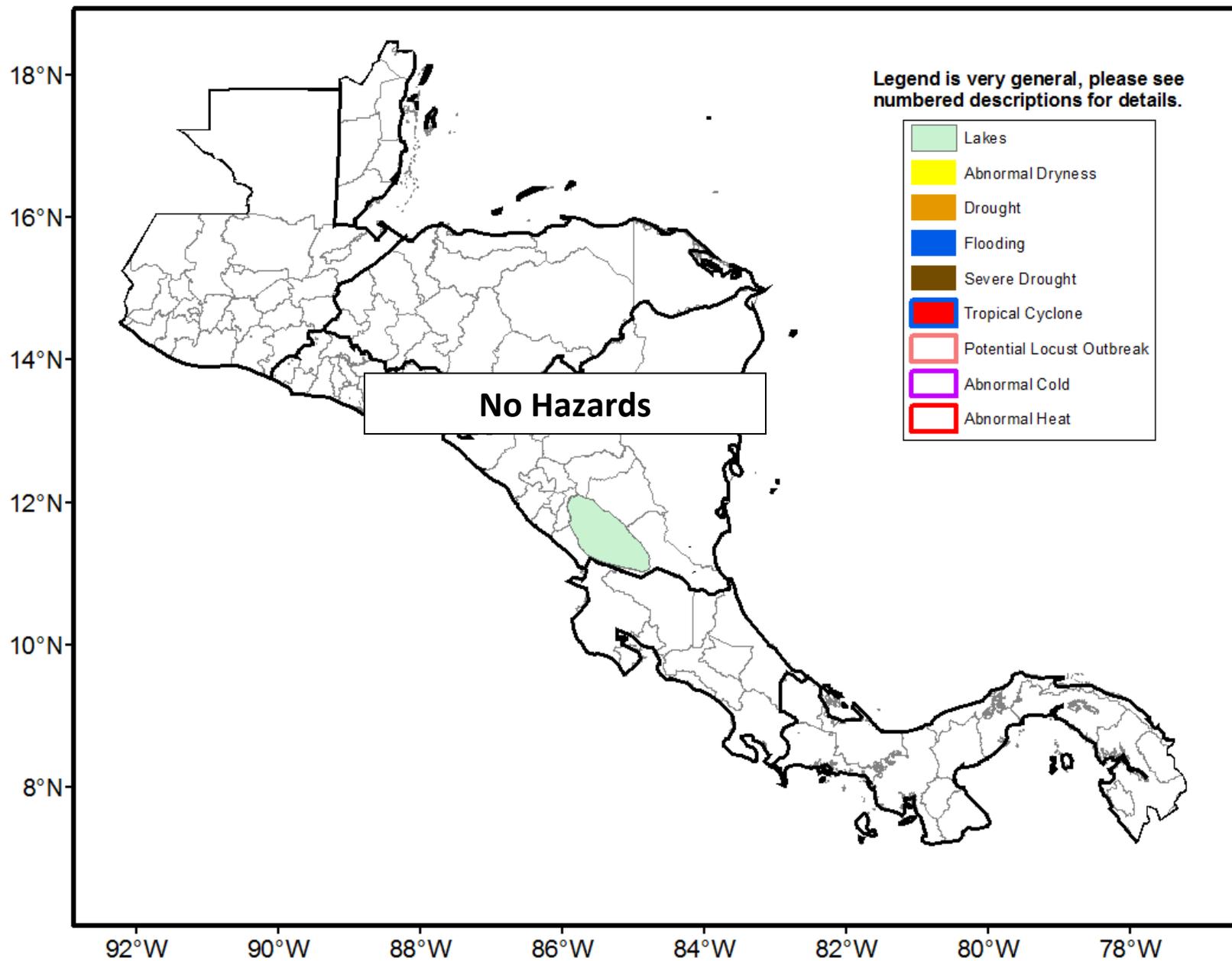




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 25 – May 1, 2019

Rainfall became more widely scattered during the past week.



Widespread rainfall during April likely signaled the onset of the Primera rainfall season.

During the past week, rains became more scattered than they were earlier in the month across Central America. The heaviest rainfall across the region was observed in parts of northern Guatemala and Belize where more than 100mm fell during the past 7 days. According to satellite rainfall estimates, scattered lighter rainfall amounts were observed in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Moderate rainfall (>25mm) was observed in southern Costa Rica and western Panama. Rains across Guatemala were generally running below normal since early March, but moisture conditions have improved during April. Since the middle of January, seasonal Apante-related moisture deficits remain evident in Caribbean facing parts of the region, as well as in Costa Rica and Panama. The onset of rains over recent weeks is favorable for fire weather and for early Primera season cropping activities during April. However, abnormally warm temperatures throughout the region have been quickly depleting soil moisture. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the earlier poor rainfall performance with unfavorable ground conditions still concentrated over parts of Guatemala, central Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

During the outlook period, the GFS model suggests that rains will be widespread in coverage throughout the region. Light to moderate (10-50mm) rainfall is forecast throughout Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. Light rain showers are also expected in Nicaragua. Moderate rainfall is also likely for southeastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, likely totaling 25-50mm.

