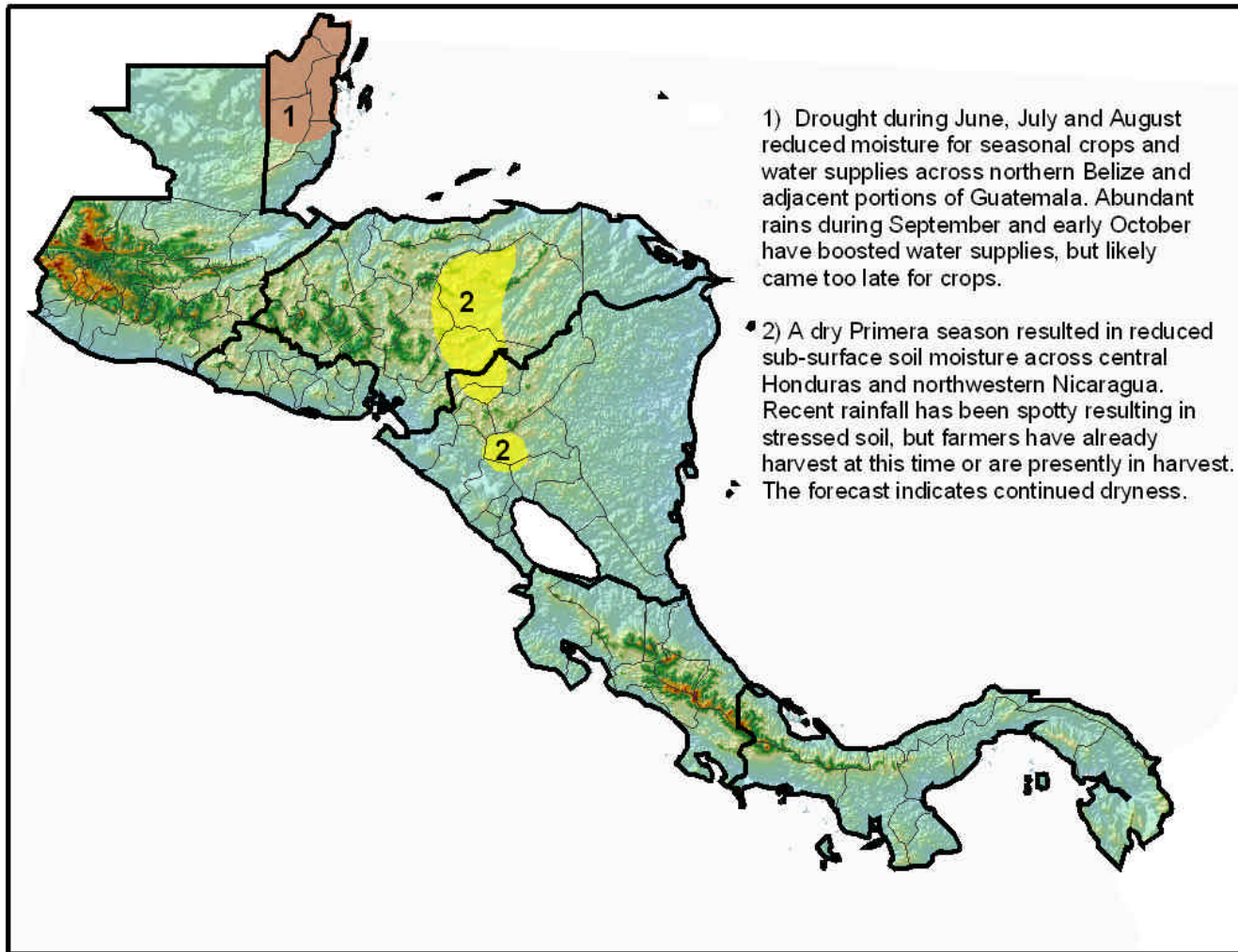


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For

November 18 - 24, 2004



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. The drought across northern Belize during June, July and August received some relief in September and early October with above normal rainfall amounts. While the September/October rains helped to recharge water supplies, they likely came too late for the crops. As a result, significant crop yield reductions are possible in the area. The past week has been dry and the forecast suggests potential rain along the southeastern coast.

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 light during September, early October, and all of November across western Olancho and El Paraiso in Honduras and the surrounding region which has also reduced moisture for Postrera crops. Farmers have either already harvest or are presently harvesting their crops. The stress on the soil may have led to reduction in yields. There are no signs of improvement as the past week has been dry and the forecast indicates little relief during the period.

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