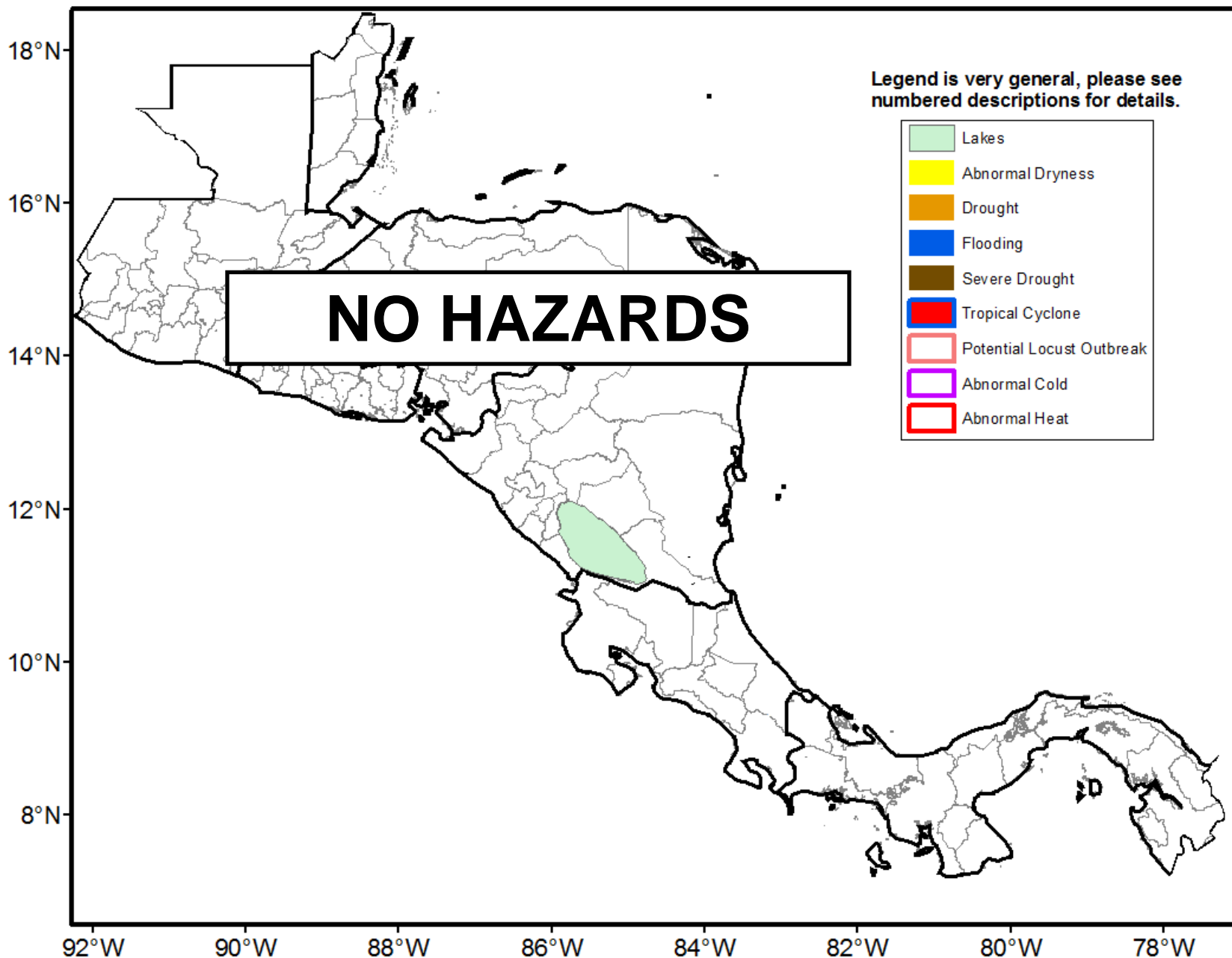




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 8 – 14, 2017

Near to slightly above-average rains forecast over Central America during the next week



**A favorable rainfall distribution over the past two months has led to positive seasonal anomalies over the eastern portions of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.**

Due to consistent and above-average rains during December of the last year, which continued into January of the current year, positive rainfall anomalies were registered throughout eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, eastern Costa Rica, and much of Panama since the beginning of the *Apante*, December-April rainfall season. Some local areas of those regions accumulated rainfall surpluses between 100-200 mm, while the remainders of Central America received near-average rainfall. During the past week, a dry weather pattern, with mostly suppressed rain dominated Central America, except the Gulf of Honduras and northern Guatemala, where moderate rains were recorded. Although the lack of rainfall is typical of the season during this time of the year, the resulting dry soils, combined with high daytime temperature and potentially strong winds, provide environmental conditions that are highly conducive to forest fire hazards over many local areas of the region. In Guatemala, forest fires have been reported over the central and northern portions of the country.

During the next seven days, model rainfall forecasts suggest increased potential for moderate to locally heavy rains, which could trigger localized flooding along the eastern coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua. Stronger, prevailing easterly winds are forecast over Central America, which could bring moisture and light rain farther inland over the interior of the region, including central Honduras and Nicaragua. For temperatures, minimum temperature is expected to remain within range of the long-term average and should remain above-freezing over the higher elevation terrains.

