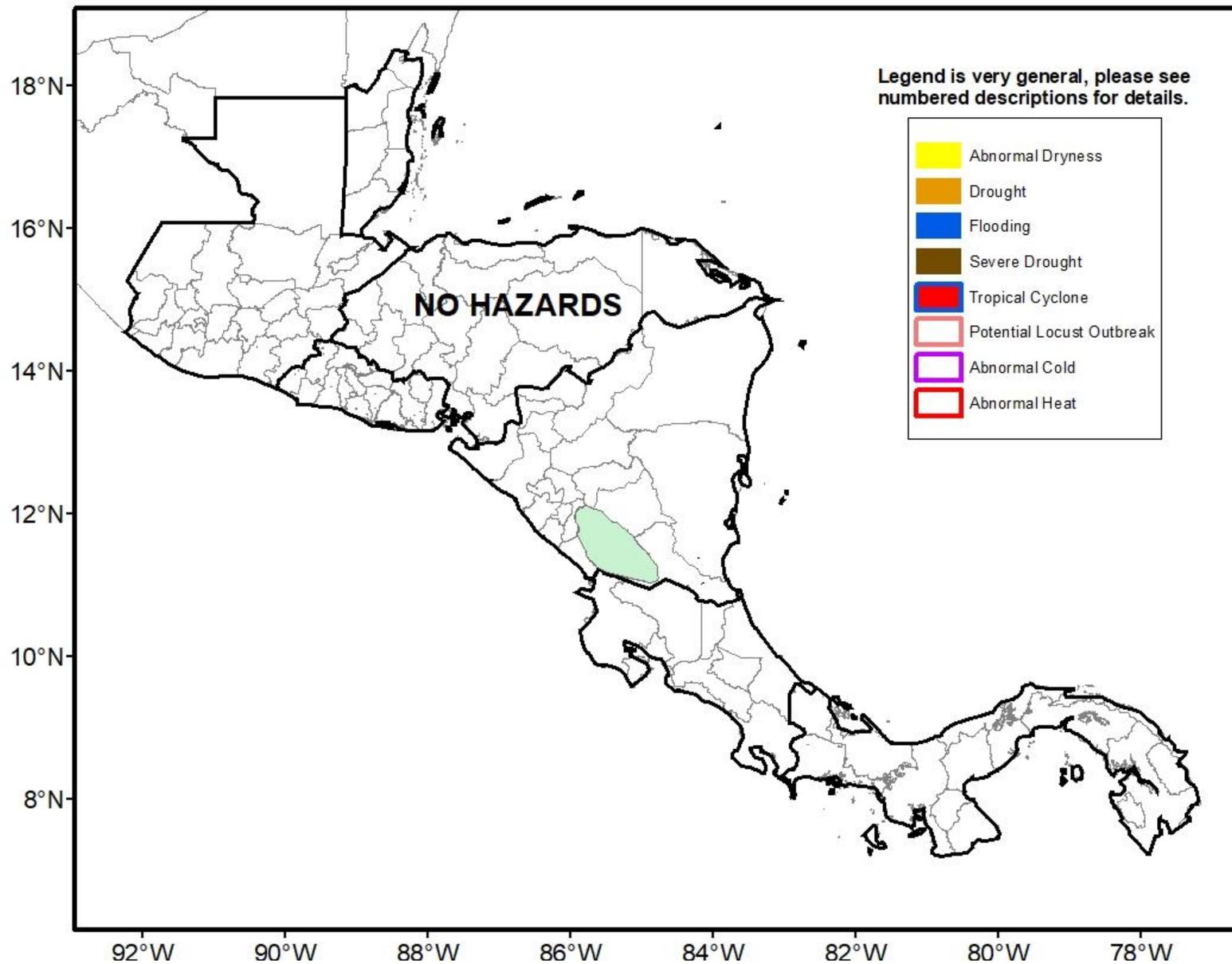




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook January 23 – January 29, 2020

- Several parts of the region received moderate or heavy rains during this past week



During the third week of January, rain fell across many climatologically favored Caribbean-facing regions. According to gauge reports, rainfall was moderate, or even heavy in some cases. According to CPC unified gauge data, some totals of more than 50mm were observed in eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and Belize. Heavy rainfall in excess of 100mm was also observed locally in Costa Rica. The significant rainfall also spread into areas of central Guatemala where it caused flooding problems in Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments. Over 3,600 people were affected according to CONRED. Over the last 30 days, gauge observations indicate that ample rainfall, resulting in positive anomalies, has been received in parts of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, and northern Guatemala. However, satellite analysis indicates that the heavier totals may be somewhat limited in spatial scope in Honduras and Nicaragua. The Vegetation Health Index reveals largely healthy vegetation through the middle of January, especially for Pacific-facing regions. A few local areas, such as in Guatemala's Petén department and northern Belize, indicate negative conditions.

During the outlook period, near or lesser than average rainfall is expected. Weather models forecast rains of as much as 25mm for portions of central Guatemala, and northern Honduras, with possibly more in Costa Rica. There will be generally light amounts elsewhere. Models also indicate that a widespread cooler-than-average air mass will affect the region during the outlook period. Minimum temperatures may be more than 4°C below average in some areas.

