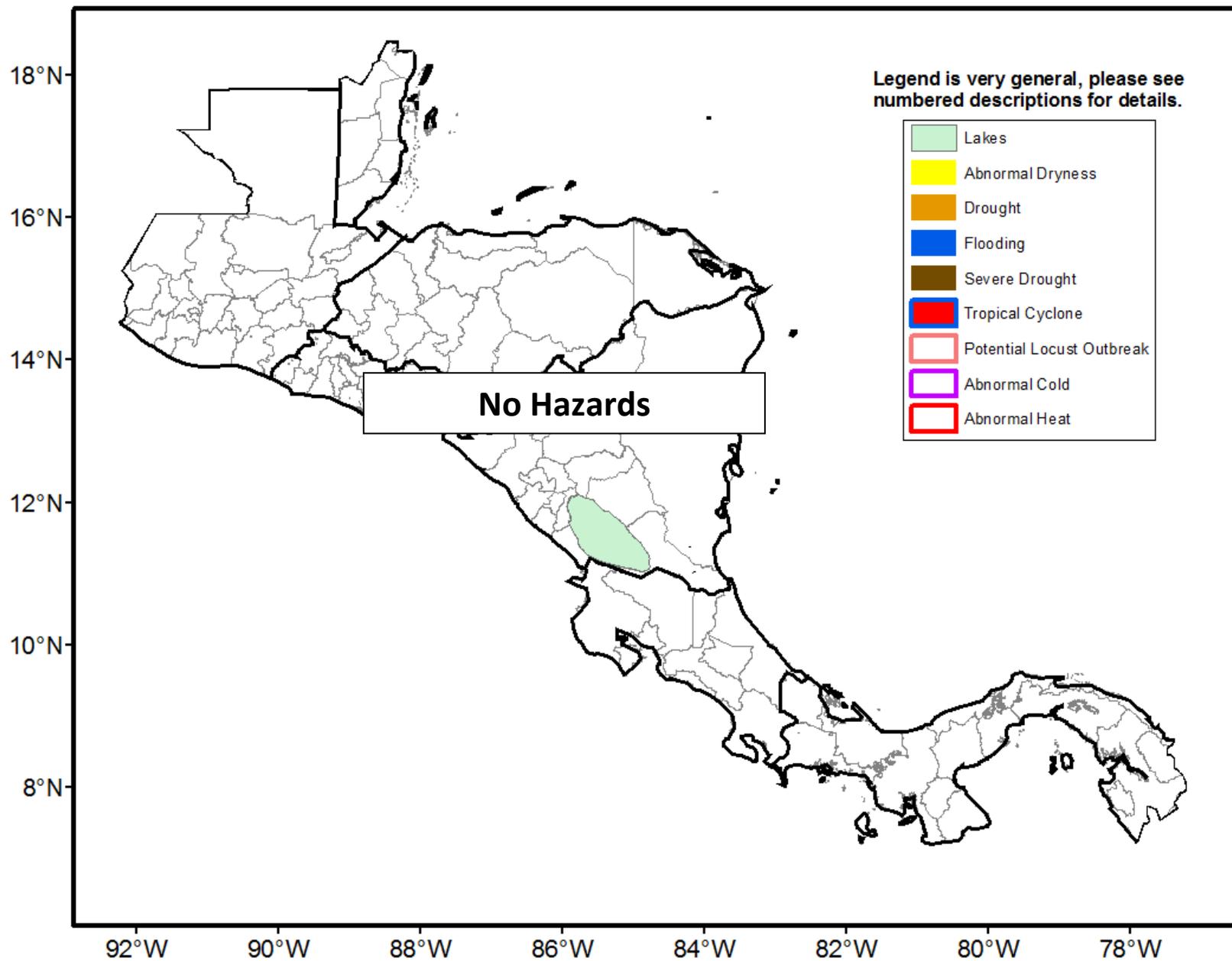




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 4 – 10, 2019

The Central America countries remained dry during the final week of March.



A potential increase in rainfall is forecast for parts of Guatemala and Honduras.

Over the past week, A few scattered areas of light rain accumulations (<10mm) were observed by satellites, including in northern Honduras, southern Guatemala, and western Nicaragua. Gauges along the northern coast of Honduras measured higher rainfall totals ranging from 13mm to 65mm. A gauge also measured moderate rain along the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Rains across Guatemala are running a little below normal during March with above normal temperatures being reported. Since the start of 2019, seasonal Apante related moisture deficits remain evident in Caribbean facing parts of the region, as well as Costa Rica and Panama. Recently failed rainy seasons and long-term absence of sufficient moisture is already increasing the number of forest/brush fires across northern Guatemala and Honduras and is expected to be unfavorable for the development of crops and. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the poor rainfall performance with deteriorated ground conditions concentrated over parts of Guatemala, Central Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua, and localized parts of Costa Rica. While the calendar turns to April, the abnormal dryness hazard is removed as we focus on impacts to the upcoming Primera rainfall season.

During the outlook period, the GFS model suggests that rains will increase in southern Guatemala and western Honduras. In fact, localized totals may reach 50mm – well above normal. Rains may also become more widespread across Honduras and El Salvador in accordance with normal seasonal behavior. Increased rainfall amounts are likely for Costa Rica and Panama for early April, possibly exceeding 75mm.

