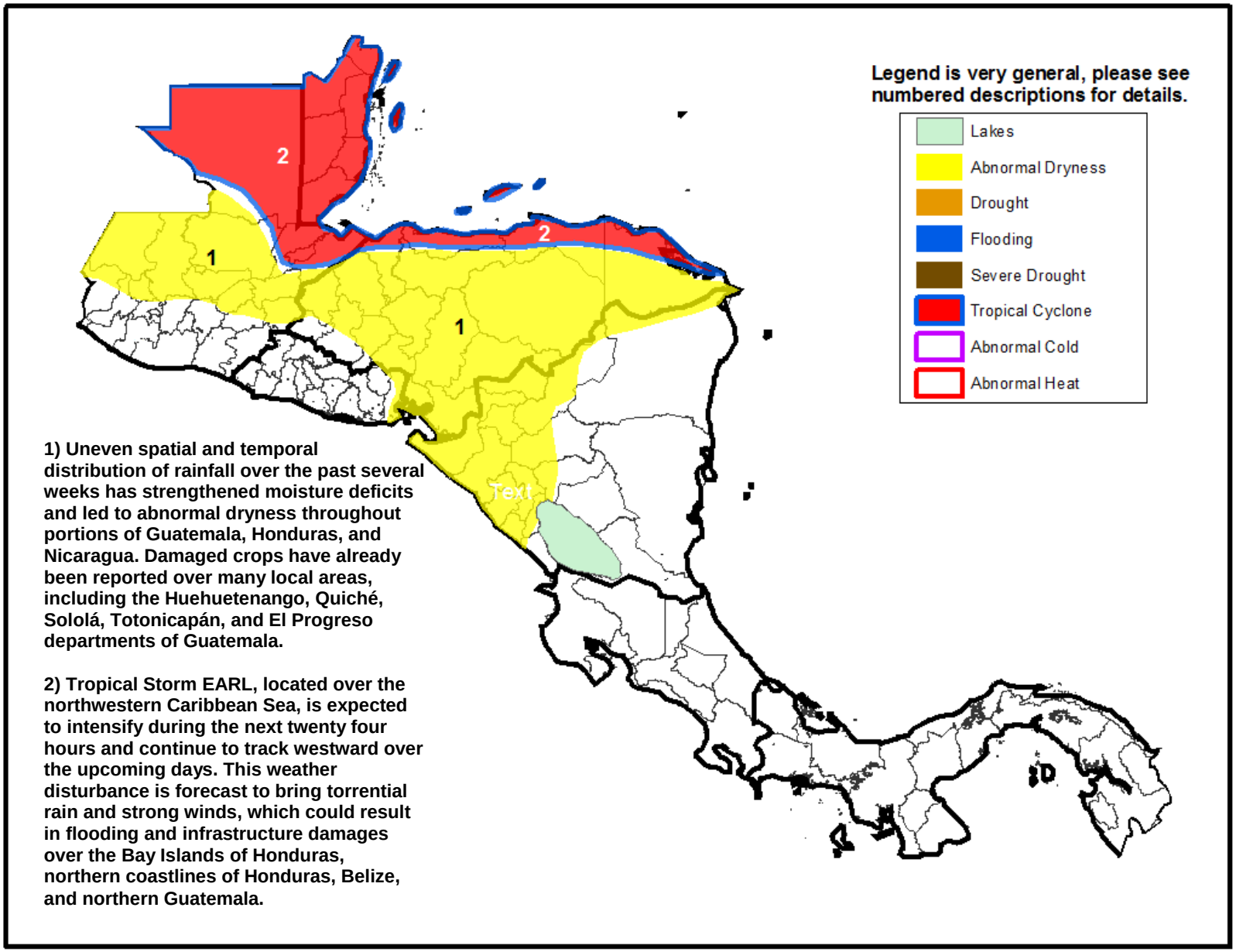
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
August 4 – 10, 2016

- **The passage of Tropical Storm EARL over northwestern Caribbean expected to impact Central America.**



1) Uneven spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall over the past several weeks has strengthened moisture deficits and led to abnormal dryness throughout portions of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Damaged crops have already been reported over many local areas, including the Huehuetenango, Quiché, Sololá, Totonicapán, and El Progreso departments of Guatemala.

2) Tropical Storm EARL, located over the northwestern Caribbean Sea, is expected to intensify during the next twenty four hours and continue to track westward over the upcoming days. This weather disturbance is forecast to bring torrential rain and strong winds, which could result in flooding and infrastructure damages over the Bay Islands of Honduras, northern coastlines of Honduras, Belize, and northern Guatemala.

The passage of Tropical Storm EARL expected to partially mitigate dryness over Central America.

During late July, scattered moderate to heavy rainfall was observed along coastal areas of Central America, while suppressed rainfall prevailed throughout the interior of the region. This resulted in mostly below-average rainfall during the past week and contributed to the persistence of drier than average conditions over eastern and central Guatemala, Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua over the past thirty days. During July, these dry portions of Central America have received only between 25-80 percent of their average rainfall and have also experienced below-average number of rain days. As a response to the inconsistent rainfall over the past several weeks, crop damages and losses have already reported over many areas of the *Dry Corridor*, including portions of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. If a favorable distribution of rainfall does not return over the upcoming weeks, the ongoing dryness may further negatively impact agricultural activities and reduce crop yields over wide area of the region.

During the next week, the development of Tropical Storm EARL over the northwestern Caribbean is expected to bring heavy downpours along the Gulf of Honduras region. The forecast heavy rain could trigger flooding and landslides over the Bay Islands of Honduras, northern coastlines of Honduras, Belize, and northern Guatemala. Abundant rain is also forecast throughout the interior of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and the Gulf of Fonseca. This should help reduce or eliminate accumulated rainfall deficits and alleviate dryness over many local areas of the dry portions of Central America. Farther south, the Pacific Rim of the Southern Caribbean could receive heavy, while its Caribbean counterparts are expected to experience lighter rain.

Week 1 Rainfall Total and Anomaly Forecast (mm)
August 3 – 10, 2016

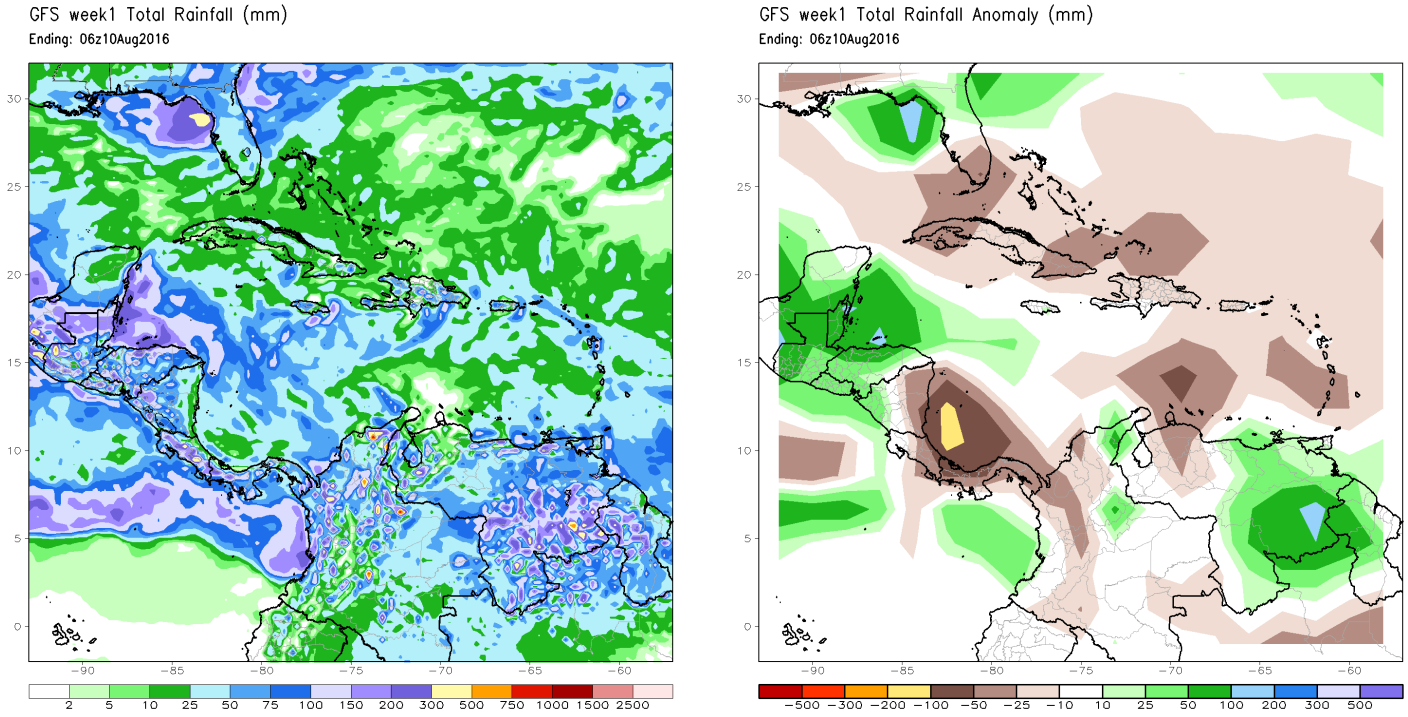


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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