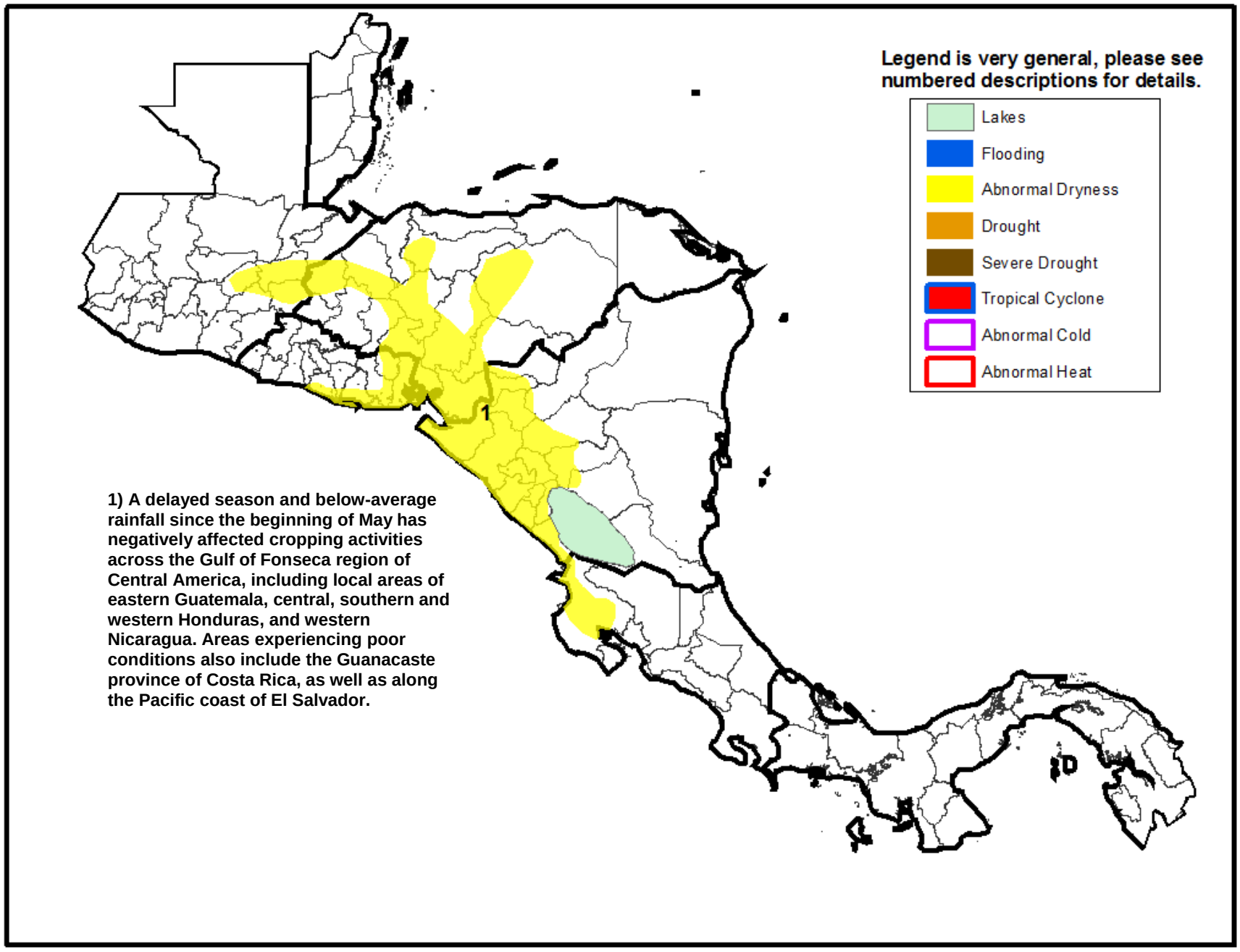
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
June 18– June 24, 2015

- **A second consecutive week of widespread beneficial rains has decreased long-term moisture deficits for many areas.**



Seasonal moisture deficits have diminished for many areas, due to brief, but intense seasonal rains.

Rainfall totals were near or above climatology for a second straight week throughout, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. According to TRMM, there was widespread observance of greater than 100mm of rainfall. Rains have been heavy and persistent enough to cause flooding and mudslide issues in Honduras and Nicaragua. El Salvador, southern portions of Nicaragua and southward through Costa Rica and Panama generally received below-normal rainfall totals. The lowest totals were observed in El Salvador, where some local areas observed less than 25mm. Analyzing rainfall anomalies since the beginning of May reveals that anomalies have flipped sign in parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. Areas including northern Nicaragua and large swaths of Honduras that had previously registered drier-than-normal conditions now show small rainfall surpluses. Seasonal moisture deficits remain across Guatemala but have improved in the past week. The most recent vegetation indices are still showing poor ground conditions for parts of eastern Guatemala, El Salvador, western and southern Honduras, western Nicaragua and expanding southward into Costa Rica. The soaking rains from the past 2 weeks have significantly reduced negative rainfall anomalies for many areas. However, because of the abbreviated and, at times, sporadic nature of rainfall during the Primera, crops are still struggling despite near-normal rainfall totals for the season.

During the next week, mostly drier-than-average conditions are forecasted across the Central America region. The area encompassing southeastern Nicaragua and eastern Costa Rica has the potential to receive locally torrential rains and is the lone area where above-average precipitation is likely. The tendency towards drier conditions in the forecast may be associated with an early onset of the canícula. It is predicted that the dry spell could be deeper and more extended than normal.

Week 1 Rainfall Forecast and Anomaly (mm) June 17– June 23, 2015

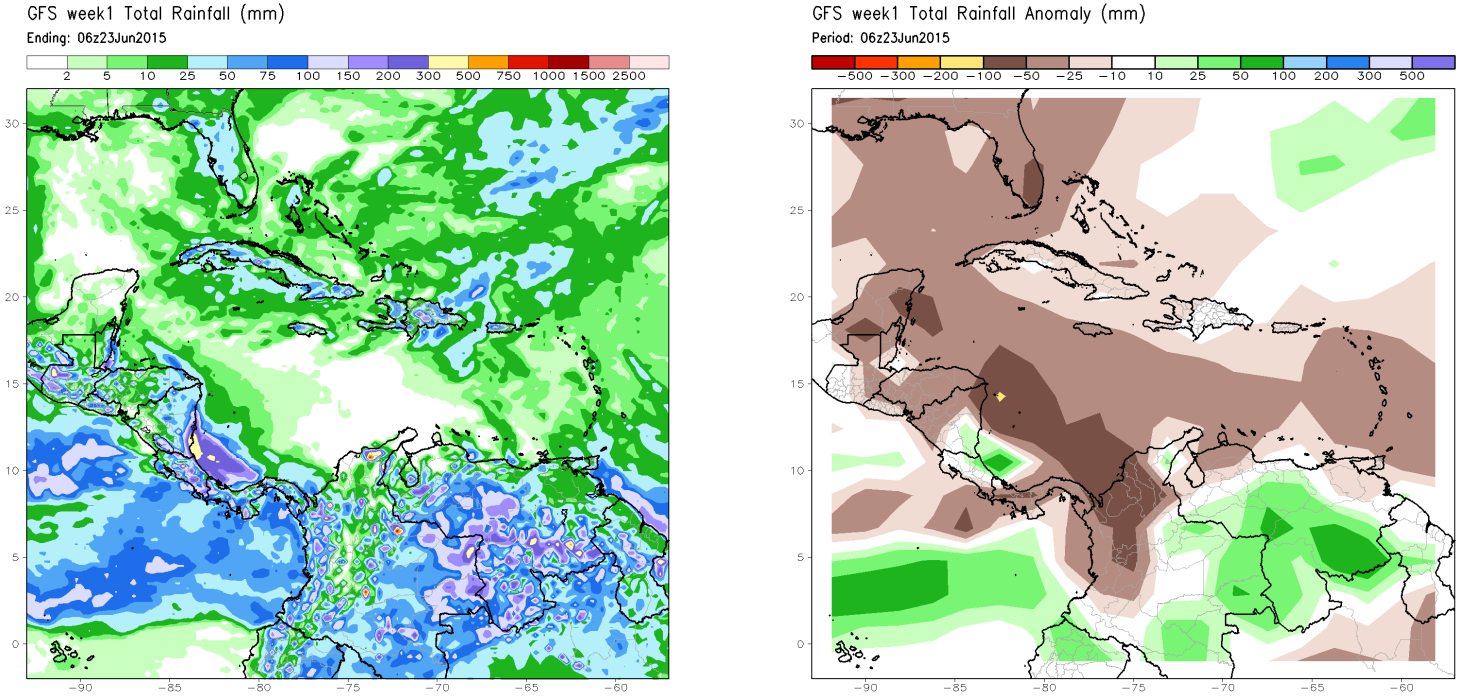


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.