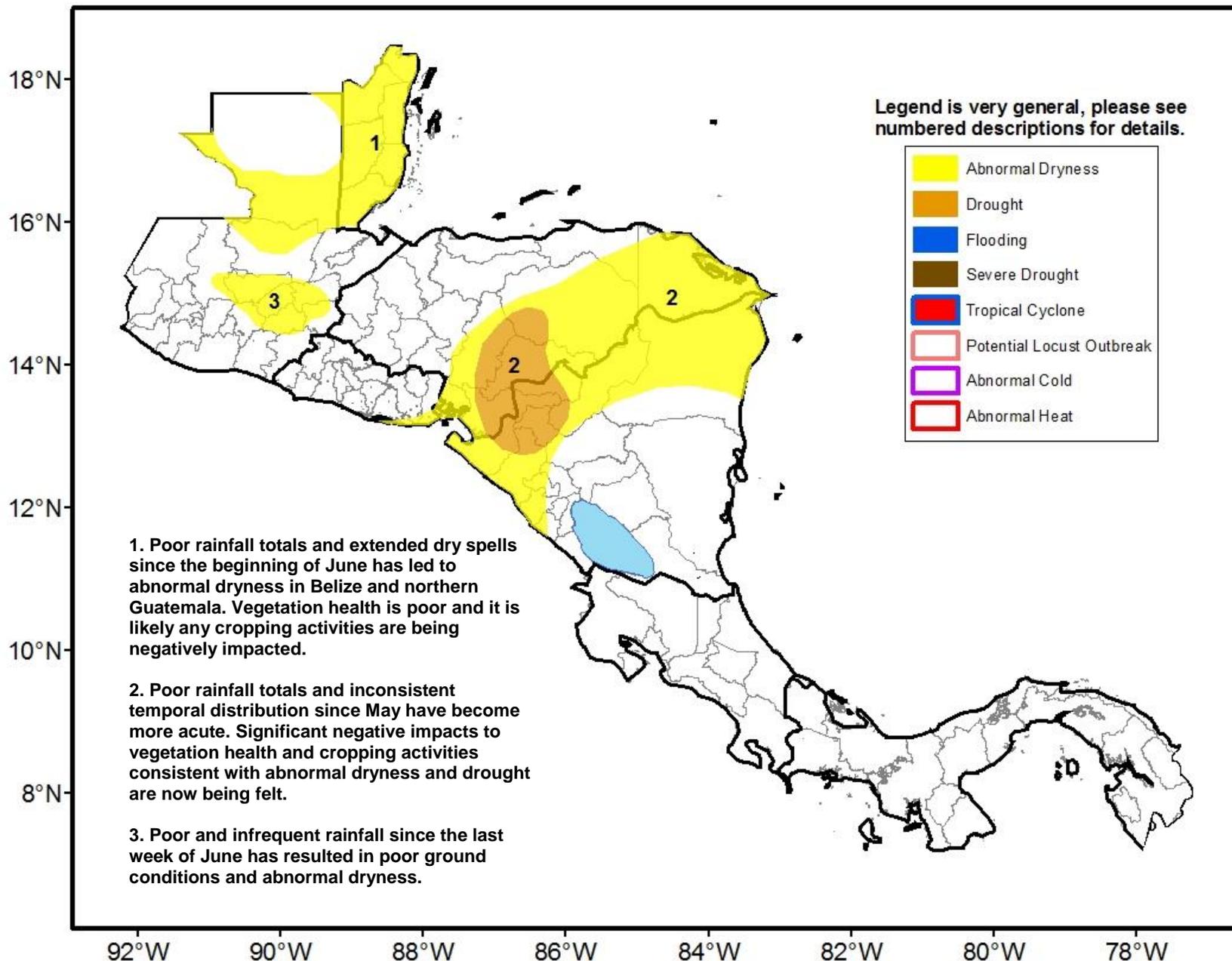




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 1 – August 7, 2019

Long-term moisture deficits continue to deepen in Honduras and Nicaragua.



**Belize experienced improved rainfall during the past week, but many other dry areas did not.**

During the past week, much heavier rain moved into Belize. Totals of more than 100mm were observed there according to satellite estimates. However, very little otherwise changed in the pattern. Rainfall performance continued to be adequate in El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama. Light rainfall amounts of less than 25mm were observed in western Nicaragua, central and northern Honduras, as well as central and northern Guatemala. The majorities of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica recorded rainfall deficits for the week. The pattern of inadequate rainfall has been in place since early June. Substantial rainfall deficits are evident in southern Belize, central/northern Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua since June 1. The observed deficits exceed 200mm and even 300mm, and correspond to about 50% of normal in many locations. Similar conditions are also widespread in Honduras and northern Nicaragua, where poor rainfall originated earlier during may in some places. Despite these rainfall deficits over the past 7 or more weeks, observations of very low vegetation indices remain somewhat localized in Honduras and Nicaragua. More widespread impacts on vegetation health are observed in Belize and northern Guatemala. Analysis of other indicators of ground conditions, such as soil water index and WRSI, reveals that insufficient moisture is seriously impacting cropping in southern Honduras and western Nicaragua.

The forecast during the upcoming outlook period is for continued suppression of rainfall for many interior parts of Central America. As a result, further degradation of conditions is likely in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Heavier rainfall totals of greater than 50mm are most likely in Pacific facing portions of the region with increased rains towards the end of the outlook period.

