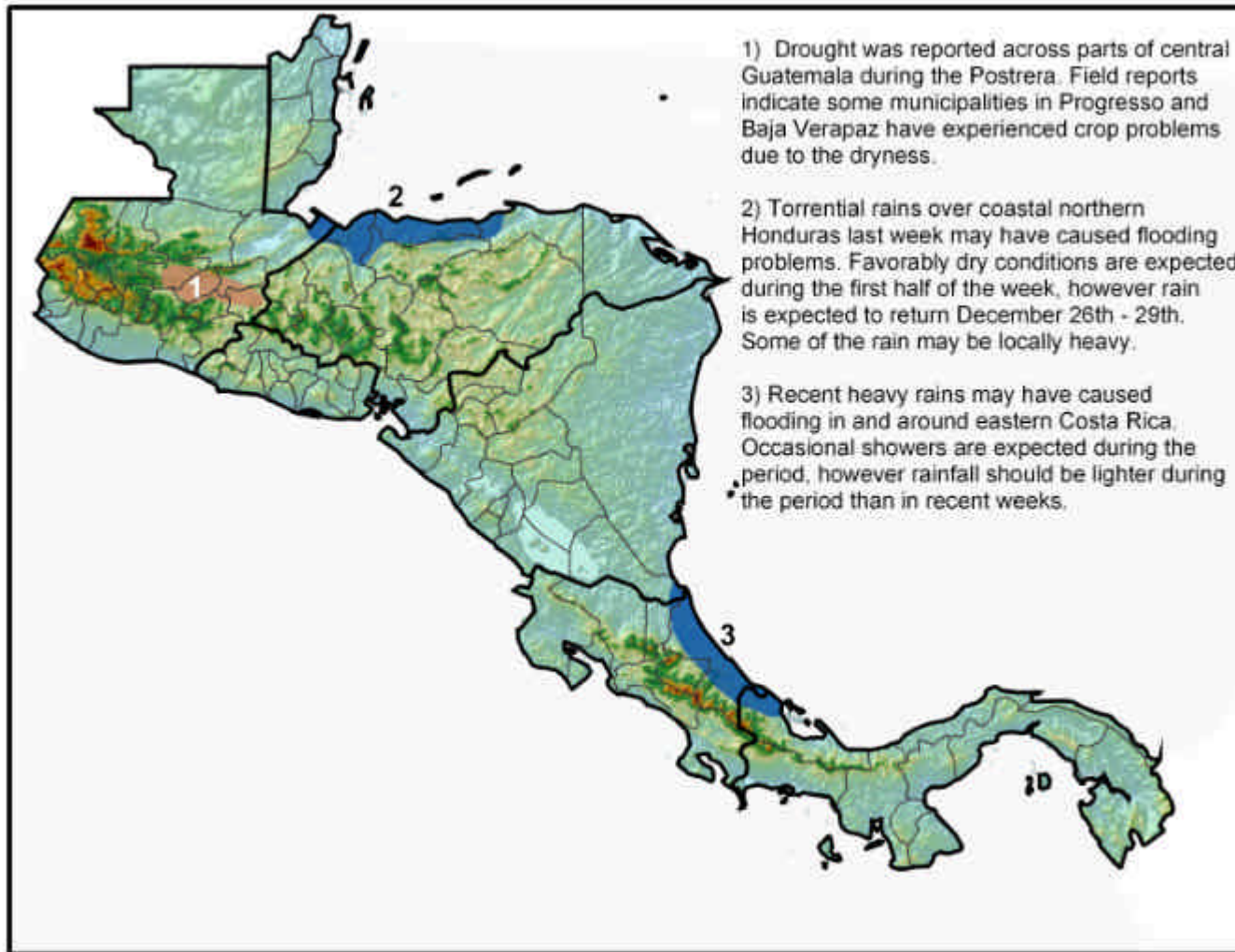


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For
December 23 - 29, 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 crop problems due to the poor rains. Although some scattered showers may cause some localized field work delays across central Guatemala towards the end of the period, mostly dry conditions should favor regional harvesting activities.
- 2) Torrential rains were reported across portions of northern coastal Honduras last week, with up to 242 mm of rainfall reported across Atlantida. These rains likely resulted in some localized flooding problems in and around Atlantida. Dry weather is expected during the first half of the period. However, a frontal system is expected to produce additional rainfall late in the period. Therefore, the potential exists for locally heavy rains and local flooding in and around Atlantida and northern Cortes from December 26th through 29th.
- 3) Heavy rains soaked portions of eastern Costa Rica on December 20th, with 170 mm reported in Limon. Seasonal showers are expected to continue throughout the period which may exacerbate any flooding problems. Although rains are expected to continue in and around the area, rainfall amounts are expected to be lighter than those observed in recent weeks.

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