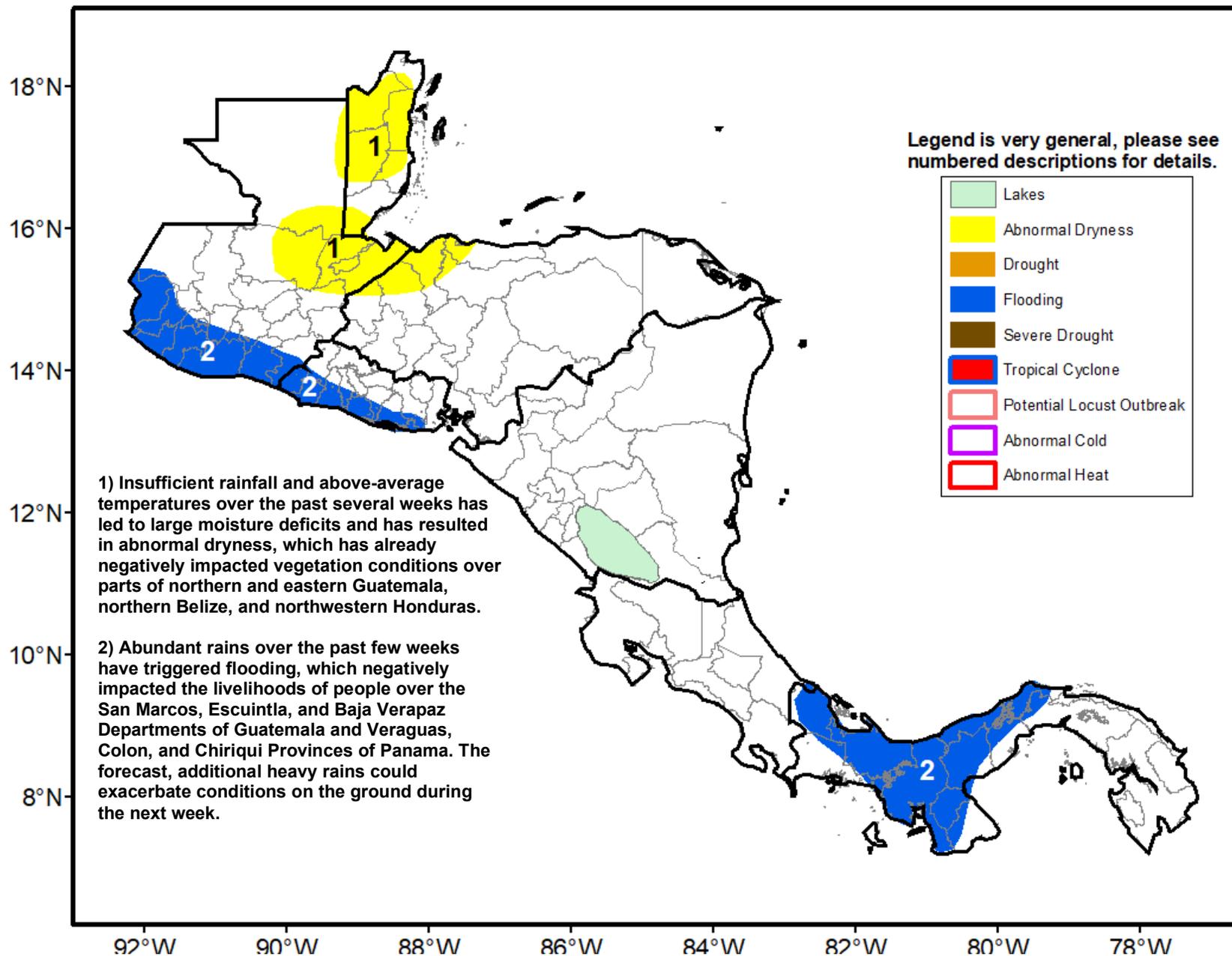




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 20 – 26, 2020

- Flooding risks are high as widespread, wet conditions are forecast during the next outlook period.



The forecast wet conditions increase the risks for floods and landslides over many areas.

During the past observation period, torrential rains fell over the Atlantic-facing regions of Central America, including eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. Abundant rains were also received over El Salvador, parts of northern and eastern Guatemala, while limited with little rains were observed over east-central Guatemala, northwestern Honduras, and western Nicaragua. This past week's reduced rains contributed to maintain large thirty-day moisture deficits over northern Belize, eastern Guatemala, and northwestern Honduras, where the accumulated rainfall accounted for less than 50 percent of the average. In contrast, thirty-day rainfall surpluses remained over western Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and many areas of Honduras. In Guatemala, the recent heavy and above-average rains have already triggered flooding and landslides over many Departments, including the San Marcos, Baja Verapaz, and Escuintla. The continuation of consistent rains is likely to worsen conditions over previously-flooded areas and even trigger new flooding and overflowing of rivers over many local areas. Recent vegetation health index showed that positive conditions prevailed over Central America. However, localized areas of northern Guatemala, northern Belize, central Honduras, and southeastern Nicaragua exhibited poor and degraded conditions.

For next week, model rainfall forecasts suggest widespread, torrential rains along the Pacific-facing regions of Central America. This forecast, wet weather pattern increases the likelihoods for flooding over western and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Gulf of Fonseca region. Heavy rains are also expected over Costa Rica and Panama, which could exacerbate ground conditions and trigger new flooding over the region.

