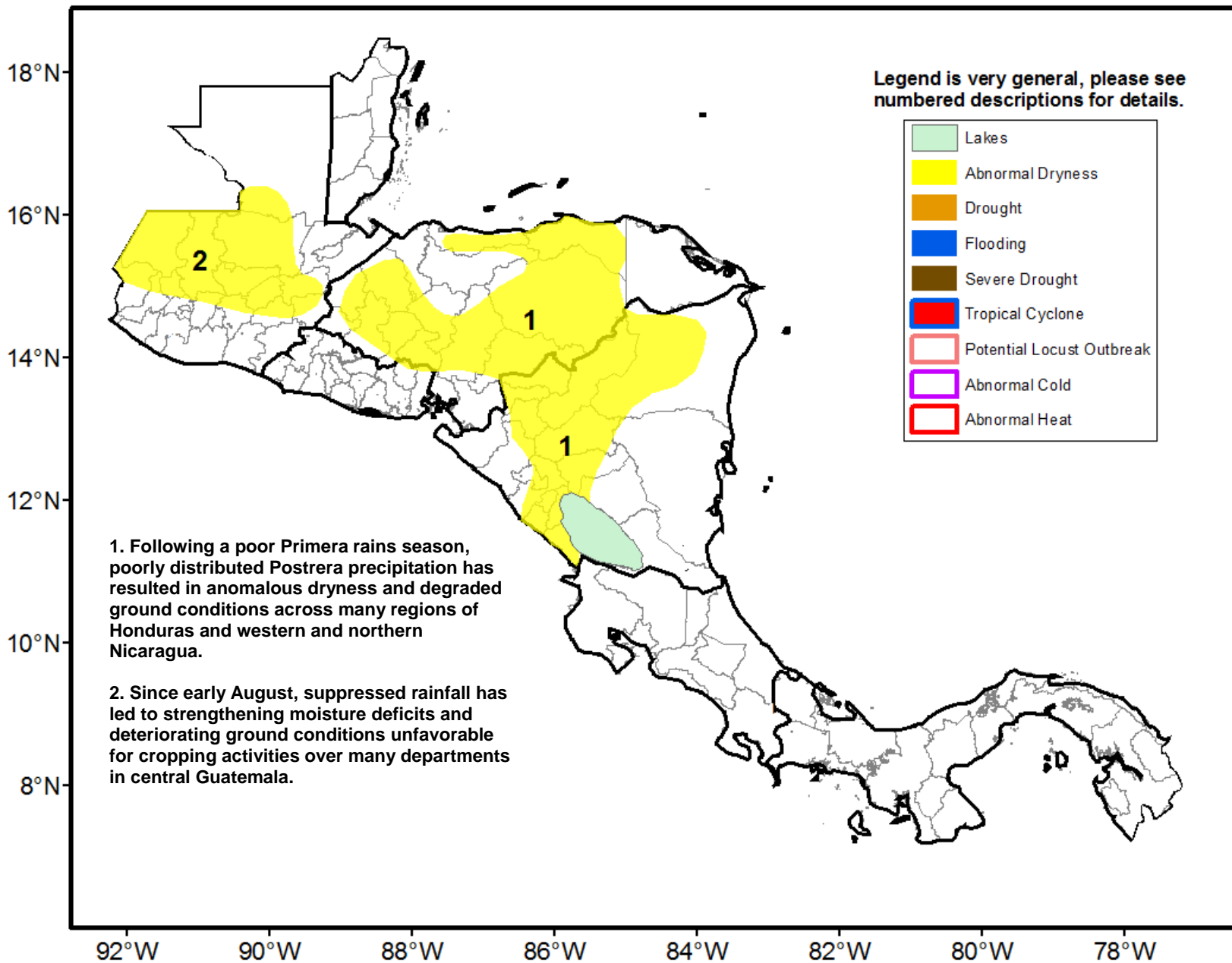# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
October 18 – October 24, 2018

Abnormally dry conditions are worsening in central Guatemala.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

Lakes	
Abnormal Dryness	
Drought	
Flooding	
Severe Drought	
Tropical Cyclone	
Potential Locust Outbreak	
Abnormal Cold	
Abnormal Heat	

1. Following a poor Primera rains season, poorly distributed Postrera precipitation has resulted in anomalous dryness and degraded ground conditions across many regions of Honduras and western and northern Nicaragua.

2. Since early August, suppressed rainfall has led to strengthening moisture deficits and deteriorating ground conditions unfavorable for cropping activities over many departments in central Guatemala.

An organizing tropical wave is expected to enhance rainfall across parts of the region.

Poorly distributed rains persisted last week over parts of central Guatemala. Other Central American regions, including Belize, El Salvador, and the eastern coast of Nicaragua received below-average rainfall as well. Abundant and above-normal rain persisted along the Pacific coast of Guatemala as well as throughout most of Nicaragua. Satellite estimates indicated that 7-day totals exceeded 100-150mm in these areas. Since the beginning of August, considerable moisture deficits have built throughout many departments of central Guatemala. Here, poor and sporadic rains have resulted in expanding moisture deficits of 20-50% of normal. Similar conditions exist in many parts of Honduras and portions of Nicaragua, which have experienced a substandard Postrera rainfall performance to date. Low totals and extended dry spells have led to the degradation of vegetation health. Low VHI values are present over parts of northern Nicaragua and southeastern Honduras. Local portions of central and northern Guatemala also exhibit low VHI values. Other areas, such as northwestern Honduras, have shown improvement. With poorly distributed rainfall during the *Primera*, May-August season, suppressed rainfall through the end of October could result in two consecutively failed rain seasons to adversely impact crop production for many areas.

For the outlook period, an area of low pressure south of Guatemala is expected to organize into a tropical depression or tropical storm as it drifts westward. In the meantime, the system is likely to enhance precipitation across southern Guatemala and El Salvador during the beginning of the period. Flooding or landslides are possible where the heaviest thunderstorms occur. Areas of central Honduras and Nicaragua favor suppressed rainfall.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
October 18 – October 24, 2018

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC