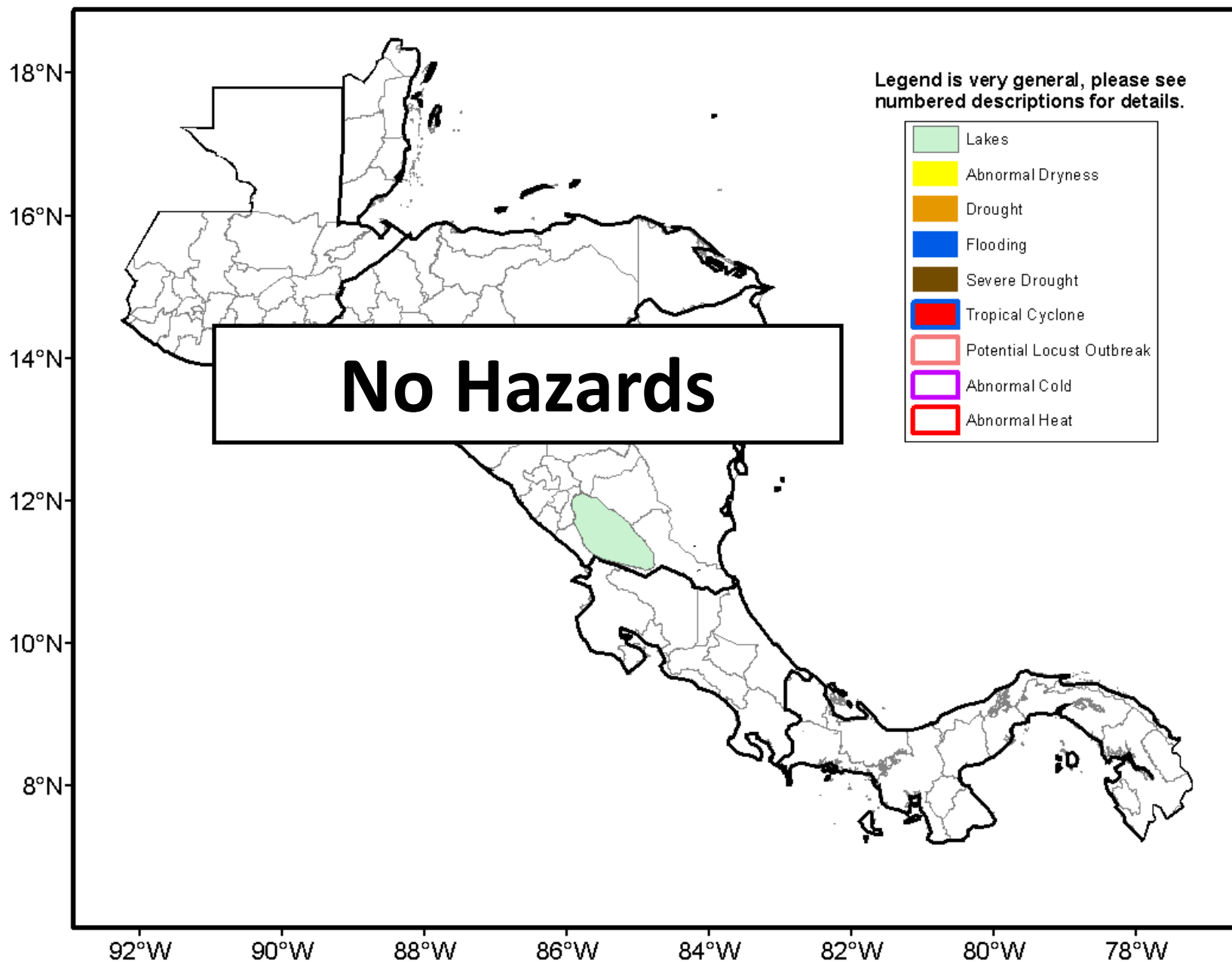




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 5 – April 11, 2018

Seasonable rains were observed for the end of March



A Primera-like pattern appears to be setting in to start April.

During the final days of March, moderate rains were scattered about Guatemala and El Salvador. According to satellite estimates, 10-50mm were observed in local areas. Besides some localized rain in Costa Rica, many other parts of the region remained dry. 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.

The forecast for the outlook period is for enhanced rainfall in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. While the spatial pattern of rains looks characteristic for the beginning of the Primera rainfall season, the GFS model indicates total amounts are likely to be greater than normal. 7-day totals of more than 25 and even 50+mm are favored in Guatemala and Honduras. Many other parts of the region may experience light rains as well.

