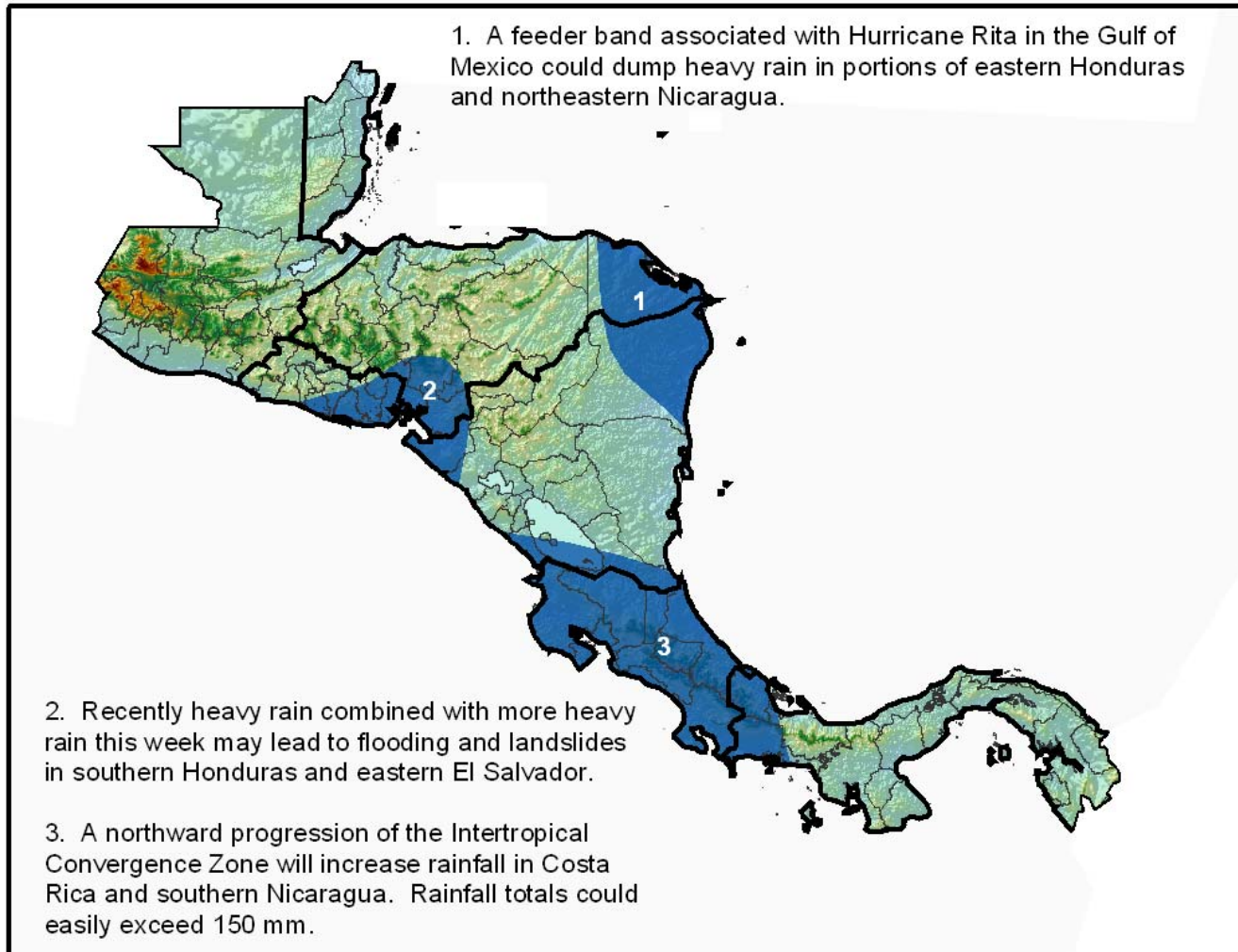


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

September 22 - 28, 2005



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. As Hurricane Rita moves across the Gulf of Mexico there is the potential for a feeder band to form and impact eastern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. Such a scenario would result in prolonged shower and thunderstorm activity in the same general location. Rainfall totals could be high and localized flooding and landslides are possible.
2. Hurricane Rita will initiate a deep layer southerly flow across Central America that will result in persistent moderate to heavy rain. Southern portions of Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and western Nicaragua are particularly vulnerable to flooding because the ground is likely saturated from recently heavy rain, thus flooding and landslides could result. Adjacent areas may also experience localized flooding and landslides.
3. Hurricane Rita is drawing the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) north into Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua. The location of the ITCZ will be the focus for moderate to heavy rain for several days, resulting in possible flooding and landslides. Daily rainfall totals could exceed 150 mm.

Much of the region experienced a good Primera season with most locations having a surplus in precipitation. However, since the end of August rainfall in northwestern Nicaragua into central Honduras has been sparse. Also, some areas in central Guatemala are beginning to experience a deficit in rainfall. These locations will continue to be monitored during the coming weeks.

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