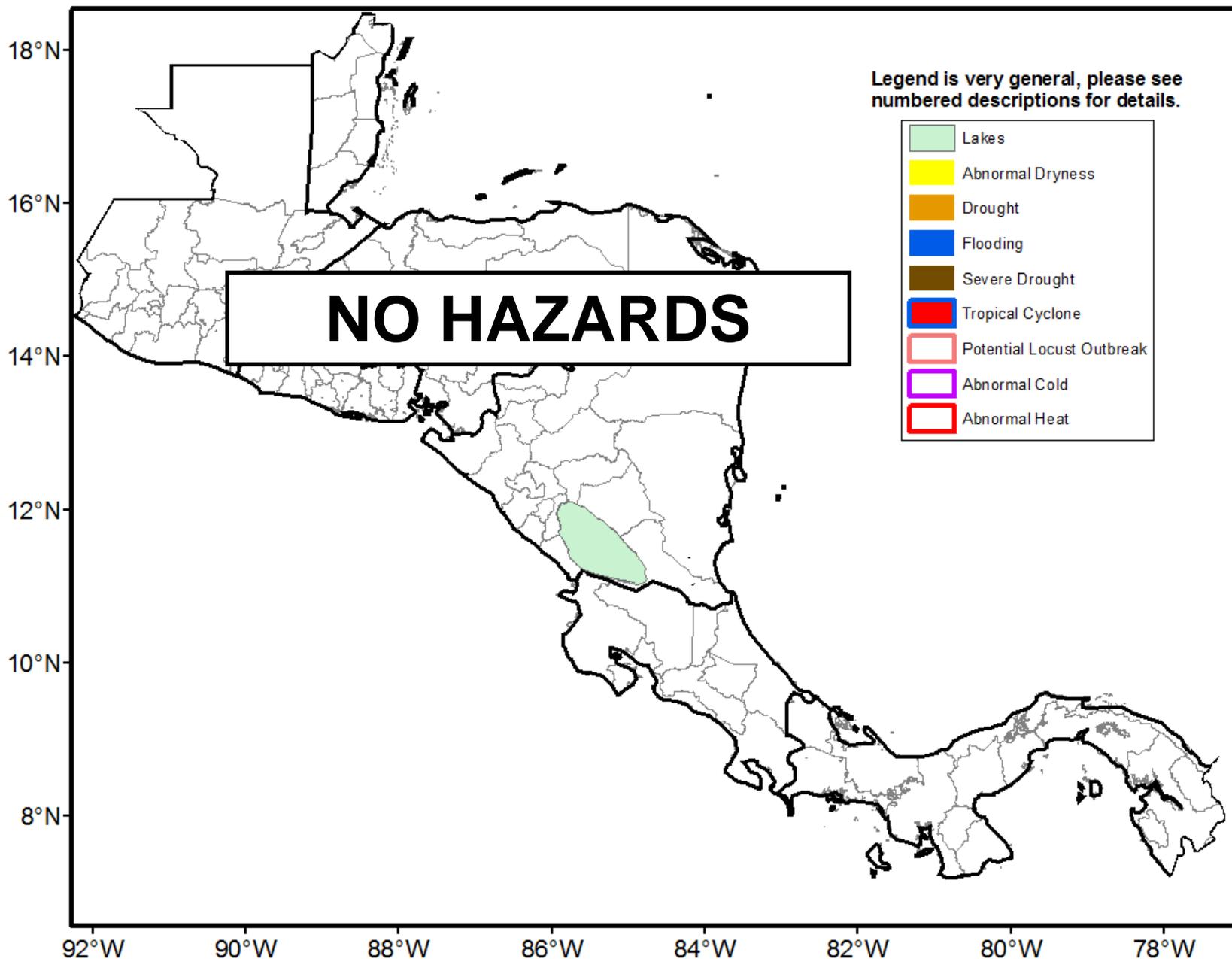




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 29 – April 4, 2018

Increased rainfall amounts received in Guatemala during mid-March.



Increased rains forecast signal beginnings of Primera Season in parts of Central America.

Despite an above-average rainfall forecast last week, scattered showers were received across parts of Guatemala and northern Honduras. According to gauge reports, locally moderate weekly rainfall totals ranged from 10-50mm over the northern departments of Honduras, with little to no rainfall accumulations registered for many other interior departments in Central America. Despite the lack of rainfall during mid-March, several regions in Central America continue to register near-normal conditions towards the end of the Apante season. Analysis of seasonal moisture anomalies since last December suggest 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 early February. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices also indicate satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the seasonably dry conditions during February and March.

Towards the end of March and early April, increased precipitation activity is climatologically expected which suggests the beginning of the Primera rainfall season in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. The latest model guidance depicts the highest weekly rainfall accumulations over western Guatemala (>50mm), with lesser but well-distributed totals over many Pacific facing departments of Central America.

