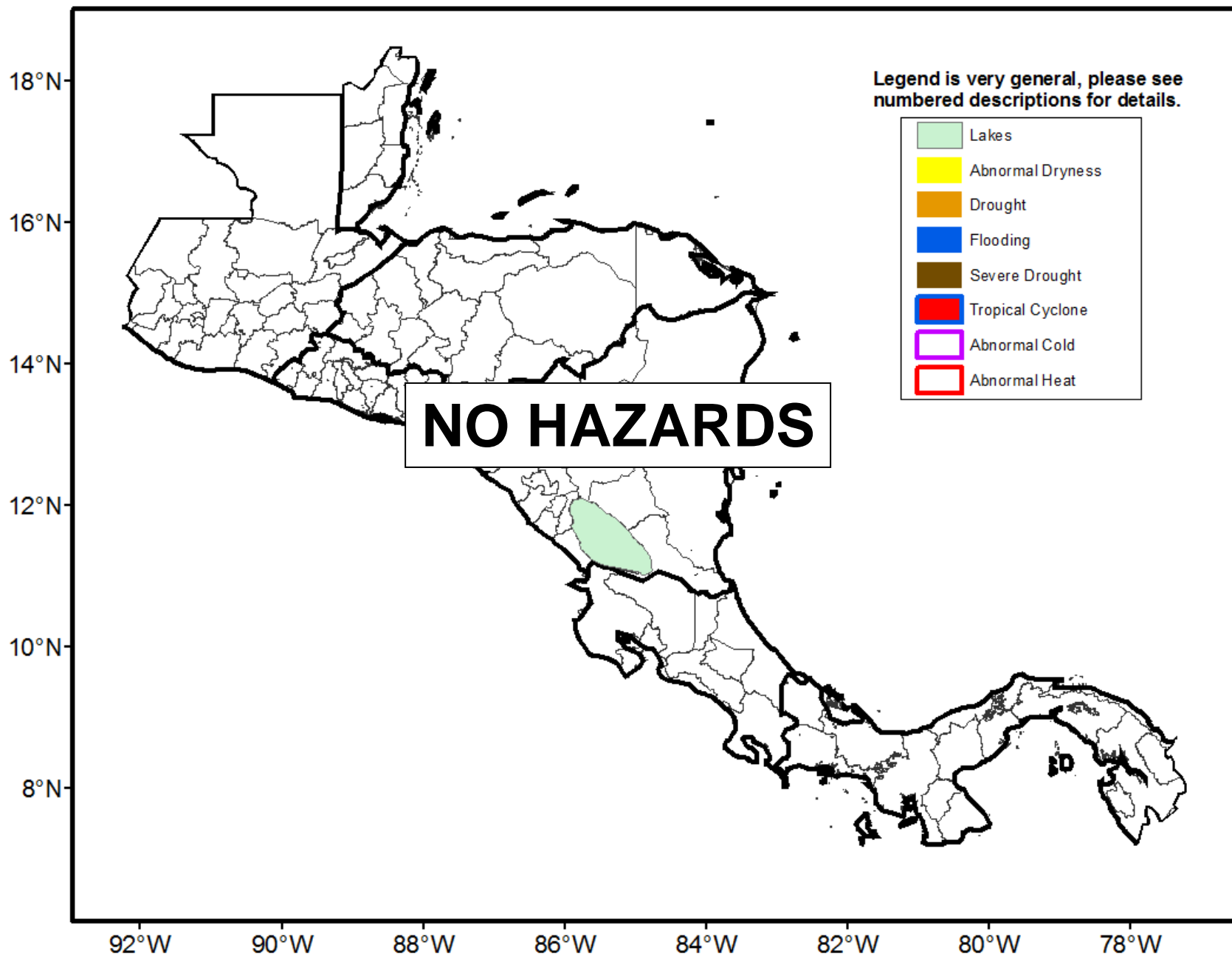




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 16 – 22, 2017

- Normal 'Apante' season conditions continue.



## Light rainfall was observed along the Caribbean coasts and especially around the Gulf of Belize

In a typical early March pattern, light to moderate rainfall was observed for several areas along the Caribbean coastline. The wettest area was the immediate region around the Gulf of Belize where gauges measured more than 50mm. Such amounts exceed what would be expected there for the period. Other areas along northern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua observed more than 25mm of rain. Some additional substantial activity was observed in Guatemala and western El Salvador with widely scattered light rain showers pervading elsewhere. The general pattern over the last month or so has been close to or slightly below normal. Vegetation indices show widespread high values, meaning vegetation health is largely good. Some local parts of the mountainous terrain of southern Guatemala and neighboring areas of Honduras harbor lower index values. Low values are also found locally in far southern Nicaragua. The tendency in the index values indicates that conditions are widely becoming even lusher across Central America.

Looking ahead to the next outlook period, increased moisture in the western Caribbean may enhance rain shower activity over Guatemala and Belize. Otherwise, any significant rains are most likely in the usual areas along the Caribbean coasts, especially eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. Any inland rains should be light. As usual, GEFS predicted precipitation is likely overdone. Minimum temperatures continue to moderate and frosts and freezes should no longer be of concern this season.

