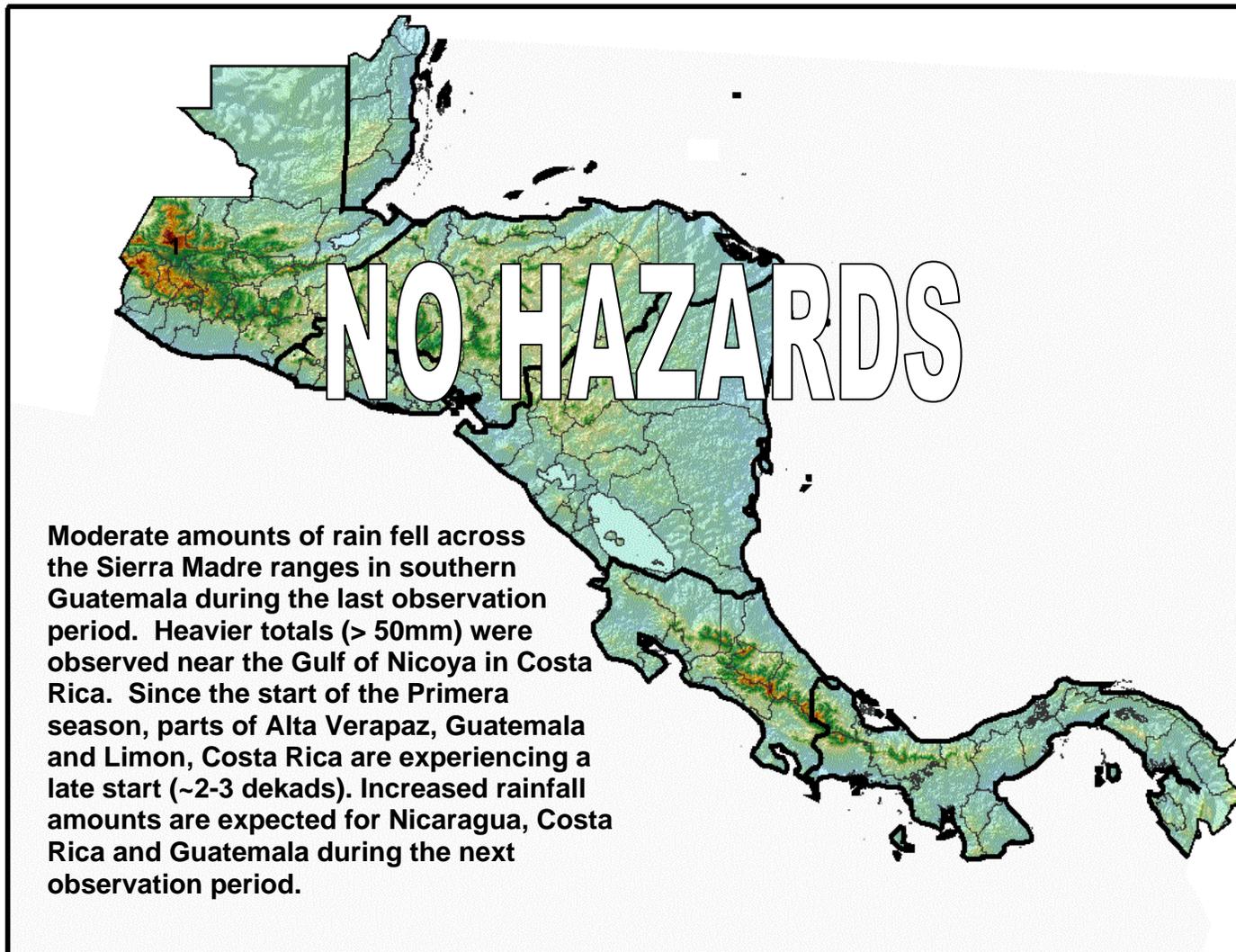


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 8 – May 14, 2008

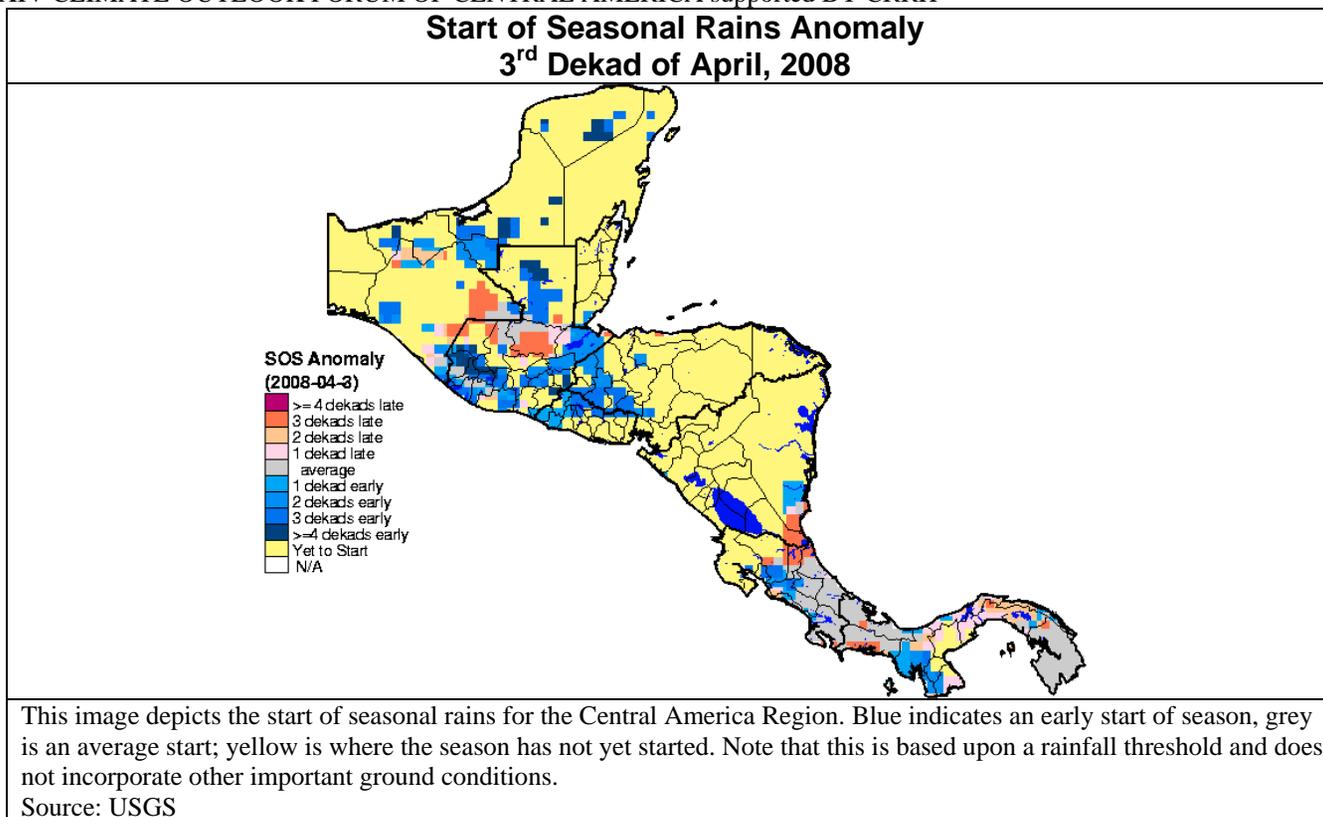


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

The distribution of precipitation over the last several weeks has not deviated much from the late April – early May rainfall climatology. In the last week, isolated rainfall amounts exceeding 50 mm were observed across the central highlands of Costa Rica and near the Gulf of Nicoya. Moderate amounts of rain were also observed across the mountainous regions of Guatemala, as well as fair amounts (20-25 mm) observed in parts of eastern Honduras and northern El Salvador. Currently, the Limon and Heredia provinces of Costa Rica are experiencing a significant reduction of coffee harvests after a below-normal Apante Season. Compounded by a late Primera rains onset, some local areas in these provinces may also face reductions in water availability. Given the current transition between the Apante and Primera season, the following is a briefing on the expected start of Primera rainfall for early season cropping activities.

Belize expects to have a normal start of season which normally begins during the first dekad of May. In Guatemala, the season is expected to begin approximately 10 to 15 days early due to the abundant rains experienced during the month of April. However, parts of the Alta Verapaz department in Guatemala are 2-3 dekads late for their seasonal rains. In Honduras, the seasonal rain onsets normally remain variable throughout most of the country. In the south and west the season is expected to begin in mid-May, the remaining areas are expected to begin throughout the month of June which is later than normal. El Salvador is expecting its season to begin between the 6th and 15th of May which ranges from 5 to 10 days early. Nicaragua may be having a late start to the season in the north during the first dekad of June. Elsewhere in the country the season is expected to be near normal. Nicaragua has had below normal rains for much of the Apante season, and the latest USGS analyses indicate a 2-3 dekad late start for areas near Rio San Juan. In Costa Rica, the season began early in the south (mid-February) and is expected to begin elsewhere by mid May. Finally, Panama may expect an above normal rainy season during the months of May and June.

Information provided by the XXIV CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM OF CENTRAL AMERICA supported BY CRRH



The evaluation of climatological threats of MFEWS include the participation of the central and local offices of MFEWS, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov