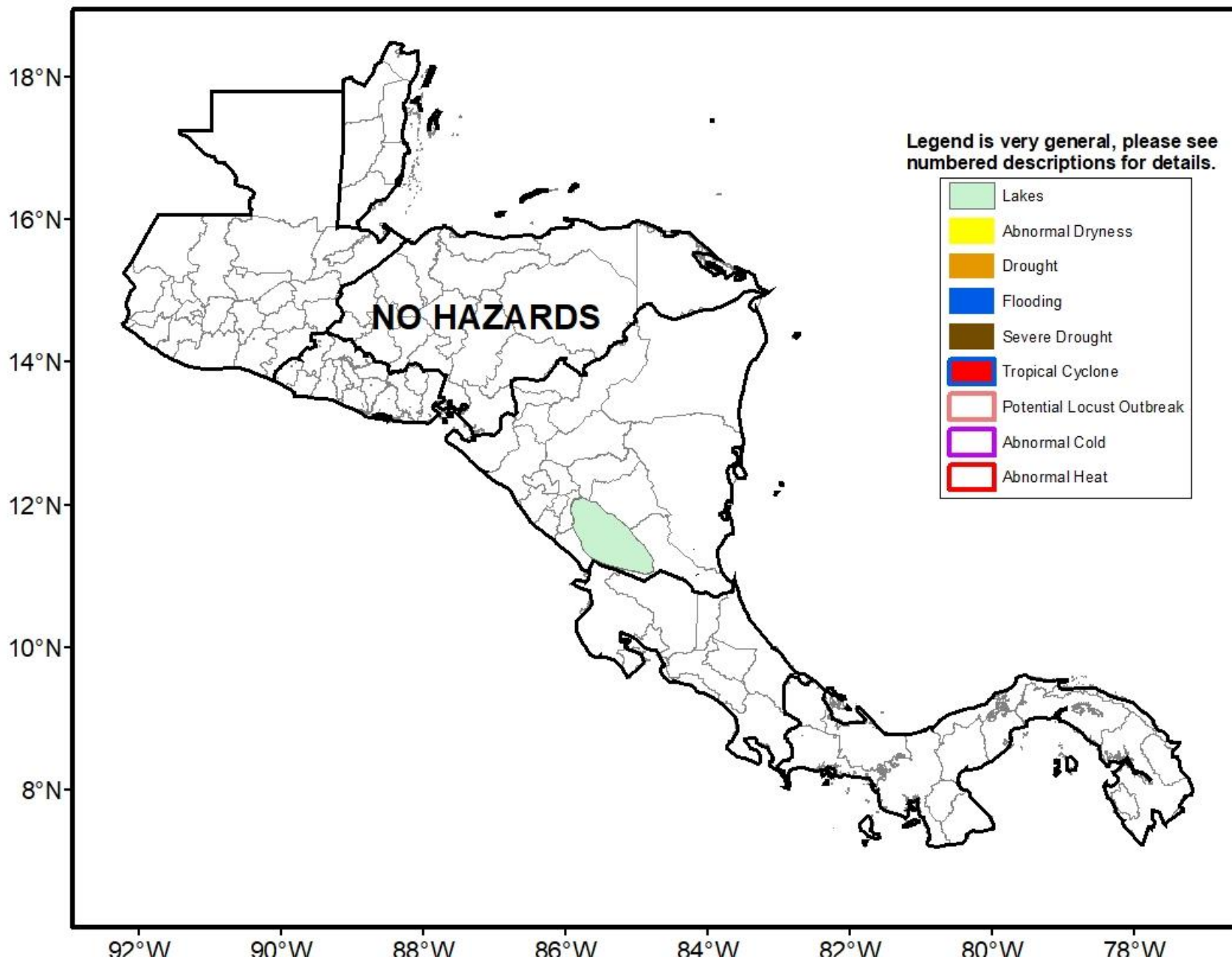




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 30 – May 6, 2020

- Rains remained suppressed for many portions of Central America.



A broad and anomalous upper-level high continued to bring abnormal heat and dry conditions to portions of the region.

For the third week in a row, suppressed and scattered light rains were observed over swaths of Central America. However, some increase in showers and thunderstorm activity was observed in Guatemala and western Honduras, especially late in the week. According to satellite estimates, local rainfall totals reached 50mm. Additional scattered light rain showers were observed in Belize and western Nicaragua. Rainfall was moderate, but still somewhat suppressed, in Costa Rica and Panama. Totals of around 25-50mm were observed locally in those two nations. After a generally sufficient or wetter-than-normal normal Apante season, many regions have begun to develop moisture deficits during the last few weeks as the Primera rains have been slow to increase. Negative 30-day anomalies of 25mm to more than 50mm are visible in northern Guatemala, Belize, and western parts of Honduras. Early-season deficits have improved somewhat in the southern Caribbean after a couple of weeks of increased rains. Drought monitors and vegetation health indices still suggest that ground conditions are largely good in the region. A few local areas of Belize and northern Guatemala are the exception.

During the outlook period, model guidance indicates moderate to heavy rain in southern Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. Forecast confidence is becoming higher than in recent weeks. Rains should continue to be suppressed in northern Guatemala and Belize. Near or above-normal rainfall is forecasted in Costa Rica and Panama, where totals could exceed 75mm in local areas. Maximum temperatures should be cooler than the last few weeks.

