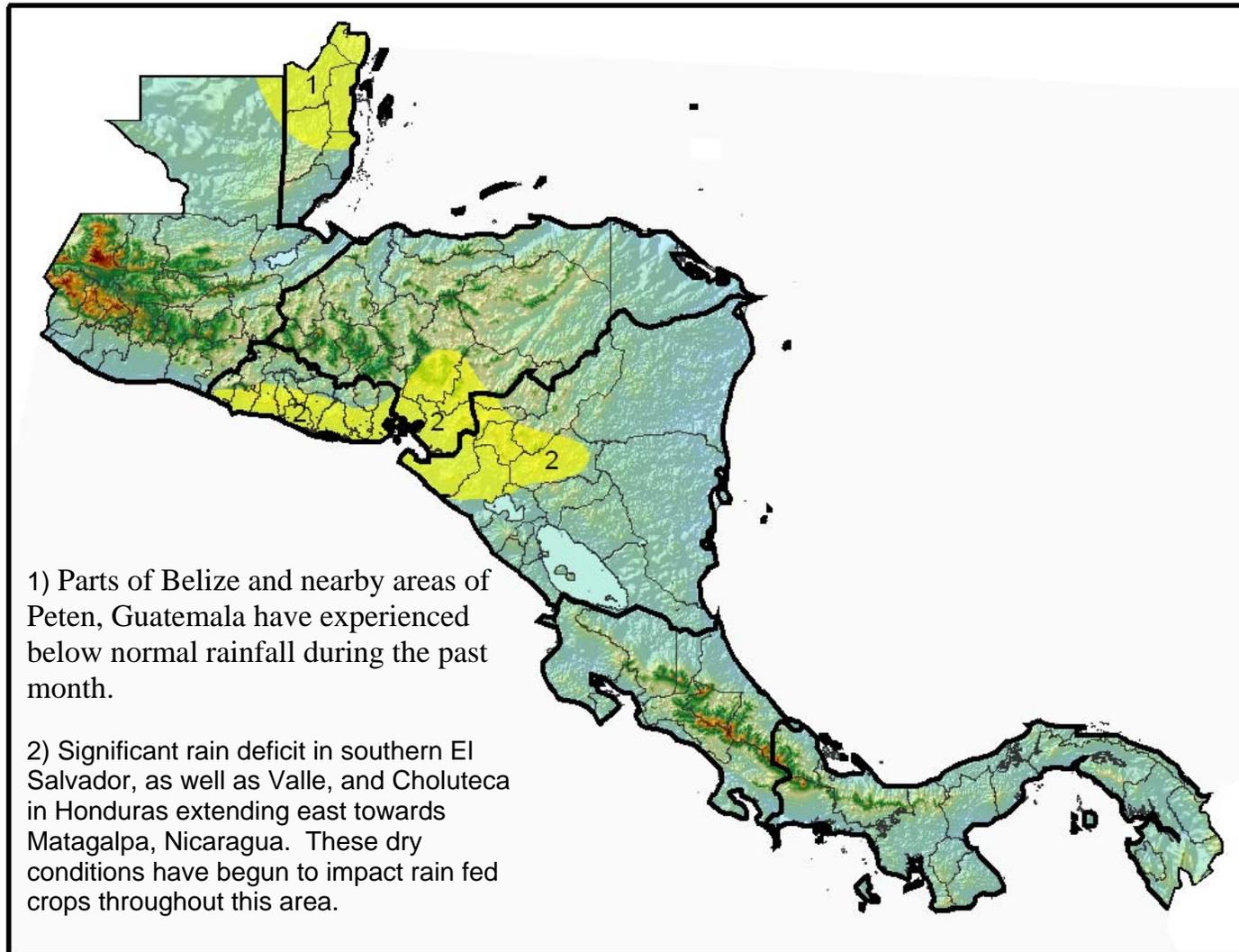


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 2 – August 8, 2007



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Early last period heavy rains fell in southern Belize, followed by occasional rain across the remainder of the region.

In Honduras, some of the maize crop was lost due to a significant rain deficit from mid June to mid July. Despite the dry conditions and the approaching Canicula, where a break in rains is experienced during mid July into August, the expected rain this coming period could help to recover the remaining crops that have not been damaged by the deficit.

Dry conditions persist throughout remaining sections of Central America. In addition to south central Honduras, northwestern Nicaragua also appears to be heavily impacted by low rains. Dry conditions there are the result of inconsistent below normal rains and extended breaks in rainfall. However, some rain deprived regions have been able to sustain themselves due to occasional heavy showers. Crops in Guatemala have remained largely unaffected as rainfall distribution has prevented deficits from becoming problematic. Rain is expected later in the week across Guatemala.

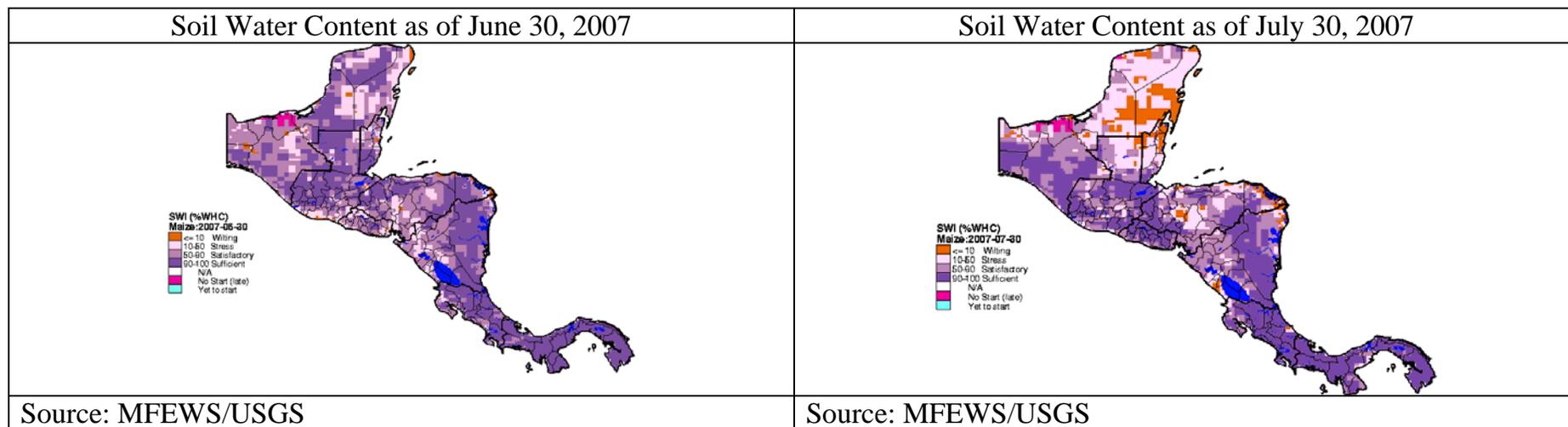


Figure 1: The above images from USGS reflect the change in soil water content from June 30, 2007 to July 30, 2007. The pale pink and orange colors reflect vegetation stress or wilting. The dark purple signals sufficient soil water content. In the July 30th image the dry soil conditions in northern Belize and parts of Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua can be seen.

Author: Angel M. Bennett

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, ETESA of Panama, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov