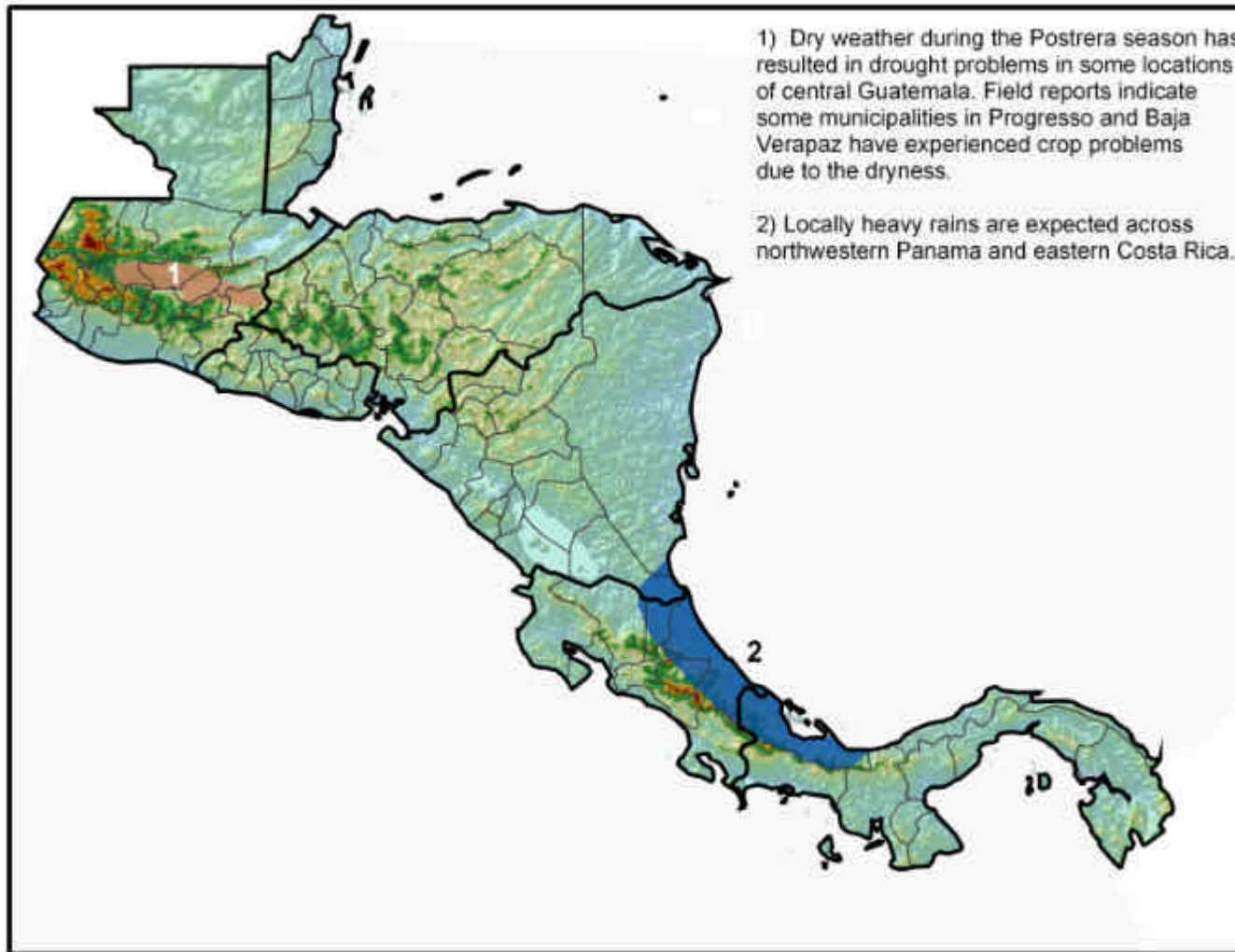


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For
December 16 - 22, 2004



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1) Rainfall has been lighter than normal and erratic in some areas of central Guatemala during the Postrera. Reports from the field indicate that some municipalities in Progreso and Baja Verapaz have reported crop problems due to the poor rains. Although there are no reported crop problems, dryness may extend westward into portions of southern Quiche. Although some scattered showers are may cause some localized field work delays across central Guatemala, mostly dry conditions during the period should favor regional harvesting activities.

2) Moist winds from the Caribbean are expected to produce more locally heavy rains across Limon province in Costa Rica, Bocas Del Toro province in Panama and the surrounding area. Last week, 169 mm of rain was reported at the city of Limon in Costa Rica, with reports of flooding in Bocas Del Toro. Last week's heavy rain, combined with additional heavy rains this week, will result in the potential for flooding and landslides.

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