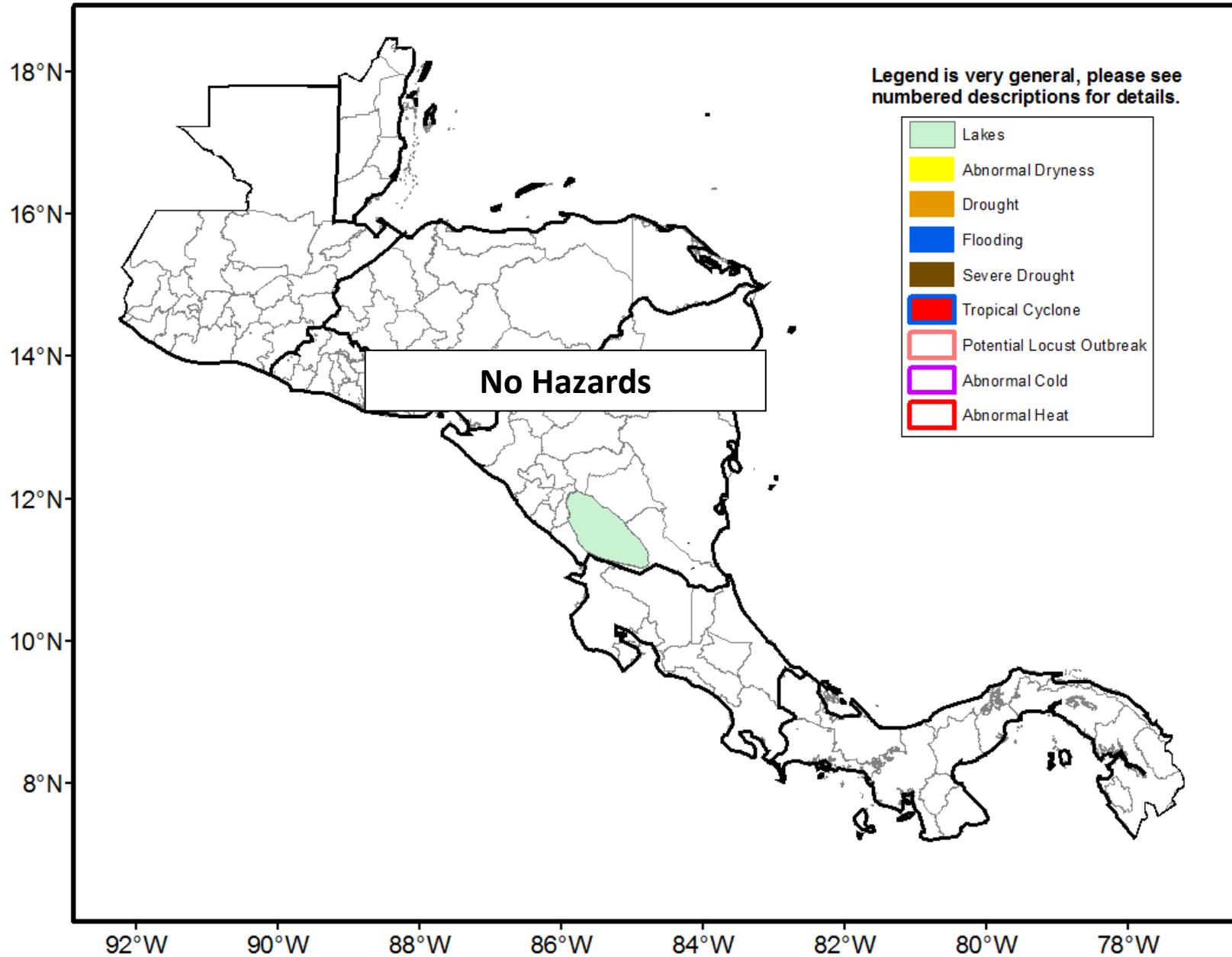




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 16 – 22, 2019

Wetness was observed over northern Central America and the southern Caribbean during the past week.



Heavy rainfall forecast across the Pacific-thirds of Central America

During the past seven days, heavy rainfall was received over the northern portions of Central America and the southern Caribbean. Torrential (> 100 mm) rainfall fell over southwestern and northern Guatemala, western Honduras, southern Costa Rica, and western Panama, based on satellite rainfall estimates. Meanwhile, suppressed rainfall prevailed throughout eastern Honduras and much of Nicaragua. Since early to mid-April to present, positive rainfall anomalies were recorded over Guatemala, central El Salvador, the Gulf of Honduras, and western Honduras. The largest moisture surpluses exceeded 100 mm and were registered over the Petén department of northern Guatemala and localized areas of western Honduras and central El Salvador. Although, the observed wetness should, in general, supply favorable soil moisture and benefit agricultural activities over many areas, the mixing of enhanced rainfall and pyroclastic materials could, however, produce substantial lahars, potentially negatively affecting the livelihoods of residents near many eruption-prone areas. Conversely, small to moderate negative thirty-day rainfall anomalies spread across the Gulf of Fonseca and the southern Caribbean.

During the upcoming outlook period, model rainfall forecasts suggest heavy and likely to be above-average rainfall totals along the Pacific-thirds of Central America and the southern Caribbean. Farther inland, slightly reduced, with light to locally moderate and likely near to below-average, rainfall is expected across Honduras and Nicaragua. Meanwhile, above-normal surface temperature is likely to continue as maximum temperature is forecast to average 4 – 8 degrees Celsius above average during the next week.

