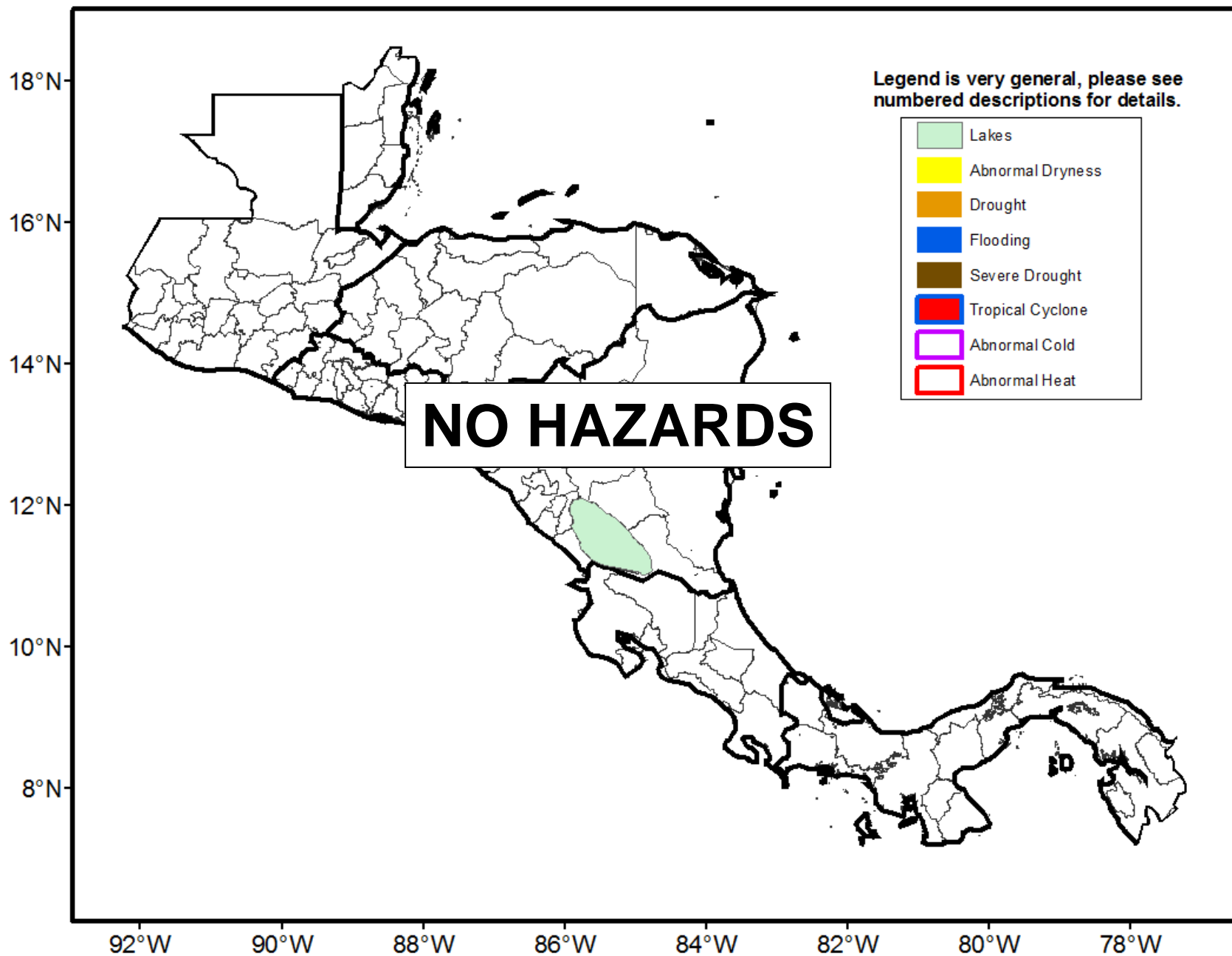




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 30 – April 5, 2017

- A drier regime returned across the region this past week



Rains are forecasted to increase in coverage throughout most of the region.

A quiet week of rains was observed across most of the Central America region. Light to moderate rainfall amounts of 10-25mm were recorded along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and in Costa Rica. A few light showers were recorded in coastal parts of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras as well. Interior and pacific facing portions of the region received little to no rainfall. Such a pattern yielded only minimal 7-day anomalies across the region. They include small deficits in Guatemala and small surpluses in eastern Nicaragua. Aside from some localized areas of positive anomalies in Guatemala and El Salvador, as well some small deficits in northern Guatemala and in the southern Caribbean nations, deviations from normal rainfall are quite small over the last month. The vegetation health index shows 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 still found locally in far southern Nicaragua.

Looking ahead to the next outlook period, rains should be on the increase across the region. Weekly totals of more than 25mm are possible for many portions of the area according to the GEFS model. Notably, widespread rainfall is possible in southern Honduras and western Nicaragua for the first time in many weeks. Beneficial heavy rain is also likely in Costa Rica and Panama.

