

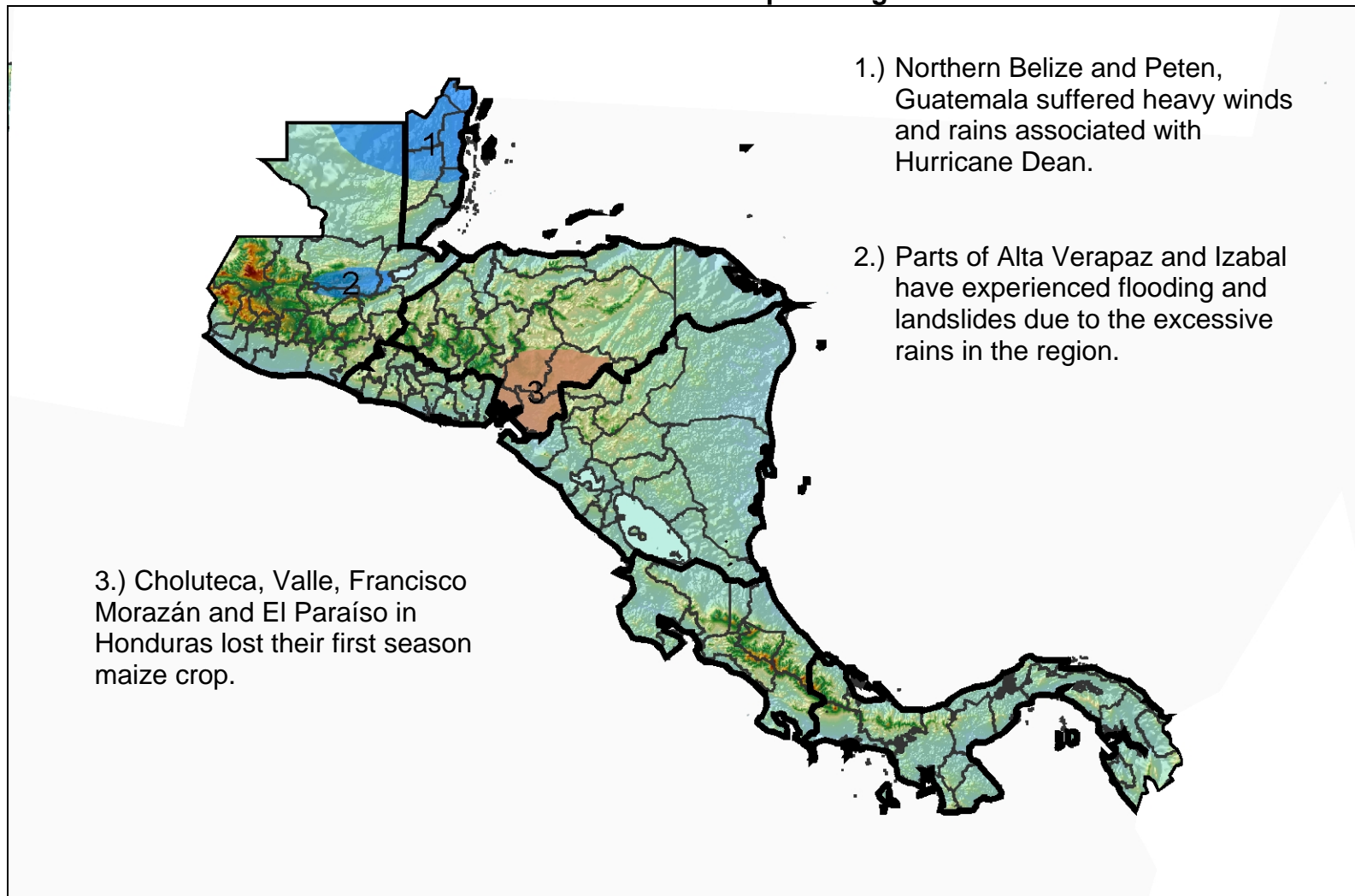
The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 23 – August 29, 2007

- Hurricane Dean impacts region



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Coastal areas of Guatemala and those bordering El Salvador and Honduras have had excessive rains which have proven beneficial for the crops in fruition there. In Alta Verapaz to Izabal there were reports of landslides and flooding causing death and destruction of infrastructure. At present, evacuation of the area, search and rescue, victim care, relief efforts, and damage evaluation are taking place. There are approximately 2000 people in shelters.

Recent rains in El Salvador have provided relief to the dry conditions there. Unfortunately, in south central Honduras first season maize crops were lost due to prolonged dry conditions. The government is distributing maize to those in 32 different municipalities of Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán and El Paraíso. The valleys in the rest of the country are expected to have an excellent maize harvest of approximately 15.7 million quintals.

Models show enhanced rainfall over Central America for the next few weeks in addition to the heavy rainfall totals in northern Belize and Guatemala, coastal Honduras and Nicaragua associated with Hurricane Dean. Rainfall forecasts pose a flooding threat in northern Belize and excessive rains along the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Flash flooding and landslides may occur. There has been one report of a death caused by rip tides associated with strong winds from Hurricane Dean in Nicaragua.

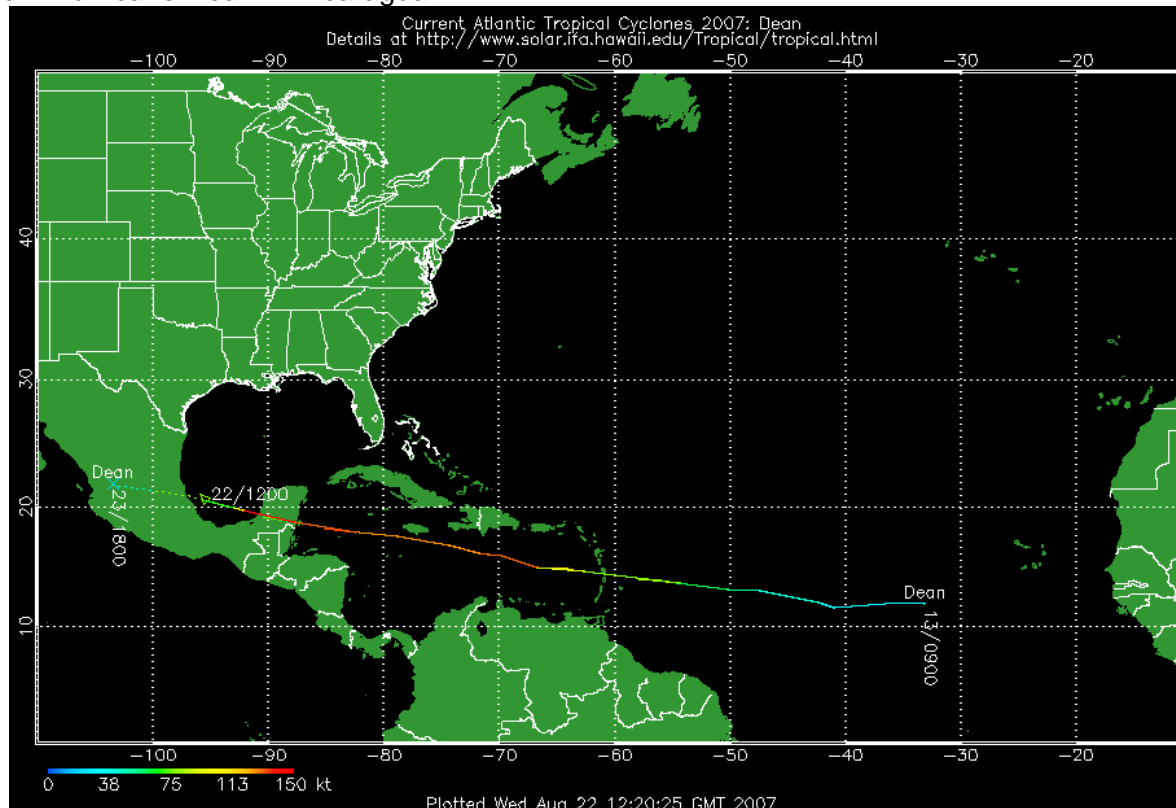


Figure: Path and forecast of Hurricane Dean.

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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