

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

June 28 – July 4, 2007

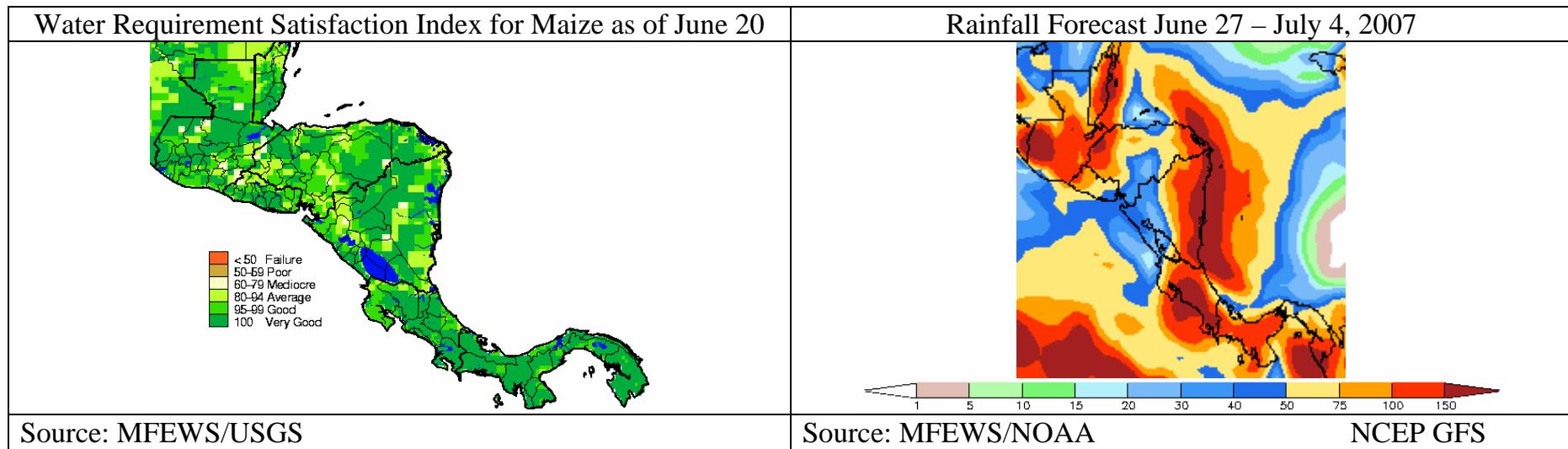


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Rainfall generally started on time, or even early across most of Central America. The largest exception is northwestern Honduras where the rains began 20 days late. The impacts will be minimal in this part of Honduras if the rains continue steadily through July. Since the start of the rains some areas have received an excessive amount of rainfall including, among others, southern Guatemala and Honduras where there has been many reports of flooding and isolated incidents of landslides. Izabal, Guatemala, on the other hand, has experienced below normal rains resulting in reduced drinking water levels. In El Salvador poor distribution has led to deficits during the month of June. During the last week rainfall was lighter than it had been across Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and El Salvador and most of Nicaragua. Further south in Costa Rica and Panama heavy, but seasonal rainfall continued. Rainfall is expected to return to northern Central America during the coming period.

Concerning La Nina

Oceanic and atmospheric conditions indicate that La Nina conditions could develop over the next 1-3 months. The chances are about 50/50 regarding La Nina development. IMN of Costa Rica has declared that the country is already under the impacts of La Nina. It is common that Central America receives the impacts from La Nina and El Nino before the official criteria for an episode is met.



The evaluation of climatological threats of MFEWS include the participation of the central and local offices of MFEWS, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Chet.Schmitt@noaa.gov