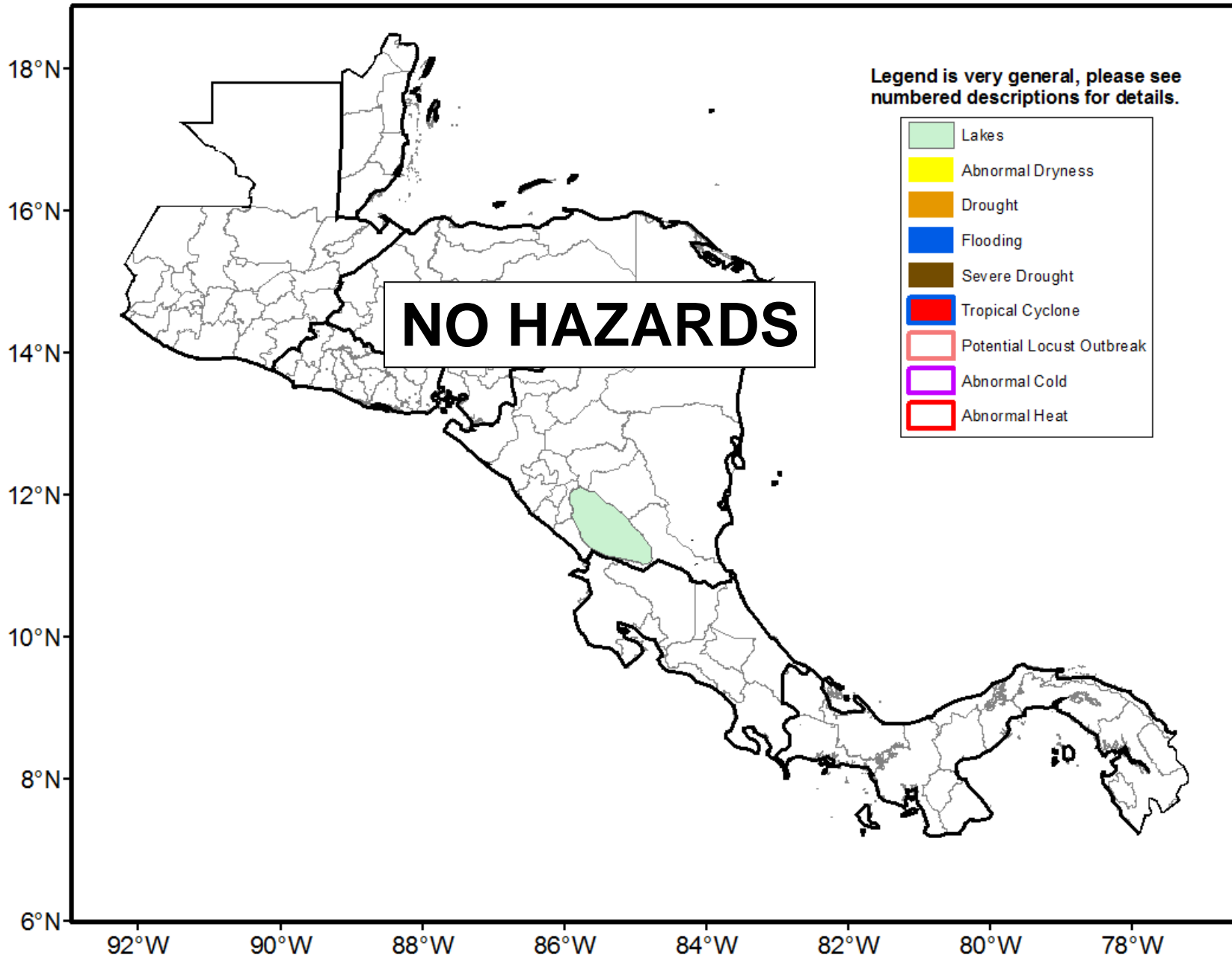




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook November 30 – December 6, 2017

Drier conditions observed over the short-term, but favorable August-November season seen overall.



Slightly increased rain forecast along the Caribbean Basin of Central America during the next week.

A rapid strengthening of thirty-day rainfall deficits was observed as rainfall continued to subside over Central America during the past four weeks. The four-week rainfall anomalies indicated moderate to large (50-200mm) moisture deficits throughout northern, southern and eastern Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. The drying tendency was attributable to a broad area of anomalous low pressure system over Cuba, which enhanced rain over the Greater Antilles but rubbed moisture from Central America over the past thirty days. The resulting dry soil, combined with strong surface winds may be conducive to an environment, favorable to forest fires over many local areas. During the past seven days, suppressed rain was recorded throughout Central America, except Costa Rica and Panama, where moderate to heavy rain continued. An analysis of the ninety-day percent of normal rainfall showed, however, a favorable performance, with average to above-average August-November rainfall season, except areas along the Honduran-Nicaragua border, where cumulative rain accounted for between 50-80 percent of average. Moreover, recent vegetation health index displayed, in general, positive conditions over Central America.

For next week, as the second season is ending, a drier weather pattern is expected to continue over the interior of Central America. In contrast, stronger, prevailing easterly winds could bring light to locally moderate rain along the Atlantic Basin of the region. Guatemala and Honduras may experience an advection of cold air mass from the north. Although minimum temperature is expected to remain near to above-freezing point, the forecast low minimum temperatures could negatively impact the livelihoods of local residents over the higher terrains of Central America.

