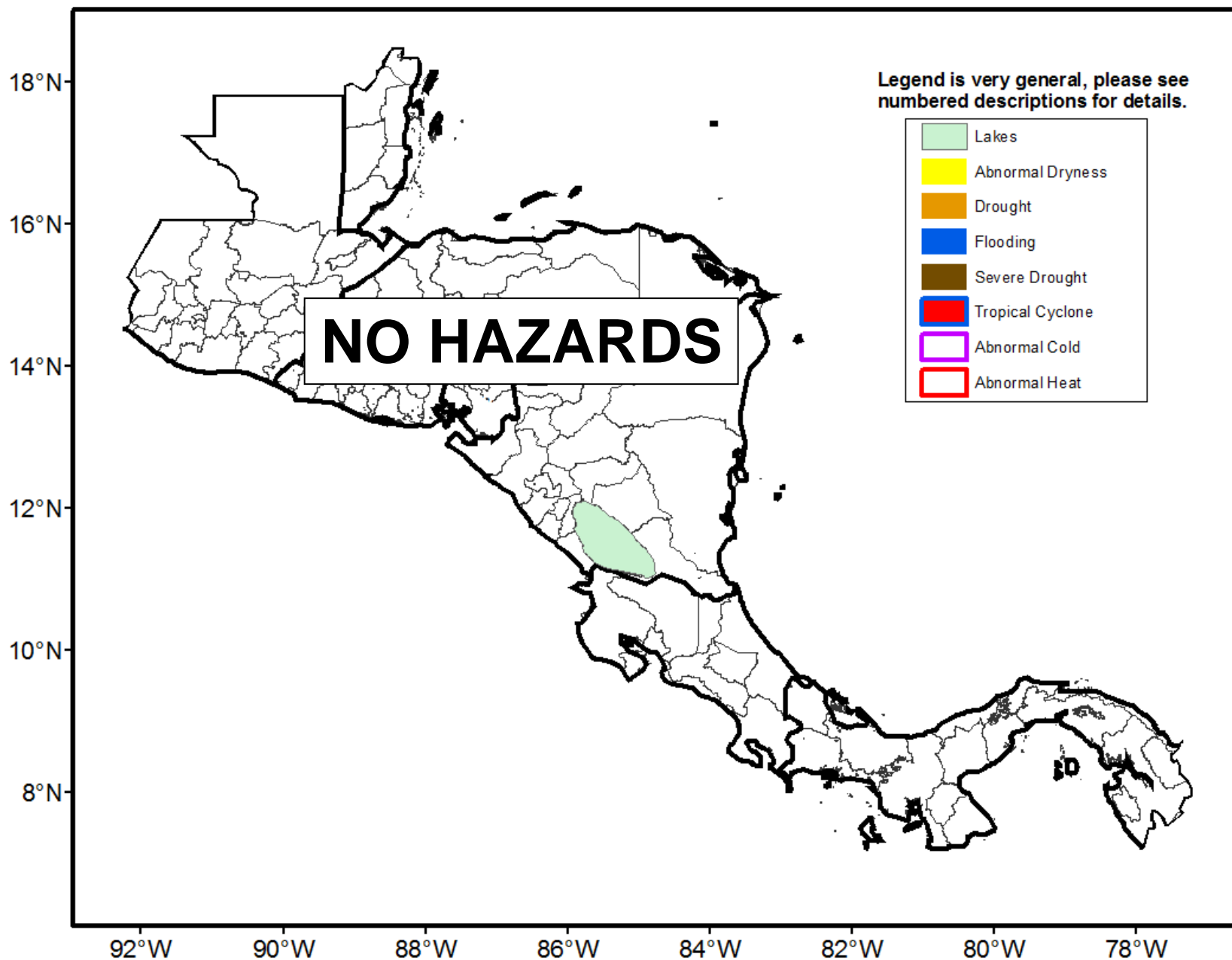




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 2 – 8, 2017

- Moderate to heavy rain possible along the Caribbean coasts of Central America during the next week.



## Forecasts hint to increased rain along the Atlantic coasts.

During late February, suppressed rain prevailed over Central America. Little to light rain was received over localized areas of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, while no rainfall was recorded elsewhere. Over the past thirty days, rainfall anomalies showed neutral to slightly drier than average conditions throughout much of the region. Small (< 25 mm) negative rainfall anomalies persisted in northern and eastern Guatemala, northern and eastern Honduras, southern Costa Rica, and western Panama. The lack of rain during this time of the year leads to dry soil, which could result in a favorable environment for forest fires over many local areas. Recent vegetation indices showed satisfactory to favorable conditions across the region, except a few localized areas of Guatemala and Nicaragua, which experienced dryness and wetness, respectively, during the previous season.

For next week, vigorous, easterly flow is expected to bring moderate to locally heavy rain along the Atlantic coasts of Central America. Light to moderate rain is also forecast over the inland tier of the Caribbean Basin of the region. If the rainfall forecast verifies, the forecast, enhanced rain will help replenish soil moisture and aid cropping activities during the current *Apante*, December-April, growing season. For temperatures, the forecast, minimum temperature anomaly is not large enough to warrant an abnormal cold polygon. However, freezing temperatures could still occur over the higher elevations of Guatemala.

