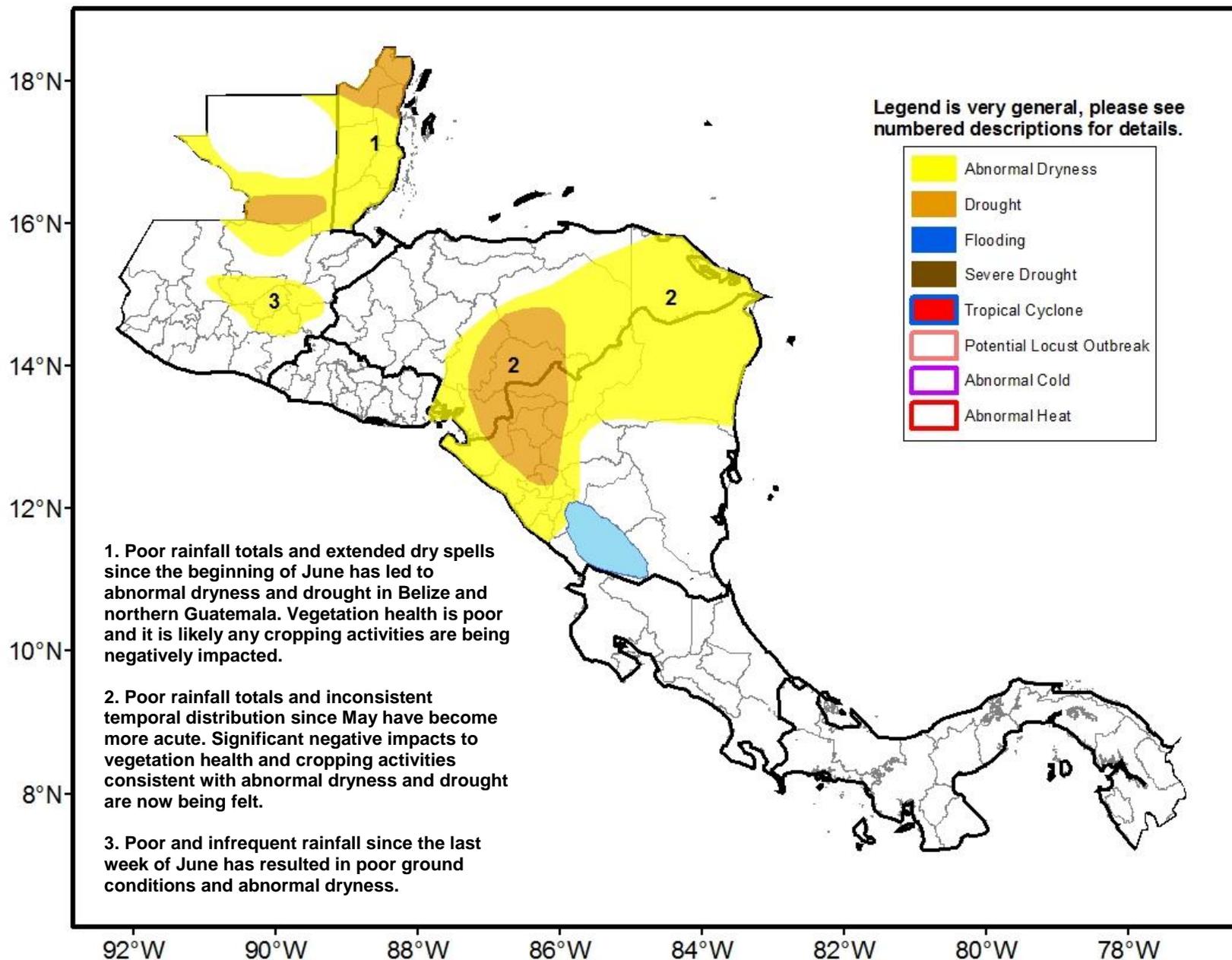




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 15 – August 21, 2019

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



Pacific-facing regions of Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras received enhanced rain last week.

During the past week, heavy rain (>150mm) moved into El Salvador and Pacific-facing departments of Guatemala. Enhanced rainfall totals of more than 100mm were also observed in western Honduras and the Gulf of Fonseca region according to satellite estimates. 7-day surpluses of more than 100mm resulted from this pattern in southern Guatemala and northwestern Honduras. Meanwhile, only light rainfall amounts were observed in Belize and local areas of central Honduras and Nicaragua. As a result, significant 7-day deficits of more than 25mm were recorded in Nicaragua, Belize and northern Guatemala. The pattern of inadequate rainfall has been in place since early June. Substantial rainfall deficits are evident in Belize, central/northern Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua since June 1. The observed deficits exceed 200mm or even 300mm, and correspond to 50% of normal or less in many locations. These rainfall deficits and abnormally low number of rainy days over the past 2 months have degraded vegetation health, most notably in central Honduras, southeastern Guatemala, northern Guatemala, and Belize. 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, western Nicaragua and Belize.

The forecast during the upcoming outlook period is for heavy rains of possibly more than 100mm to continue along the Pacific coastline and spread inland through Guatemala and Honduras. Some localized flooding is possible in southern Guatemala. Lesser, but still possibly above-average rainfall is forecast for eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, bringing the possibility of decreasing moisture deficits. Elsewhere and above-normal rains are favored in Costa Rica.

