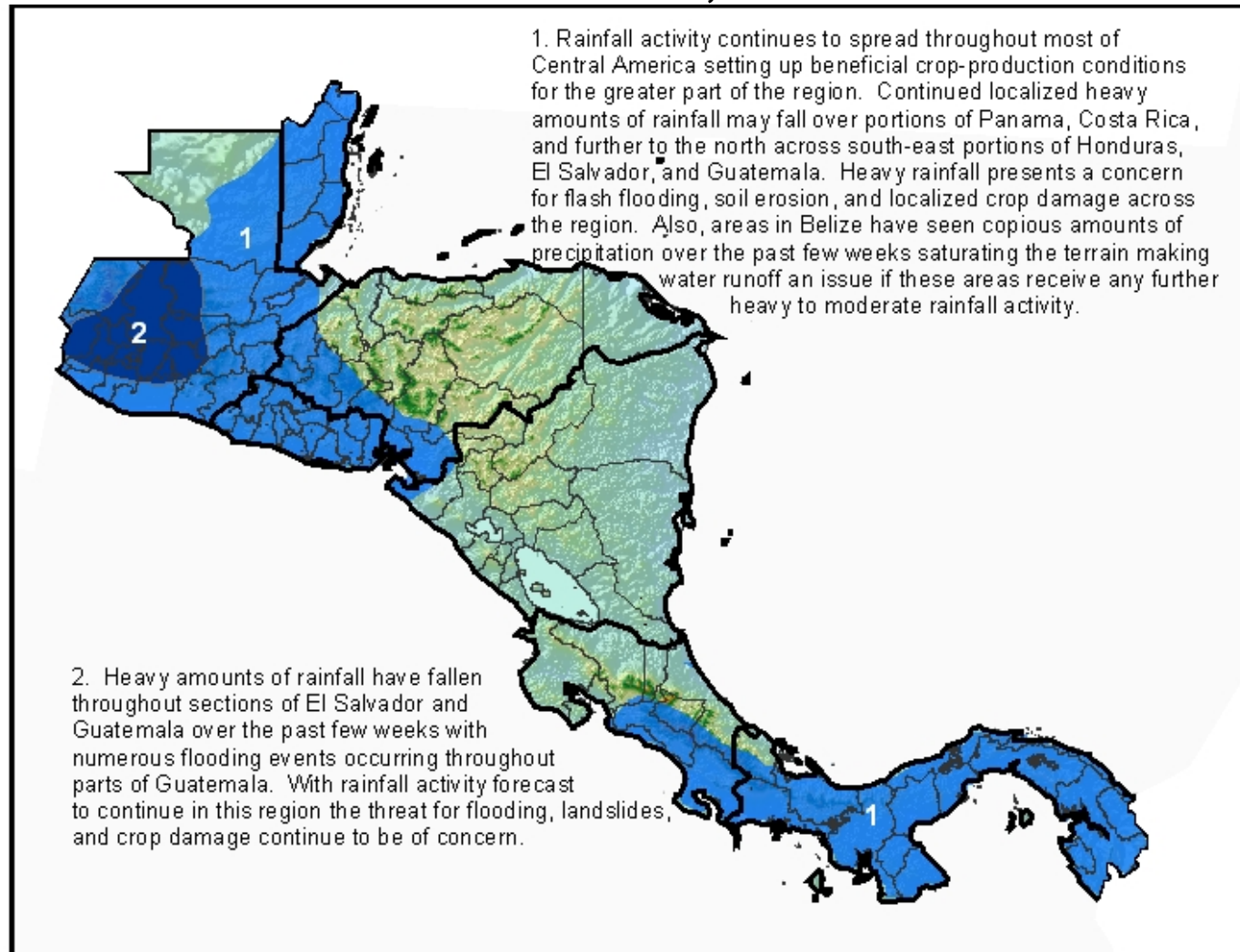


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

June 1 – 7th, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

*Seasonal rains continue across Central America this past week with areas in Guatemala and Belize receiving the bulk of the moisture. Rainfall activity not only started a week or two earlier than usual for these two countries, but has been very intense over the last few weeks as well. Areas in and around the Stan Creek Valley, located along Belize's coastline, recorded over 400mm worth of rainfall during the May 21 – 25th time frame. This is an incredible amount of rain to have fallen in such a little period. Needless to say, localized flooding occurred in and around this region. With the ground being saturated, runoff will be an issue leaving open the threat for additional flooding if any rainfall occurs within the region.

As expected, seasonal rains, some locally heavy, will continue throughout most of Panama, Costa Rica, and further to the north across south-eastern portions of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Heavy rains could trigger localized flash flooding, soil erosion, and crop damage in these areas. Vise-versa is true for sections of Nicaragua which have been experiencing drier than normal conditions throughout the Primera season thus far.

Sections of Guatemala, namely the south-west, continue to be a major concern regarding heavy rainfall that has already impacted the area. This rainfall has sparked numerous flooding events across the area. Expect periodic rainfall, some locally heavy, to continue in this region. Possible flooding, landslides, and crop damage continues to be a concern for runoff will be an issue due to the already saturated ground.

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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