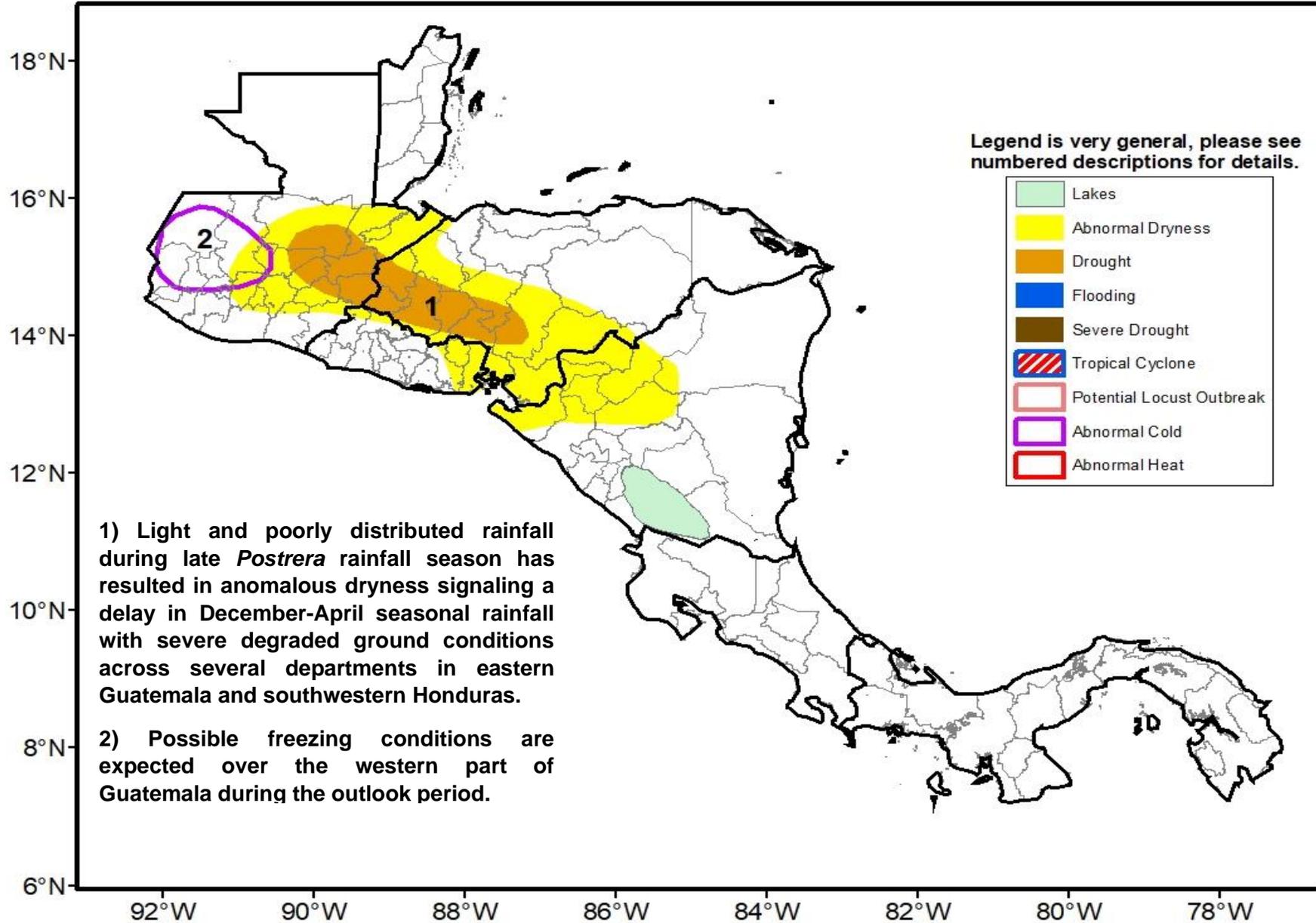




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook 23 – 29 December 2021

A ground moisture recovery was observed across northern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua recently



Possible freezing temperature could be expected across the western part of Guatemala during the outlook period.

A pattern shift last week has led to a large increase in rainfall across a wide portion of the region. This is especially true for many areas in which the *Postrera* season has started poorly. In fact, the heavy rainfall caused localized flash flooding in Guatemala's Izabal department. The week's pattern yielded positive 7-day anomalies across a major part of Central America. This went a long way towards eliminating deficits that were built during the past 30 days or so in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. According to satellite estimates, regions along the Atlantic side of Central America received significant amount of rainfall, with 50-100mm above average rainfall, especially over coastal area of northern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua during the past thirty days. Southern Belize also observed large rainfall totals exceeding 50mm above normal rainfall which help alleviate the abnormal dryness across the area. Several areas in eastern Guatemala, southern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua continue to exhibit moisture deficits during late *Postrera* and *Apante* season and do not show visible positive change on the vegetation health index. The NDVI still indicates poor ground conditions and even a negative tendency across southern Honduras, eastern Guatemala, and northwestern Nicaragua. However, conditions reflected by the index are time lagged to the poor performance of the previous rainfall season and should be expected to reverse soon by the beginning of January.

During the coming outlook period, above normal rainfall is expected across northern Guatemala, Belize, northern Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua while seasonable rainfall is expected across Costa Rica, Panama and coastal regions facing Pacific Ocean. This increase of rainfall could be beneficial for crop activities, ground vegetation, and attenuate the ongoing forest fires and sugar cane fires across Guatemala.

