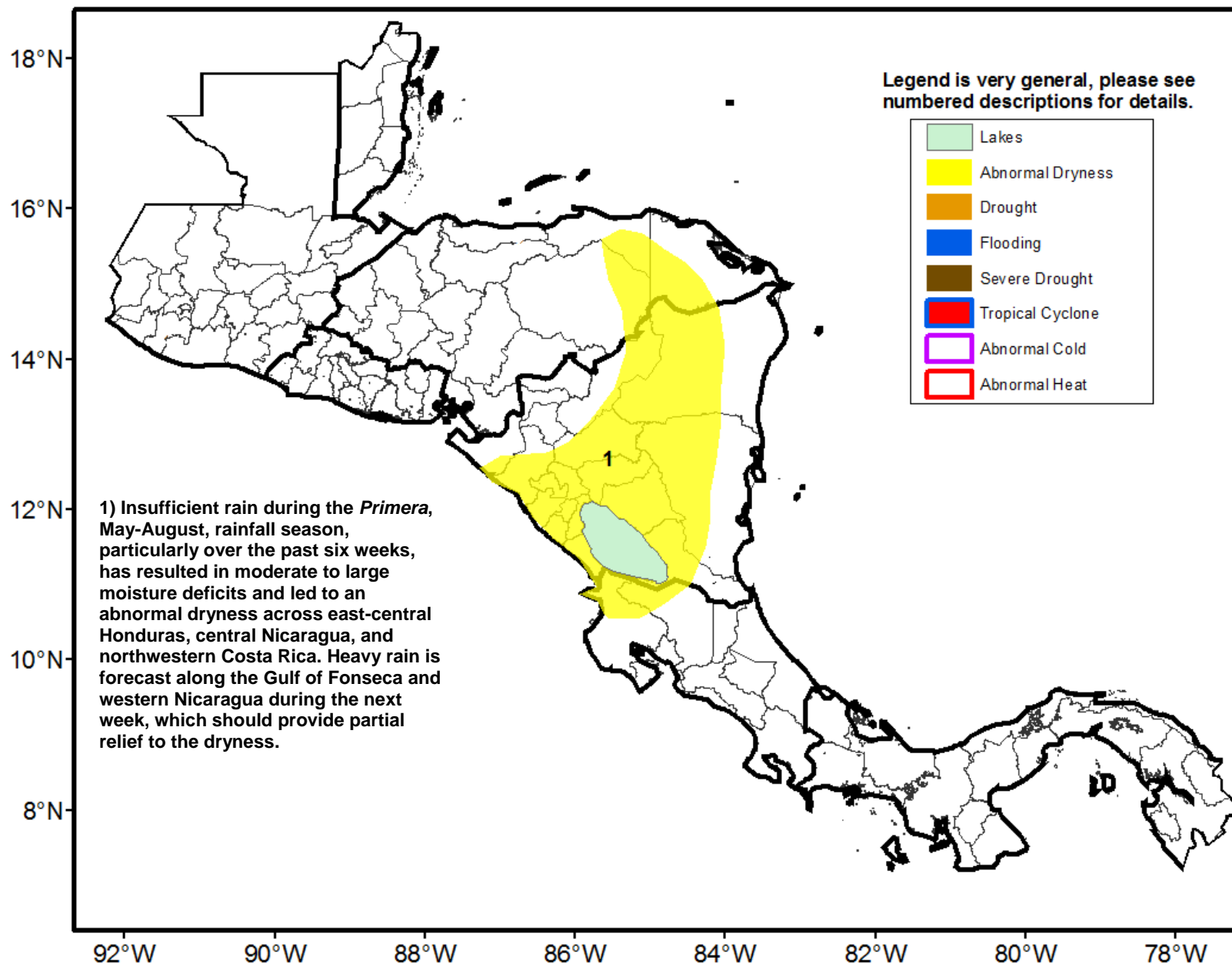




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook August 25 – 31, 2016

- Reduced rain forecast along the Atlantic Basin of Central America during the next seven days.



Dryness persists over portions of Nicaragua.

During the past week, an increase in rainfall was observed over parts of Central America. Moderate to heavy rain fell over Guatemala, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean. The heaviest (> 100 mm) rain was received over the southwestern and northern portions of Guatemala, localized areas of eastern Honduras, southeastern Nicaragua, and the Pacific and Atlantic Basins of Costa Rica and Panama. In Guatemala, torrential rain caused the overflowing of the Cotoxá River, affecting many people in the San Luis area of the Petén department. Despite this past week's average to above-average rain over some areas, moisture deficits have persisted over localized areas of Honduras and most parts of central Nicaragua over the past thirty days. The continuation of insufficient and poorly-distributed rain could negatively affect ongoing crops, associated with the *Primera*, May-August, and land preparation and planting for the *Postrema*, August-November rainfall seasons over some local areas. An analysis of recent vegetation indices has indicated a deterioration of ground conditions over localized areas of east-central Honduras, western and central Nicaragua. Consistent rain is needed to eliminate accumulated moisture deficits and mitigate dryness over the dry portions of Central America.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate the return of heavy downpours along the Gulf of Fonseca and western portions of Nicaragua. The forecast enhanced rain should help reduce or eliminate rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture across the region. While moderate to locally heavy rain is expected over the interior of Guatemala and Honduras, light and likely to be below-average rain is forecast along the Atlantic Basin of Central America. Farther south, heavy rain is expected over the Southern Caribbean.

