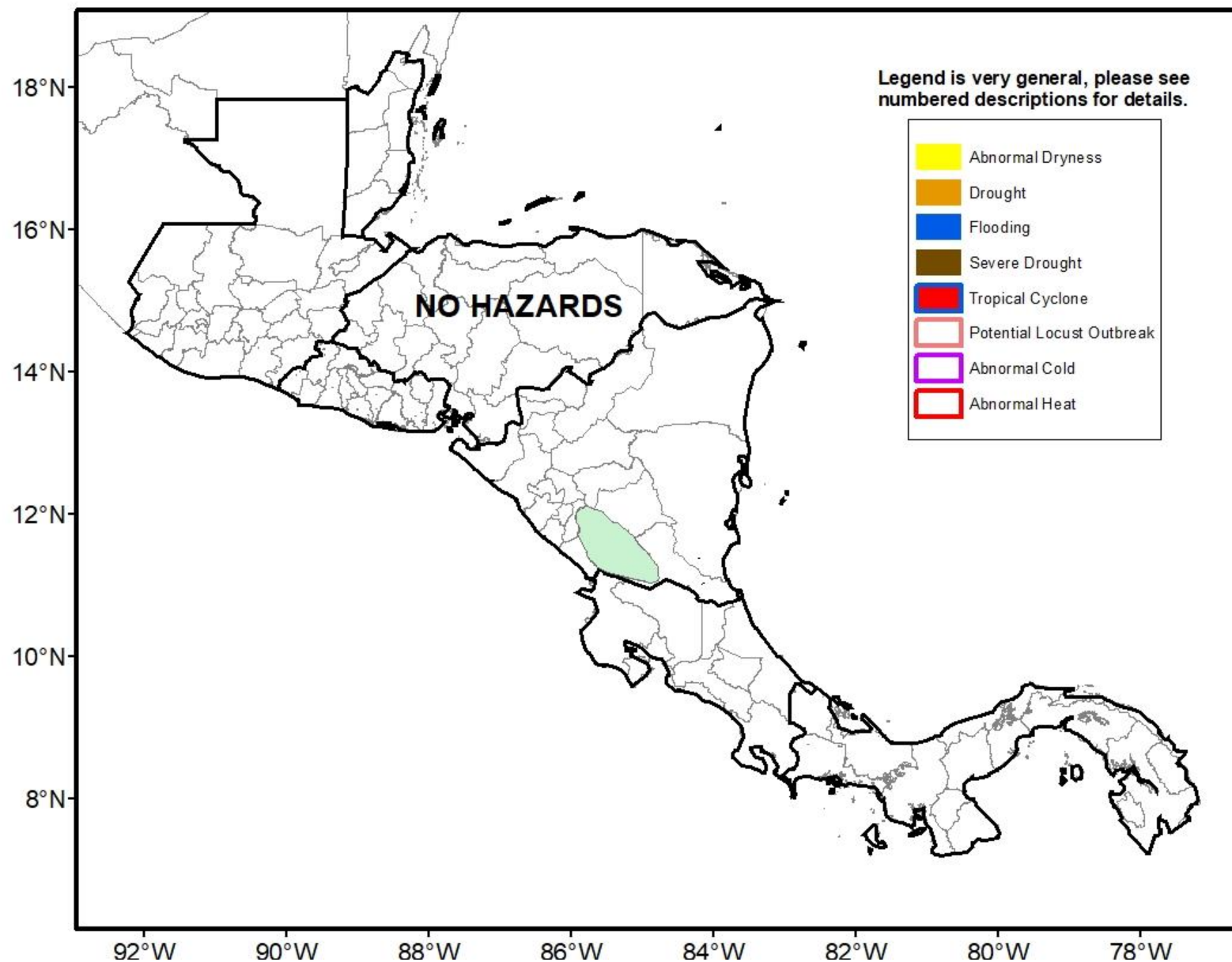




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 2, 2020 – January 8, 2020

The heaviest rains this past week were observed in the Southern Caribbean region.



During the final week of December, most of the region remained dry, while an area of heavy thunderstorms was situated in the southern Caribbean. The heaviest cumulative rainfall stayed offshore, though still some heavy totals of 100mm or more were observed in parts of Panama, and coastal areas of Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua according to satellite estimates. Besides this, moderate rains were observed in far-eastern Honduras, with light rain along some of the region's other Caribbean coastlines. Over the last 30 days, some dryness is observed in eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. Negative anomalies are generally between 25mm and 50mm. Conversely, large surpluses are observed farther to the south over Panama, Costa Rica, and southern Nicaragua. Some surpluses (50-100+mm) are also observed in northern Guatemala. The vegetation health index reveals largely healthy vegetation to close out the calendar year, especially for Pacific-facing regions. A few local areas such as Guatemala's Petén department and northern Belize show negative conditions.

During the outlook period, the beginning of the new year is expected to bring near-normal rainfall. Weather models forecast light or moderate rains (10-50mm) for the climatologically favored regions along the Caribbean coastlines and over Costa Rica and Panama. Models also indicate slightly cooler than normal conditions over Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras to start 2020. Minimum temperatures could be 4-6°C below normal in northern Guatemala and Belize.

