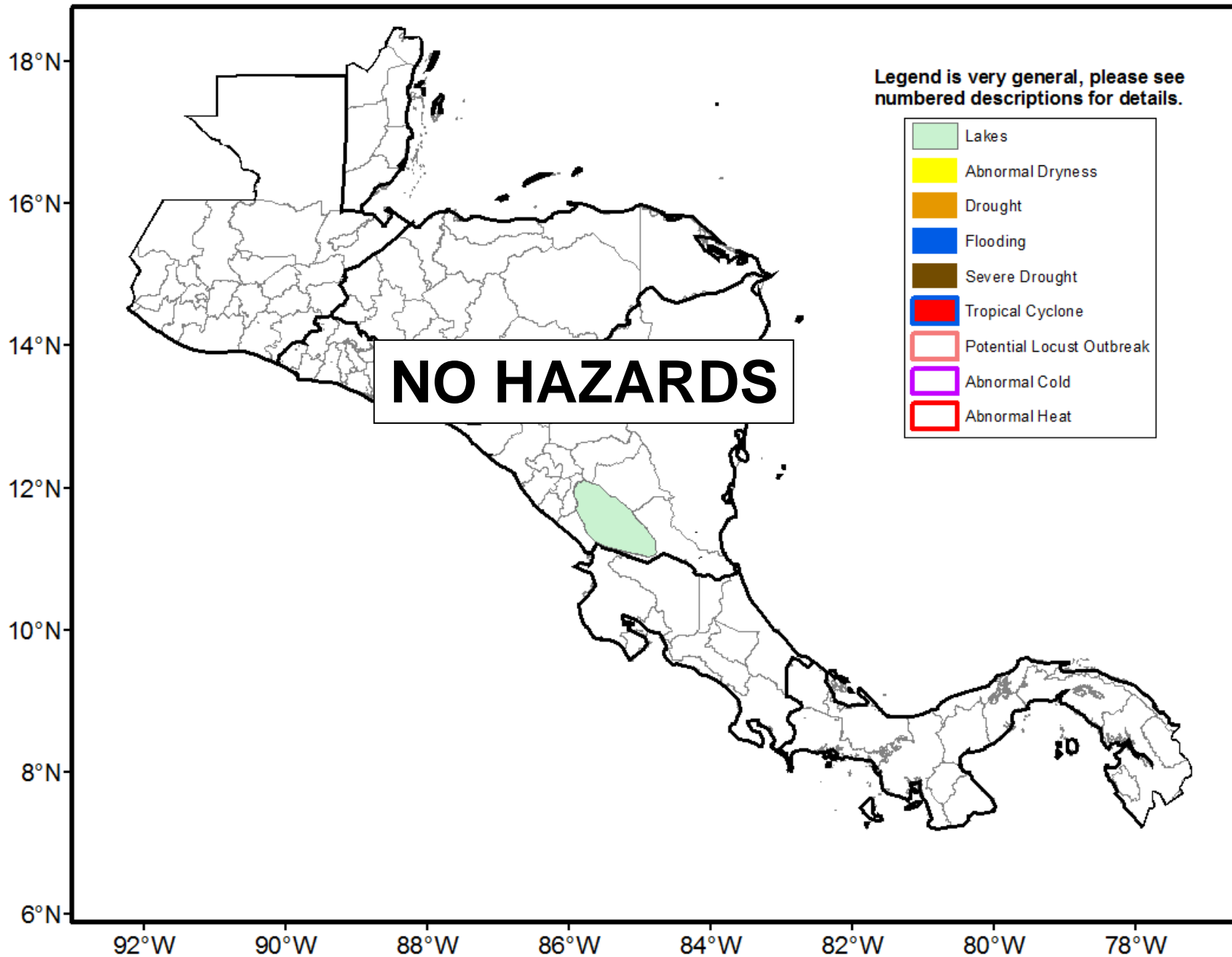




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 27 – August 2, 2017

- El Salvador and eastern Nicaragua received heavy rain; dryness persisted in Guatemala and Honduras



Rainfall performance continues to be uneven across the region

Mountainous areas of Guatemala, and central/southern Honduras received only very light rains for another week. Rainfall totals for the period did not reach the 25mm mark in these areas. This led to negative 7-day anomalies on the order of 25-50mm or more. In other regions, such as Pacific facing departments of Guatemala, as well as El Salvador and southeastern Nicaragua, rainfall was quite substantial. According to satellite estimates, more than 150mm of rain was received in El Salvador and parts of southeastern Nicaragua leading to substantial positive anomalies. Over the past 30-days, and as much as two months, prolonged dryness has slowly built large rainfall deficits for mountainous southern Guatemala and southern Honduras. Areas around Guatemala's capital, for instance, are currently experiencing negative rainfall anomalies of more than 200mm over the last 2 month or so. This amounts to less than 50% of their expected rainfall during the period. Similar conditions exist in southern Honduras as well. There is conflicting information about the impact dryness is currently having on cropping conditions. Ground reports at the beginning of the month indicated that moisture was adequate enough, but that may be changing without any increase in rains.

Looking ahead to the outlook period, a pattern of near-average rainfall is favored over most of the region. Heavier, perhaps above-normal, rainfall is possible immediately along the east coast of Nicaragua. As much as 200mm of rain is possible for that region. The tropical Atlantic and Caribbean are currently quiet so tropical cyclone development will not be an issue for the outlook period.

