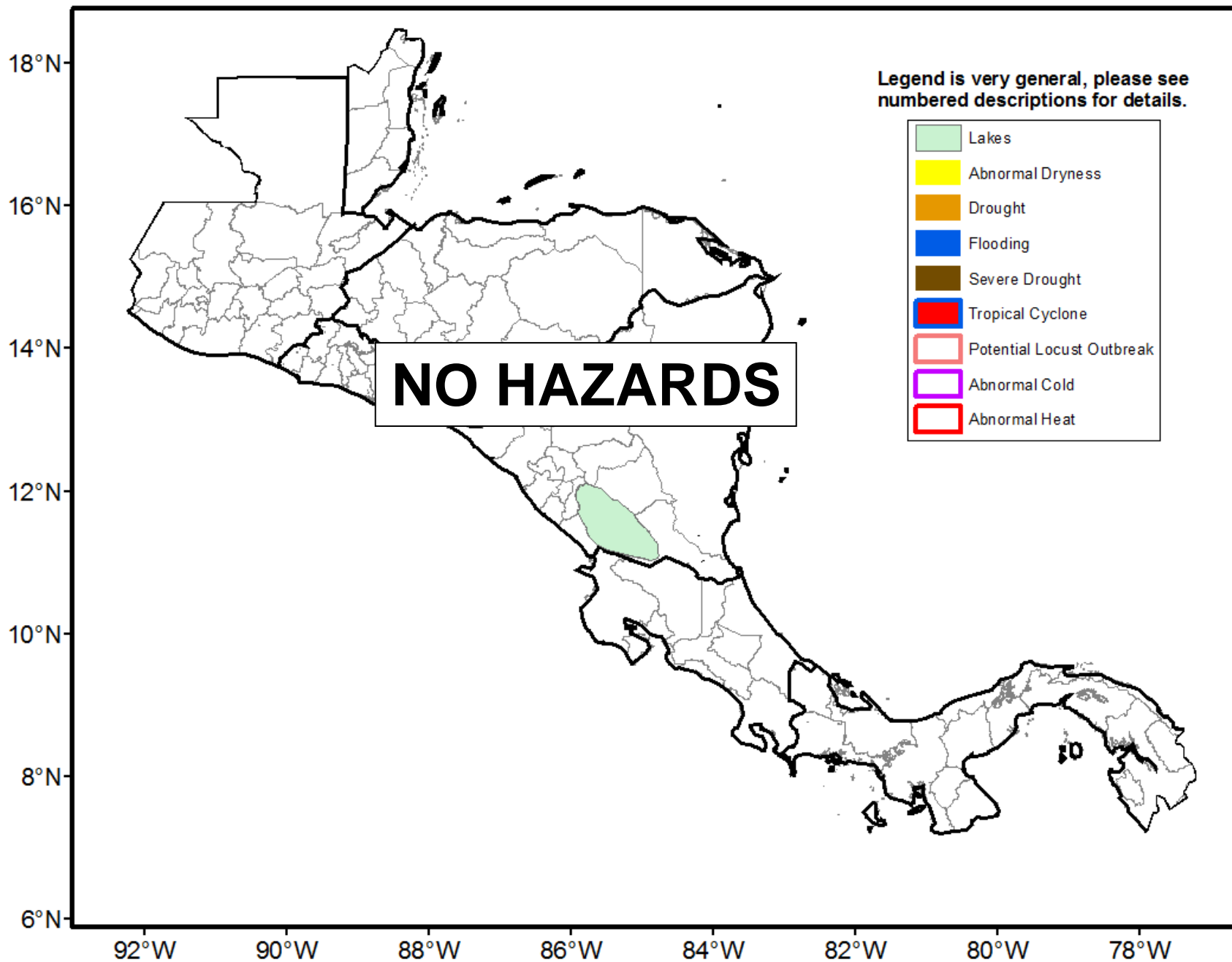




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 20 – 26, 2017

- The current rainfall pattern suggests that the 'Canicula' period is ongoing.



Rainfall performance continues to be uneven across the region

A break in the rains continues this past week for many areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Many locations within these countries received around 25mm of rain or less during the past 7 days according to satellite estimates. In other regions, such as Pacific facing departments of Guatemala, eastern Honduras and Nicaragua, rainfall was still substantial. 100-150mm of rain has been observed there, enough to result in some minor surpluses for the week. Over the previous 30-day period, some large rainfall deficits have arisen. At their worst, in the Gulf of Fonseca region and central Guatemala, deficits range from 100mm to near 200mm. Despite these substantial deficits in the satellite observations, ground conditions are currently Ok. Vegetation Health indices continue to give mixed signals but products such as WRSI, and most importantly, reports from the field indicate that moisture has been sufficient for crops to grow normally. Part of the reason for the satisfactory crop growth is likely that rains have been relatively frequent and well distributed in time, if not very heavy. Some other areas like Belize and eastern Nicaragua have received well-distributed soaking rains over the 30-day period resulting in rainfall surpluses.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, a pattern of near-average rainfall is favored over the region. Heavier, perhaps above-normal, rainfall is possible along the East Coast of Nicaragua. As much as 200mm of rain is possible for that region. Former tropical storm Don is currently passing through southeastern parts of the Caribbean. Redevelopment is unlikely, but it may increase moisture in Nicaragua as it approaches the region in a few days.

