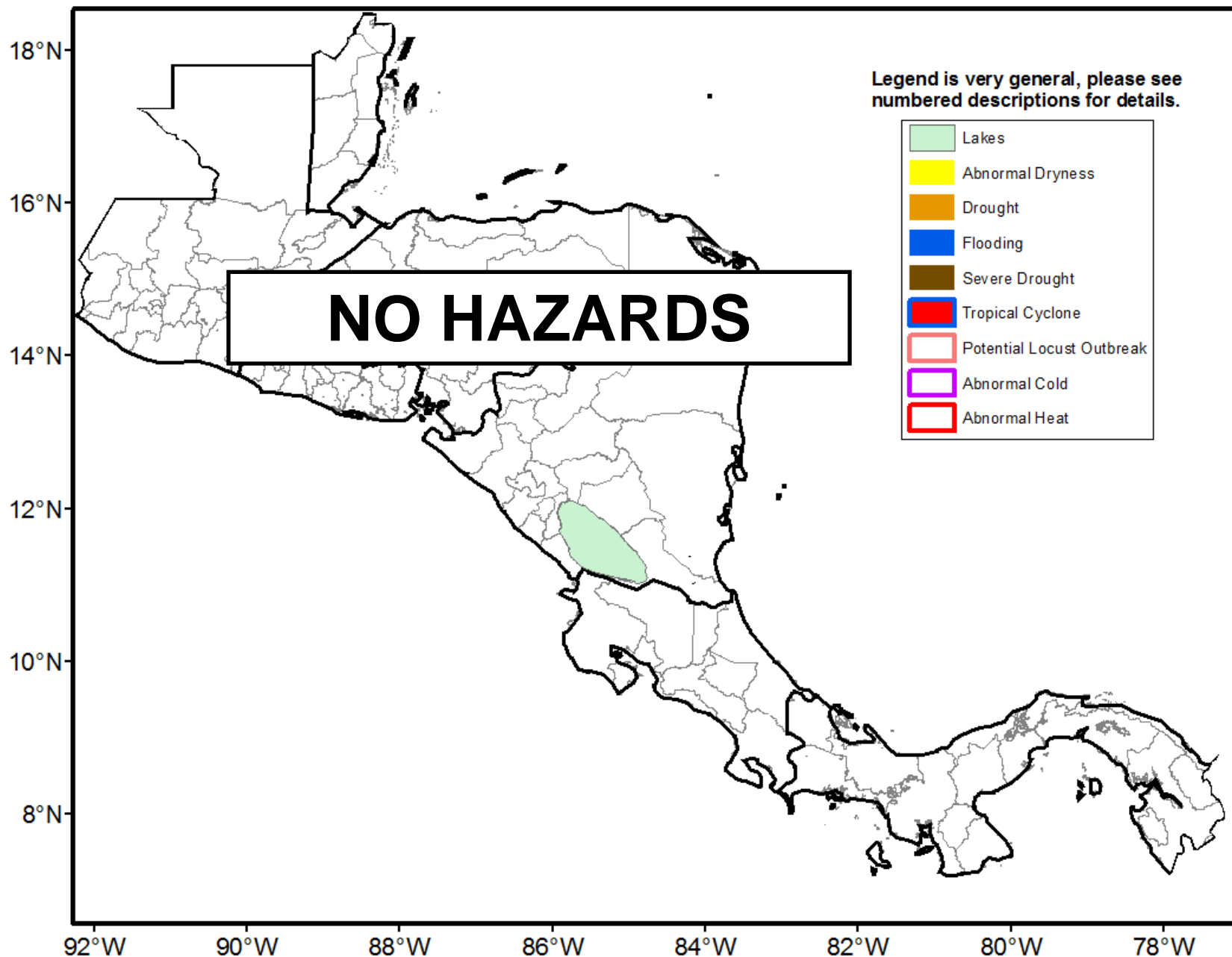




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 1 – 7, 2018

A decrease in rainfall forecast over Central America during the next week.



The forecast drier weather during the next week may elevate the risks for forest fires over many local areas of Central America.

During the past week, drier weather, with mostly suppressed rains, was observed over Central America, continuing low rainfall amounts over the region during the past consecutive weeks. During the past thirty days, near-average rainfall was registered throughout much of the inland of the region, while positive rainfall anomalies were recorded over northern Guatemala, Belize, and northern Honduras. An analysis of the number of rainy days over the past thirty days has also indicated a near-average rainfall frequency, which could indicate a seasonable progression of the December-April, rainfall season over the region. Since December of the past year to present, positive rainfall anomalies were registered over northern Guatemala, Belize, and the eastern portions of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, which were attributed to enhanced and above-average rains during the previous months. Meanwhile, marginal seasonal rainfall anomalies were observed throughout the remainders of the region.

During the next week, little to light rain is forecast along the Atlantic coastlines of Central America and seems to indicate a stark decrease in rainfall compared to that forecast during the previous week. Although the lack of rainfall is typical of the region during this time of the year, the continuation of drier weather patterns and resulting dry soil increases risks for forest fires over many local areas. As far as temperature is concerned, minimum temperature is forecast to average slightly below-average and range between 0-5 degrees Celsius over elevated terrains of Guatemala, which could still negatively affect the livelihoods of local residents in the region.

