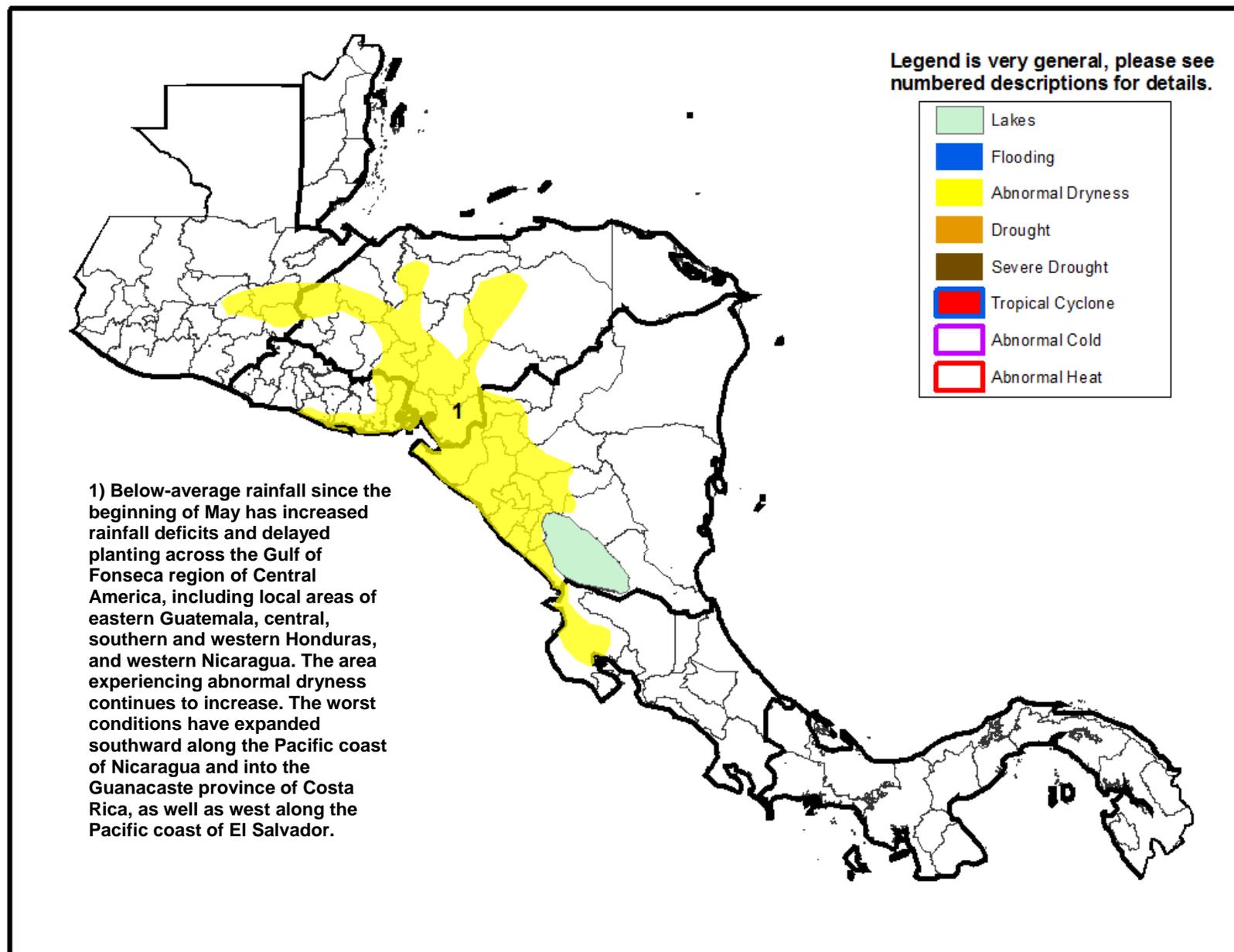




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 04– June 11, 2015

- Abnormal dryness across Central America continues to worsen after a week of well-below average rainfall.



Widespread above-average Rainfall is expected expected during the next week.

The past 7 days proved exceedingly dry for all of Central America. According to TRMM, 7-day rainfall anomalies of 50-100mm are widely spread. Northwest Nicaragua observed the greatest anomalies, upwards of 100mm (**Figure 1**), with localized areas not reporting any rain during the period. An analysis of rainfall anomalies since the beginning of May reveals that large seasonal deficits have developed across many areas of Central America. The most recent period exacerbated an already slow start to the first rainy season. Nearly the entire region exhibits significant seasonal deficits. The worst areas include the Gulf of Fonseca region, western Honduras, eastern Guatemala, and now northwest Costa Rica where negative rainfall anomalies range between 50–200mm. These driest portions of Central America have received only less than 25 percent of their average rainfall since the start of the first rainy season. The continued drier-than-average conditions during the past few weeks have negatively impacted cropping activities such as delaying sowing for many local areas of Central America. The most recent vegetation indices indicate ground conditions continue degrade in parts of eastern Guatemala, eastern El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, western Nicaragua and expanding southward into Costa Rica. A further delay of the onset of seasonal rains could adversely impact crop growing cycles over many local areas.

During the next week, more widespread, above-average rainfall is forecast throughout Central America. Moderate to heavy rains should be prevalent throughout the region. The greatest rainfall is expected to be centered over western Nicaragua and southern Honduras. Rainfall amounts should be quite beneficial for some of the most moisture starved areas.

