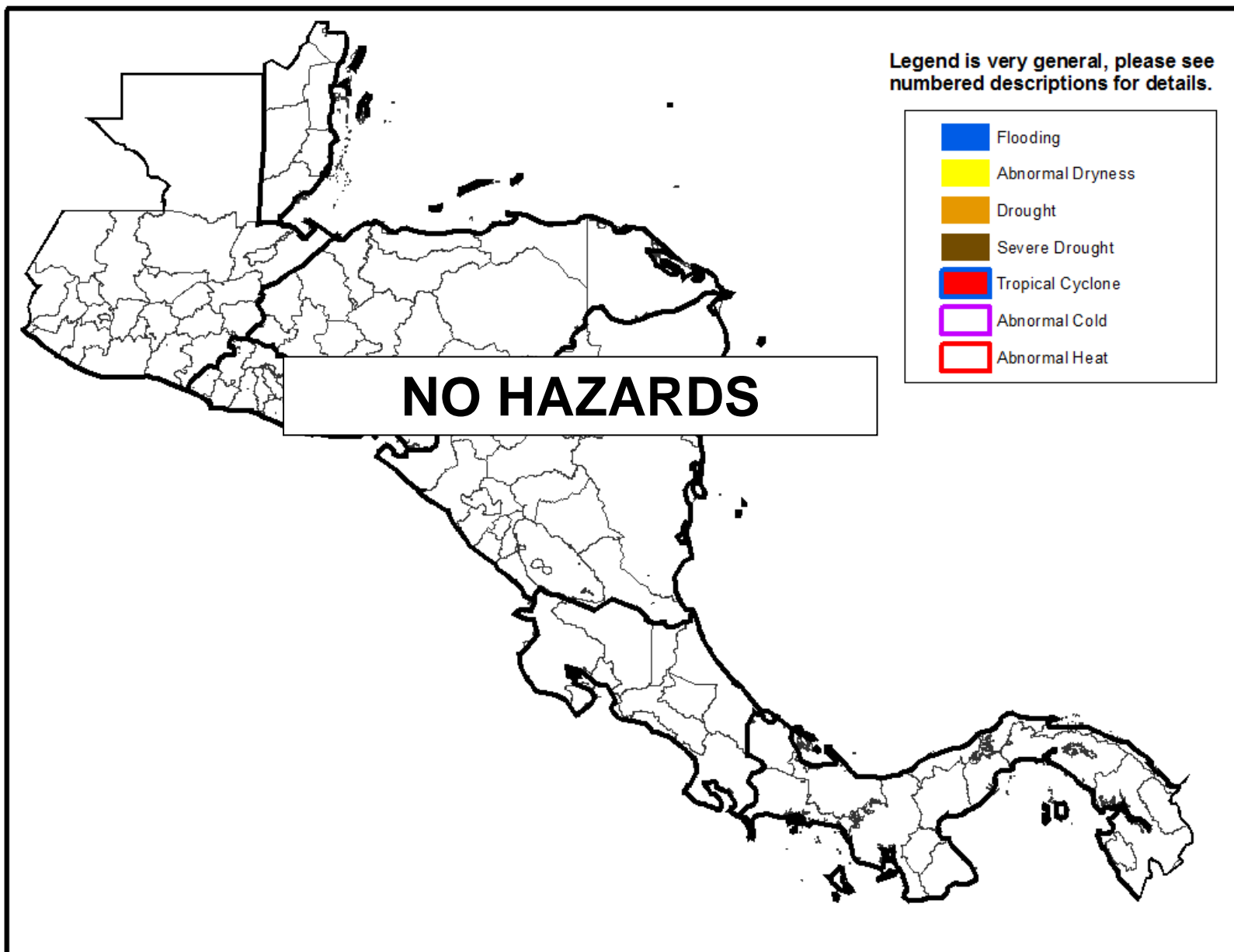




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 2, 2014 – January 8, 2014

- Reduced rains provide some relief to anomalously wet conditions across the Gulf of Honduras.



Anomalously wet conditions persist across northern Guatemala, Honduras and Belize.

During the last seven days, the northern half of Central America experienced a reduction of precipitation compared to the previous three weeks. The highest weekly rainfall accumulations (50-75mm) were received across parts of northern Guatemala and northern Honduras, with locally higher amounts observed further south along the northern coastline of Costa Rica. During the month of December, seasonal precipitation has been largely above-average across the Gulf of Honduras region, with average to below-average accumulations further south across Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Throughout parts of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, many local areas have experienced two to three times their normal rainfall accumulations since late November, which had brought a sustained risk of flooding earlier in the month. However, the gradual reduction of precipitation since mid-December is expected to alleviate the saturated ground conditions, and remain favorable for ongoing winter cropping activities.

For the upcoming outlook period, another week of more seasonably distributed winter rainfall is expected. The highest rainfall accumulations (50-75mm) remain forecast along the Atlantic/Caribbean coastlines of Honduras, and northern Guatemala, with lesser totals expected further inland across Central America. Minimum temperatures are also not expected to drop below freezing in the highest elevations.

