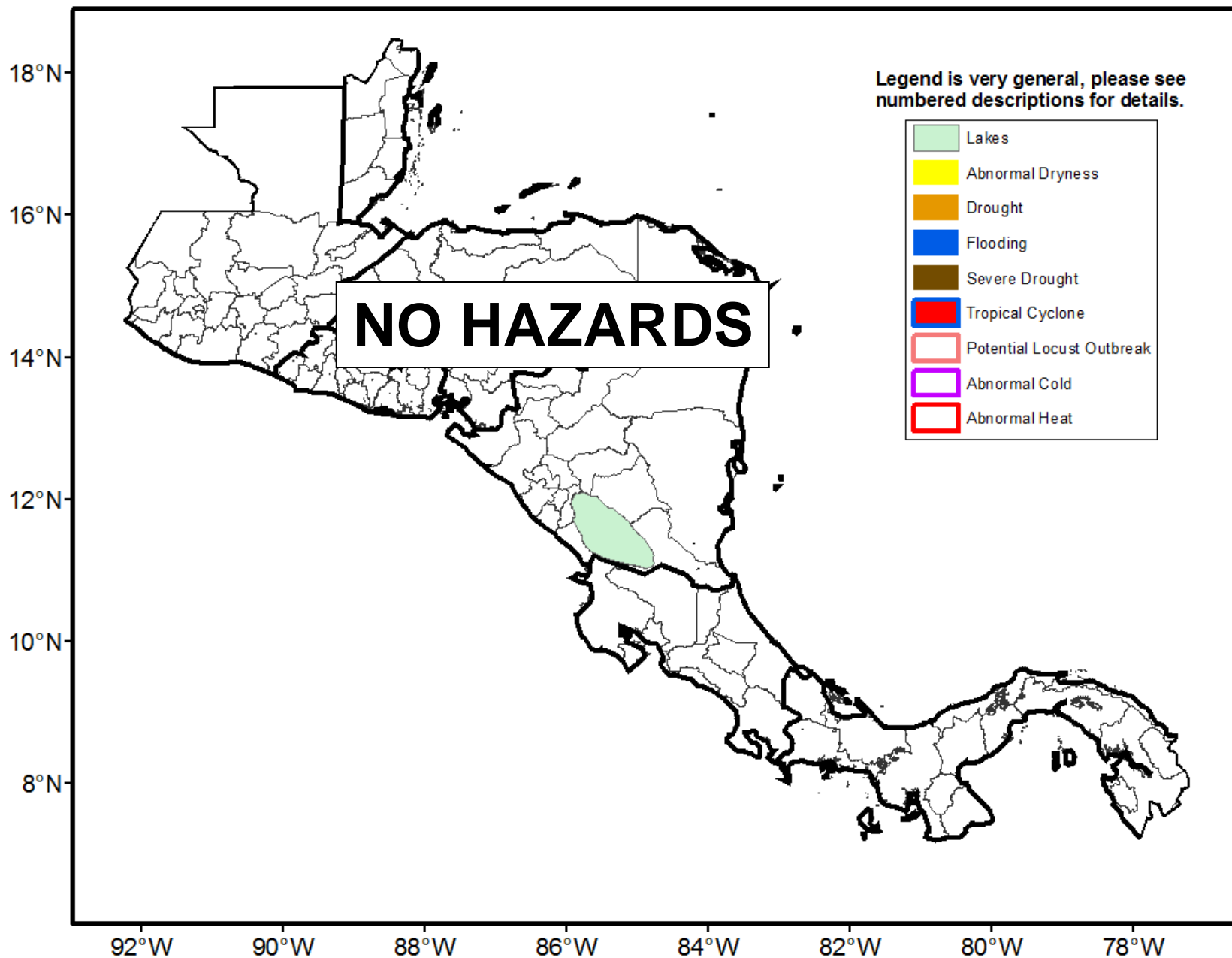




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 18 – 24, 2017

- After a wet forecast did not come to fruition, rainfall was near or even below normal this past week



The region looks to be entering a seasonable pattern of precipitation that will last through the next week

Last week's forecast for above-normal rainfall did not come to fruition after Tropical Storm Adrian quickly dissipated before affecting the region. The reality was that near or below-normal rainfall has been observed over the past 7 days in southern Guatemala and El Salvador. The greatest rains, according to satellite estimates, were in eastern Guatemala and neighboring portions of western Honduras as well as both southern and northwestern areas of Nicaragua. These areas received locally up to 100mm of rain. Most areas along the immediate pacific coastline received ample rainfall (25-50mm). Meanwhile, many inland areas of Guatemala and El Salvador saw only very light rains and registered rainfall deficits for the period exceeding 25mm in some cases. Over periods dating back 30 days and longer, most of the Central American region exhibits average or better than average rainfall performance. However, some local areas of El Salvador and central Honduras continue to exhibit moisture deficits. The Vegetation Health Index still indicates poor ground conditions in southern Guatemala and El Salvador. However, after recent increases in moisture, the trend is expected to soon reverse. Ground conditions continue to appear quite favorable for central Honduras and Nicaragua.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, we should see a seasonable rainfall pattern. Numerical weather models indicate rain totals could top 100mm over parts of southern Honduras and Nicaragua. Caution should be given, as these amounts have often been overdone recently. Even so, the seasonable spatial pattern of precipitation depicted by models is a reasonable outcome. However, in addition to enhancement of precipitation in Nicaragua, northern Guatemala is an area to watch for suppression of rainfall this week.

