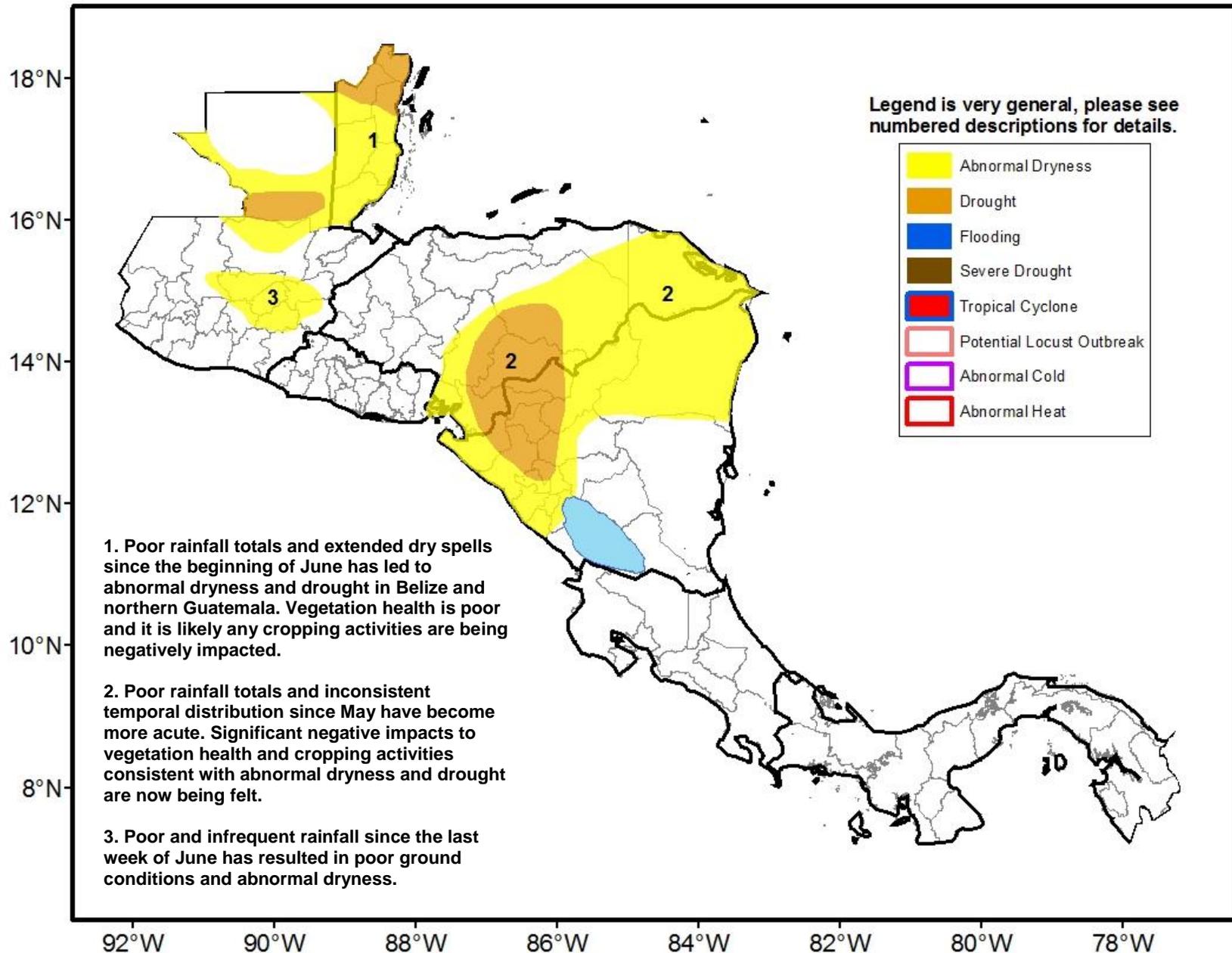




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 22 – 28, 2019

Poorly-distributed rainfall since mid-May has led to droughts and dryness over many areas of Central America.



Drier-than-average conditions likely to continue across the interior of Central America.

From August 12 – 18, heavy rains continued over the Pacific regions of southern Guatemala, western El Salvador, central Nicaragua, and portions of the southern Caribbean, while limited and below-average rains persisted elsewhere. The dry portions of Central America, including northeastern Guatemala, Belize, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and northern Nicaragua registered weekly rainfall deficits ranging between 25-100 mm. The sequence of unevenly-distributed rainfall over the past few months has led to large (> 100 mm) negative rainfall anomalies and moisture deficits throughout a wide area from east-central Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, to northern Nicaragua. The persistent lack of rains has already damaged and destroyed crops over many local areas. An analysis of the most recent crop performance model assessment has indicated that areas of central Guatemala, Belize, much of Honduras, and the Gulf of Fonseca have experienced poor to mediocre vegetation conditions. The continuation of poor rains over the upcoming weeks would further negatively impact and potentially reduce crop yields for the May-August growing season.

During the outlook period, while the Pacific Rim of Central America could continue to receive moderate to heavy rains, the remainders of the region are expected to receive limited, light to moderate and likely below-average rainfall. Farther south, abundant rainfall is forecast over the Pacific-facing region of Costa Rica and Panama. However, the forecast amounts could still register below-average over many areas.

