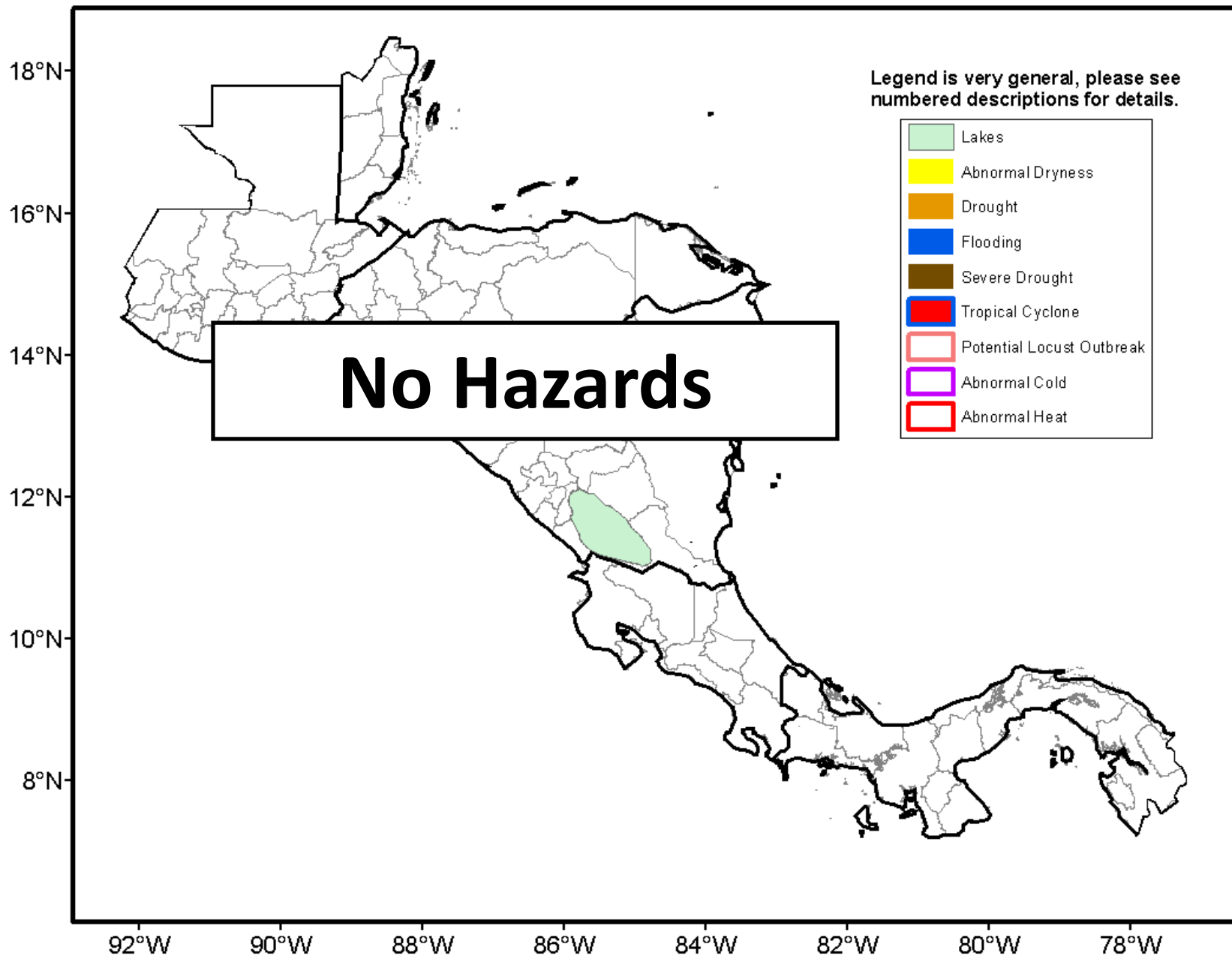




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 12 – July 18, 2018

Several weeks of poor rainfall in the Gulf of Fonseca region are increasing concerns about dryness



**The core of heaviest rains remains over the southern Caribbean and eastern Nicaragua, Honduras.**

During the beginning of July, much of the heaviest rainfall (100-200mm) was located in Panama, Costa Rica, eastern Nicaragua, and eastern Honduras. Some localized heavier amounts were also observed in central and southern Guatemala, as well as Belize. Between these two areas, a corridor of persistently suppressed rain has set up. Areas of western Nicaragua, eastern El Salvador, and central Honduras received little to no rain this past week. This pattern has been in place for about 3 weeks and has led to large and increasing 30-day rainfall deficits. Deficits are exceeding 200mm in eastern El Salvador. These same regions have also experienced an extended dry spell of more than 10 days. As a result, vegetation health, according to VHI and other products, is beginning to diminish. VHI values are also low in much of Guatemala, despite more frequent rainfall and lesser negative anomalies. Meanwhile, ground conditions look quite good in the wetter regions to the south and east.

During the next week, models forecast the heaviest rains (100-200mm) to continue along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua and eastern Honduras. Unfortunately, no relief is expected around the Gulf of Fonseca region. Though some locally heavier thunderstorms may occur, the rainfall pattern over Guatemala and Belize is expected to be slightly suppressed.

