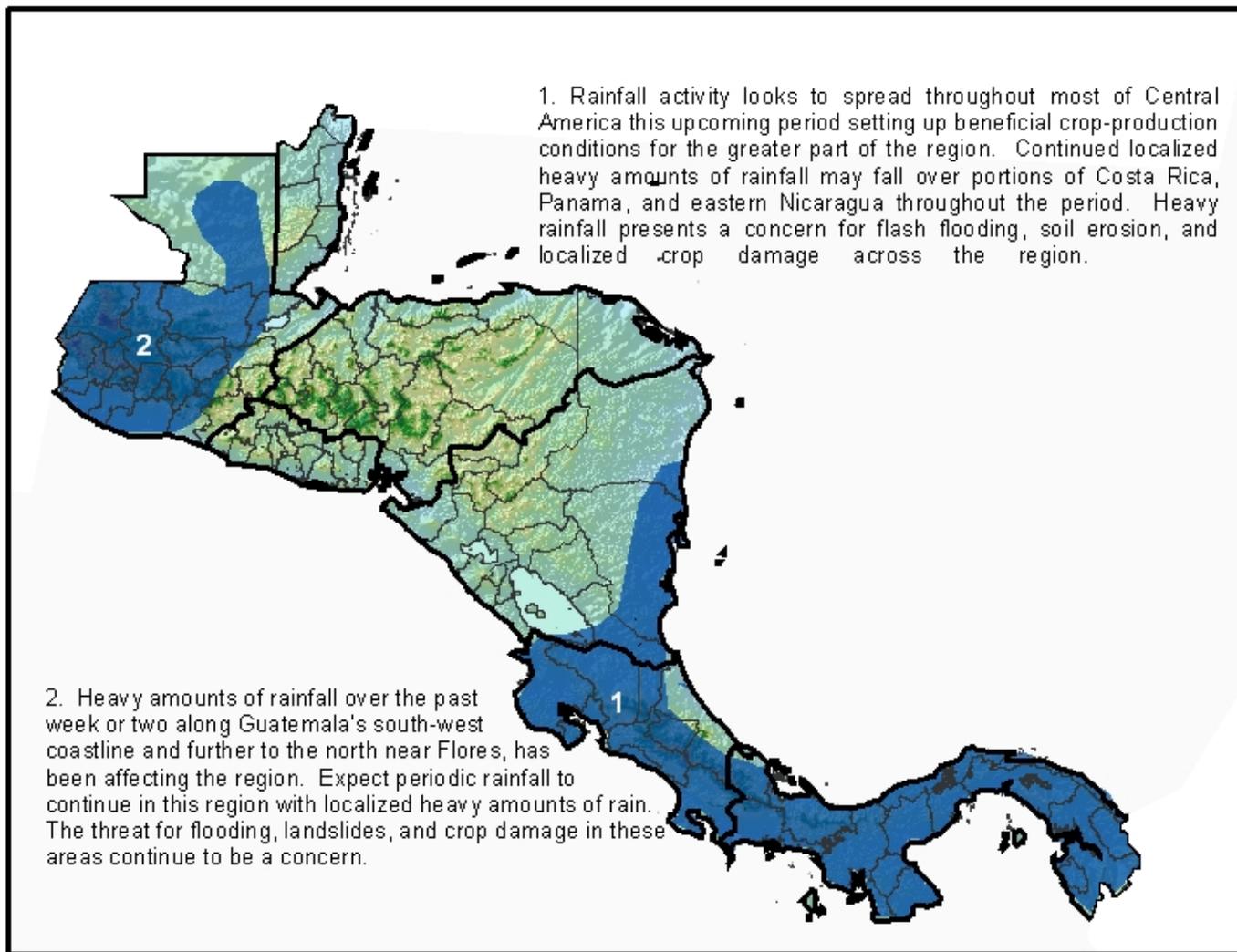


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 18 – 24th, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

*Seasonal rains continue to spread across Central America this past week with areas in Guatemala and Costa Rica receiving the bulk of the moisture. As expected, rains continued to press north into Nicaragua and Honduras while Costa Rica and Panama remained wet receiving ample rainfall over the past week. With the ITCZ hovering between 06N and 09N Panama and Costa Rica will continue to see localized heavy rainfall activity which will present a concern for continued flash flooding, soil erosion, and localized crop damage over this upcoming period.

Sections of Guatemala, namely the south-west coastline and further to the north near Flores, have seen not only earlier than usual rainfall activity over the past few weeks, but heavy amounts of rainfall as well. This past weekend especially, heavy rains hit south-western portions of the country causing landslides, flooding, damage to infrastructure, and major crop damage. This upcoming week rainfall activity looks to continue for these regions in particular. Possible flooding, landslides, and crop damage within these areas continue to be a concern for runoff will be an issue due to the already saturated ground.

Conditions continue to remain favorable across most of 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 month.

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