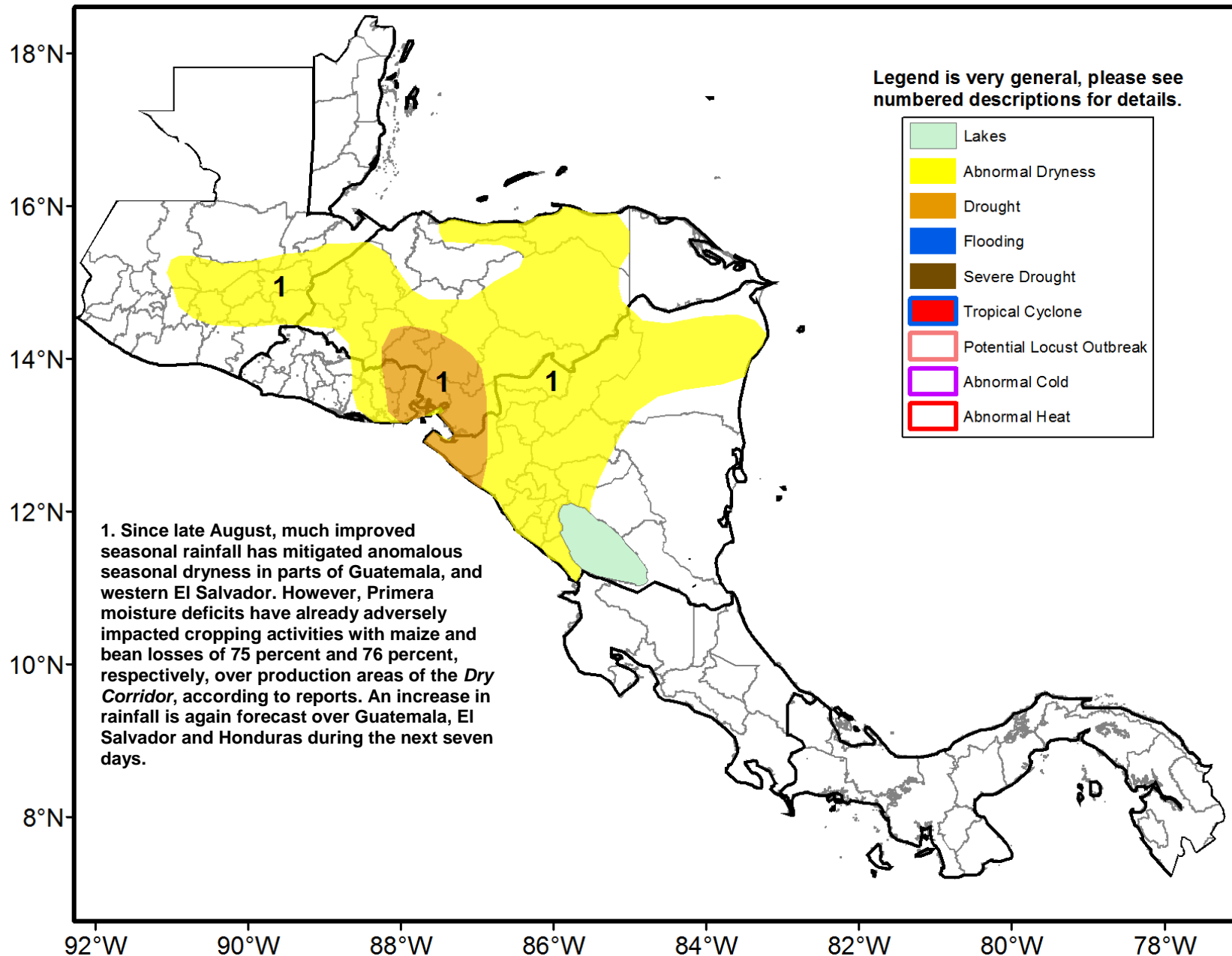




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook September 20 – 26, 2018

Increased rainfall continues to help relieve seasonal dryness in parts of Guatemala.



Relief to moisture deficits continue over parts of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

According to satellite rainfall estimates, a large swath of moderate to locally heavy rainfall (>75mm) was received across several departments of northern and southern Guatemala, with regionally heavy rains also registered over the Gulf of Fonseca region. The recent increase in seasonal rainfall follows a positive moisture trend since late August over Central America, which has helped to mitigate short term anomalous dryness. However, considerable moisture deficits remain throughout eastern El Salvador, southern Honduras and in portions of western and northern Nicaragua. Here, several local areas have only received between 25 to 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since mid-August, with an anomalously low number of rain days during this period. Since early June, below average moisture conditions still prevail across northern Central America from Guatemala, Honduras, and northern Nicaragua. The poor rainfall distribution since the start of the *Primera*, May-August, season has already adversely impacted crops and reduced yields over many areas and the continuation of suppressed rainfall during late September and October could also negatively impact cropping activities during the early period of the *Postrera*, August-November cycle.

For next outlook period, there is the increased potential for enhanced rainfall across western Guatemala and southwestern Honduras to help provide additional moisture relief over the region. Elsewhere, more seasonable accumulations are expected throughout the remainder of Central America during late September. No tropical activity is expected during the next seven days.

