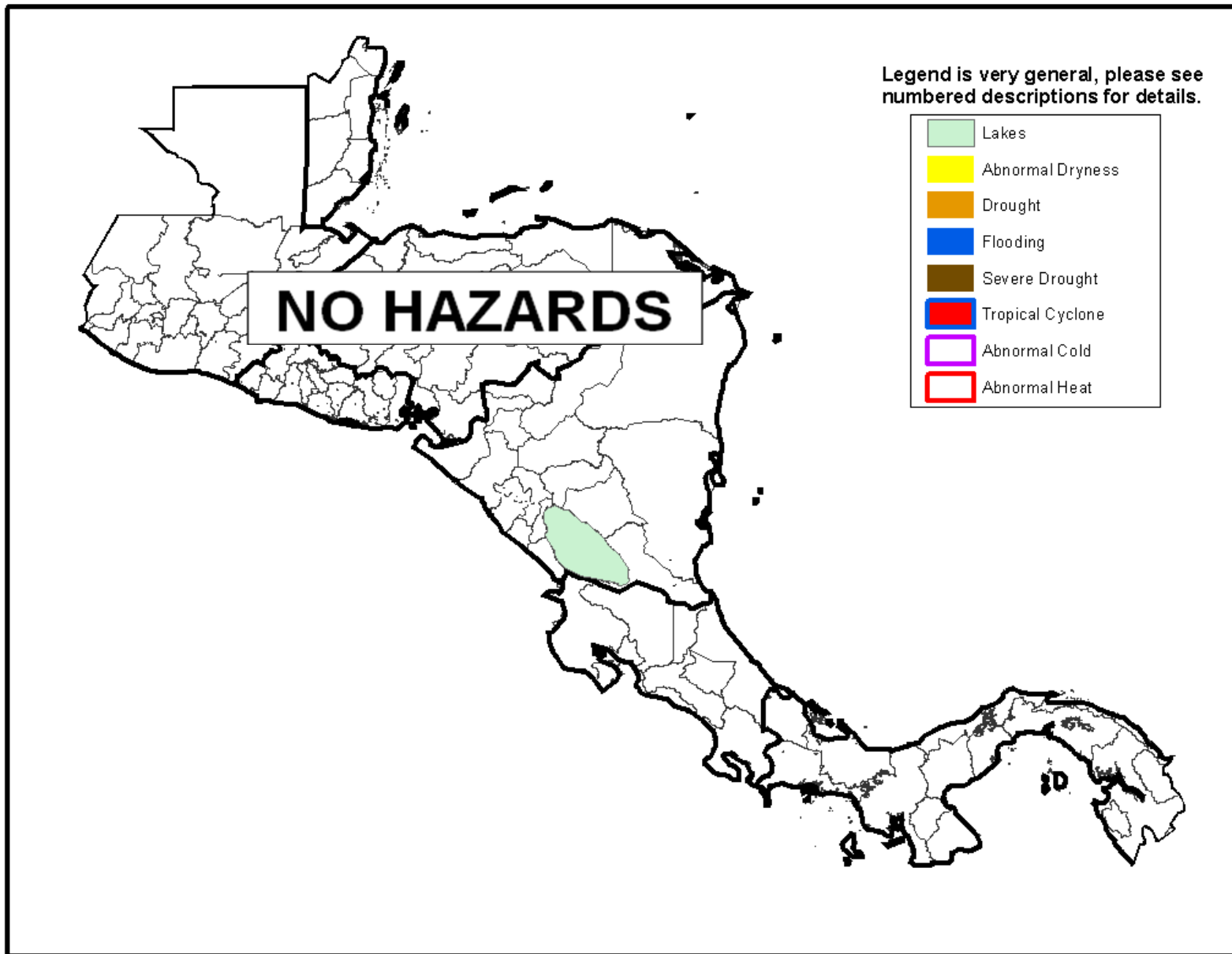




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 18 – 24, 2016

- Increased rain helped reduce rainfall deficits over parts of Central America during the past week.



Seasonable rain expected to continue during the next week.

From February 10-16, an increase in rainfall was observed over the Atlantic tier of Central America. Moderate to heavy rain fell along the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama. Moderate rain was also observed over localized areas of the interior of the region such as southern Guatemala and central Costa Rica. In contrast, suppressed rain was recorded elsewhere. This past week's increased rain has led to flooding and landslides in the Roatán Island of Honduras, which have affected many people in the areas. But, it also has helped reduce and eliminate thirty-day rainfall deficits over some areas. Though, small to moderate deficits have persisted in northern Guatemala, Belize, north-central Nicaragua, and parts of southern Costa Rica. Continued seasonable rain should help sustain favorable soil moisture for the winter season crops and contribute to reduce forest fires over local areas. Recent vegetation indices have indicated adequate to good conditions throughout much of Central America, except localized areas of northern and central Honduras, where below-average conditions have been depicted.

During the next outlook period, rainfall forecasts call for continued light to moderate rain along the Atlantic Basin of Central America. The forecast increased rain along the Gulf of Honduras should help reduce negative rainfall anomalies and partially relieve dryness in northern Guatemala and Belize. Over the Southern Caribbean, enhanced rain could continue along the Atlantic littorals of Costa Rica, while reduced and below-average rain is expected over Panama. For temperatures, although minimum temperature could fall near to or below freezing point over the highest elevations of western Guatemala, low temperature is generally expected to remain positive across the region.

