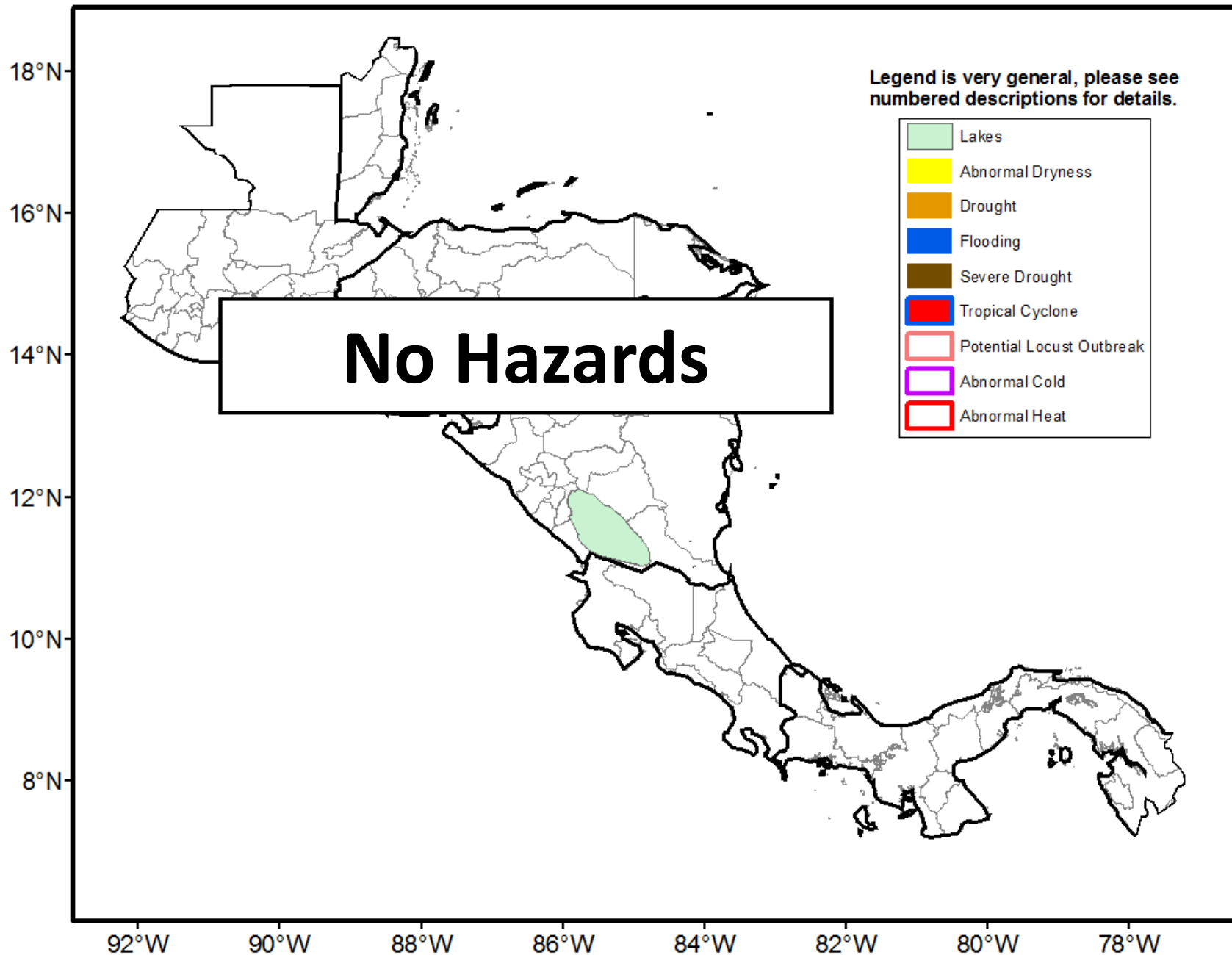




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 25 – January 31, 2017

Coastal regions along the Caribbean received moderate to heavy rains during the last 7 days



Near-normal temperatures and increased rain chances are in the forecast.

Rainy conditions were observed throughout regions along the Caribbean coastline during the last 7 days. 10mm to as many as 50mm of rain were observed according to satellite rainfall estimates. Gauge reports indicate even higher amounts in northern Honduras. Satellites also indicate heavy rains occurred in eastern Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua, dumping more than 200mm. Elsewhere, much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Southern Honduras and western Nicaragua remained dry. Thus far, performance during the Apante season has been near normal across much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, and western Honduras. Contrastingly, moisture conditions proved wetter than average over areas of eastern Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with positive rainfall anomalies exceeding 200mm, in some cases, since December 1. Vegetation indices point towards healthy ground conditions. A few local areas, such as in eastern Nicaragua, show some middle range values. Overall, there has been a positive trend in index values during recent weeks. Cooler than normal temperatures and near freezing lows continued into last week.

Over the next 7 days, expect a pattern of wetter than normal conditions similar to last week to continue. Moderate to heavy rain is forecast by weather models over Caribbean Sea adjacent areas of Central America. Additional rains could expand into central portions of Guatemala. Some temperature changes are forecast for the outlook period. Recent colder than normal conditions should give way to temperatures very close to Average. This will minimize the risk for high elevation freezes.

