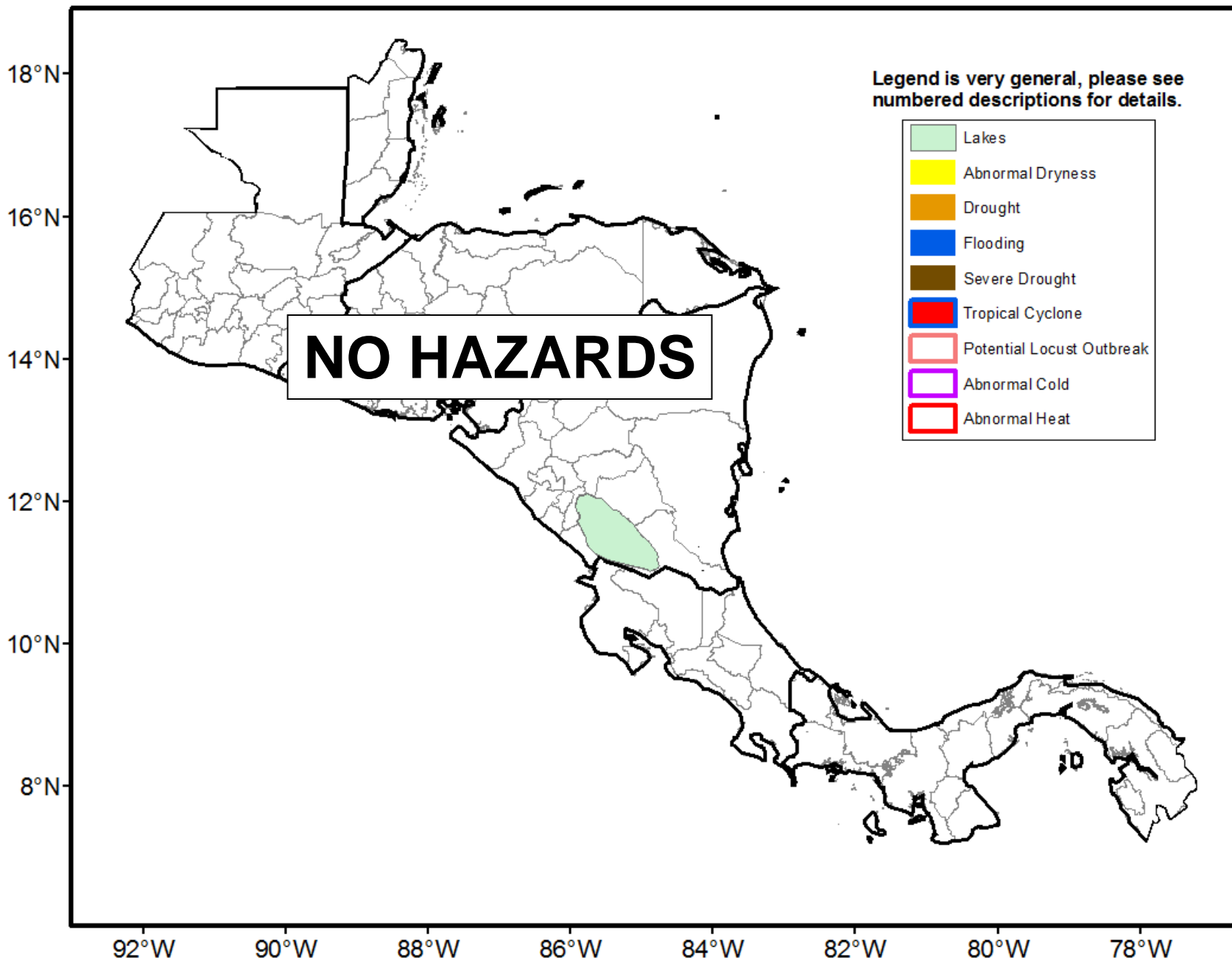




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook October 19 – October 25, 2017

Heavy rains were observed in parts of Guatemala, Honduras and western Nicaragua.



While some areas continue to see heavy rains, moisture deficits are slowly building in eastern Nicaragua

Areas of heavy rainfall persisted during the past week. Much of central and northern Guatemala, as well as western Honduras and Nicaragua received in excess of 100mm of rain according to satellite estimates. Local areas of Guatemala received more than 150mm of rain. Farther to the south and east, areas of central Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama received lighter, below-average rains. In some local cases, less than 10mm was observed. Heavier than normal rainfall in Guatemala this past week added to substantial moisture surpluses in the area that now measure more than 200mm over the last 30 days. Conversely, more sporadic rainfall during the same period resulted in moisture deficits in eastern Nicaragua that add to more than 100mm. Such anomalies equate to 80% or less of average rainfall. Over longer periods of 90 days, moisture deficits are less significant. The Vegetation Health Index shows some degrading ground conditions in the areas of Nicaragua with building rainfall deficits, though nothing extreme yet. It also shows some patches of poorer values in northern Guatemala and Belize. 30-day SPI highlights poor performance in some of these same areas.

The forecast for the next outlook period again indicates that areas of heavy rain are likely in Guatemala and northern Honduras. More than 100mm of rain are possible in local areas. The rest of the region is expected to be under a pattern of near or below-normal precipitation. Heavier rains are possible along the western coast of Nicaragua, but below-normal rainfall is expected in central parts of the country. No tropical cyclone activity is expected to impact the region during the outlook period.

