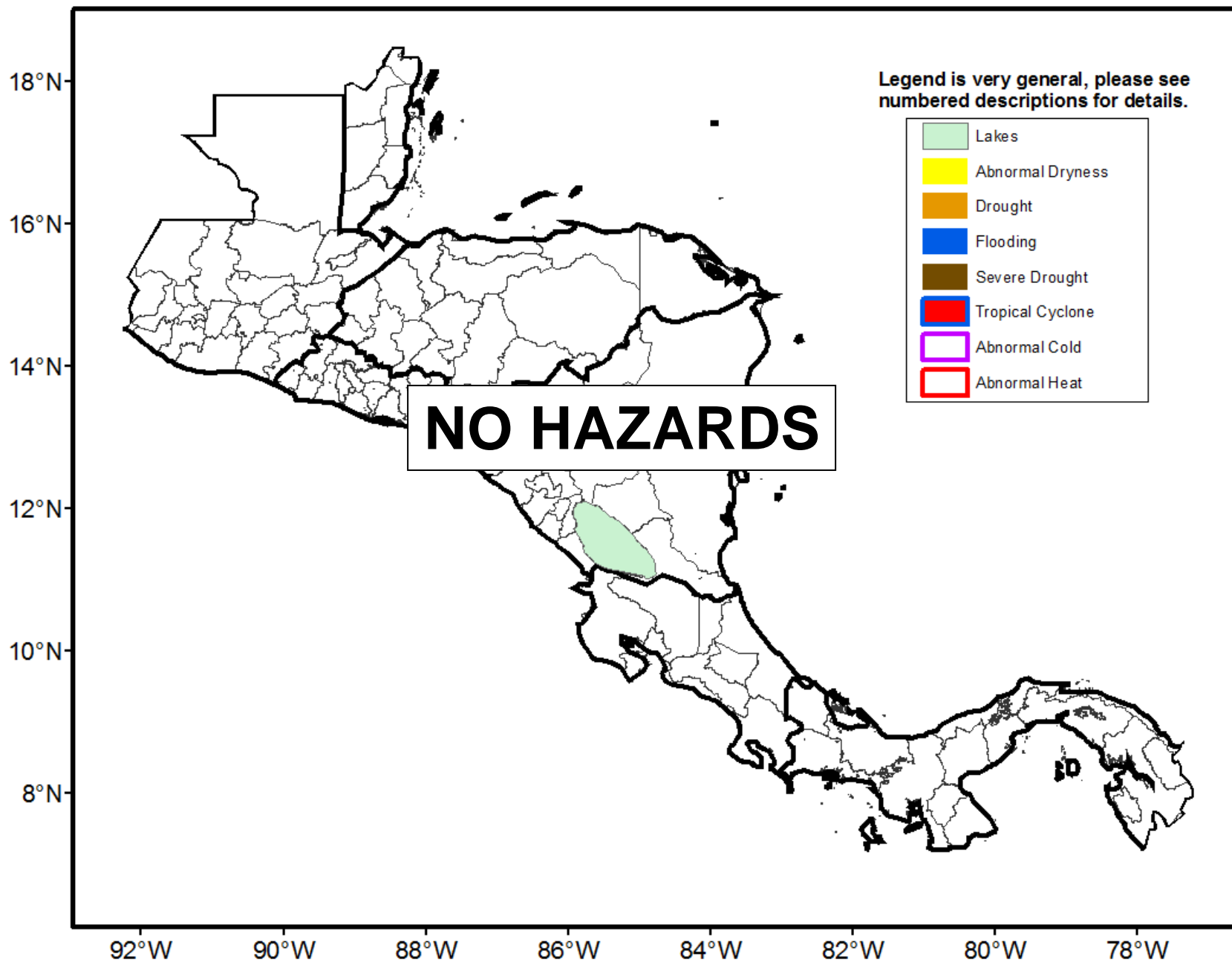




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 23 – 29, 2017

- Increased rainfall is observed in Guatemala and El Salvador.



Rainfall increased across parts of the region this past week.

An increase in shower activity was observed last week over Guatemala, El Salvador and parts of Honduras. Satellites observed widespread moderate rain across these areas. Gauges measured even larger rain totals. The wettest area was the immediate region around the Gulf of Belize where gauges measured more than 50mm. These higher readings have resulted in positive rainfall anomalies over the 7-day period. Other areas, along northern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua, observed more than 25mm of rain. Only light shower activity was observed over more southern nations. Aside from some localized areas of positive anomalies in Guatemala and El Salvador, deviations from normal rainfall are small over the last month. Vegetation indices show widespread high values, meaning vegetation health is largely good. Improvement has recently been observed in local parts of the mountainous terrain of southern Guatemala and neighboring areas of Honduras that had harbored lower index values. Low values are also found locally in far southern Nicaragua.

Looking ahead to the next outlook period, the favorable region for enhanced rains will shift to the southern Caribbean. The heaviest rains may stay offshore, but weekly totals could approach 100mm along the eastern coast of Nicaragua. Otherwise, the precipitation pattern should be similar to climatology with moderate rains in southern Guatemala and northern Honduras.

