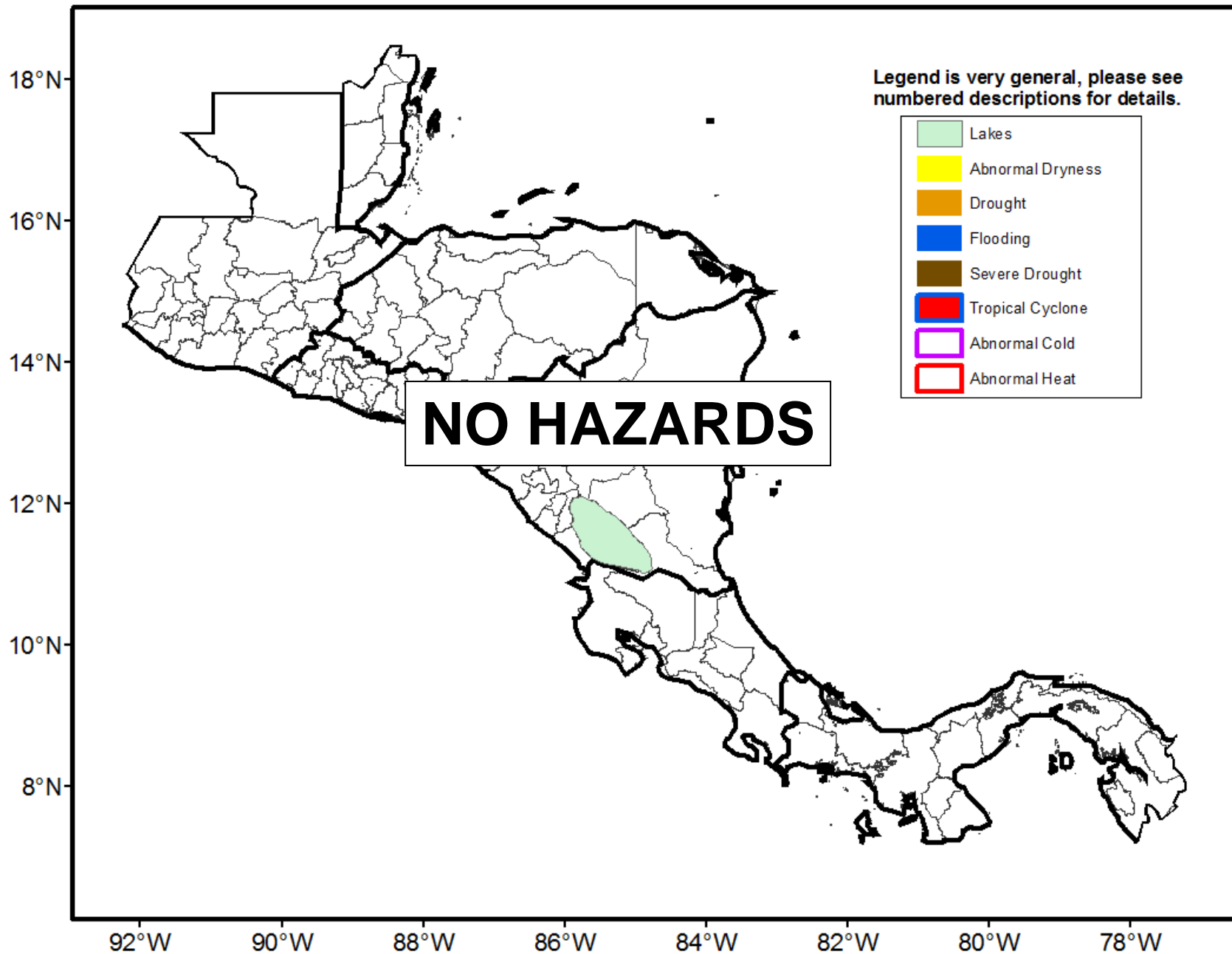




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 20 – April 26, 2017

- Early season Primera rains remain slow to start throughout Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.



**Despite wetter conditions during the last week, developing dryness observed across the region.**

During the last seven days, an increase in rainfall was received across parts of Guatemala and in El Salvador, with reduced rains across parts of western Honduras. According to satellite rainfall estimates, amounts ranging between 10-25mm were registered in the southern departments of Guatemala with locally heavier amounts in the higher elevations of the country. With another week of generally suppressed rainfall, running 30 days rainfall anomalies indicate a strengthening of dryness mainly throughout Guatemala, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, and northern Nicaragua suggesting a delayed onset of Primera rainfall in April. Suppressed convection associated with a weak ITCZ across the Pacific basin has also led to strengthening dryness across many parts of Costa Rica and Panama during the last week. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices show largely moderate values with locally low values across parts of central and eastern Guatemala. Locally low values are also observed across parts of western Honduras as of early April which suggest a deterioration of ground conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest a large increase in the distribution and quantity of rainfall; signaling the onset of Primera rains throughout much of Central America. Weekly precipitation accumulations ranging between 25-50mm are forecast throughout many departments in Guatemala, Honduras and northern Nicaragua, with the potential for locally heavier amounts along the higher elevations. However, reduced rainfall amounts in the southern departments of Guatemala and El Salvador are expected, which is likely to strengthen early season moisture deficits in these areas by late April.

