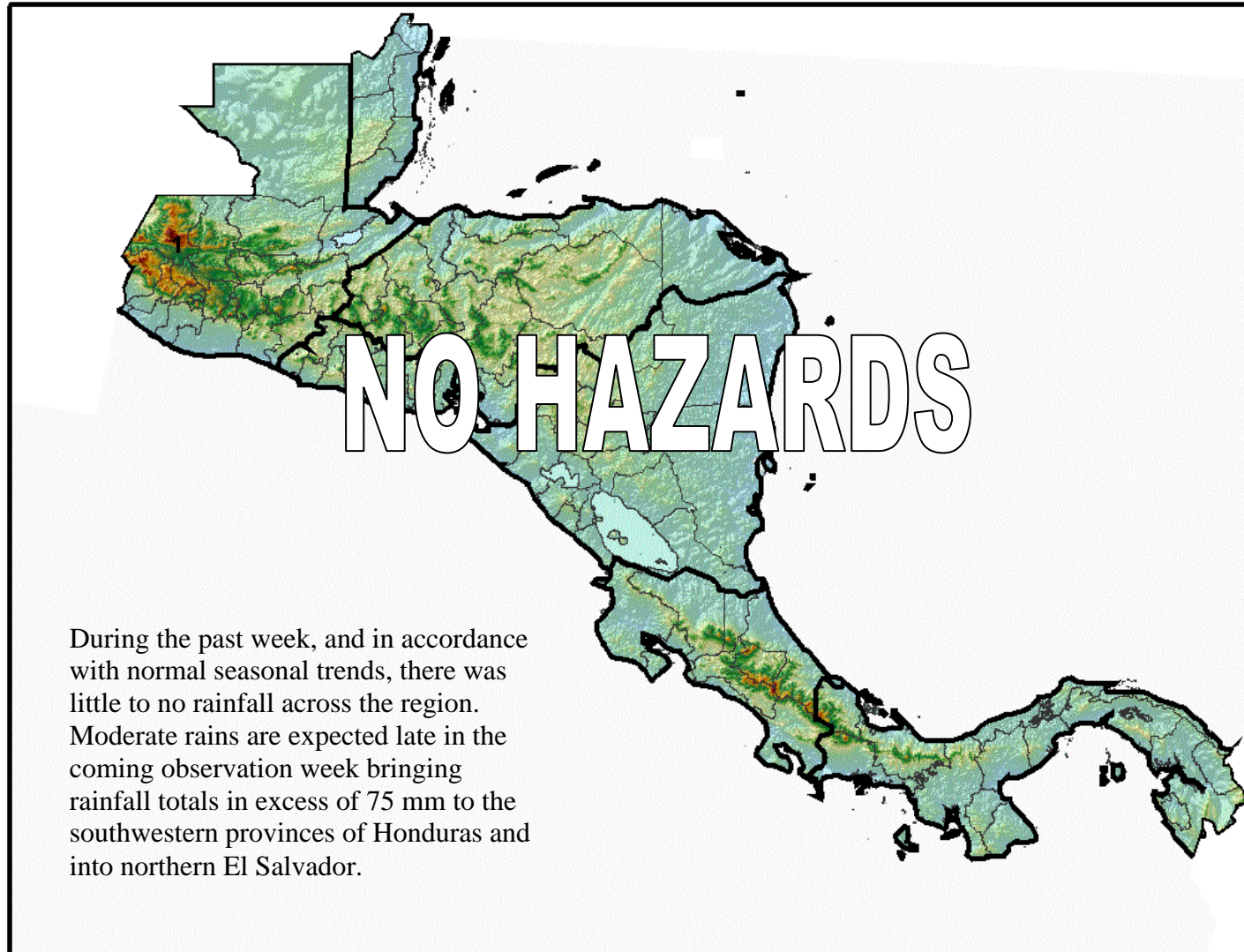


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

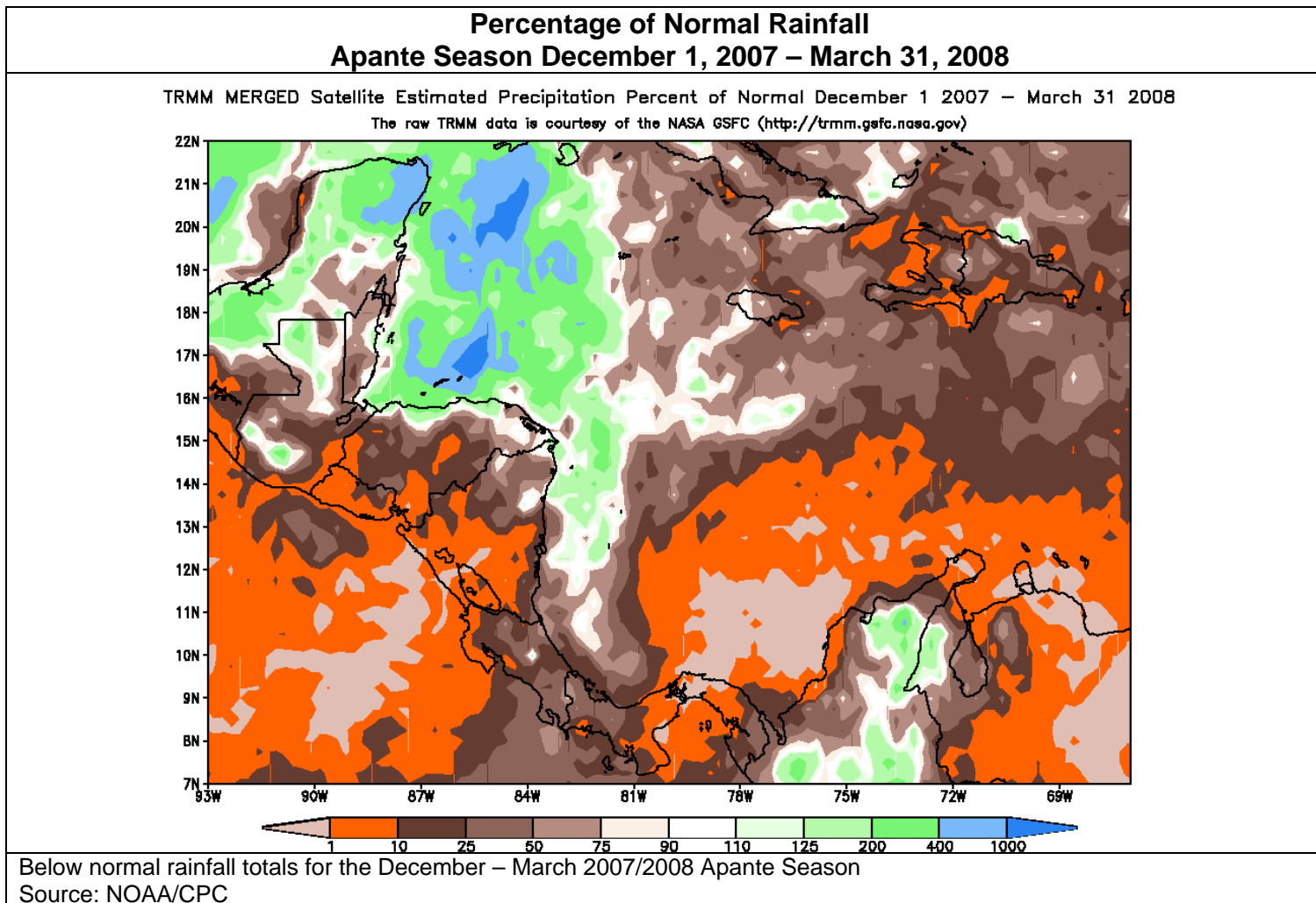
For

April 3 – April 9, 2008



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

At the conclusion of the 2007 postrera season the climate outlook forecast indicated a likelihood of heavier than normal precipitation for the December through March (apante) period in northern Guatemala, throughout Panama and along the Atlantic coast of the whole region. Most other areas were expected to experience normal precipitation patterns. During the apante season, heavier rainfall totals were observed in parts of northern Guatemala, coastal Honduras, and portions of Costa Rica and Panama. Elsewhere throughout the region, below-normal rainfall was observed. In Guatemala, there were reports of rainfall totals in excess of 150 percent of normal, this increase in rainfall coincided with the peak of La Nina in mid-February and is possibly connected to the phenomena. In the past, when monitoring La Nina's impacts on Central America the June – September period is monitored as an increase in rainfall would normally accompany the climatic event. Currently, however, in this scenario there appears to be no anomalous impact to the region as a result of La Nina. La Nina is expected to continue through spring and will gradually weaken. There is speculation to an early start of the rainy season.



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