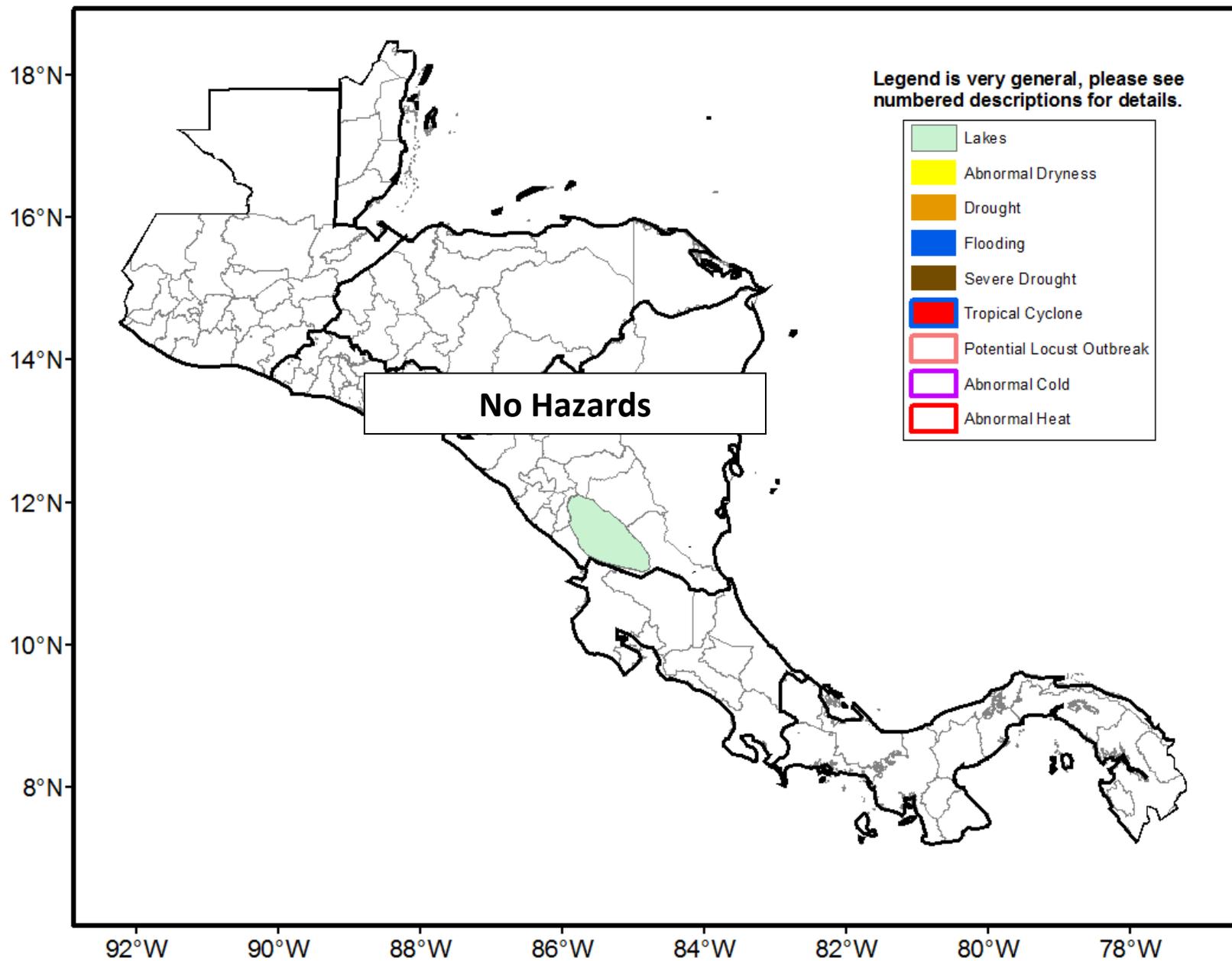




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 11 – 17, 2019

Rains expanded across southern Guatemala, El Salvador and western Honduras.



Widespread rainfall is likely signaling the onset of the Primera rainfall season.

During the beginning of April, a well-forecasted increase in rains was observed over Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. According to satellite rainfall estimates, many areas received 10-25mm of rainfall with a few locales receiving 50mm or more. Heavy rainfall moved into southern Costa Rica, totaling more than 75mm. Much of the remainder of the region remained dry. Rains across central/northern Guatemala and neighboring Belize are running below normal since early March, with above-normal temperatures also being reported. Lesser deficits are evident in Honduras and El Salvador. Since early 2019, seasonal Apante-related moisture deficits remain evident in Caribbean facing parts of the region, as well as in Costa Rica and Panama. Recently failed rainy seasons and long-term absence of sufficient moisture has increased the number of forest/brush fires across northern Guatemala and Honduras and is expected to be unfavorable for the development of crops. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the poor rainfall performance with deteriorated ground conditions concentrated over parts of Guatemala, central Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua, and localized parts of Costa Rica.

During the outlook period, the GFS model suggests that rains will continue to spread in coverage. The onset of rainfall is likely for much of central Honduras and parts of northern Nicaragua. Weekly totals will likely be moderate, ranging from 25-50mm. Increased moisture may help mitigate fire activity in Honduras and Guatemala, and aid early-season cropping activities. Increased rainfall amounts are likely for Costa Rica and Panama, possibly exceeding 75mm.

