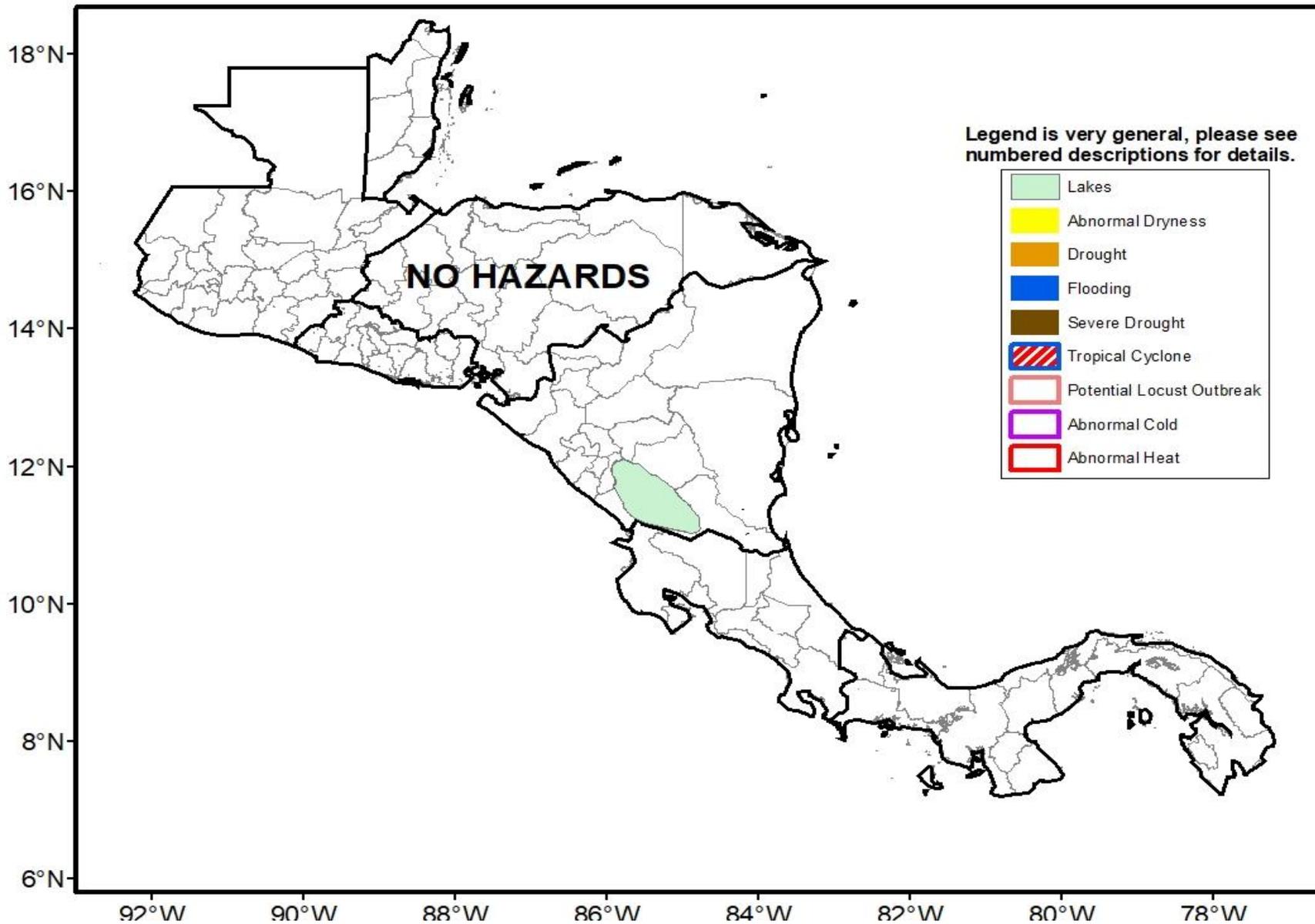




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 15 – April 21, 2021

Moisture conditions throughout the region continue to be favorable into mid-April.



The focus for heavier rainfall will be southern Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama next week.

Light rains continued to become more widespread throughout Central America this past week. 7-day rainfall totals of at least 10mm were prevalent according to satellite estimates. Some slightly larger amounts (more than 25mm) were observed in scattered parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. The heaviest rains were concentrated in the south where many parts of Costa Rica and Panama observed 50mm to more than 100mm of rainfall. A small portion of southwest Guatemala also received more than 50mm. In fact, hailstorms have even been reported. Rainfall amounts were slightly above average for early April in northern Honduras, many portions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. Surpluses exceeded 50mm in parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, some negative anomalies appeared in northern Guatemala. Rainfall performance over the past 30 days shows a favorable distribution with most areas registering positive anomalies for the period, especially in the south. The Petén department of Guatemala, is the exception, exhibiting 10-50mm negative anomalies. Vegetation health is generally moderate to good in the region according to NDVI analysis. Due to favorable soil moisture conditions, earlier than normal planting activities are likely taking place in Guatemala.

During the outlook period, enhanced rains are forecast to persist across southern portions of the region. More than 75-100mm of rainfall is likely according to the GFS model. Substantial rains are also favored in southern Guatemala and neighboring portions of Honduras where 50mm or more is likely. According to INSIVUMEH, there is flash flood potential in the urban areas of San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepéquez, Escuintla and Sacatepéquez departments. Meanwhile, lighter rains are forecast for northern Honduras, northern Guatemala, and Belize.

