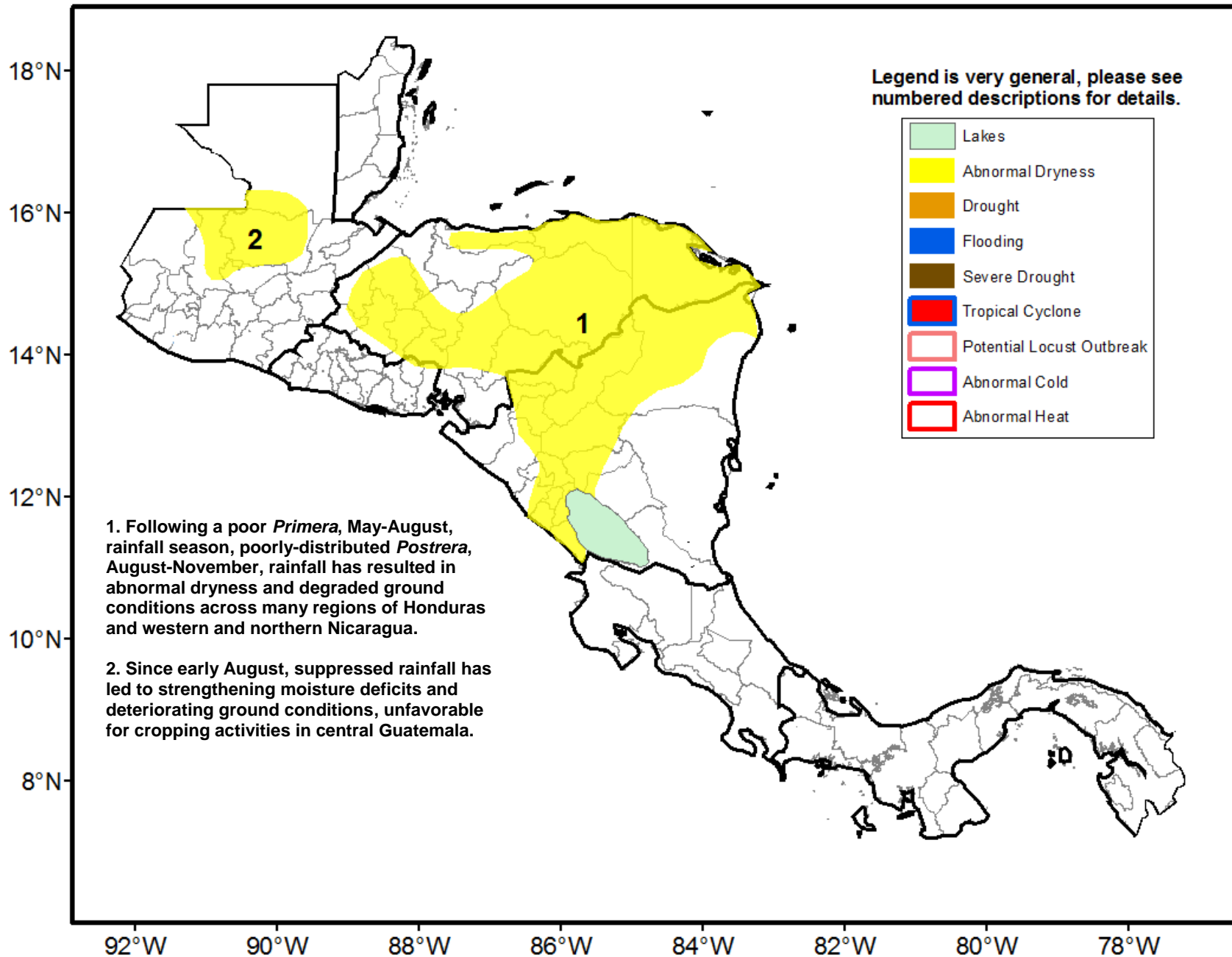# Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
November 15 – 21, 2018

Insufficient rainfall during October has maintained abnormal dryness over many areas of Central America.

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*, May-August, rainfall season, poorly-distributed *Postrera*, August-November, rainfall has resulted in abnormal 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 in central Guatemala.

Large thirty-day rainfall deficits observed along the Atlantic Basin of Central America

Since mid-October to present, drier than average conditions have been observed over many areas of Central America, including northern Guatemala, northern Belize, much of Honduras, eastern El Salvador, northeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and parts of Panama. The largest (> 100 mm) rainfall deficits were recorded along the Atlantic Basin, particularly northern and eastern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. This resulted from an early cessation and infrequent rainfall over the past thirty days. The uneven distribution of rainfall over the past few weeks has also contributed to maintain below-average *Postrera*, August-November, rainfall over central Guatemala, Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, where the ninety-day moisture deficits ranged between 100-500 mm. The lack of rainfall since the beginning of August has already negatively affected ground conditions and degraded crops over many local areas of Central America. During the past week, suppressed and average to below-average rainfall was received over much of the region. As the second rainfall season is approaching its end, rainfall is expected to gradually subside in the region, therefore reducing the likelihood for improvement and recovery over many already dryness-impacted areas.

During the next week, an increase in rainfall is possible along the Atlantic coastlines of Central America, with heavy rainfall along the Gulf of Honduras and Caribbean coasts of Nicaragua. Farther south, abundant rainfall is also expected over parts of the southern Caribbean. However, little to no rainfall is forecast throughout southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca, western and central Nicaragua, and northwestern Costa Rica, potentially worsening conditions on the ground.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
November 14 – 21, 2018

Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC