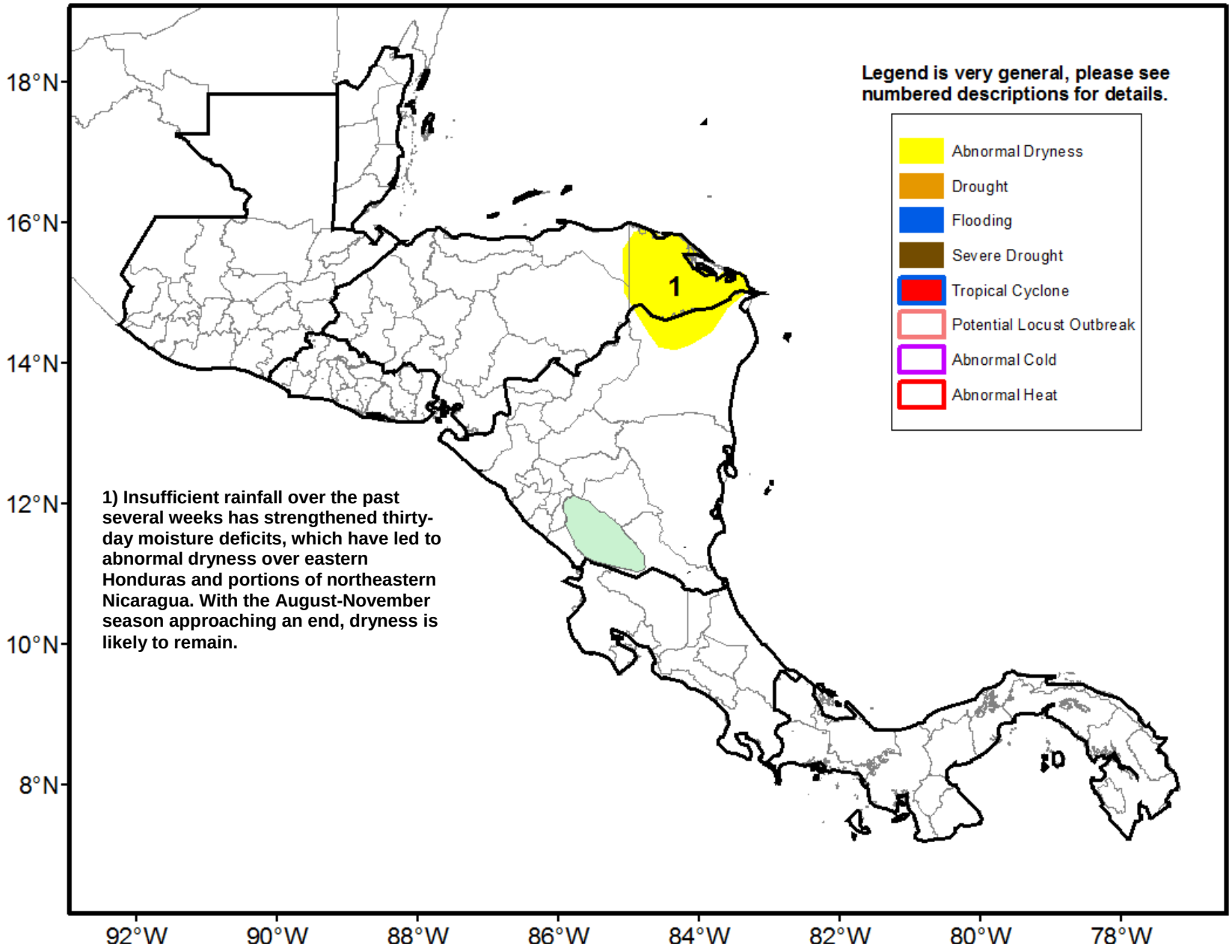
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
November 21 – 27, 2019

This past period's below-average rain maintained abnormal dryness over parts of Central America.



1) Insufficient rainfall over the past several weeks has strengthened thirty-day moisture deficits, which have led to abnormal dryness over eastern Honduras and portions of northeastern Nicaragua. With the August-November season approaching an end, dryness is likely to remain.

The August-November rainfall season approaching to an end over Central America

During early to mid-November, little to no rainfall was observed over much of the interior of Central America. Suppressed rain was registered across central and northern Guatemala, western El Salvador, much of Honduras, and parts of western and northern Nicaragua. However, scattered moderate to heavy rain fell over southern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, northern and central Honduras, north-central and southeastern Nicaragua. Farther south, abundant rain continued over the southern Caribbean. This past week's rainfall totals were near-average as the August-November season is approaching its end. Moreover, cumulative rain was below-average over the Atlantic regions of Central America. As a result, drier-than-average conditions persisted over eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua over the past thirty days. Moisture deficits ranged between 100-300 mm over these dry portions of Central America. Over the past ninety days, an analysis of rainfall anomalies depicted a dipole pattern, with above-average seasonal rain along much of the Pacific region and below-average seasonal rain across its Atlantic region, counterpart. The continuation of drier-than-average rainfall patterns over the upcoming few weeks could deplete soil moisture further and potentially negatively impact cropping activities over certain areas. The drier conditions are also likely to increase forest fires over many local points.

During the outlook period, dry weather pattern, with mostly suppressed rain is expected to continue over Central America. However, light to locally moderate rain is possible along the coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, surface temperatures are expected to average near to above-normal over most regions. Though, minimum temperature could still fall near to below-freezing, which may negatively impact the grounds and residents over elevated terrains.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
November 20 – 27, 2019

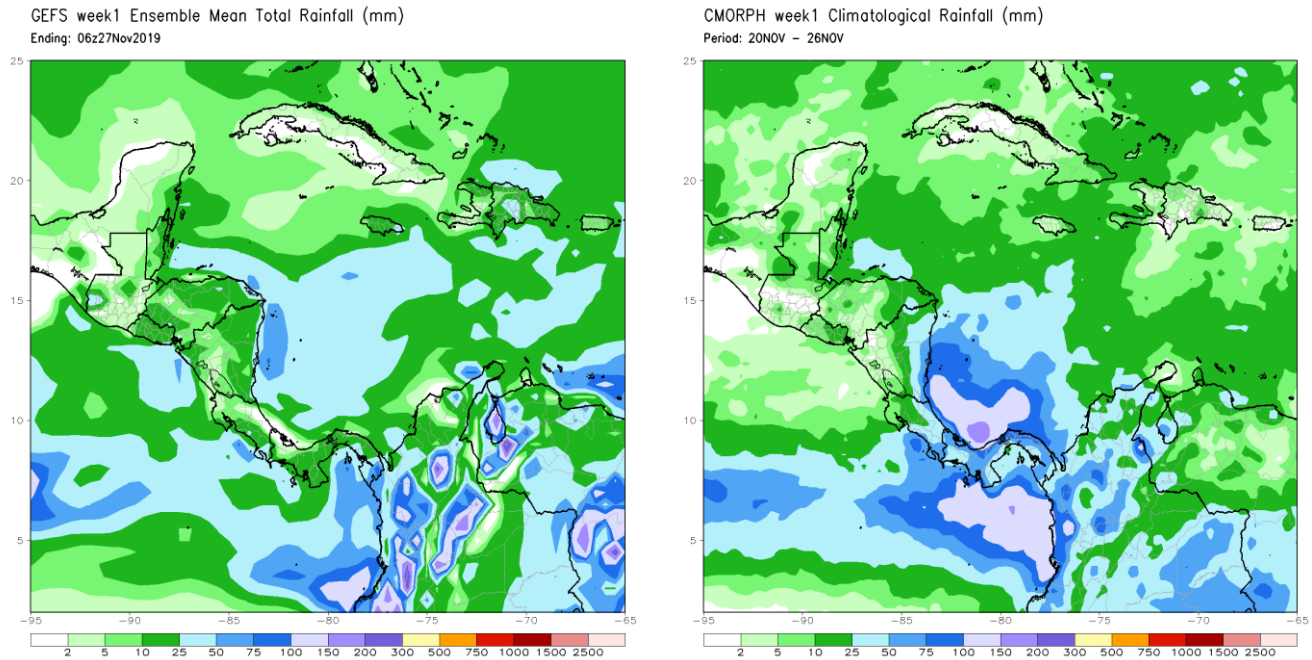


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

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