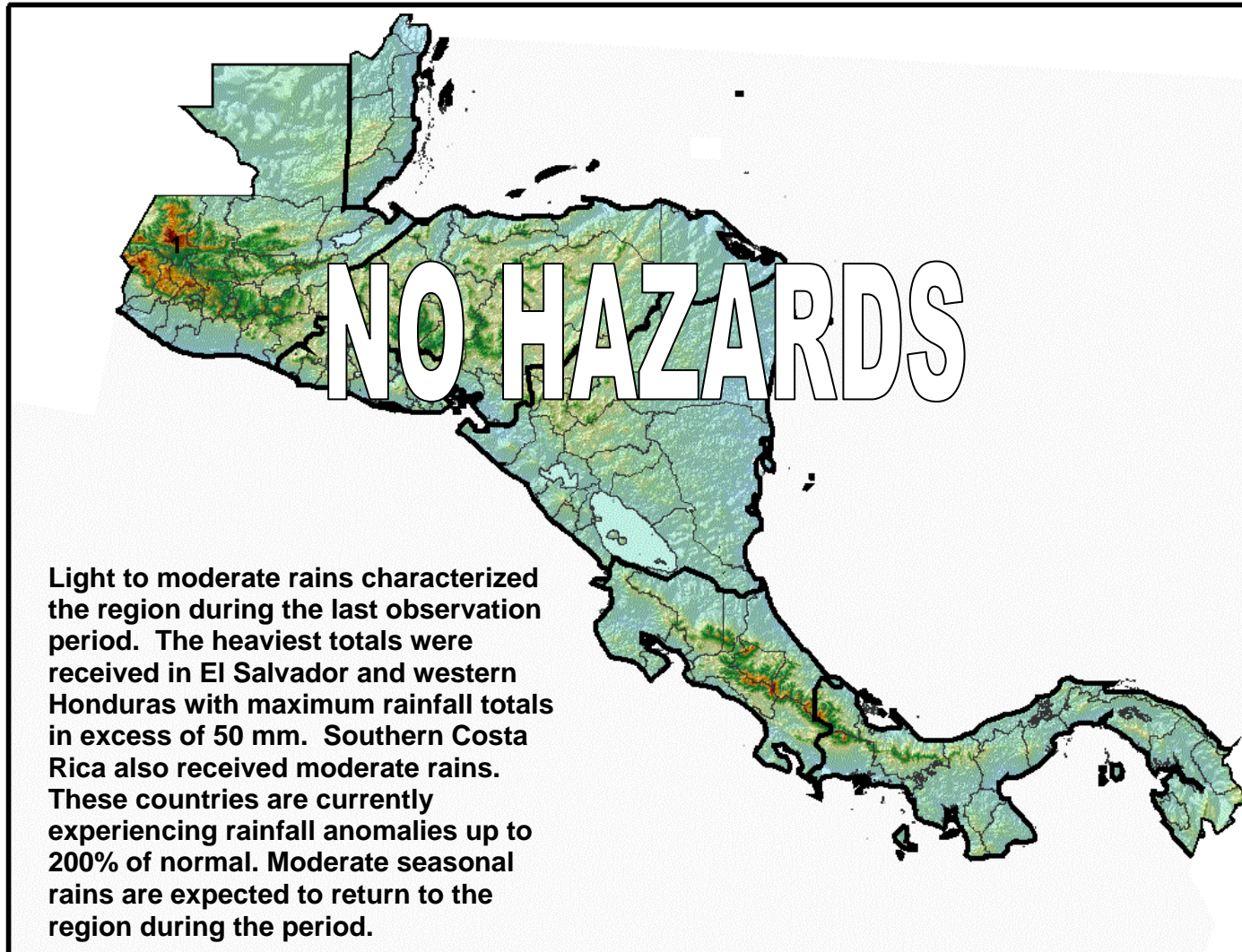


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 1 – May 7, 2008

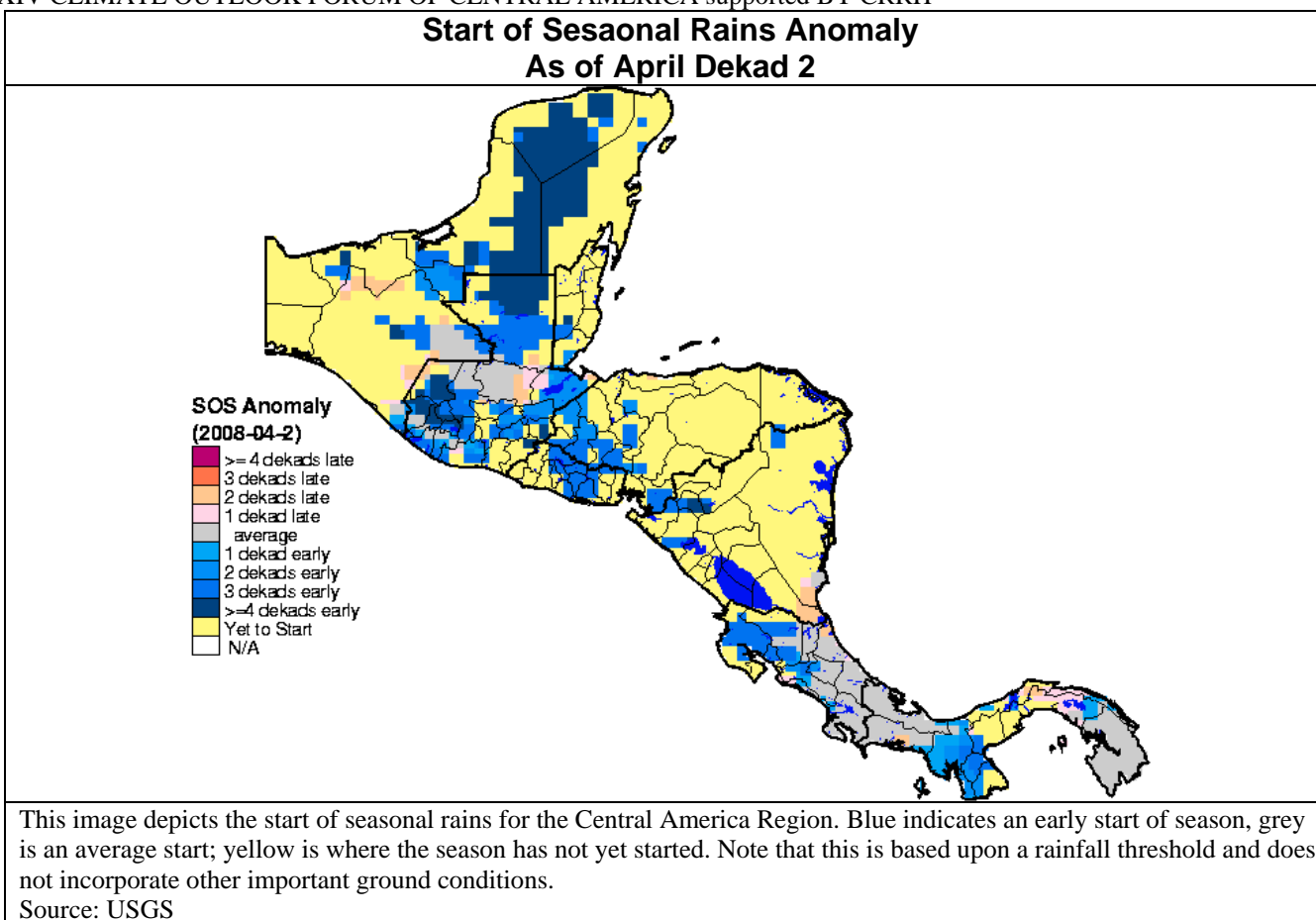


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Throughout the Central America region rains have been mildly variable for the month of April leading some countries to declare an early start of season and others to have a start of season in the near future. Despite the increase and variability in rainfall there are some areas that may experience a start of season a dekad or two later than normal. The following is a briefing on the expected start of season and some indication of what can be expected in the coming months as the Primera season begins in addition to the start of the main cropping period in Central America.

Belize expects to have a normal start of season which typically 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. Honduras has variability throughout the country regarding the onset of season. 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 for the month of April. In Costa Rica the season began early in the south (mid-February) and is expected to begin elsewhere between late April and May 5th which is also early. Finally, in Panama an above normal rainy season is expected during the months of May and June, then rains are to taper off and become near normal by July.

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