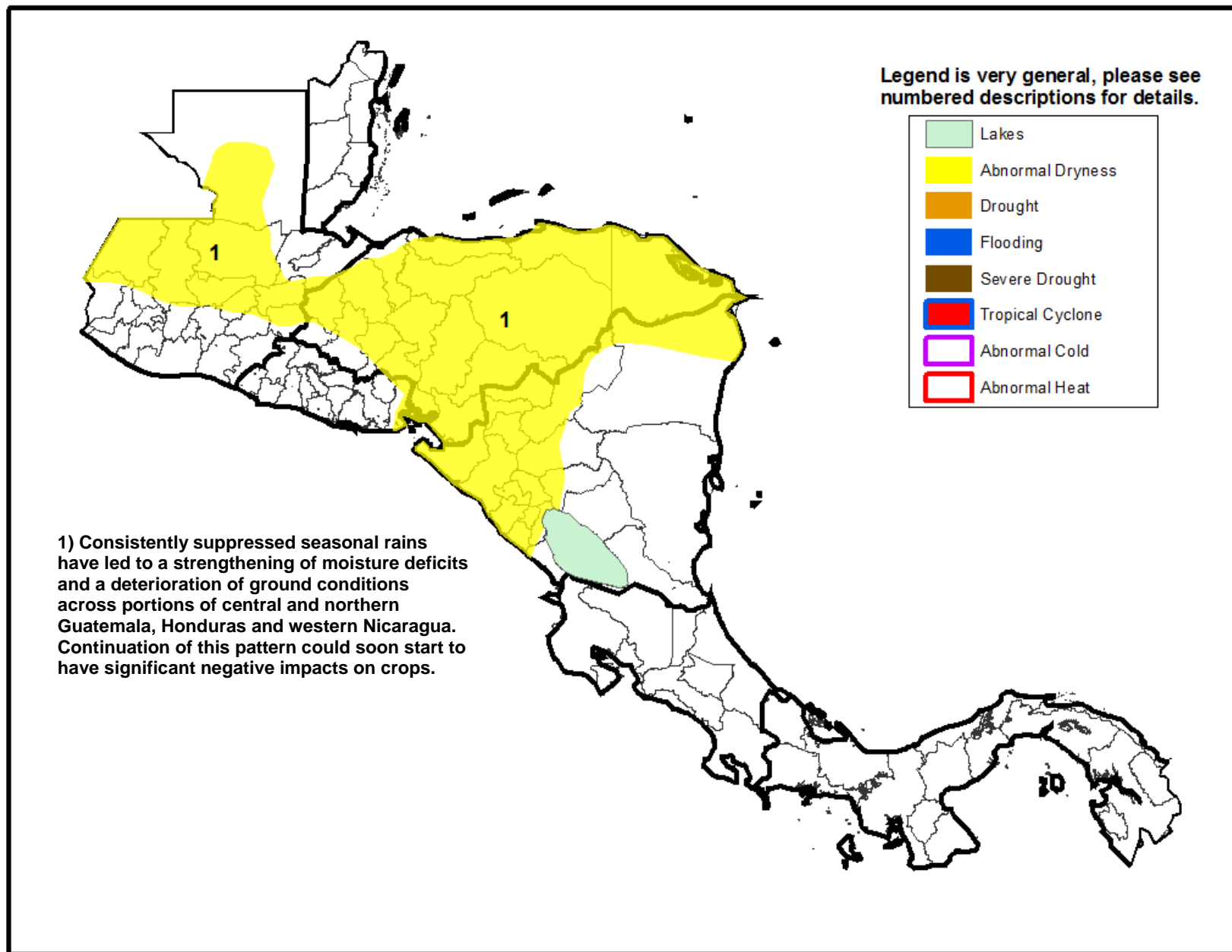




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 21 – July 27, 2016

- Pattern of below-normal rainfall is holding strong throughout the region.



Poor rainfall performance across most of the region last week has exacerbated the abnormal dryness throughout the region.

Over the last 7 days, rainfall was below average for most areas of Central America. Many locales only received less than 25mm of rain for the week. These included many parts of central Guatemala, central Honduras, and western Nicaragua. For some, those totals equate to less than a quarter of what they would normally receive for the period. Areas that did receive heavier rain (>150-200mm according to TRMM) include southern Guatemala and southeastern Nicaragua. While this was abnormally wet for parts of southern Guatemala, it was still slightly less than average for Nicaragua. Repeated weeks of poor rainfall performance are enlarging longer-term moisture deficits, both in magnitude and in coverage. Many local areas are now observing less than 50% of average rainfall over the last 30 days. Both eastern Honduras and western Nicaragua exhibit rapidly developing deficits. While vegetation indices are a little slow to respond, they are exhibiting a negative trend, especially in Honduras and western Nicaragua. In addition, soil moisture is reported to be very low in many central departments of Guatemala.

Continued suppression of rain is likely during the upcoming outlook period. Similar to the past week, rainfall should be greatest in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and along the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. Still, most parts of the region will see near or below average precipitation. Should this forecast continue to verify, additional consecutive weeks of relatively dry weather will likely start to have greater negative impact on crops for many local areas. Upgrades in hazard level may start to become necessary.

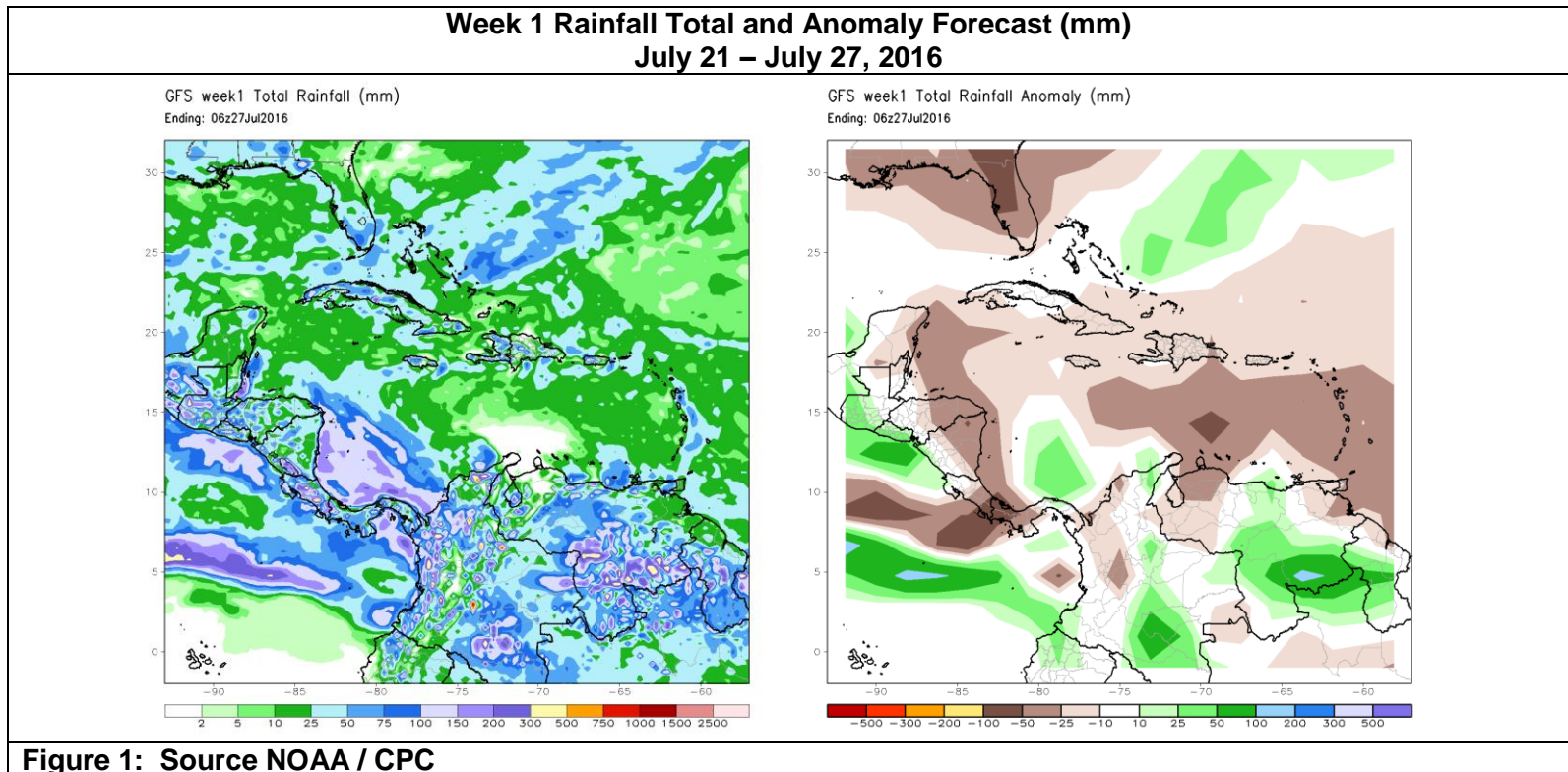


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC