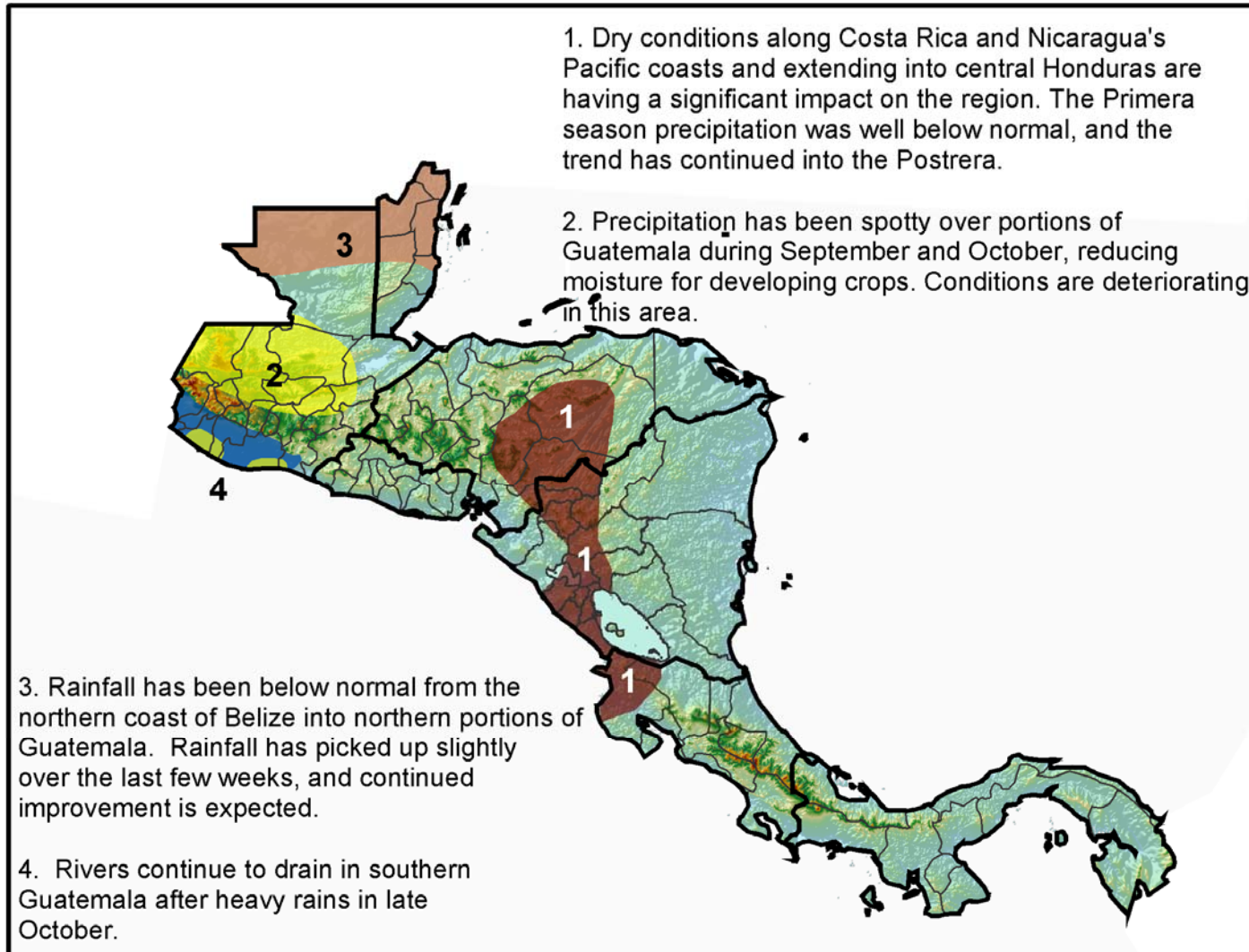


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

November 9 – 15, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

- 1) Two consecutive poor seasons in the narrow stretch of land between Lake Nicaragua and the Pacific Ocean have begun to have an impact. Despite the fact that the majority of crops grown in the region are drought resistant, conditions are deteriorating. Further south in Costa Rica 25 percent of normal rainfall has been reported by some stations on the ground, and in Nicaragua only slightly better conditions are reported by satellite rainfall estimates. The impacts during the Primera season were minimal, however a significant moisture deficit accrued in the area. Further north in the Honduras departments of Francisco Morazan, Olancho and El Praisó the Postrera season which the region is primarily reliant on, has been poor. Rainfall has been significantly below normal and these conditions are expected to persist.
- 2) Rainfall in central Guatemala as well as along sections of the Pacific coast has been below normal. Deficits ranging from 20 to 40 percent below normal precipitation have been reported during the August to October period. Despite heavy rains, some of which has caused significant flooding, deficits have continued to rise in the area. Heavy rainfall in early November likely did little to improve conditions, and instead caused scatter reports of damage and loss of life. Some rivers remain swollen in the region, but are expected to continue to return to normal levels during the period.
- 3) Rainfall during August to October was lighter than normal across northern portions of Belize and Guatemala. The poor conditions are impacting both crop quality and crop yield throughout the area. Rainfall is likely during the coming period however, these rains will likely come to late to bring significant improvement to long season crops in the region. Crops with shorter growing seasons will still benefit from rainfall.
- 4) Heavy rainfall in Guatemala, while bringing little in terms of relief to the southern portion of the country, has caused property damage and fatalities. Although the heavy rains have come to an end, rivers may still be above flood stage in the region. River levels are expected to continue to drop during the coming week as lighter precipitation falls on the region.

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