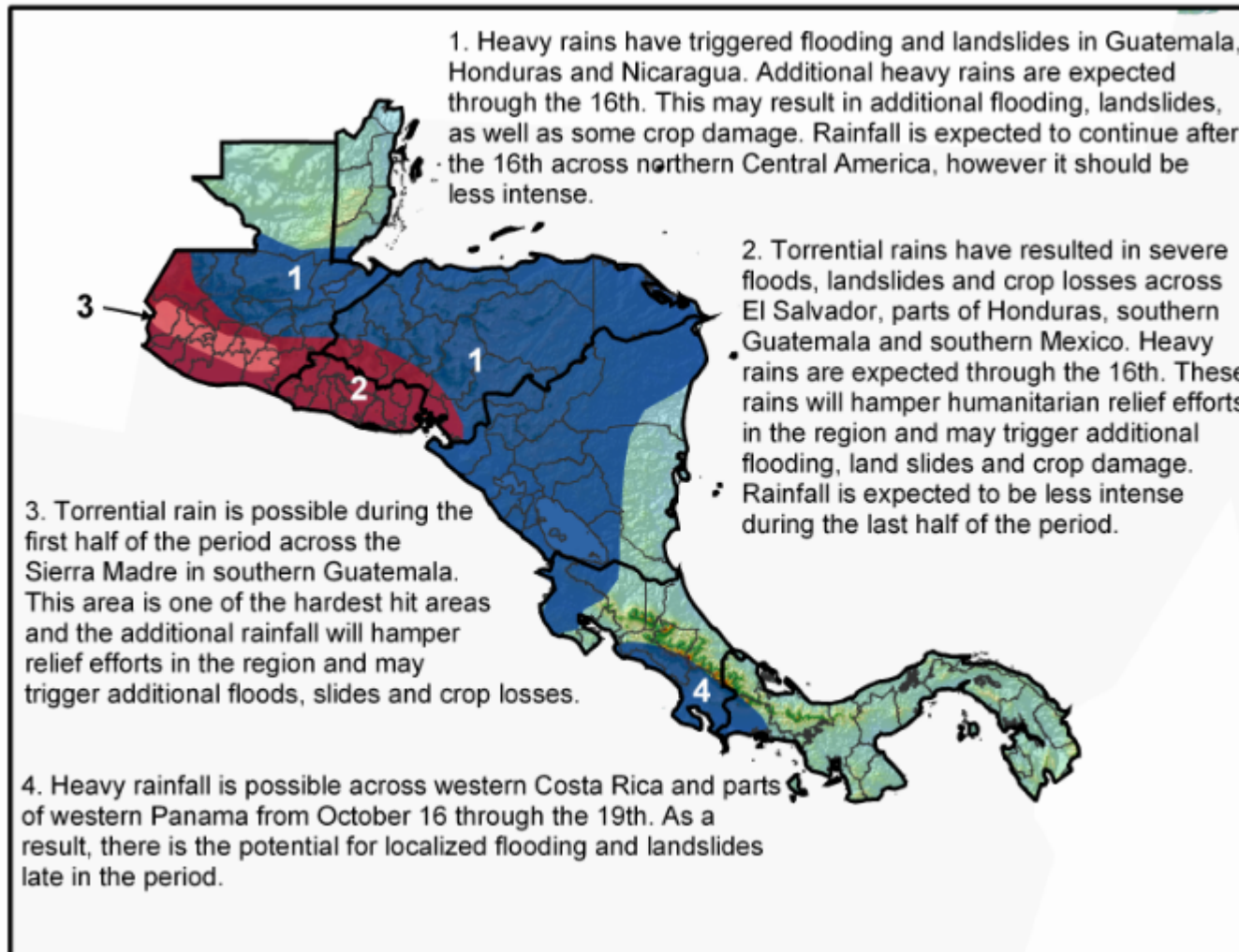


# The MFEWS

## Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

October 13 - 19, 2005



1) In recent weeks, heavy rains have drenched large portions of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additional heavy rains are possible across central and southern Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, northern and western Nicaragua, as well as northwestern Costa Rica through the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. These rains may trigger additional floods, landslides and crop damage. Occasional rainfall is expected across northern Central America after the 16<sup>th</sup>. These rains are not expected to be as heavy or widespread as the rainfall during recent weeks. However, locally heavy downpours will still be possible.

2) Several hundred millimeters of rain has fallen over portions of northwestern Central America over the past 2 to 3 weeks. Torrential rains have caused deadly flooding, landslides and crop losses in El Salvador, southern Guatemala, southern Mexico and parts of Honduras. Heavy rain is expected to continue across these affected areas through October 16<sup>th</sup>. These rains may result in additional flooding, landslides and crop losses. In addition, the heavy rainfall will hamper humanitarian relief, rescue and recovery efforts in the area. Occasional rainfall is expected across northern Central America after the 16<sup>th</sup>. These rains are not expected to be as heavy or widespread as the rainfall during recent weeks. However, locally heavy downpours will still be possible.

3) The areas in and around the Sierra Madre in southern Guatemala have been especially hard hit by the torrential rains of recent weeks. Observations and satellite rainfall estimates indicate that 350 to 700+ mm of rain has fallen since the last week of September in this region. These extraordinarily heavy rains have resulted in catastrophic floods, numerous landslides and crop losses. Additional rainfall is expected during the period. Some of these rains will be heavy, especially from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. These heavy rains will hamper relief, rescue and recovery efforts in the area and may trigger additional flooding, landslides and crop losses.

4) Heavy rain is possible across western Costa Rica and parts of adjacent Panama during the last half of the period. 100 to 150 mm of rainfall is possible from October 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. These rains may cause localized flooding and possible some landslides. However, widespread problems are not anticipated at this time.

**AUTHOR: Chester V. Schmitt**