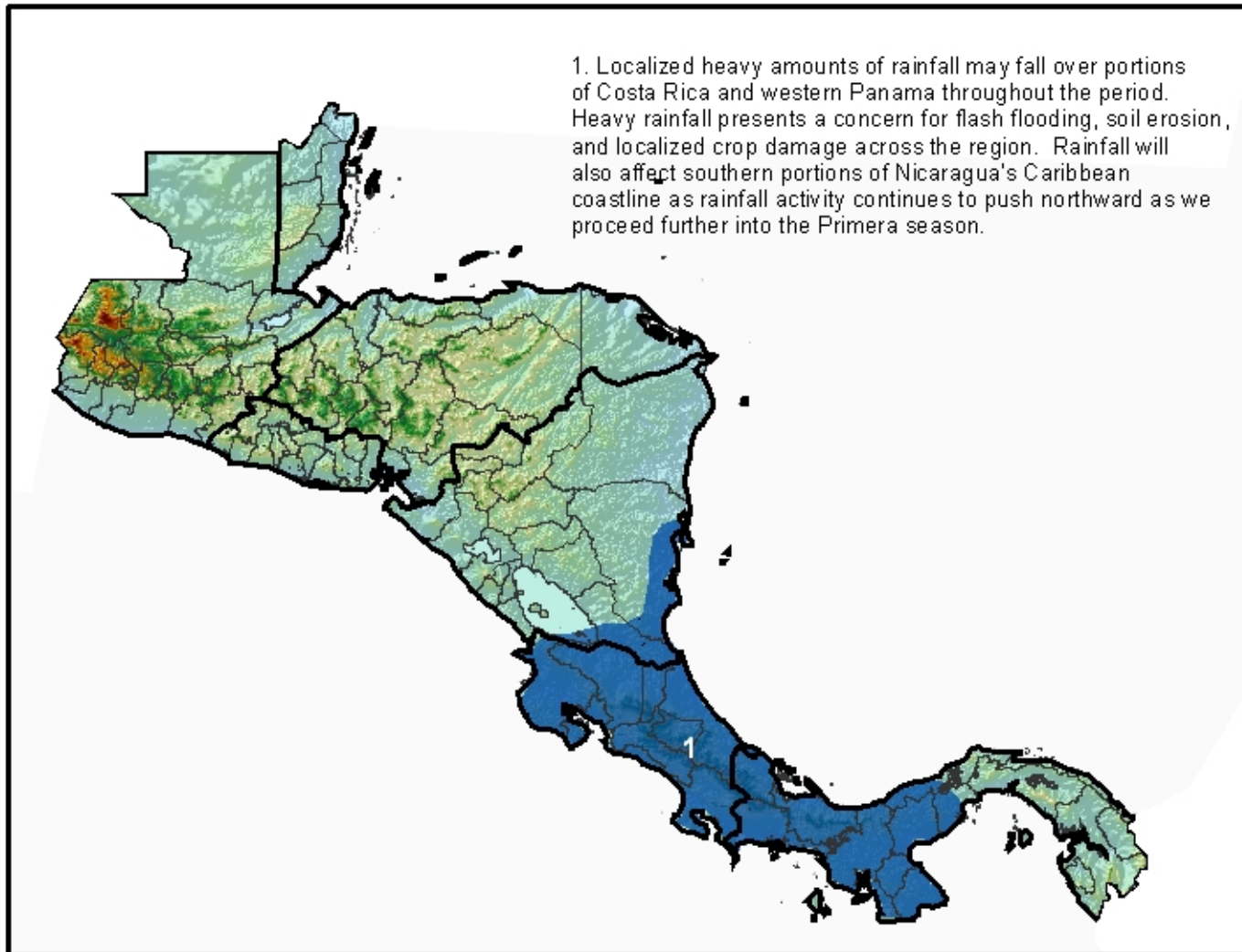


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 11 – 17th, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

*Conditions across Central America continue to be along the lines of normal for early to mid May with rains continuing in the Costa Rica/Panama region and more dry conditions as we head further to the north excluding southern Guatemala and El Salvador where some measurable rainfall has fallen over the past few weeks. Localized coastal areas along the North-Pacific side of Nicaragua have also reported measurable rainfall this past week. The majority of the areas reporting dry conditions will most likely see a change in the near future to more wet conditions as we press further into the Primera season.

Rainfall activity will continue to move northward into portions of Nicaragua over the upcoming period and heavy rains look to continue along western Panama and Costa Rica. Costa Rica's Pacific coastline in particular could see high rainfall amounts throughout the forecast period. Also to note, sections of El Salvador and southern Guatemala have been accumulating beneficial rainfall over the past week and this trend looks to continue for the remainder of this week into the weekend.

Conditions continue to remain favorable across the region for any land preparation needed to be done for Primera planting activities that have not taken place yet across the region.

The Primera season lasts from May through August and is known for its ample amount of rainfall the region receives. The amount of rain and its timing is critical for crop production throughout the entire region. Seasonal rains usually start mid way through May for most of Central America excluding Panama and Costa Rica which have already seen plentiful rainfall this past month.

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