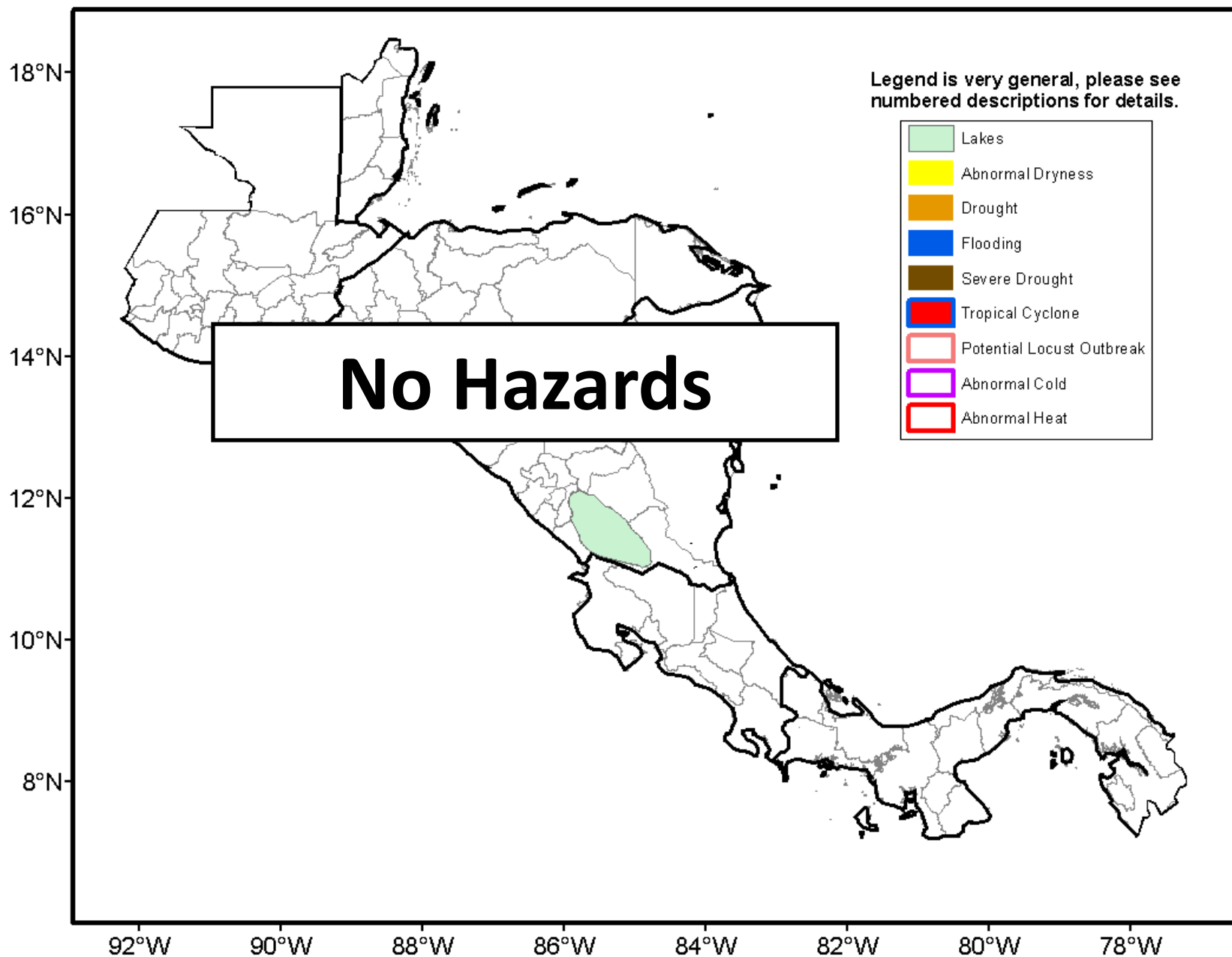




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 12 – April 18, 2018

Increased rainfall received across southern Guatemala.



Early Primera rains recorded throughout many Pacific facing regions of Central America

During the first week in April, seasonal precipitation increased across portions of southern Guatemala, and along the Gulf of Fonseca and Gulf of Nicoya regions of Central America. The highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) were recorded in southern Guatemala according to both satellite rainfall estimates and local rain gauge measurements. Towards the Atlantic/Caribbean side, many other regions in Central America remained dry with little to no rains received. Over the past 30 days, analysis of early Primera season moisture anomalies suggest a slight strengthening of below-average conditions, as several interior departments of Guatemala and Honduras have yet to observe an increase in rainfall. Similar conditions are also been observed across parts of Costa Rica and Panama. However, remotely sensed vegetation health indices indicate generally satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the seasonably dry conditions during February and March.

During the next week, models again suggest an enhancement in precipitation over much of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and eastern Nicaragua – consistent with a typical Primera onset. Potentially heavy rainfall accumulations in excess of 75mm appear most likely across southwestern Guatemala, with a favorable, widespread distribution of rainfall amounts in excess of 25mm throughout western Honduras and El Salvador. Heavy rainfall also is forecast for many parts of Costa Rica.

