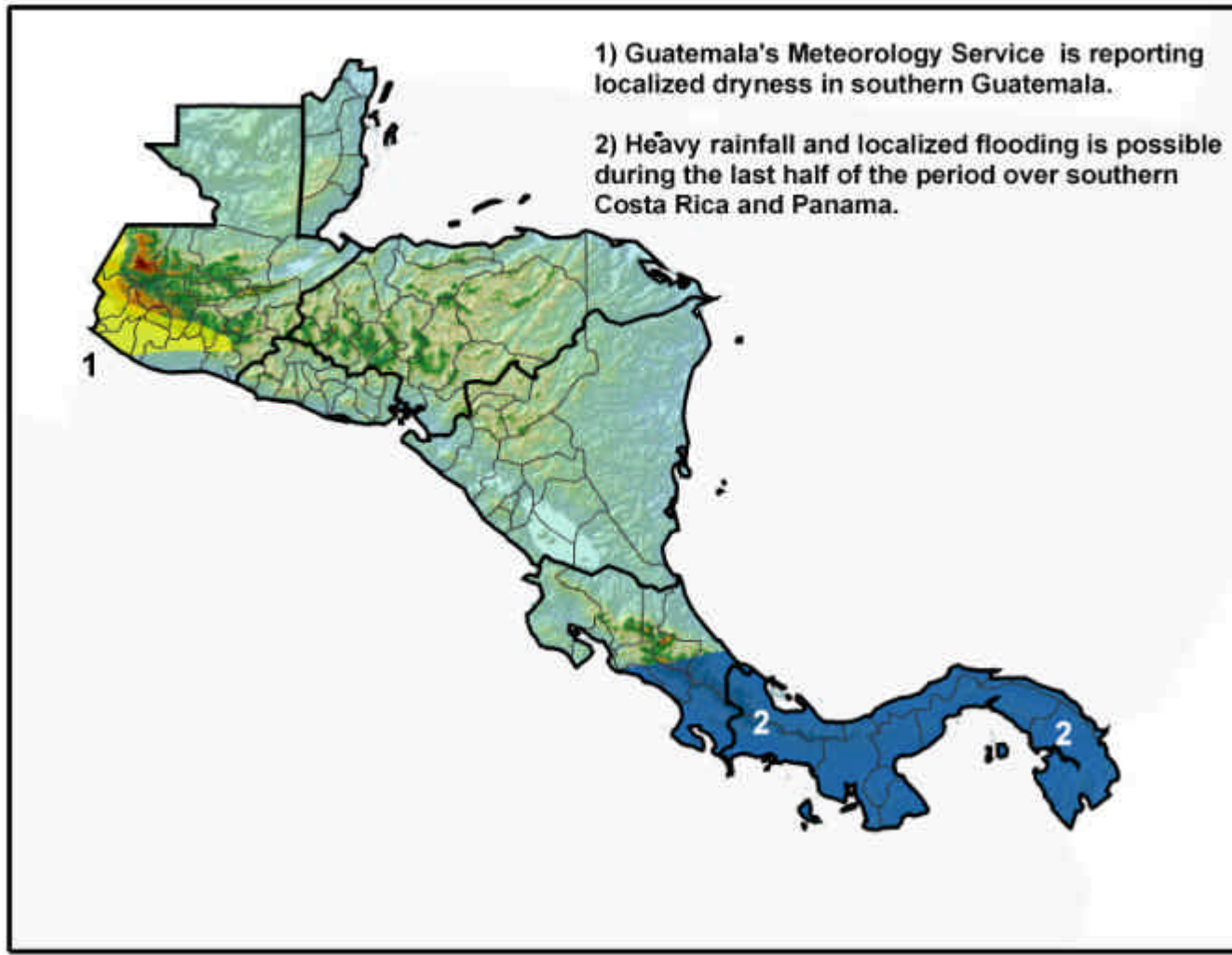


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For
April 21 - 27, 2005



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

- 1) Reports from the Meteorology Department in Guatemala indicate that there are localized areas of short term dryness across southern and western Guatemala. Although early showers were observed in March, pre-season showers have been lacking during the month of April in some locations. Pre-season rains are needed to loosen the soil to make it more workable for cultivation and for the establishment of recent crop plantings before the more intense monsoonal rains arrive in May. Across central and northern Guatemala, pre-season rains have been abundant. Scattered showers are expected during the period across southern Guatemala, which may help to boost top soil moisture.
- 2) A favorable upper atmospheric environment may result in periods of heavy rainfall across Panama and southern Costa Rica during the later half of the period. These heavy rains may cause some flooding problems. Urban areas, locations in the vicinity of rivers, and low-lying areas with poor drainage are at greatest risk for flooding.

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