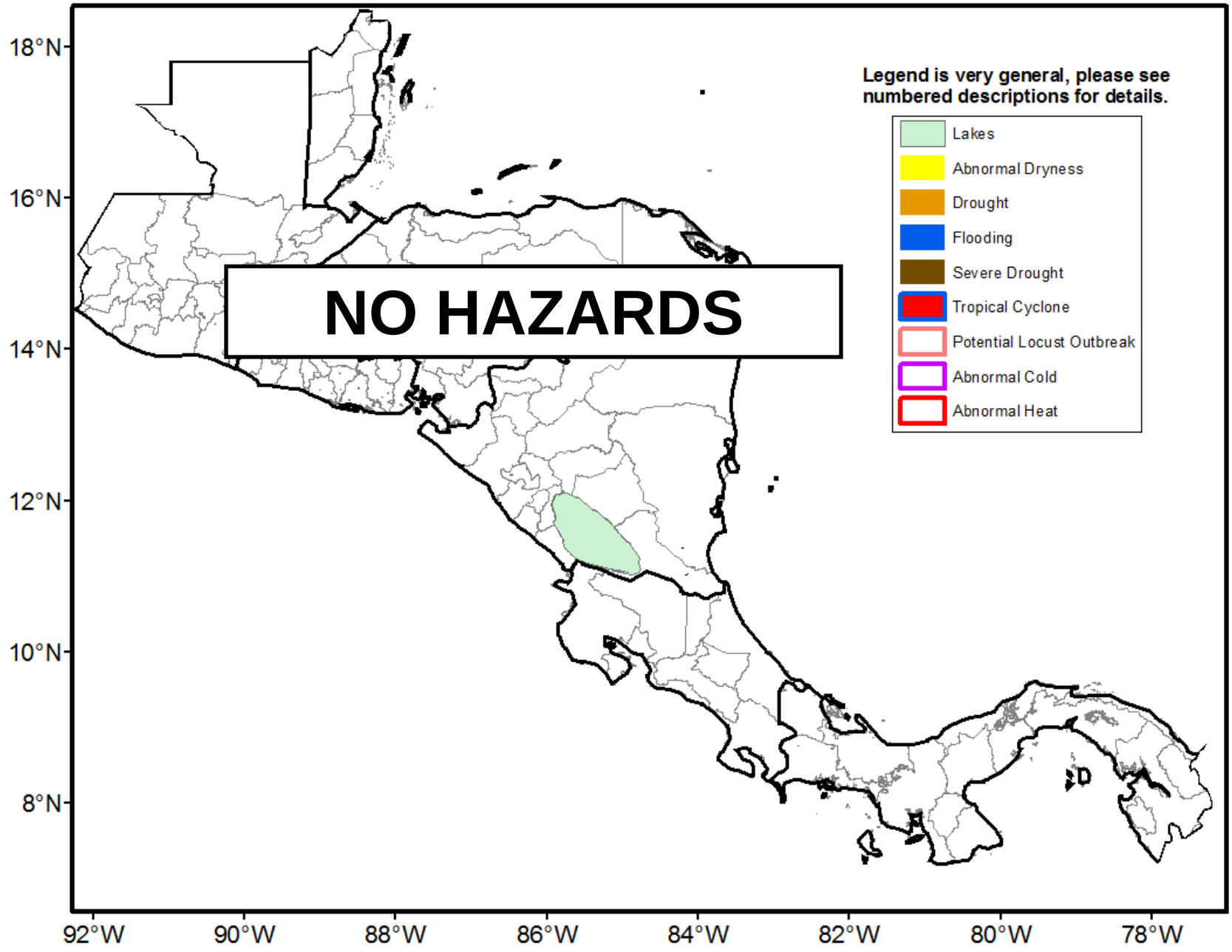
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
February 22 – 28, 2017

Dry but seasonable conditions observed and expected to continue in Central America during the next week



Drier weather is again expected over Central America during the next week.

From February 12-18, Central America was once again under drier but seasonable conditions, with mostly suppressed rain, according to the CMORPH satellite rainfall estimates. However, some areas along the Atlantic coasts such as northern Honduras received more enhanced and moderate rain, based on reports from the Global Telecommunication Systems. From mid-January to date, positive rainfall anomalies persisted over northern Guatemala, Belize, northern Honduras, and the eastern portions of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, while neutral anomalies prevailed across the remainders of Central America. The observed little to no rainfall amounts over most areas of Central America on a week to week basis are typical of the season during this time of year, though the accompanying dry soils, high daytime temperatures, and potentially strong winds could also provide environments that are conducive to forest fires. Meanwhile, vegetation conditions were near to above-average throughout most areas of Central America, according to the most recent indices. The continuation of seasonable weather conditions should, in general, help to sustain adequate ground conditions and aid winter season cropping activities over many local areas.

During the next week, model rainfall forecasts call for the continuation of drier weather conditions over Central America. Suppressed rain is expected to continue throughout much of the inland of the region. However, the Atlantic littorals of the sub-region could receive enhanced, locally moderate rain due to strong easterly flow. For temperature, although mean surface temperatures are forecast to range near to slightly below-average, minimum temperature is still expected to remain above freezing over the elevated terrains.

Week 1 Rainfall Total Forecast and CMORPH climatology (mm)
February 21 – 28, 2017

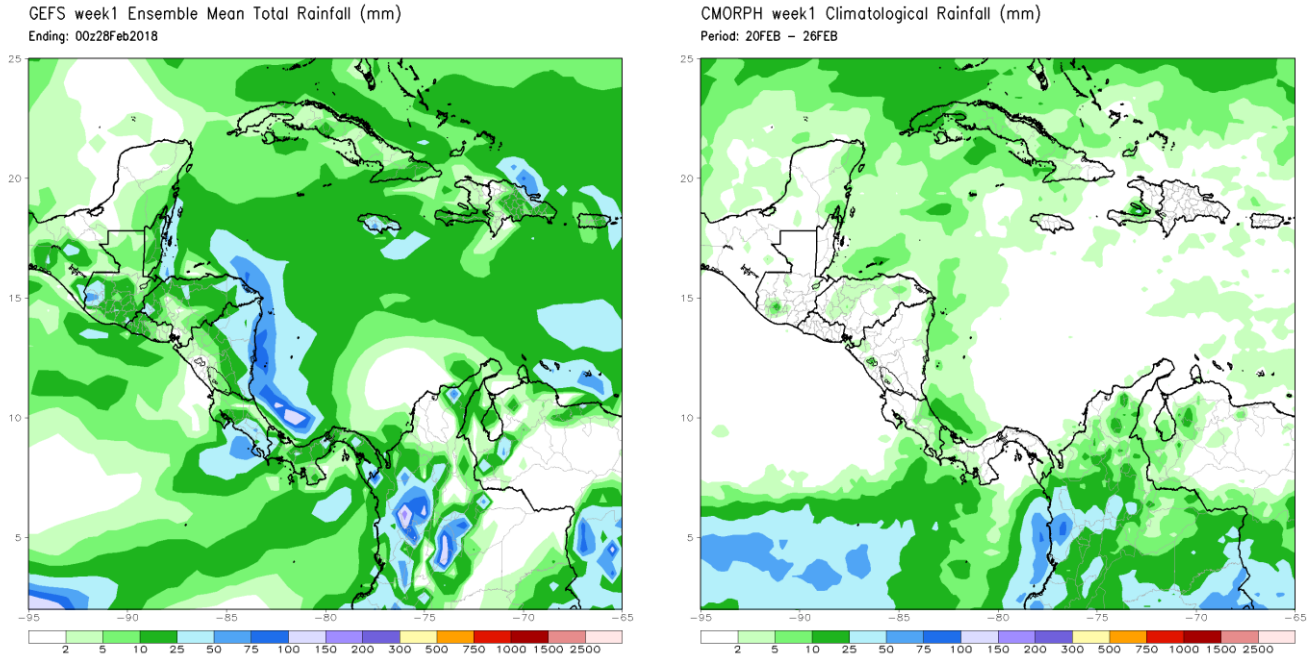


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.