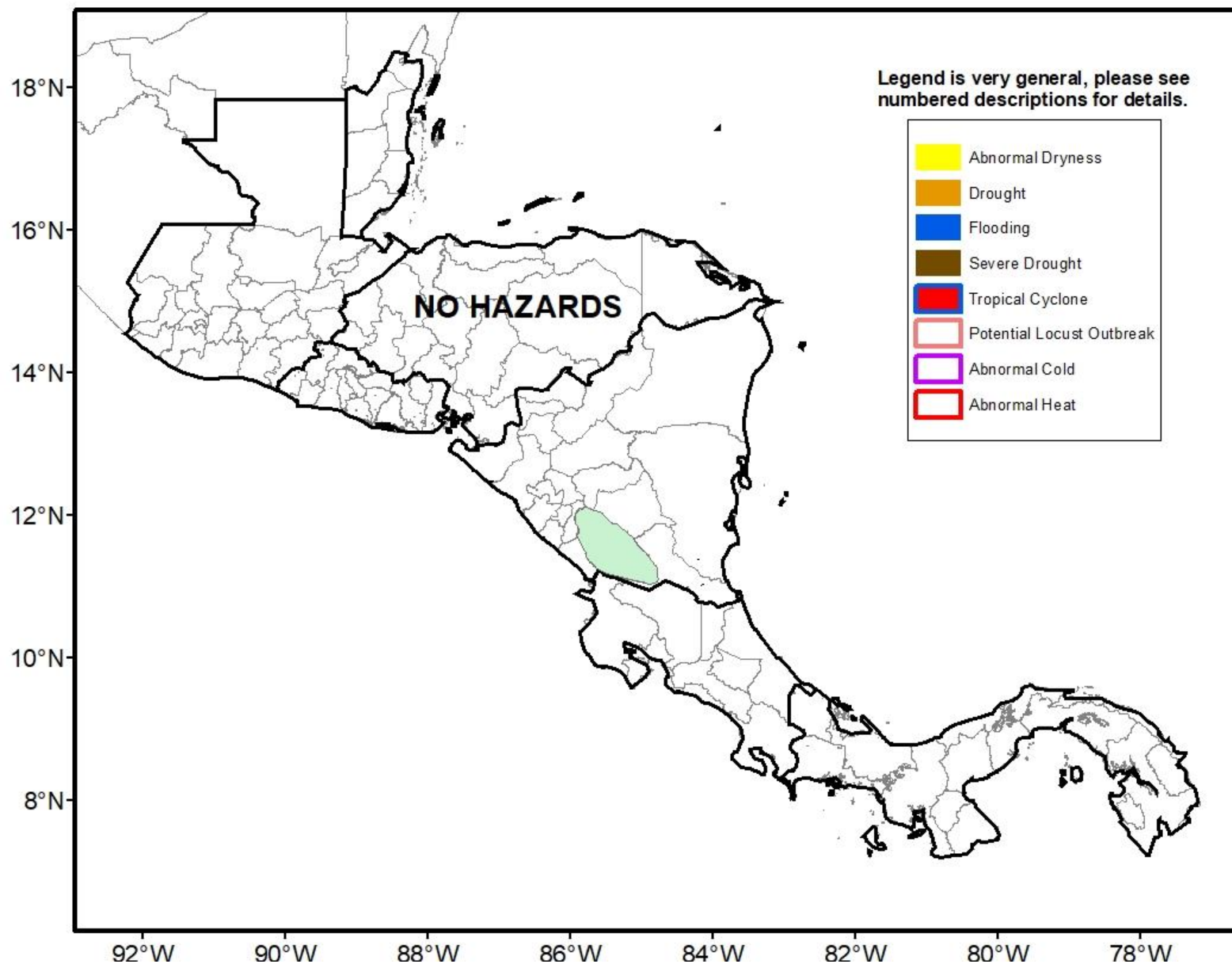




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 9 – January 15, 2020

Significant rains were relegated to southern parts of the region last week.



During the first week of January, significant rainfall remained only in the southern countries. Most of the region remained dry. A few local areas in Panama received as much as 100mm of rainfall, and some lighter totals spread into parts of Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua according to satellite estimates. Only a few light showers were observed elsewhere in the Central American region during the week. Over the last 30 days, some dryness is observed in eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. Negative anomalies are generally between 10mm and 50mm. Conversely, large surpluses are observed farther to the south over parts of 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 begin 2019, especially for Pacific-facing regions. A few local areas such as Guatemala's Petén department and northern Belize indicate negative conditions.

During the outlook period, near-normal or slightly wetter than average rainfall is expected. Weather models forecast moderate rains (10-50mm) for portions of Belize and the climatologically favored regions of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. Models also indicate slightly cooler than normal conditions over Belize, and Honduras during the upcoming week. Minimum temperatures could be 2-4°C below normal in some areas.

