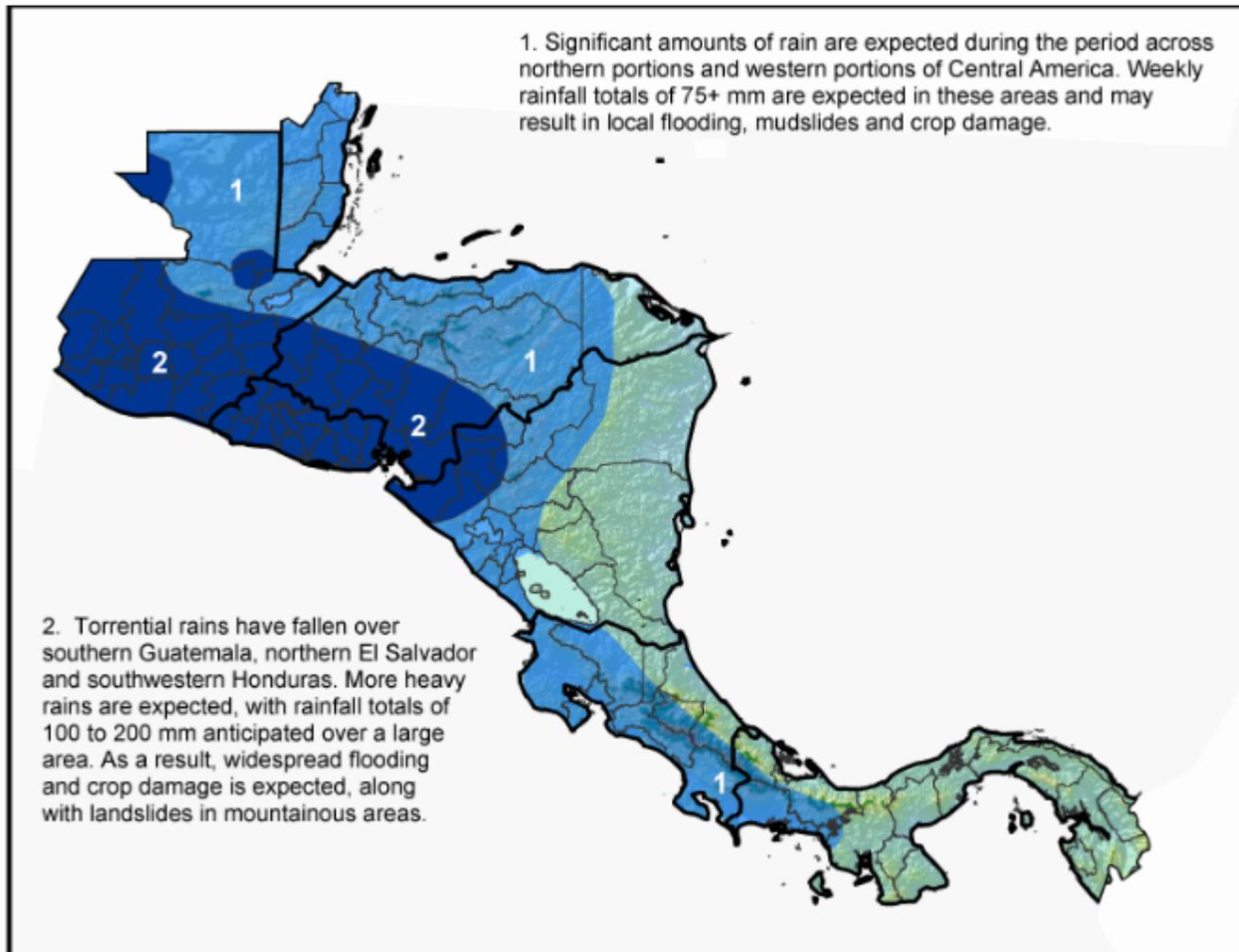


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

June 8 - 14, 2006



Hazards Benefits Assessment Text Explanation:

1) Significant amounts of rain are anticipated over Guatemala, Belize, most of Honduras, western Nicaragua, western Costa Rica and adjacent parts of Panama. Rainfall amounts of 75 to 150 mm are expected across this area during the period, with locally higher amounts possible in some mountainous areas. Locally heavy rains have already fallen over some of these areas over the past week, with 50 to 100 + mm over portions of Costa Rica, Honduras and northern Guatemala. These rains may trigger some localized river and urban flooding, as well as localized crop damage and landslides. In the Caribbean, an old frontal boundary is the focal point for heavy thunderstorms. There are some indications that these thunderstorms could become better organized and produce heavy rains across northern Honduras and Belize early in the period.

2) Torrential rains have already trigger floods and landslides over southern Guatemala. Very heavy rains have also been observed over southern Honduras and El Salvador as well. Since the beginning of the month, satellite rainfall estimates and rain gauges indicate that 50 to 200+ mm of rain has fallen over large portions of these areas. Additional heavy rain is anticipated over these areas. Rainfall amounts of 100 to 200 mm are expected over southern Guatemala, El Salvador, southwestern Honduras and northwestern parts of Nicaragua. Some of the mountainous areas of southwestern Guatemala may receive higher amounts of rain. These heavy rains, in addition to the torrential rains that have already fallen, may result in widespread river flooding, urban flooding, soil erosion and damage to structures. Crop damage is also possible due to the heavy rain pelting young crops and the inundation of fields by flood waters. In the many mountainous areas within the region, widespread landslides are possible. It appears that conditions will be favorable for heavy rainfall throughout the period.

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