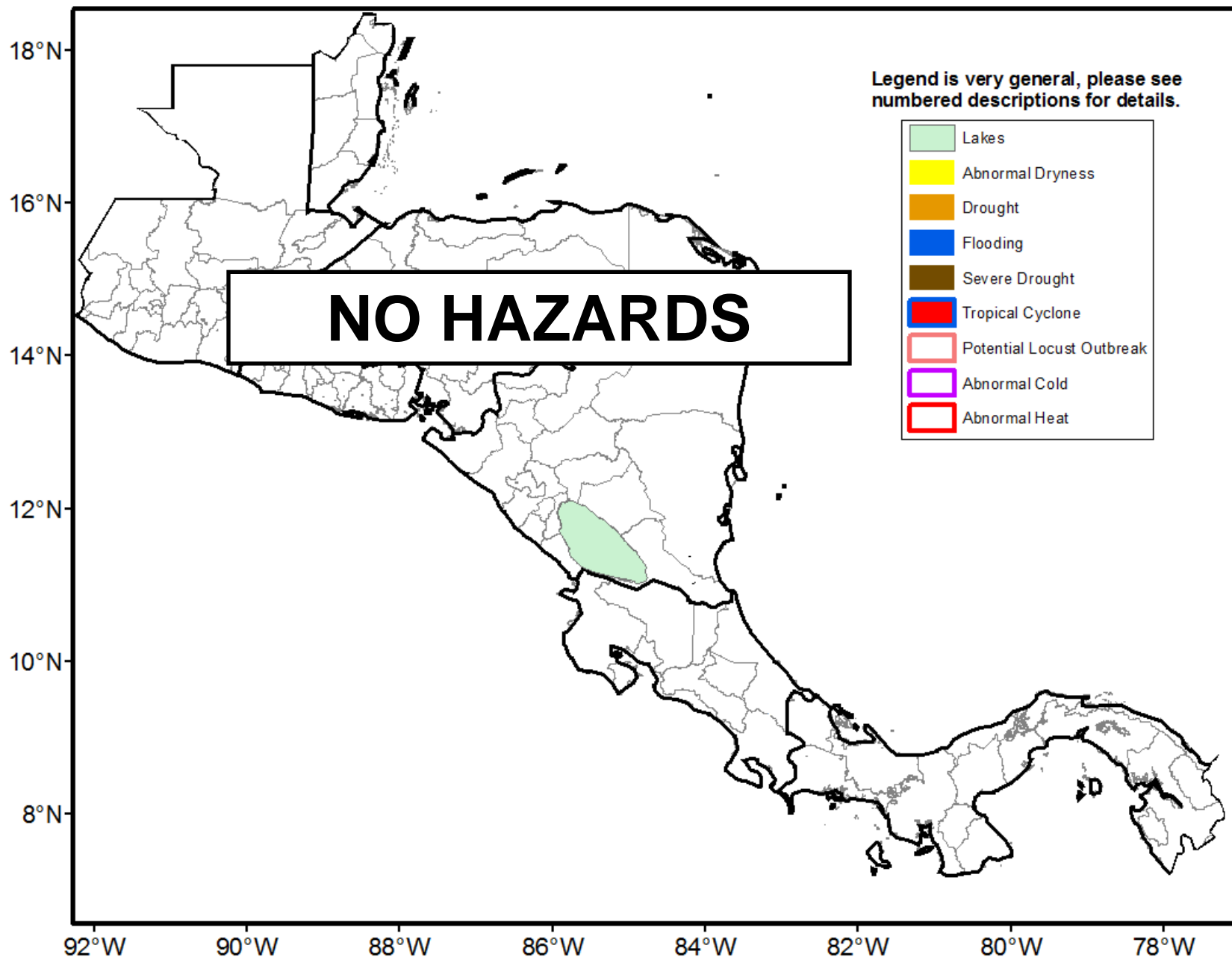




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook March 22 – 28, 2018

Increased rains received over northern Central America.



## Little to no rainfall activity experienced over Central America.

Following an above-average rainfall forecast last week over northern Central America, locally moderate rains were received across parts of northern Honduras and Belize, however, several other areas in Guatemala remained dry. Despite the lack of rainfall during mid-March, monthly moisture deficits remain minimal, as several departments continue to register near-normal conditions towards the end of the Apante season. Analysis of seasonal moisture anomalies since last December suggest the performance of the Apante season has been generally favorable, with many regions experiencing average to above-average rainfall conditions due to periods of enhanced rainfall during January and early February. Remotely sensed vegetation health indices also indicate satisfactory ground conditions, with little evidence of degradation despite the seasonably dry conditions during February and March. However, drier weather and low soil moisture conditions still maintains an elevated risk for forest fires over many local areas.

During the next week, an increase in rainfall is again forecast mainly across the Gulf of Honduras region with the potential for locally heavy rainfall accumulations (>50mm) over northern Guatemala and northern Honduras. Additionally, increased precipitation is also forecast for portions of eastern Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

