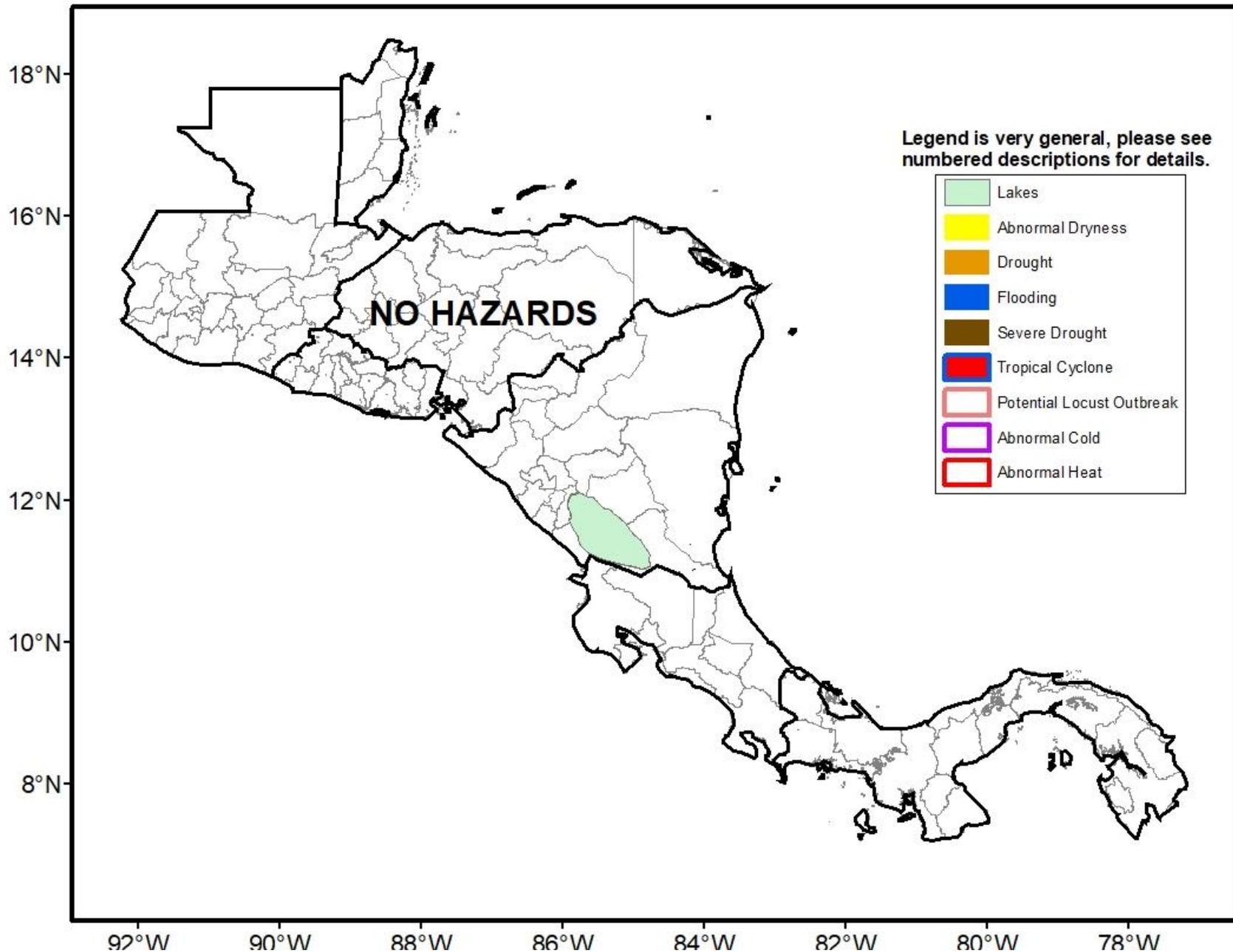




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook July 23 – July 29, 2020

- Drying conditions in northern Guatemala and Belize are being monitored.



Mixed rainfall performance was observed across Central America

The past week brought uneven rainfall performance across Central America. Some areas, including southern Guatemala, eastern Nicaragua, and northeastern Costa Rica observed more than 100mm according to satellite estimates. Totals in these few areas resulted in 7-day rainfall surpluses. On the other hand, central and northern Honduras, northern Belize, and northern Guatemala received light rainfall amounts (<25mm). The result was weekly deficits of 10-50mm in these areas. Larger deficits were observed in eastern Nicaragua. After a sufficient or wetter-than-normal Apante season, many regions began to develop moisture deficits during the final weeks of June. That trend paused during the first week of July, but is back over the last two weeks. Areas of significantly negative 30-day anomalies greater than 100mm are visible in northern and central Guatemala as well as in El Salvador. Most regions of Central America exhibit near or above-average rainfall performance over the last 90 days. Drought monitors and vegetation health indices still suggest that ground conditions are largely good in the region. Local areas of Belize and northern Guatemala are the exception showing poor values in both the VHI and the WRSI.

During the outlook period, model guidance shows that heavy rains (>100mm) are likely in southwest Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. Elsewhere, near or below-average rainfall is likely. In addition to the heavier rainfall, pyroclastic activity of the Fuego and Pacaya volcanos exacerbates the flood and landslide risk. Rainfall less than 25mm is possible in portions of Honduras and Nicaragua. No tropical cyclone development will threaten the area this week.

