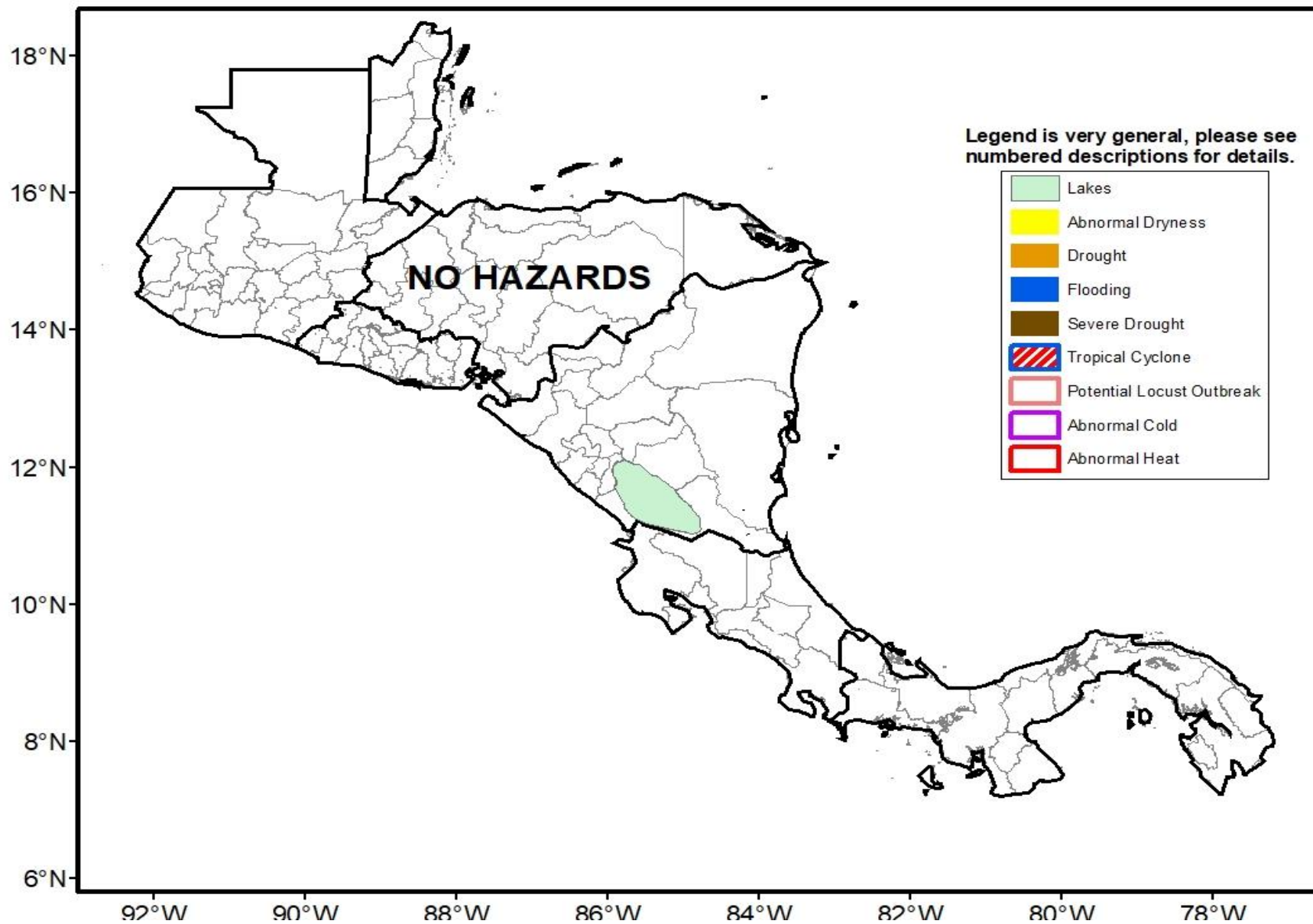




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 11 – March 17, 2021

Seasonally dry conditions remained entrenched through the region



The Caribbean-facing regions are expected to receive an enhancement of rains during the coming outlook period.

During the past week, some scattered light rain was observed across Central America, mainly in coastal regions. Total 7-day amounts measured around 25mm or less. A pattern of light rain such as this is typical for the time of year and yielded minimal anomalies. Rainfall performance over the past 30 days shows a favorable distribution with more than 100mm above average rainfall over the northern coastal area of Honduras, and between 10-25mm above average rainfall over northern Belize, and northeastern Nicaragua. A recovery from moisture deficits has been observed over western Guatemala and southern Nicaragua, while some deficits are now apparent in northern Guatemala. A continuation of seasonally dry, warmer, and windy conditions could exacerbate conditions for forest fires and farther propagation of volcanic ash plumes from the Pacaya and Fuego eruptions in southern Guatemala to nearby crops during the coming outlook period. Vegetation health is generally good in the region according to NDVI analysis. Some negative NDVI anomaly is visible in Costa Rica and western Panama where rainfall has been uneven over the past few months.

For the coming outlook period, an enhancement of rains is forecast along many of the Caribbean coastal areas. The heaviest rainfall totals, possibly exceeding 50mm during the period, are expected in eastern Honduras and the east coast of Nicaragua. Much drier conditions are expected in central and Pacific-facing areas. Cooler than average temperatures are forecast for the region, especially with respect to daily maximum temperatures.

