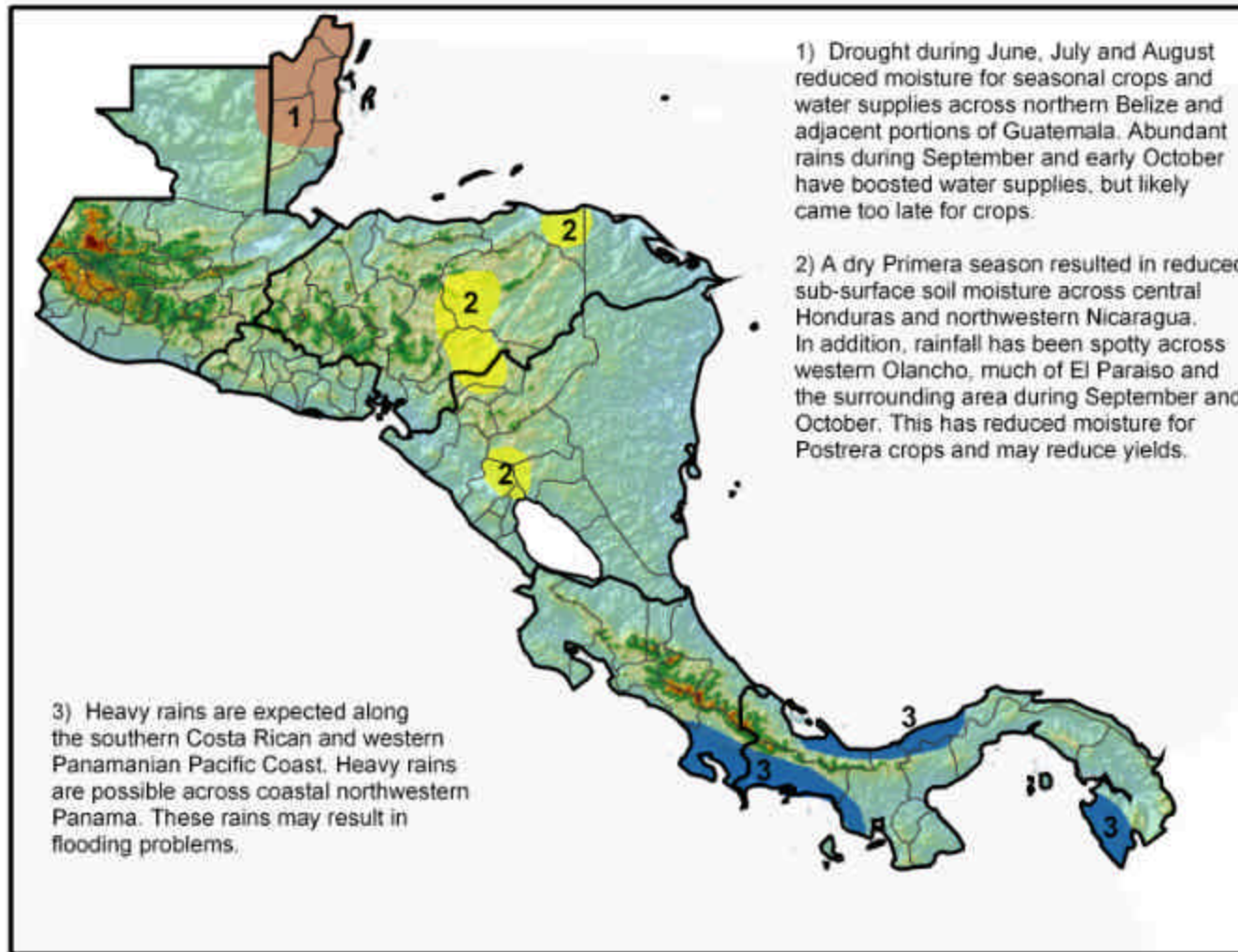


# The MFEWS

## Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For

October 21 - 27, 2004



## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. Drought prevailed across northern Belize during June, July and August. This resulted in large moisture deficits which reduced water supplies and moisture for seasonal crops. During September and early October, rain returned in earnest across the area, with above normal rainfall amounts observed. The September/October rains helped to recharge water supplies, but likely came too late for crops. As a result, significant crop yield reductions are possible in the area. Occasional showers are expected across northern Belize during the period.
2. Dry conditions during the Primera season resulted in reduced sub-surface soil moisture levels across much of central Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua and likely resulted in crop yield reductions during the Primera season. Rainfall has been spotty during September and early October across Olancho, El Paraiso in Honduras and the surrounding region which has also reduced moisture for Postrera crops. Scattered showers are expected across the region which may result in some improvement. Postrera crops typically mature during late October and early November with harvesting in November and December.
3. Moisture-laden onshore winds are expected to generate heavy rains along the Pacific Coast in southern Costa Rica and Panama. Heavy rains are possible over northwestern Panama as well with weekly rainfall totals of 100 to 200 mm possible. Therefore, flooding problems are possible especially in flood prone low-lying and urban areas.

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