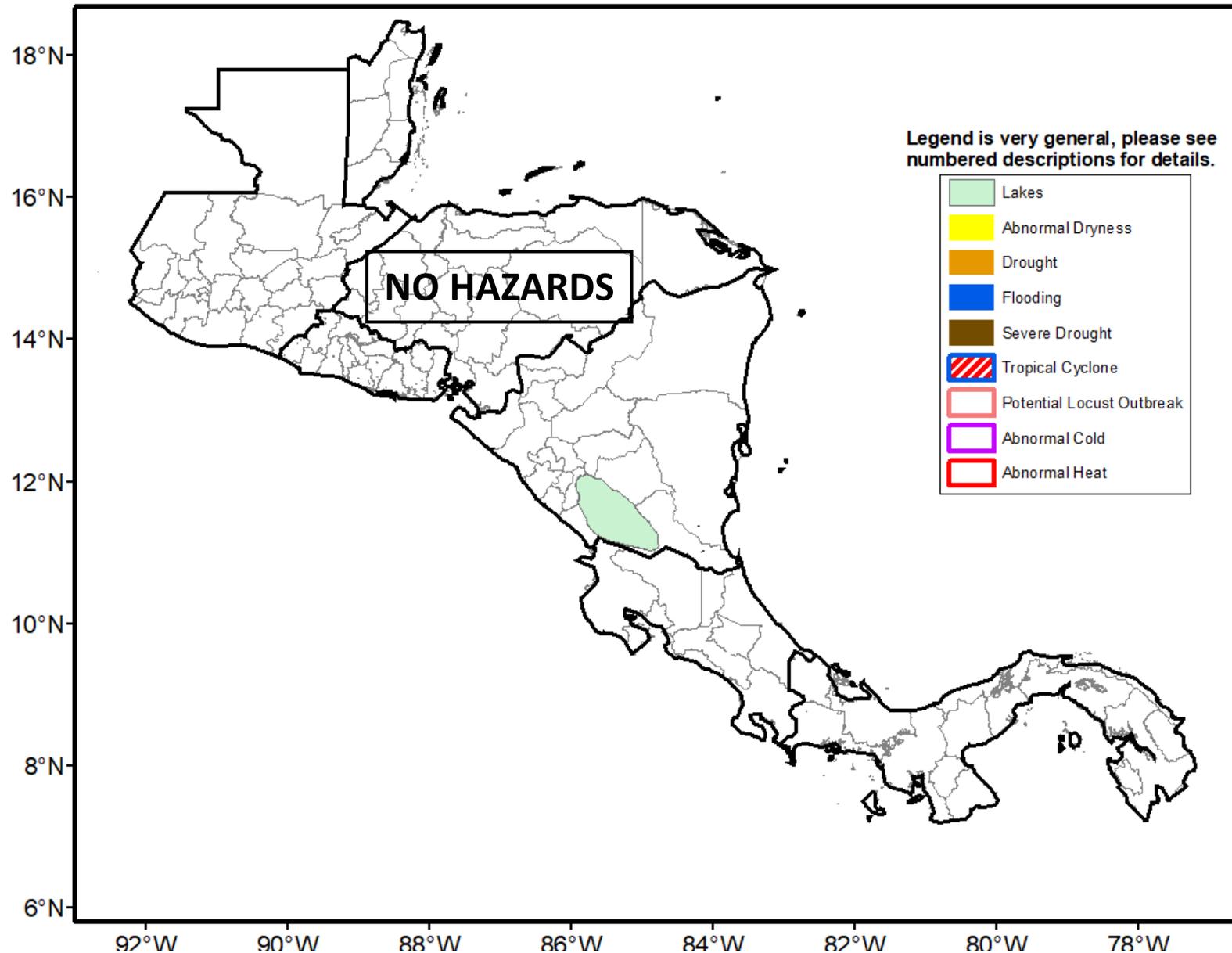




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook February 25 – March 3, 2021

Near-average rainfall and mean temperatures but with stronger winds forecast during the next week



Increased rains expected along the Caribbean coastlines

From February 16 – 22, widespread light to locally moderate rains fell along the Gulf of Honduras, northern Honduras, and the southern Caribbean, while little to no rainfall was observed elsewhere. Compared with the long-term average, this past week's rainfall accumulation was mostly near to above-average over the region. Yet, over the past thirty days, below-average rainfall was registered over northern Guatemala, eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, and eastern Costa Rica. The evolution of rainfall will be closely monitored over these above-mentioned areas for potential abnormal dryness development during the upcoming weeks. Meanwhile, seasonally-dry, warmer, and windy conditions have sustained environments, favorable to forest fires and farther propagation of volcanic ash plumes from the Pacaya and Fuego eruptions in southern Guatemala to nearby crops, based on reports.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts indicate that seasonable rainfall pattern will likely continue over Central America. Reduced and limited rains are expected along the Pacific-facing regions and across the interior of the region. However, light to moderate rains are expected along the Atlantic-tier. For temperatures, near-average mean surface temperatures are expected through Central America. However, minimum temperature could still fall near or sub-freezing over elevated terrains. Also, stronger-than-average winds are forecast to continue, which may exacerbate forest fires over many local areas of the region.

