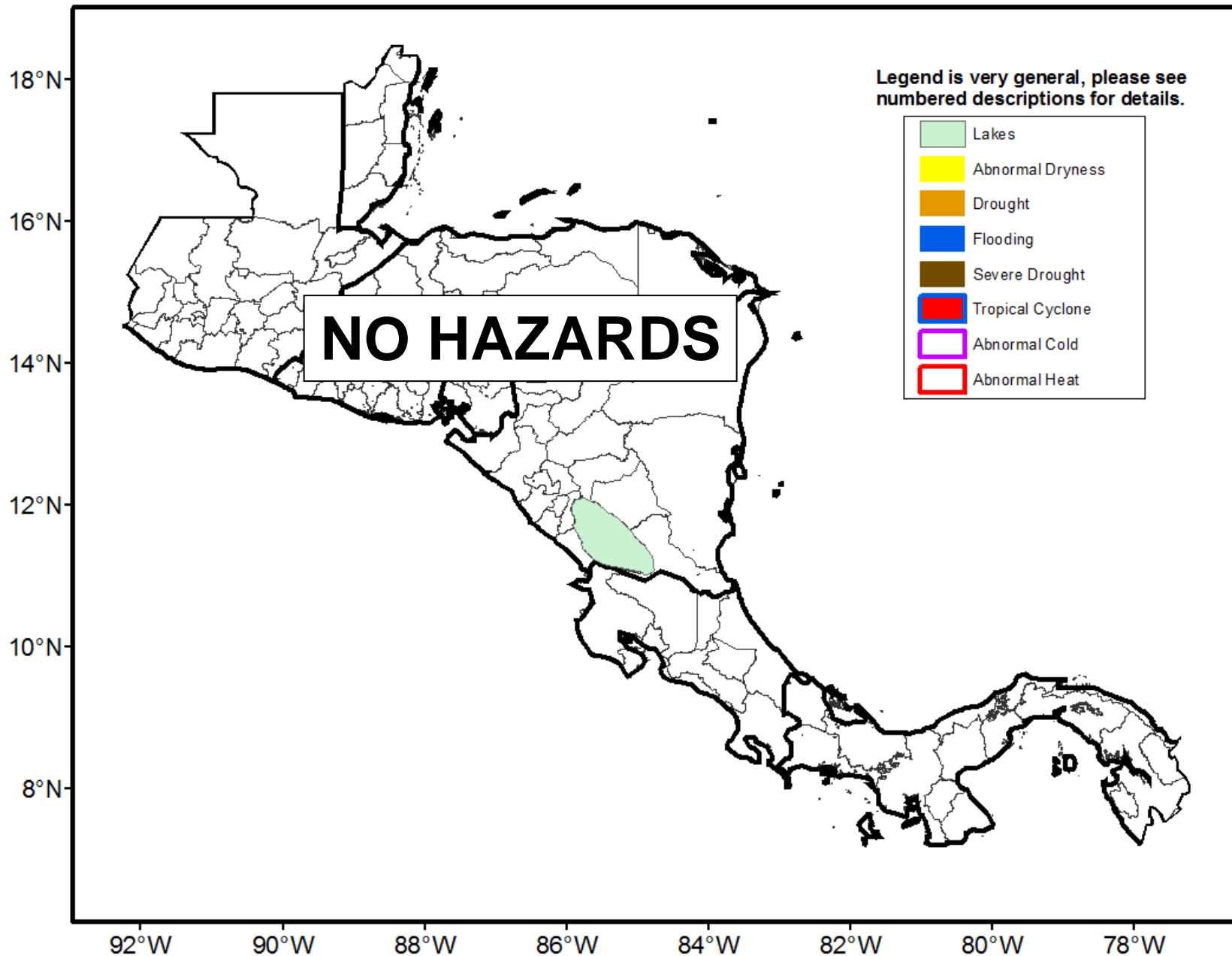




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 16 – 22, 2017

- Dry weather expected to continue over much of Central America during the next outlook period.



## Increased rain possible over portions of Central America during the next week

From February 7-13, a dry weather pattern, with mostly suppressed rain, dominated Central America. However, a few areas along the Gulf of Honduras and northern Honduran coasts received heavy rain, with amounts in excess of 50 mm, based on reported measurements. Since mid-January to date, rainfall has been near-average throughout much of Central America. This could indicate a near-normal evolution of the *Apante*, December-April, rainfall season, across the region during the recent few weeks. Meanwhile, from December of the last year to present, accumulated rain has been above-average from eastern Honduras, much of Nicaragua, to northern Costa Rica; near-average over Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; but average to below-average over southern Costa Rica and Panama. Despite the uneven distribution of rainfall since the beginning of the *Apante* rainfall season, most vegetation indices have shown average to favorable conditions across much of Central America.

During the next outlook period, portions of Central America, including western Guatemala, western Honduras, Costa Rica, and western Panama could receive enhanced, light to locally moderate rain, while little to no rainfall is expected elsewhere. If the rainfall forecasts verify, the additional rain could aid cropping activities and increase soil moisture, which may also help prevent forest fires over some local areas. For temperature, minimum temperature anomaly forecast is not large enough to include an abnormal cold polygon. However, freezing temperature could still occur over localized, elevated terrains of the region.

