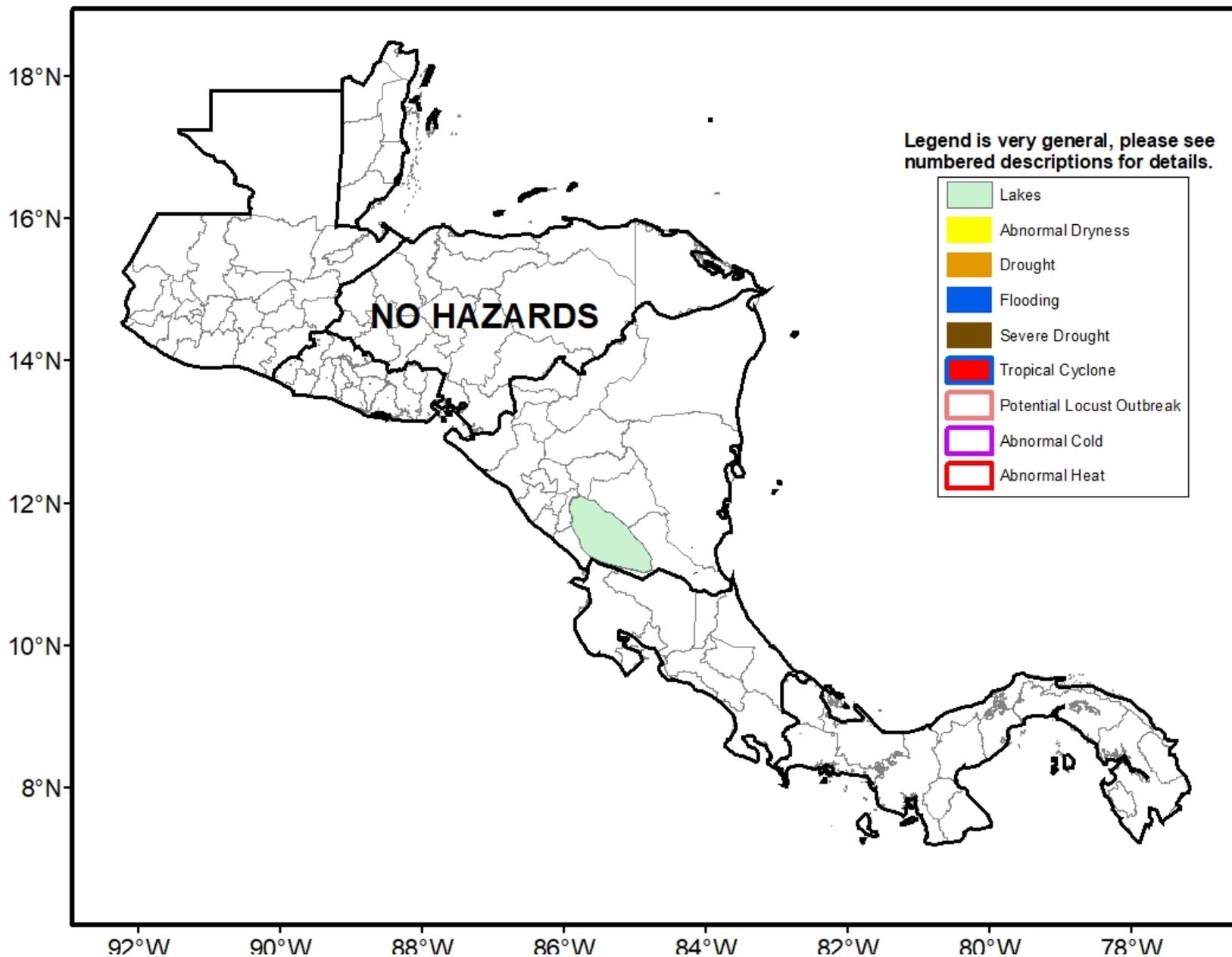




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook May 7 – 13, 2020

- The onset to the May-August rainfall season is expected over Central America.



**The forecast widespread enhanced rain may indicate the onset of the May-August rainfall season over Central America.**

During late April to early May, moderate to heavy rains were observed over northern and southwestern Guatemala, southern Belize, southwestern Honduras, and El Salvador. Meanwhile, suppressed rainfall was recorded over much of Honduras, Nicaragua, and parts of the southern Caribbean. Over the past thirty days, rainfall was below-average over pockets of Central America, including central Guatemala, western Honduras, parts of El Salvador and the Gulf of Fonseca, and southern Caribbean. Moisture deficits ranged mostly between 25-50 mm over these dry areas. In contrast, favorable rainfall distributions resulted in rainfall surpluses over local areas of northern and southwestern Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, and portions of El Salvador. As a result, vegetation conditions remained mostly average to above-average across much of Central America, except the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico and central Honduras, where unfavorable conditions were observed, according to the latest Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomaly. Ground conditions are expected to improve over many areas as the onset of the May-August rainfall should typically occur during this time of the year.

During the outlook period, widespread moderate to heavy rains are forecast over Central America, which may indicate the onset to the May-August rainfall season. Heavy downpours are expected over western and central Guatemala, southwestern Honduras, the Atlantic coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. Meanwhile widespread light to moderate rains are forecast elsewhere. The forecast enhanced rains should help reduce or eliminate short-term rainfall deficits and benefit cropping activities over many local areas.

