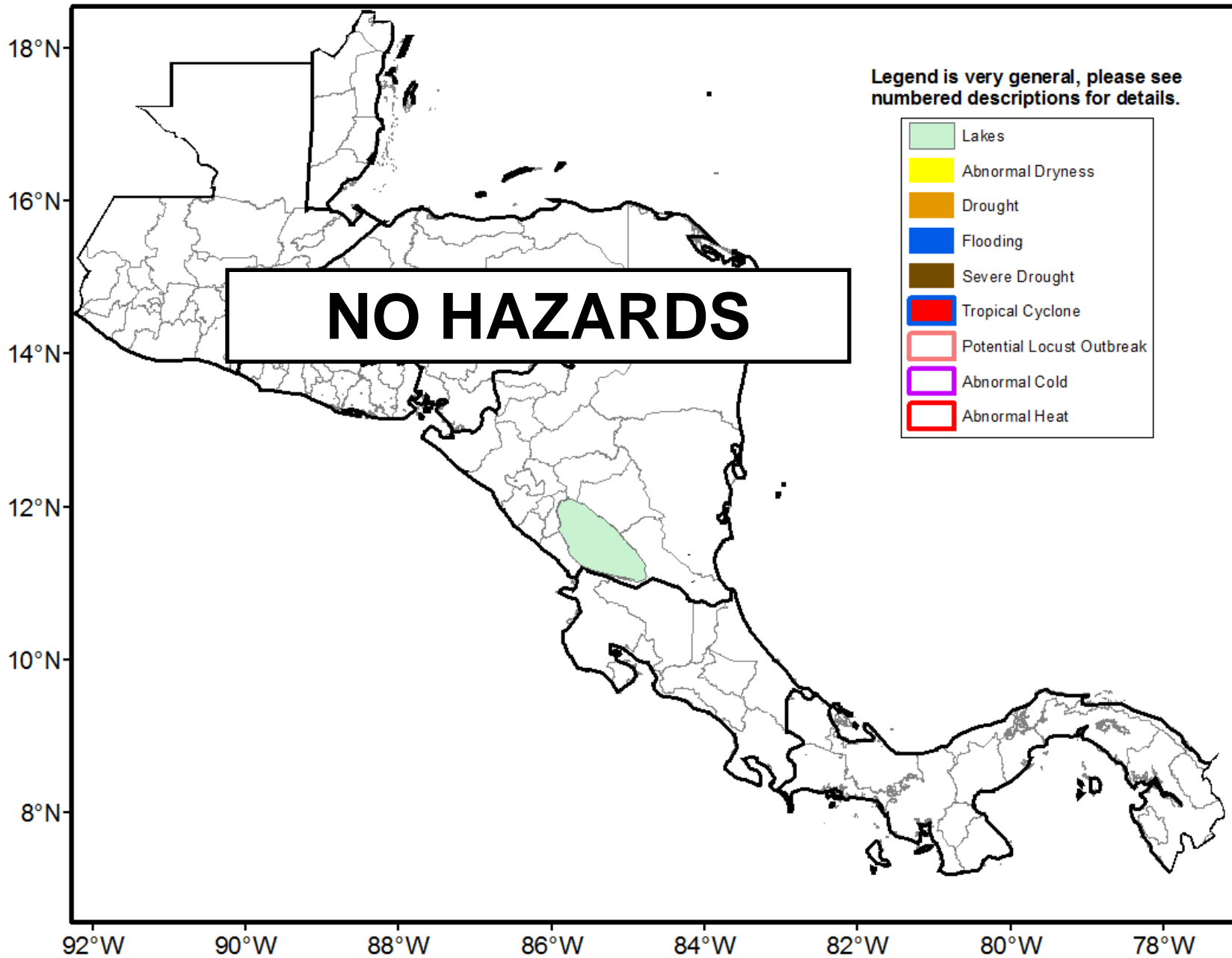




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 15 – 21, 2018

Little to no rains continued during mid-March.



Little to no rainfall activity experienced over Central America.

Similar to the precipitation pattern during early March, little to no rainfall was received over Central America during the last week according satellite rainfall estimates and rain gauges. Despite the lack of rainfall, moisture anomalies generally remain near average, indicating a climatological low point as seasonal rainfall is normally inactive prior to the onset of Primera season. Since early February, several northern departments in Honduras, Guatemala and Belize facing the Atlantic have experienced a reduction in short-term moisture surpluses. Despite this more recent drying trend, the performance of the Apante season has been generally favorable, with many regions experiencing average to above-average rainfall conditions due to periods of enhanced rainfall during January and February. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices also indicate satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the lull in rainfall activity during February and March. However, drier weather and minimum soil moisture conditions still maintains an elevated risk for forest fires over many local areas.

During the next week, an increase in rainfall is forecast mainly across the Gulf of Honduras region with the potential for locally heavy rainfall accumulations (>50mm) over northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Elsewhere, seasonable rainfall amounts are most likely during the forecast period. Surface temperatures are forecast to be near average with little risk for frost as minimum nighttime temperatures are expected to remain above 5 degrees Celsius in the higher elevations of Guatemala and Honduras.

