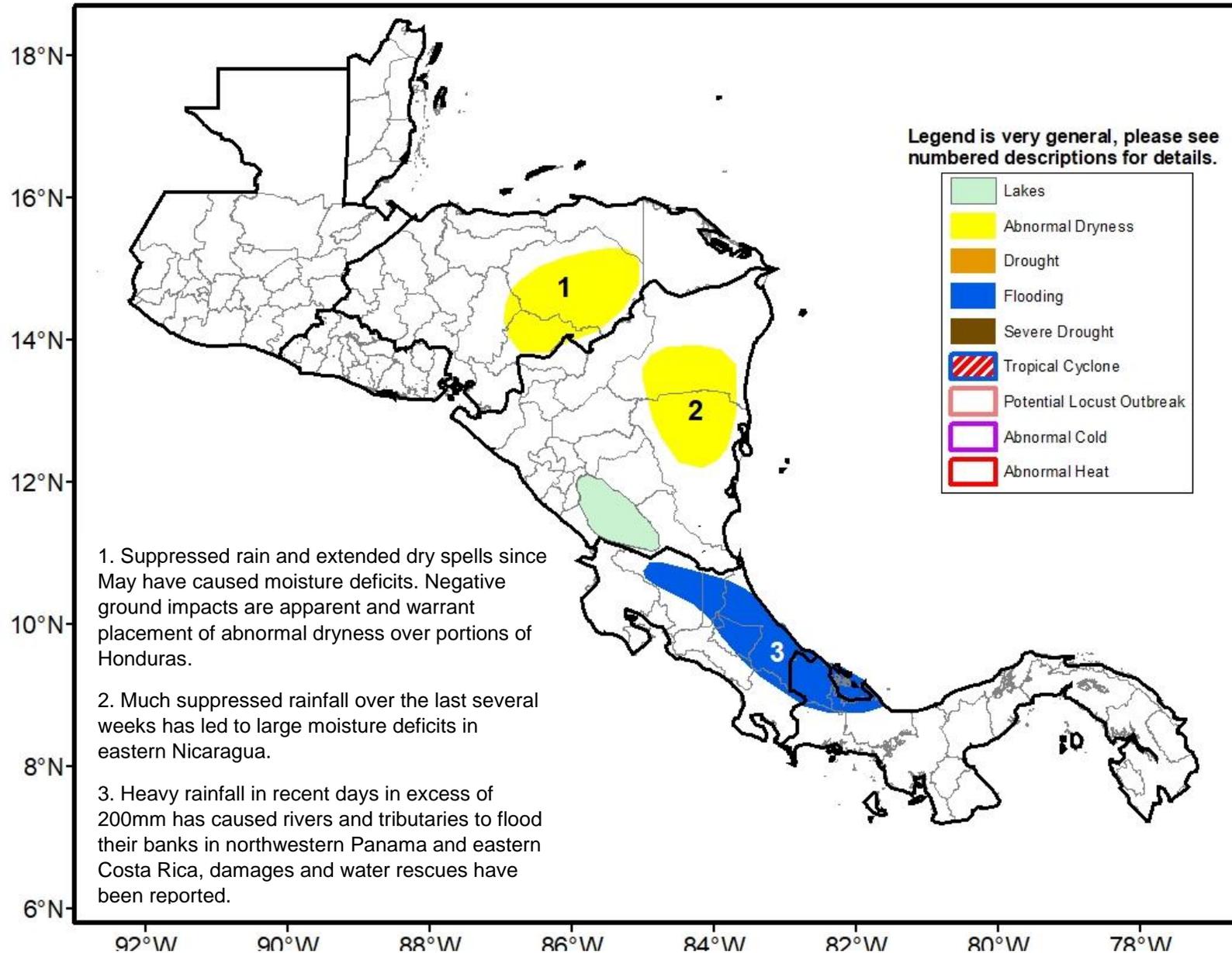




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 29 July – 04 August, 2021

Heavy rains and flooding affected southern areas, while much of the rest of the region was dryer than normal



Dry conditions are expected across several parts of the region, leading to possible expansion of abnormal dryness

During the past week, the heaviest rains in the region, totaling more than 200mm for the last 7 days, were observed over eastern Costa Rica and northwestern Panama. Two fatalities, damages to homes and infrastructure, and water rescues were reported because of resulting floods. Central Guatemala registered heavier rainfall totals in excess of 75mm as well, and some localized flooding was reported. Moderate rainfall totals (25-75mm) were observed in eastern Nicaragua and northwest Guatemala. Meanwhile, little rain (<25mm) was observed over a broad region surrounding the Gulf of Fonseca, Belize, and along Guatemala's Sierra Madre mountains. The pattern was indicative of general rainfall suppression from Nicaragua northward. Significant deficits of 25-100mm are observed in El Salvador, southern Belize, southern Guatemala, and eastern Nicaragua. Negative 30-day rainfall anomalies persisted during the last week in northeastern Nicaragua and western and eastern parts of Honduras. Deficits of more than 100mm are visible locally in many areas, and they are growing especially quickly in El Salvador. The sporadic rainfall and frequent dry spells has caused wild fires in Petén department, Guatemala. Significant rainfall deficits are present in Honduras and Nicaragua over the longer 90-day period as well. As a result, vegetation health, according to the NDVI, is degraded in many parts of the region.

Heavy rainfall is likely to continue over Costa Rica and Panama during the outlook period. More than 100mm of rainfall is possible. An enhancement of rains may improve moisture deficits in Belize and eastern Nicaragua. Rainfall is forecast to be below normal in southern Honduras, western Nicaragua, and southwestern Guatemala. Tropical development is not expected to impact the region at this time.

