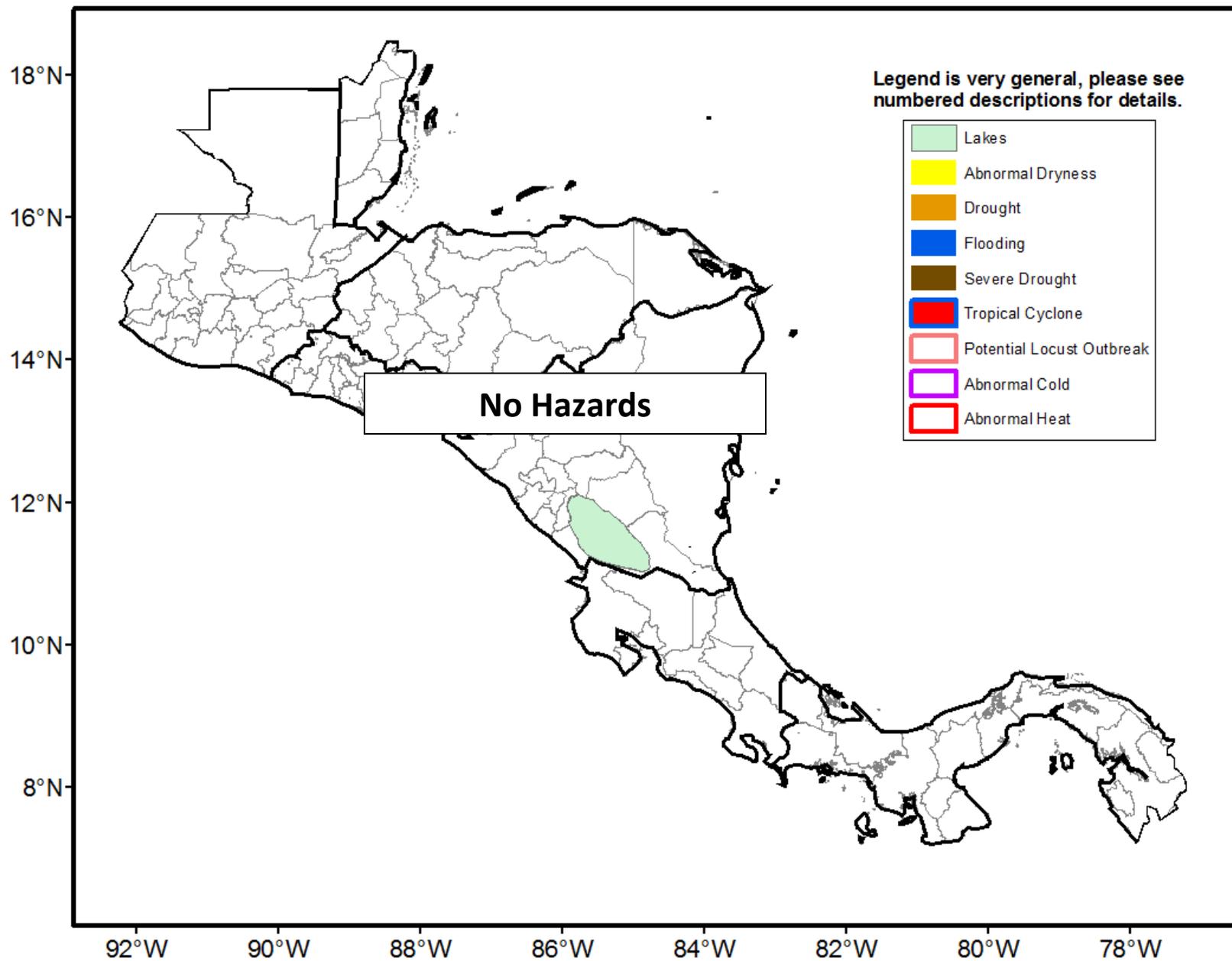




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 18 – 24, 2019

The onset of rains continued to expand across the region.



Widespread rainfall is likely signaling the onset of the Primera rainfall season.

During the past week, the onset of Primera season rains continued to expand across Central America. Rainfall was widespread over Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and even Nicaragua received some light rainfall. The heaviest 7-day totals, according to satellite rainfall estimates, exceeded 50mm and even 75mm in Petén, Guatemala and Belize. Most of the rest of Guatemala and Honduras received 10-50mm of rainfall. Moderate rainfall (>25mm) was observed in Costa Rica and western Panama. Rains across Guatemala are generally running below normal since early March, but with quickly improving moisture conditions after recent increases in rains. Lesser deficits are evident in Honduras and El Salvador. Since early 2019, seasonal Apante-related moisture deficits remain evident in Caribbean facing parts of the region, as well as in Costa Rica and Panama. Recently failed rainy seasons and long-term absence of sufficient moisture increased the number of forest/brush fires across Honduras and northern Guatemala. The onset of rains over recent weeks is favorable for fire weather and for early Primera season cropping activities during April. Analysis of remotely sensed vegetation health indices reflects the poor rainfall performance with unfavorable ground conditions still concentrated over parts of Guatemala, central Honduras, and eastern Nicaragua.

During the outlook period, the GFS model suggests that rains will continue to be widespread in coverage. Light to moderate (10-50mm) rainfall is forecast throughout Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. Light rain showers are also expected in Nicaragua. An increase in rainfall is likely for Costa Rica and Panama, possibly exceeding 50mm.

