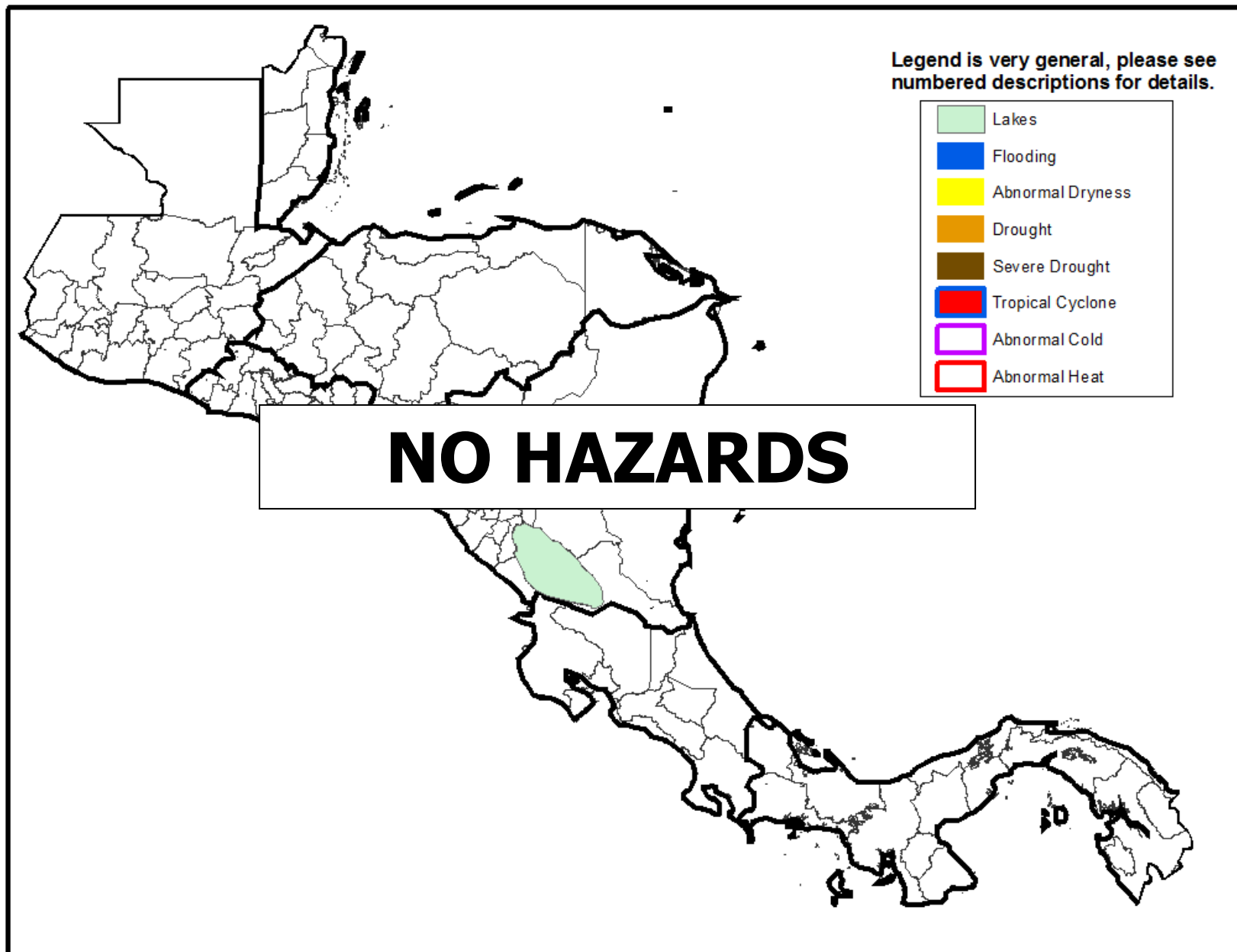




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 19 – March 25, 2015

- Above-average rains received across the Gulf of Honduras region.



Increased showers expected in southern Guatemala.

During the middle of March, a relatively seasonable distribution of rains was received throughout Central America. A slight enhancement of rainfall was observed across the northern half of Central America, bringing continued increased amounts of weekly precipitation into many parts of the Yucatan Peninsula and northern Guatemala. Here, locally moderate to heavy rainfall accumulations between 25-50mm were estimated by satellite rainfall data. An increase in rains was also received throughout several interior departments of Nicaragua, where below-average Apante rains were recorded earlier in the year. Although both the quantity and distribution of Apante season rainfall has gradually improved during the last 30 days, there remain several local areas (departments) in Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica where rainfall totals have registered as below-average. A continuation of below-average moisture conditions may negatively impact Apante cropping activities.

For the upcoming outlook period, a considerable increase in rainfall is forecast throughout the southern departments of Guatemala and neighboring El Salvador, which is expected to help benefit ground conditions for cropping activities. Suppressed rains are forecast in the southern Caribbean. Elsewhere, a more seasonable distribution of precipitation is expected.

