

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

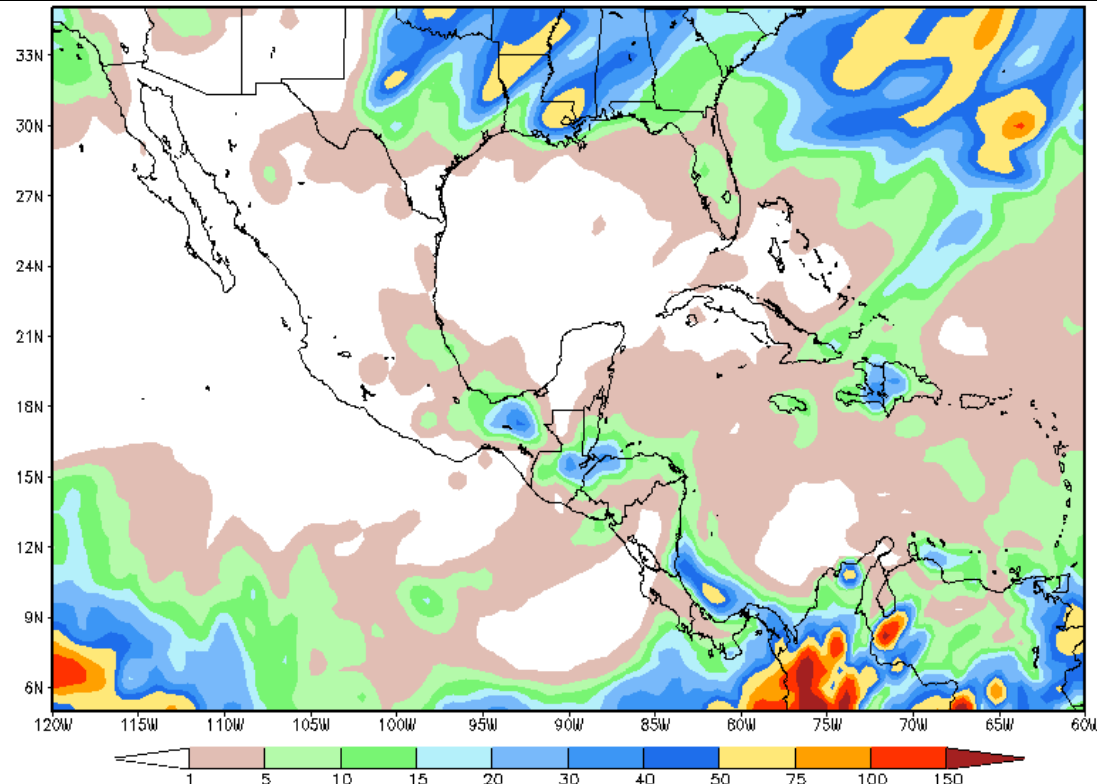
April 9 – 15, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

During the Central America's Apante season, precipitation and temperatures were below average across many local parts of Guatemala, Salvador and Honduras. Since December, rainfall deficits ranging between 100-200 mm were observed across many coastal areas facing the Pacific, with anomalously cold temperatures and possible crop freezes in the higher elevations of Guatemala due to increased number of cold front passages during the winter. Further south, observed temperatures were near normal; however precipitation totals were less than 50 percent below average across portions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama over the last 90 days. During the last observation period, locally minimal amounts of precipitation were observed across Central America, with higher totals (20- 60 mm) seen across parts of Costa Rica and Panama. In the next seven days, forecast models suggest an increase in moisture and more seasonally normal precipitation over Central America. This is expected to help alleviate ground conditions from a dry Apante season, and promote early season crop activities for parts of Guatemala near the mouth of the Gulf of Honduras, as well as the Atlantic sides of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

**GFS 7-Day Precipitation Forecast
Valid: April 6th – April 13th, 2009**



Source: NOAA

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