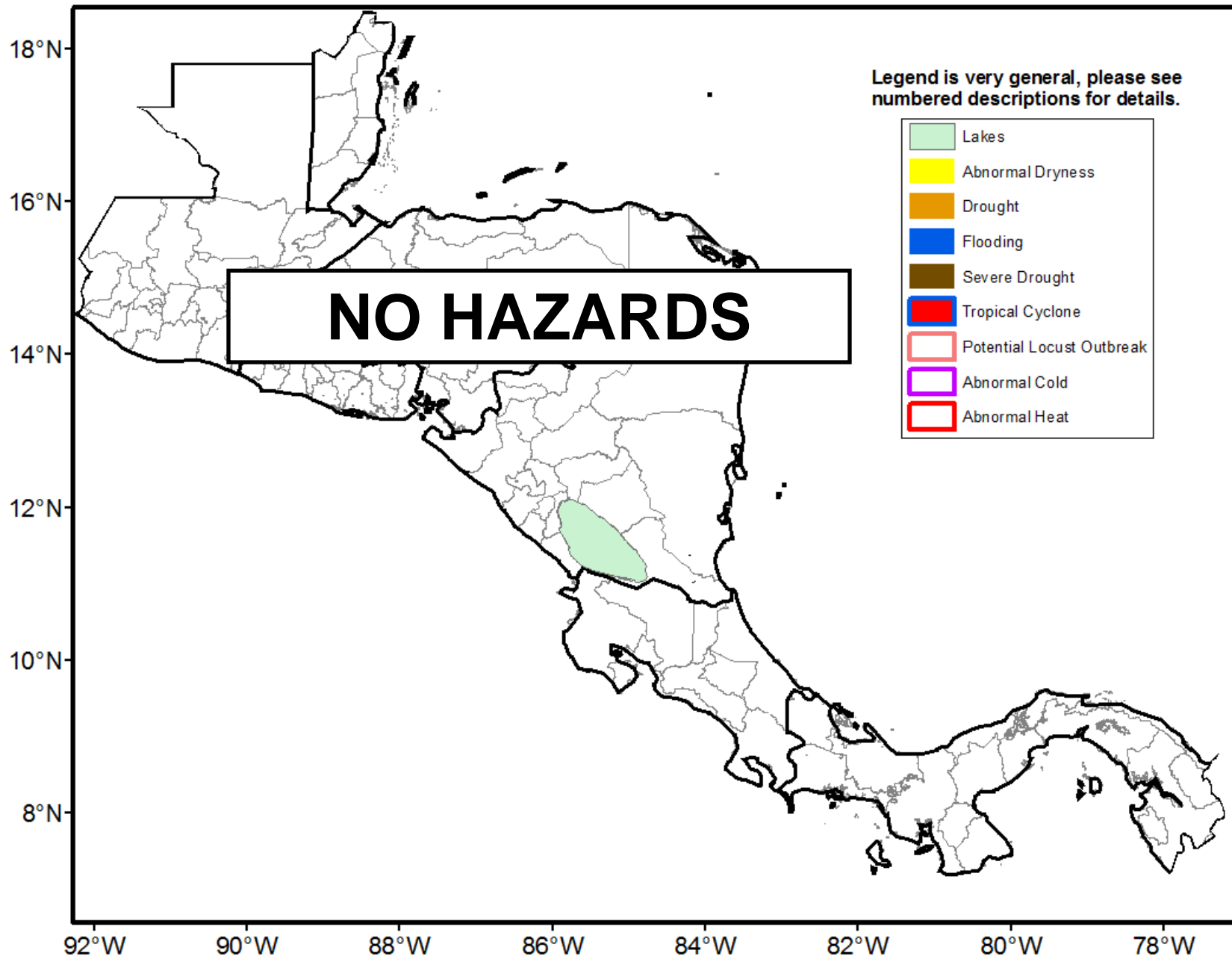




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 15 – 21, 2017

Dry weather pattern, with suppressed rains, is expected to continue over Central America during the next week



Near-average and seasonally dry conditions continue over Central America.

During the past seven days, suppressed rains were observed over much of Central America, continuing dry but seasonally marginal conditions over the region during the past several weeks. Much of the interior of the region recorded no rainfall; while northern Guatemala and portions of Belize received moderate to heavy rains, based on satellite-derived rainfall estimates. An analysis of the accumulated rainfall since early January to date has indicated neutral anomalies across the inland of Central America and positive rainfall anomalies over northern Guatemala, Belize, the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and eastern Costa Rica. As a result, the most recent vegetation indices have exhibited adequate to positive conditions throughout much of Central America. Although the near to above-average performance of the December-April rainfall season has benefited winter cropping season activities over many areas, dry soils that are associated with the typical lack of rainfall during this time of the year, have also increased threats for forest fires over many local areas.

For next week, dry weather conditions, with mostly suppressed rains, are once again expected over Central America. However, enhanced, light to moderate rains are possible over northern Guatemala, Belize, and along the Atlantic coastlines of Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile as far as temperatures are concerned, despite the forecast passage of a frontal system to the north during early period, minimum temperature is expected to average near climatology and remain above the freezing point, which still could negatively impact crops and the livelihoods of residents over elevated terrains during night time and early morning.

