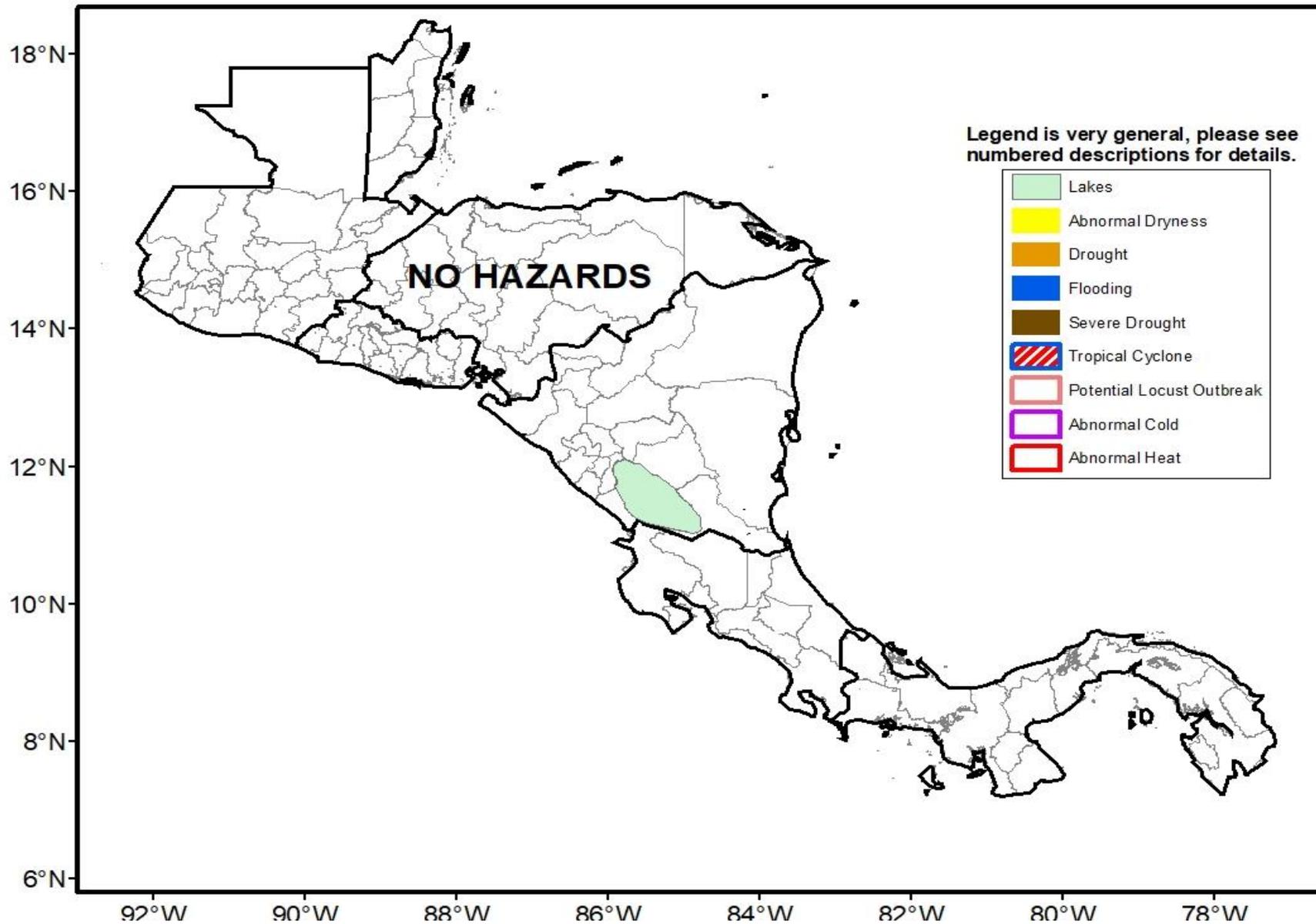




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 18 – March 24, 2021

Locally heavy rains occurred in northern Guatemala.



The focus for heavier rainfall shifts into the southern Caribbean next week.

During the past week, moderate to locally heavy rains were observed in northern Honduras. 7-day total rainfall exceeded 50mm according to CPC-Unified gauge analysis. Elsewhere, other Caribbean-facing regions from Belize and Guatemala to Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama received light rains less than 25mm. Rainfall amounts were near average for mid-march in most places, except where the heaviest rains fell in northern Honduras. Rainfall performance over the past 30 days shows a favorable distribution with rainfall more than 100mm above average over the northern coastal area of Honduras, and rainfall 10-50mm above average over northern Belize and northeastern Nicaragua. Panama has also been wetter than average. A slight moisture deficit is now observed in southeastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica. A continuation of seasonally dry, warmer, and windy conditions in western areas of the region could exacerbate conditions for forest fires during the coming outlook period. Vegetation health is generally moderate in the region according to NDVI analysis. Some negative NDVI anomaly is visible in Guatemala, as well as in Costa Rica and western Panama where rainfall has been uneven over the past few months.

For the coming outlook period, the favorable region for enhanced rains is forecast to shift south to eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The heaviest rainfall totals will likely exceed 50mm during the period. Slightly wetter than normal conditions are possible in western/northern Guatemala with 25-50mm forecast.

