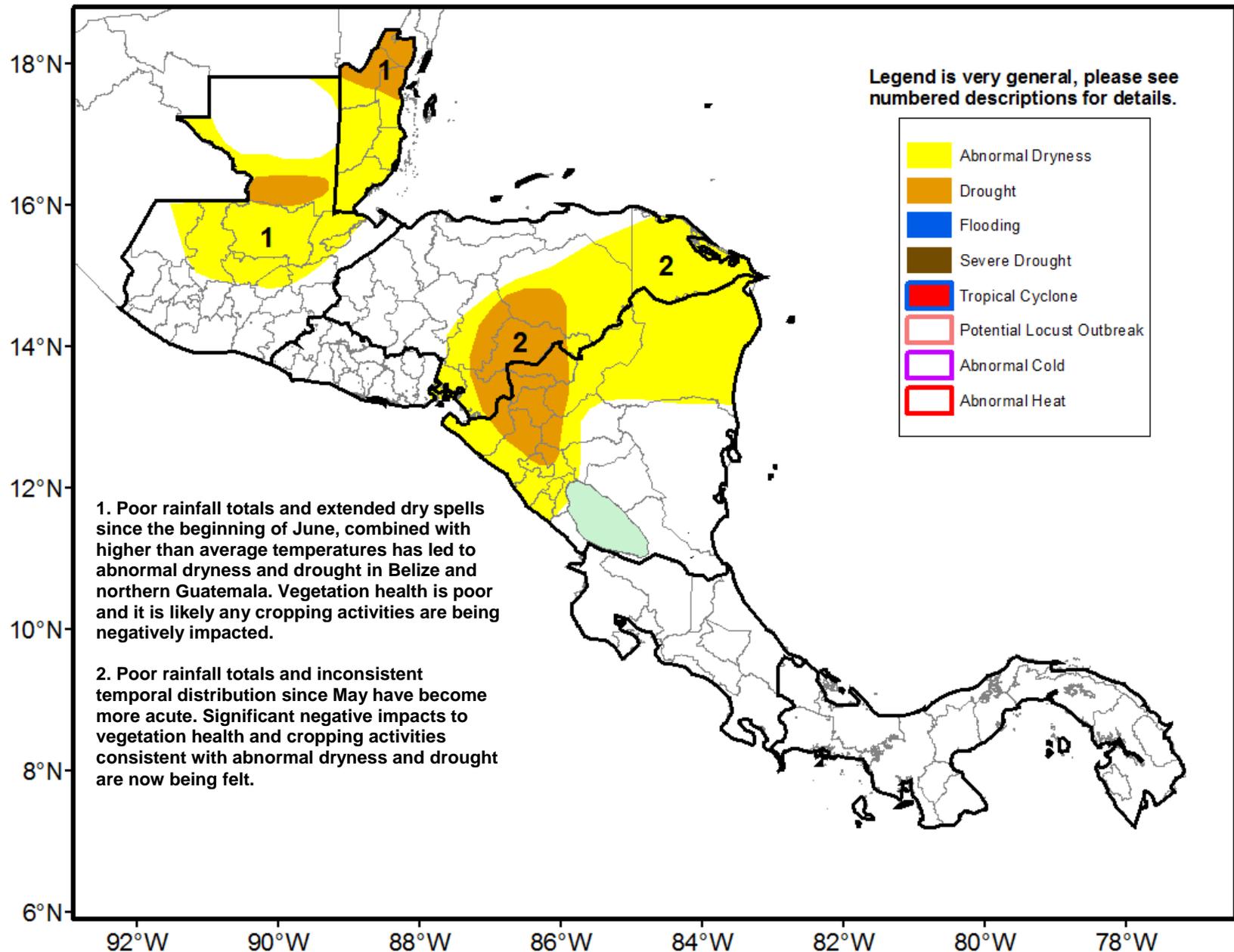




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 29 – September 4, 2019

The forecast reduced rainfall during the next period could intensify droughts over areas of Central America.



Reduced rains, forecast over the inland of Central America could exacerbate already-poor grounds conditions over many local areas.

From August 19 – 25, heavy showers fell over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, northwestern and southeastern Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica. Moderate to locally heavy rains were also received in central and northwestern Guatemala, east-central Honduras, southern Nicaragua, and Panama. Conversely, reduced, with little to light and below-average rainfall was registered in northeastern Guatemala, northern Belize, central Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. The persistent, limited rainfall over the past few weeks has maintained dryness over the dry portions of Central America, including northern Guatemala, Belize, eastern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. In Guatemala, reports have indicated that insufficient rains, combined with above-normal temperatures have increased evapotranspiration, which negatively impacted crops over many areas, including the Quiché and Baja Verapaz Departments. In contrast, due to enhanced convective activities over the Pacific, wetter-than-average conditions were observed over southern Guatemala, parts of El Salvador and the Gulf of Fonseca, and southern Caribbean. For the *Primera*, May-August, rainfall season performance, seasonal deficits spread across parts of northern Guatemala, Belize, southern and eastern Honduras, and northern Nicaragua, where seasonal totals fell between 50-80 percent of the average and even less than 50 percent over some local areas. If drier weather conditions continue over the upcoming weeks, risks for forest fires will be high over many local areas, including the Petén Department of northern Guatemala.

During the outlook period, model rainfall forecasts indicated the return of drier-than-average conditions, with light to locally moderate rains over the inland of Central America. However, heavy downpours could continue in western Guatemala and the southern Caribbean.

