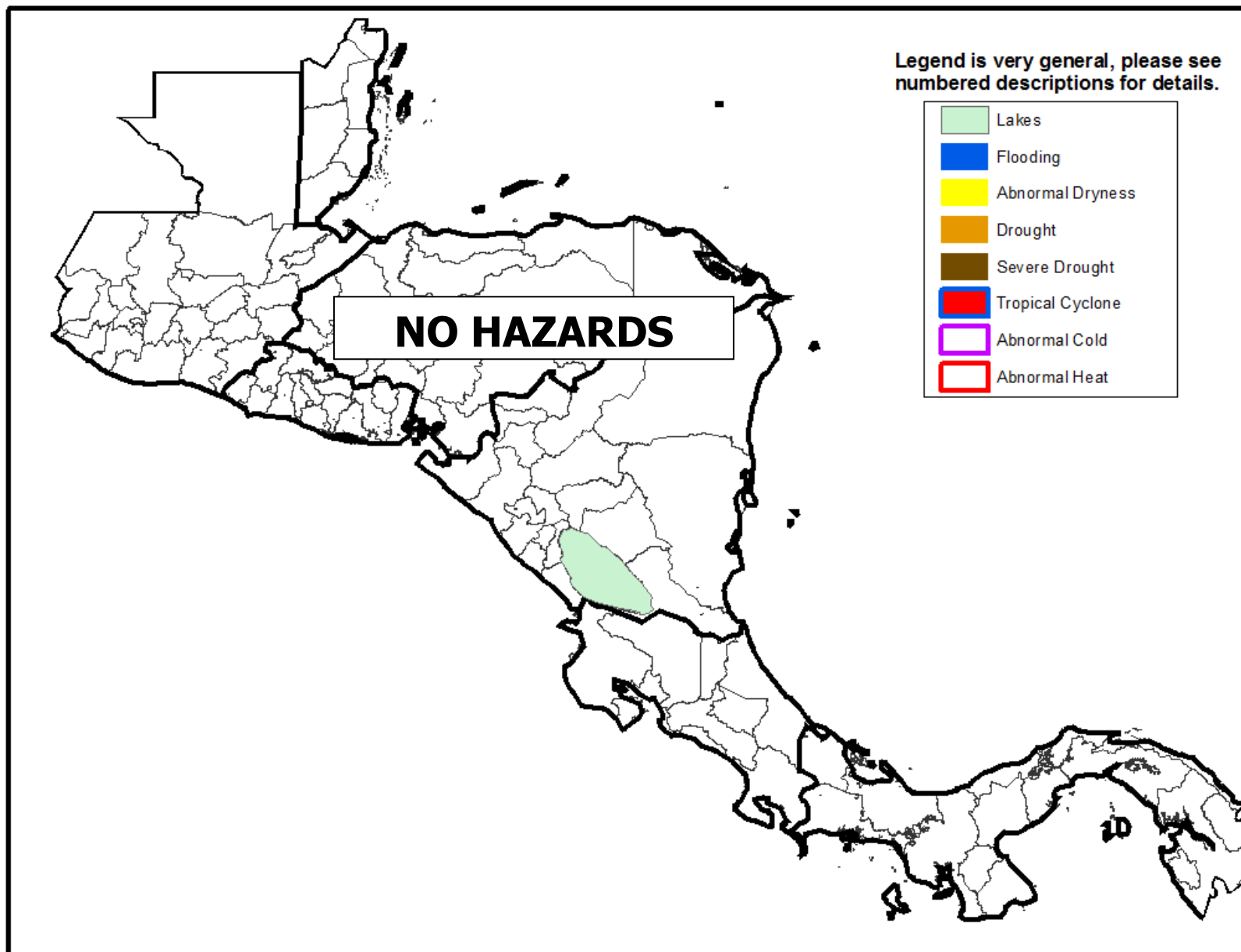




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 21 – May 27, 2015

- Below average rains continued during the last week leading to early season dryness



## Delayed Primera rains observed during the middle of May.

For the second consecutive week in May, low and poorly distributed early season Primera rainfall was observed across much of Central America. The highest weekly precipitation accumulations were received over the southern Caribbean, where heavy rainfall amounts (>100mm) over the coastal departments of Costa Rica and Panama were estimated by satellites, with much lesser amounts over parts of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. In the northern Central American countries, below average rains were mostly observed during the last week. Since the beginning of May, poorly distributed rainfall has led to considerable moisture deficits throughout much of Central America, with the largest deficits residing in eastern Guatemala and western Honduras. The poor Primera rains have resulted in a delay of sowing activities in Guatemala. Analysis of satellite estimated vegetation conditions suggest some deterioration in these areas, however, negative conditions have been largely observed near the Gulf of Fonseca region. A continuation of suppressed Primera rains throughout May is likely to lead to rapid expansion of moisture deficits, particularly for several regions on the Pacific side of Central America.

During the next week, below-average rains are again forecast over parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, with the potential for the heaviest rains is forecast over the southern Caribbean. An area of low pressure is expected to trigger torrential heavy rainfall amounts; however, model guidance indicates much of the rains will remain well offshore in the Gulf of Honduras.

