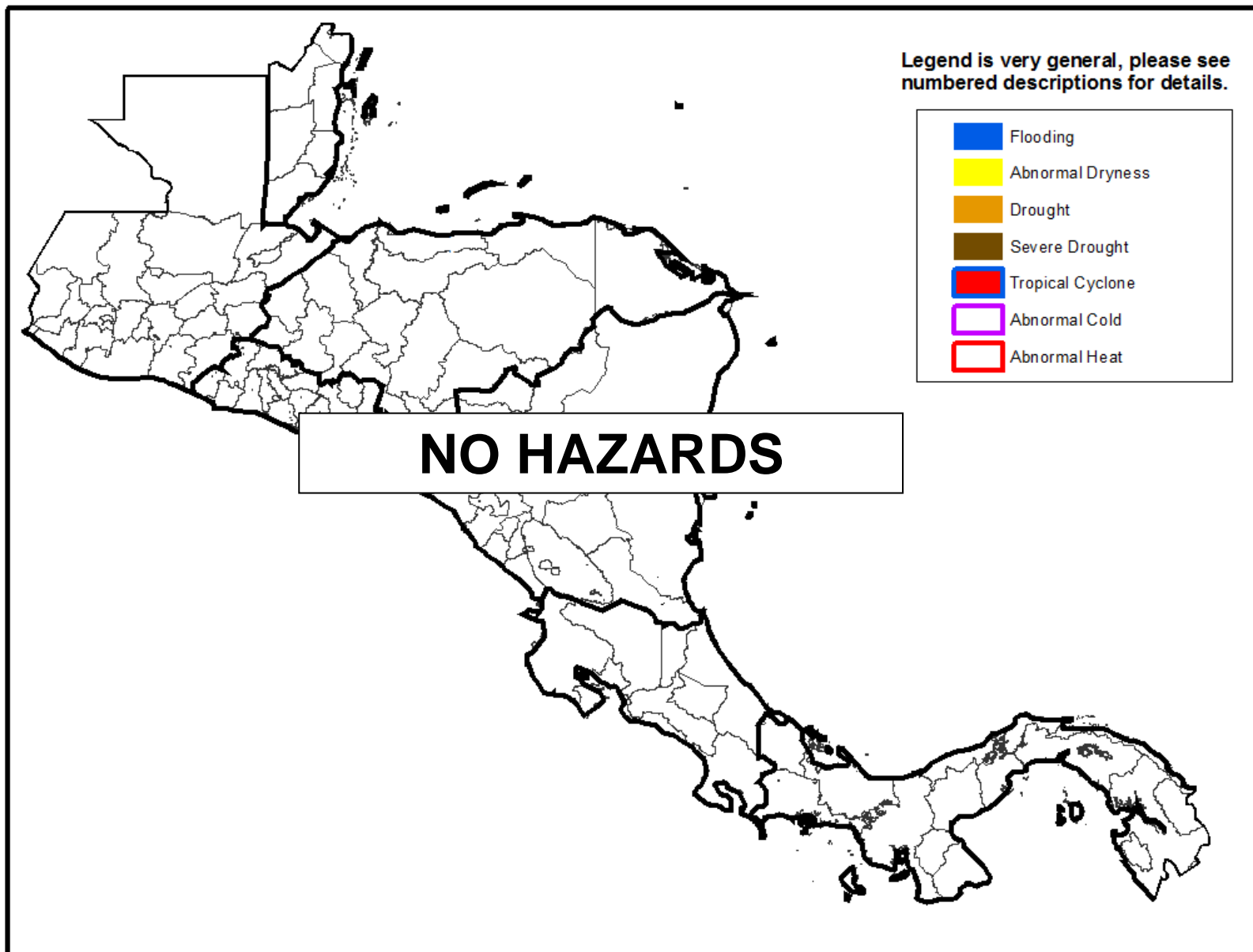




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 27 – March 5, 2014

- Little to light rains expected throughout Central America during the next outlook period.



Suppressed rains were observed over much of Central America during the past week.

During the past seven days, little to no rainfall was observed over much of Central America, while rainfall totals in excess of 50 mm were recorded over the Gulf of Honduras region. This past week's cumulative rainfall was mostly near-average relative to climatology. However, rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated average to below-average rainfall across the region, with increasing negative anomalies over portions of northern Central America. The continued suppression of rains over the past several weeks has sustained environmental conditions that are favorable for forest fires over many local areas of Central America. In Guatemala, during the past week alone, ten wildfire locations were reported over the Quiché, Baja Verapaz, Sololá, and Suchitepéquez, according to local institution. On a seasonal time scale, Central America has received average to above-average rainfall, particularly, the Atlantic Basin of the region since the beginning of the *Apante*, December-April, rainy season. Small to moderate seasonal deficits were, however, observed over localized areas of the interior of the region, including western Guatemala and western Honduras. Vegetation conditions were generally adequate over much of Central America, according to recent vegetation indices.

During the next seven days, Central America is likely to experience another week with limited rains as stable and dry air masses are expected to dominate atmospheric conditions. Model rainfall forecast calls for little to light (< 20 mm) rains across the region except central Guatemala and the Gulf of Honduras, where localized moderate to heavy showers are possible. To the south, light rains are expected in southern Costa Rica and Panama. Suppressed rains are forecast elsewhere. Meanwhile, minimum temperature is likely to remain above freezing over the elevated terrains.

