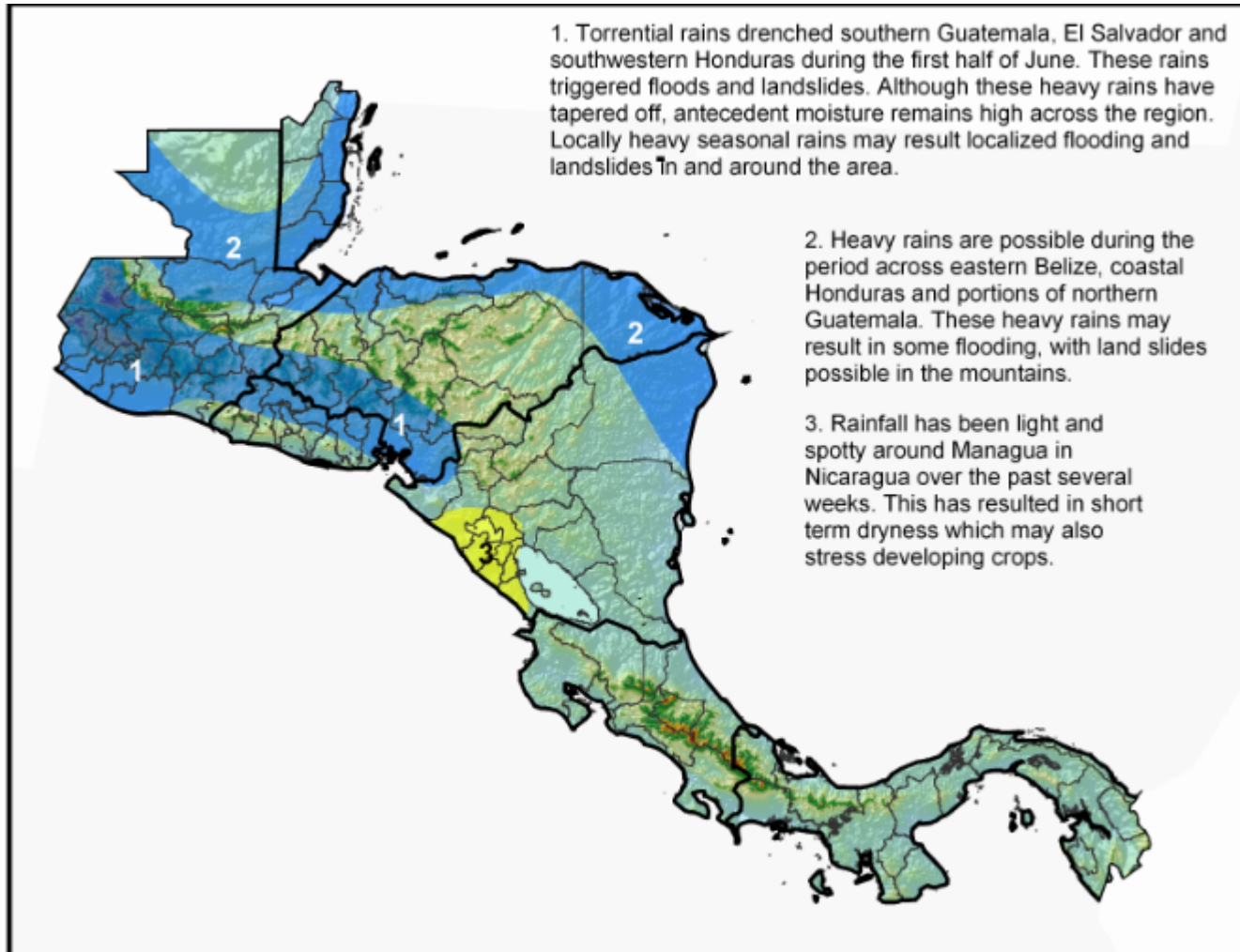


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

June 29 – July 5, 2006



1) Heavy rains have drenched much of southern Guatemala, El Salvador and southwestern Honduras during the month of June. Since June 1, satellite rainfall estimates and rain gauge measurements indicate that 150 to locally 500 mm of rain have fallen in and around this area. These rains have triggered landslides, floods and various kinds of crop and property damage. Heavy rains fell last week as well, with 50 to locally up to 200 mm observed. These rains have resulted in additional localized flooding and landslides. During the period, seasonal rains are expected to fall across the region. Some of these rains may be locally heavy. Rain falling on already saturated soils may trigger some additional localized flooding and landslides during the period. However, widespread flooding is not anticipated.

2) On and off heavy rains are possible during the period across central and northern Guatemala, eastern Belize, northern Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. 50 to locally 200 mm of rain is expected to fall during the period. These rains may trigger some flooding problems and landslides in the mountains. Localized crop damage is also possible. However, widespread flooding is not anticipated.

3) Over the past several weeks, rainfall has been light and spotty in the vicinity of Managua in western Nicaragua. Since June 1, less than 50 mm of rainfall has been observed. The below normal rainfall has dried out the topsoil and has resulted in the development of short term dryness. The dry conditions may be resulting in stress to young developing Primera crops, and may slow crop emergence. Although scattered showers are possible during the period, no significant rainfall is expected.

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