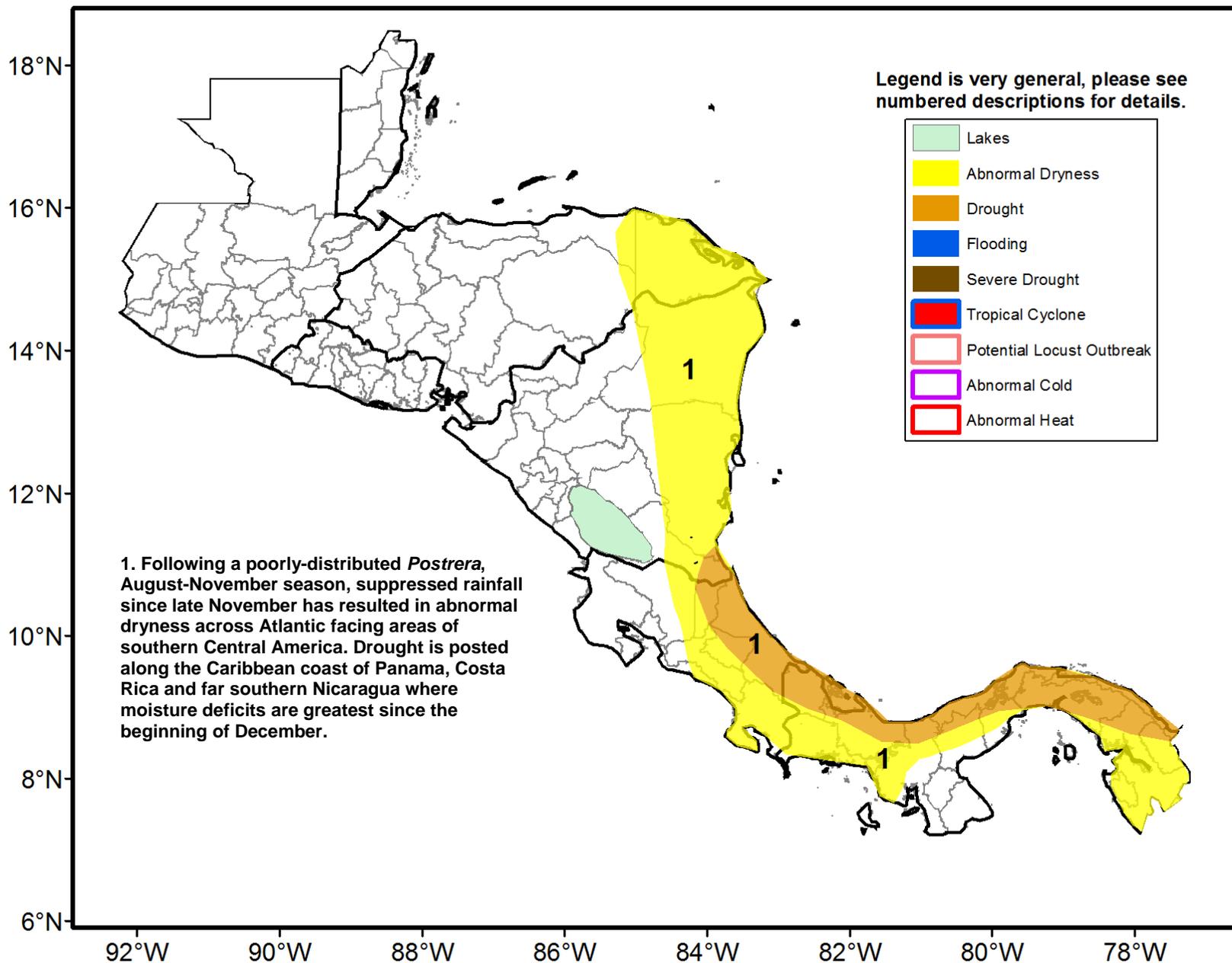




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 7 – March 13, 2019

A slight increase in rains was received over the southern Caribbean during the last week



Increased rainfall may continue over the southern Caribbean during the next week.

During the last week, seasonably light rainfall was received across many Atlantic facing departments of Central America. Compared to the previous week, rainfall has increased across eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Although the light rainfall remains typical of the region during this time of the year, the continuation of average to below average amounts over the past several weeks has led to considerable moisture deficits along the Atlantic Basin of Central America. Since December of last year, many local areas have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation for the period, and have also experienced a below average number of days of precipitation which is expected to be unfavorable for the development of crops. The poor rainfall has already negatively impacted ground conditions where there are increased concerns for water shortages over Costa Rica and Panama, according to media reports. Additionally, vegetation health indices continue to depict stress conditions over many local areas, including northern and central Guatemala, Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. The adverse ground impacts associated with poor rainfall over the past several months may be exacerbated by a poor Primera and Postrera rains season last year.

During the next outlook period, models suggest another week of increased rainfall for several coastal regions and some inland departments of Central America. The highest amounts (>25mm) are expected for portions of southern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. While rainfall forecast is not expected to greatly mitigate long term dryness, the increase in rainfall may help to provide partial relief to dryness over the region.

