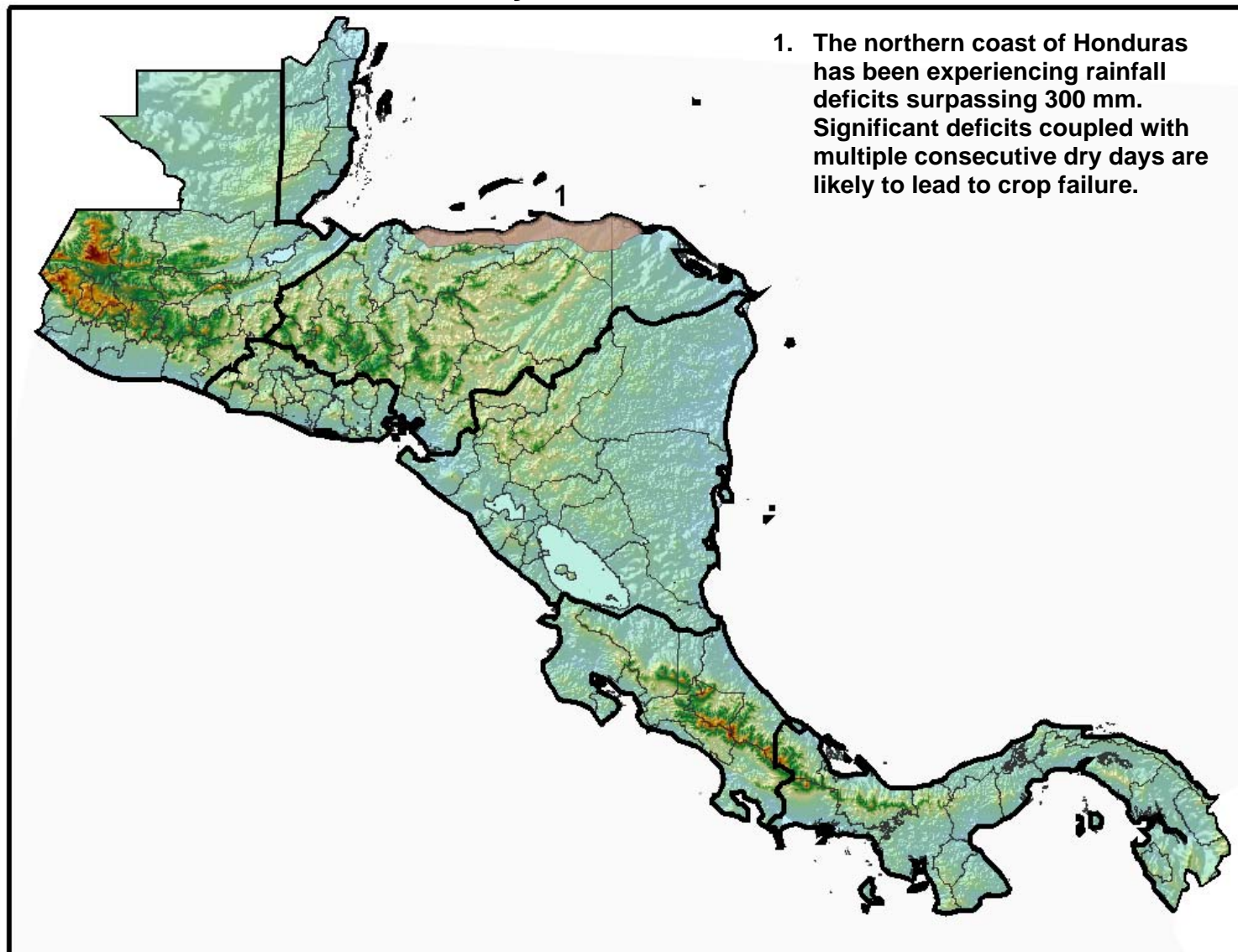


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

July 23 – 29, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

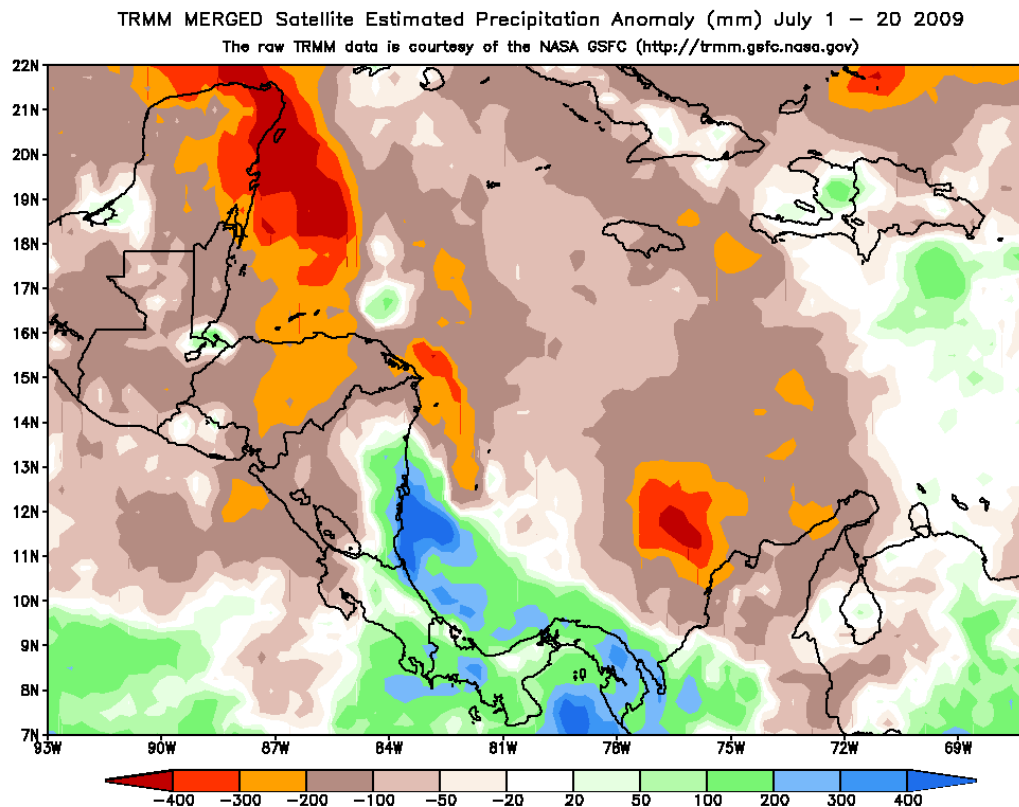
Low rainfall totals during the week of July 16 – 22, 2009 have worsened dry ground conditions. It is likely that the Central America region is experiencing “Canicula”. The Canicula is a dry period that usually takes place in mid-July or August during the rainy season. It lasts approximately three weeks. Poor seasonal rains, coupled with the Canicula have the potential to impact crops throughout Central America.

The climate outlook forum of Central America expects that northern Peten, parts of eastern Guatemala into northern El Salvador, the western two-thirds of Nicaragua, south into Costa Rica, and much of Panama will all be below normal for the Aug – October period.

El Niño: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have officially declared an El Niño. El Niño conditions will continue to develop and are expected to last through the Northern Hemisphere winter of 2009 – 2010. In a typical El Niño, drier and warmer conditions occur over much of Central America.

TRMM Rainfall Anomalies

Valid: July 1 – 20, 2009



Source: NOAA /FEWS NET

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