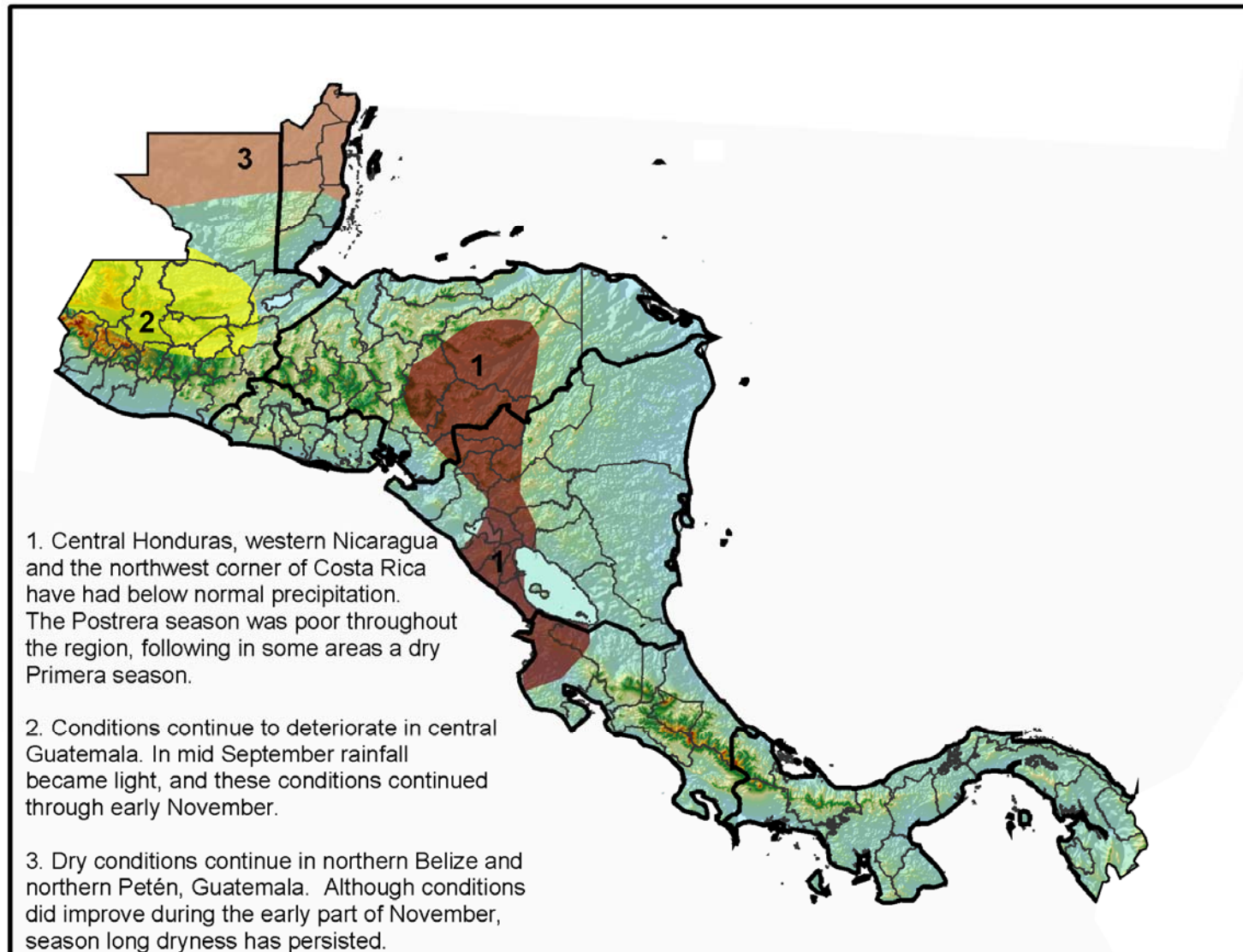


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For
November 23 – 29, 2006



- 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 too dry and the situation is deteriorating. In Costa Rica 25 percent of normal rainfall has been reported by some stations in the northwest of the country, and in central portions of Nicaragua only slightly better conditions are reported by satellite rainfall estimates. 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 has been below normal. Deficits ranging from 20 to 40 percent below normal precipitation have been reported during the August to October period. This is despite heavy rains, some of which caused significant flooding, deficits continued to rise in the area. Additional heavy rainfall in early November likely did little to improve conditions, and instead caused scatter reports of damage and loss of life. The past week saw drier conditions as the rainy season is coming to an end here.
- 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. Dry conditions are expected throughout this region during the coming week.

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