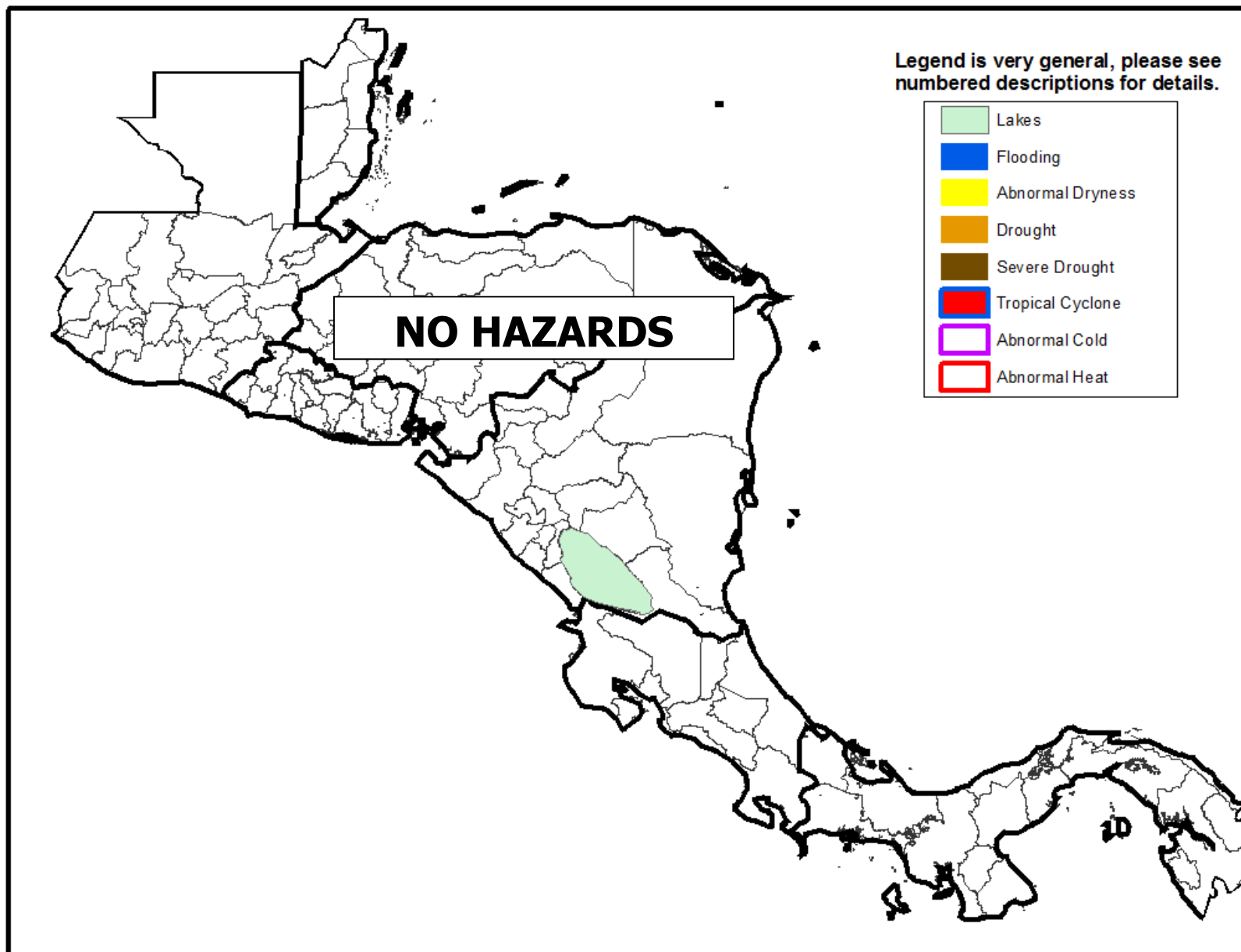




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 16 – April 22, 2015

- Reduced rainfall observed over Central America during the past week.



Enhanced rains forecast along the Pacific Basin of northern Central America.

During the past week, dry weather prevailed over Central America. Suppressed rains were observed across much of the region, except localized areas, where light to moderate rains were recorded. These included southwestern and eastern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and parts of the Southern Caribbean. Although dry weather is typical across Central America during this time of the year, this past week's rainfall totals fared slightly below-average. Over the past thirty days, near-average rainfall was observed across much of the region, however moisture deficits were recorded across the northern parts of the Huehuetenango and Quiché and western Petén departments of Guatemala. The lack of rainfall has led to favorable conditions for forest fires over many local areas of Central America. Based on recent vegetation indices, conditions have worsened over parts of central Guatemala and northern Honduras. Enhanced rainfall is needed to reduce moisture deficits and sustain cropping activities over local December-April crop-producing areas.

For next week, an increase in rainfall is forecast over Central America, in particular, the Pacific Basin of Guatemala and El Salvador. Although, the forecast enhanced rains may help alleviate dryness over dry areas, excessive rains could trigger flash flooding over many local areas. Moderate to heavy rains are also expected along the Pacific coasts of the Southern Caribbean. Meanwhile light rains are forecast elsewhere.

