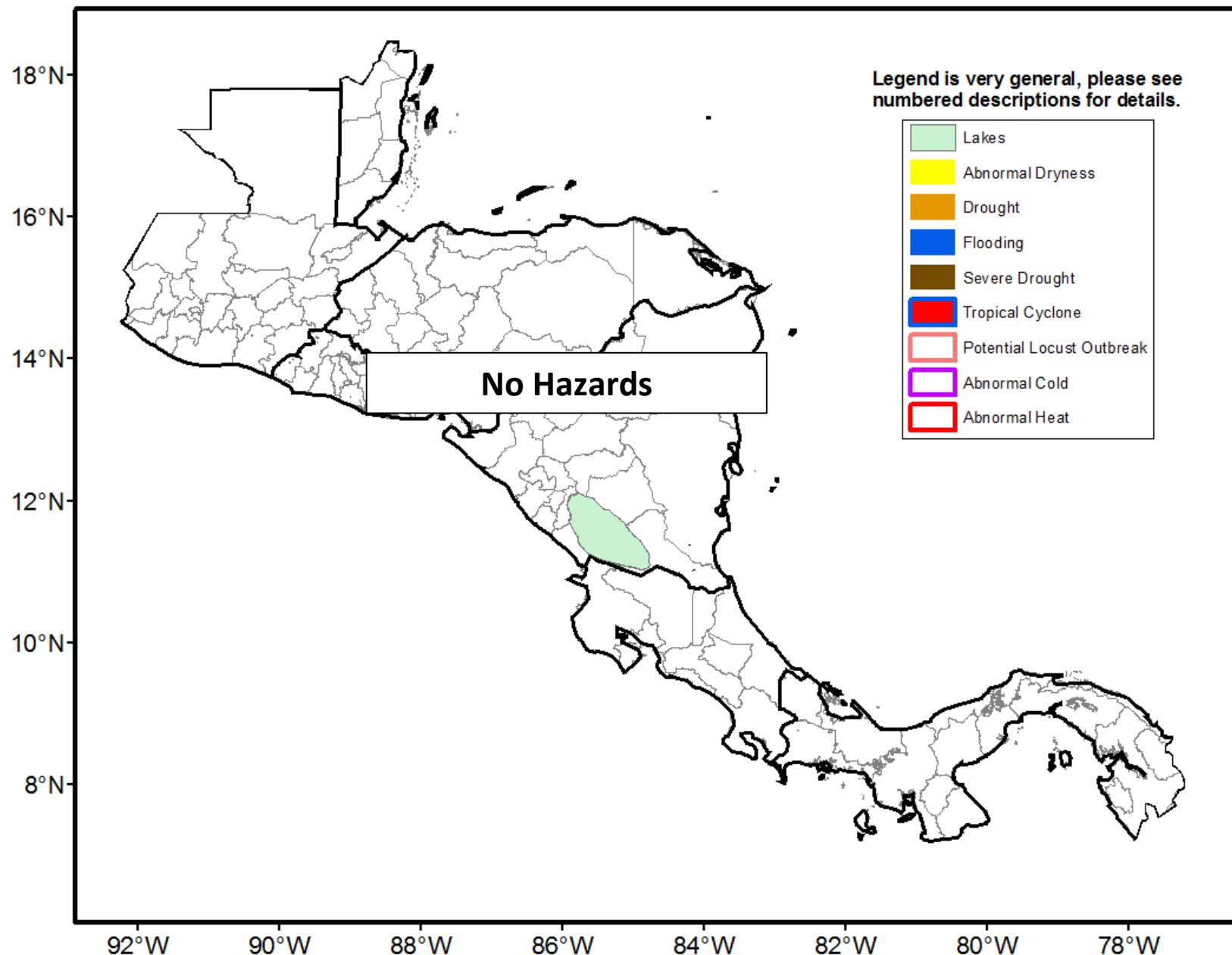




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook

May 9 – 15, 2019

Increased rainfall is forecast, which may announce the onset of the first growing season in Central America.



The forecast enhanced rainfall during the next week suggests the onset of the first season.

During late April to early May, moderate to heavy rainfall was observed over northern Central America, particularly Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras. The largest (> 100 mm) rainfall amounts fell over El Salvador, based on satellite rainfall estimates. Moderate to locally heavy rainfall was also registered over the southern Caribbean. In contrast, suppressed rainfall was recorded over the remainders of the region. Rainfall anomalies over the past thirty days indicated that drier than average conditions were present in southwestern and parts of northwestern Guatemala, the Gulf of Fonseca region, and the southern Caribbean, where deficits exceeded 50 mm. The drier conditions were attributable to some anomalous low-level divergence and upper-level convergence, resulting in a delay of seasonal rainfall over many parts of the region. Conversely, thirty-day moisture surpluses, which were essentially associated with the increase in rainfall over the past two consecutive weeks, were registered across El Salvador, western and northern Honduras, central and northeastern Guatemala, and Belize. As the season progresses into mid-May, rainfall should gradually fill in the interior of Central America.

For next week, wet weather patterns are forecast to continue and expand over Central America. Widespread heavy rainfall is expected throughout central Guatemala, western Honduras, and the southern Caribbean. Meanwhile, little to light rainfall is expected over central Honduras, northern Guatemala, and central Nicaragua. The forecast, overall increase in rainfall may announce the onset of the first growing season over the region. Should the forecast, rainfall verify, it would help erode moisture deficits and aid land preparation and planting over many local areas. As far as temperature is concerned, above-average maximum temperature is forecast to persist over the region.

