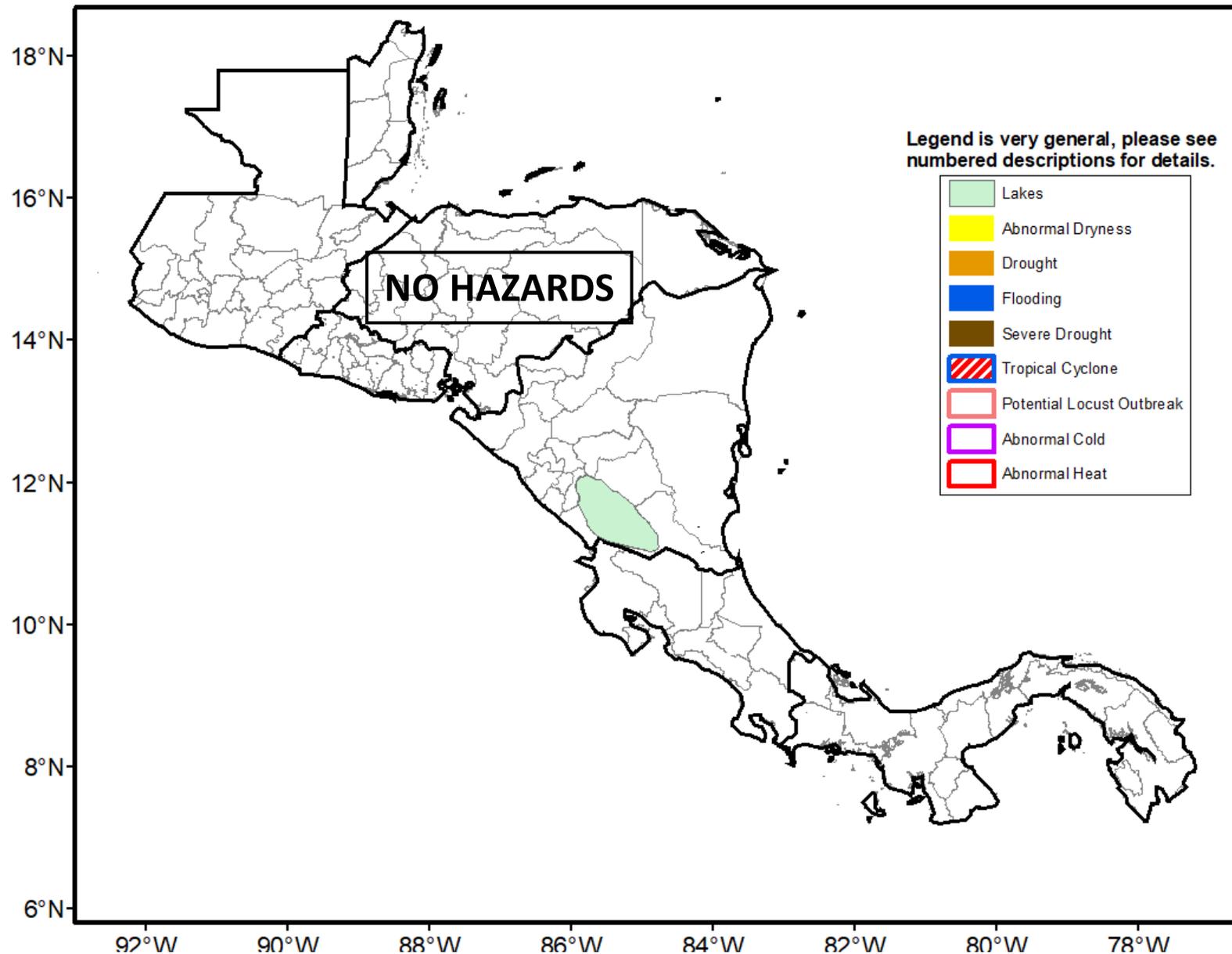




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 18 – 24, 2021

Near-average mean temperatures expected; but strong winds may exacerbate forest fires over many areas



## A possible increase in rainfall forecast along the Gulf of Honduras and Atlantic coastlines

During the past week, a seasonally-dry weather pattern was observed over Central America. Suppressed and limited rains dominated over the region, except for parts of northern Honduras and the southern Caribbean, where light to locally moderate rains were measured. During the past thirty days, rainfall was mostly near-average. However, below-average rainfall was present over a few areas, including northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, and northeastern Nicaragua. Since December of the past year, near to below-average rainfall was registered over the region, in particular Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, many *hot spots* indicating fire location were detected over Central America during the first half of February, according to data sets. In addition, the *Pacaya* and *Fuego* Volcanoes in southern Guatemala have been active recently, affecting residents and crops with ashes over many departments downstream of the eruptions. Also, while minimum temperature was below-average during nighttime and early morning, maximum temperature was above-average during daytime, according to reports.

For next week, model forecasts indicate an increase in moisture with moderate rains along the Gulf of Honduras and Atlantic coastlines of Central America. If the forecasts verify, short-term rainfall deficits may decrease over some areas. For temperatures, near to below-average minimum temperature is expected over northern Central America, while above-normal maximum temperature is forecast to dominate over the region. Meanwhile, strong winds are expected to persist, potentially exacerbating forest fires over many local areas.

