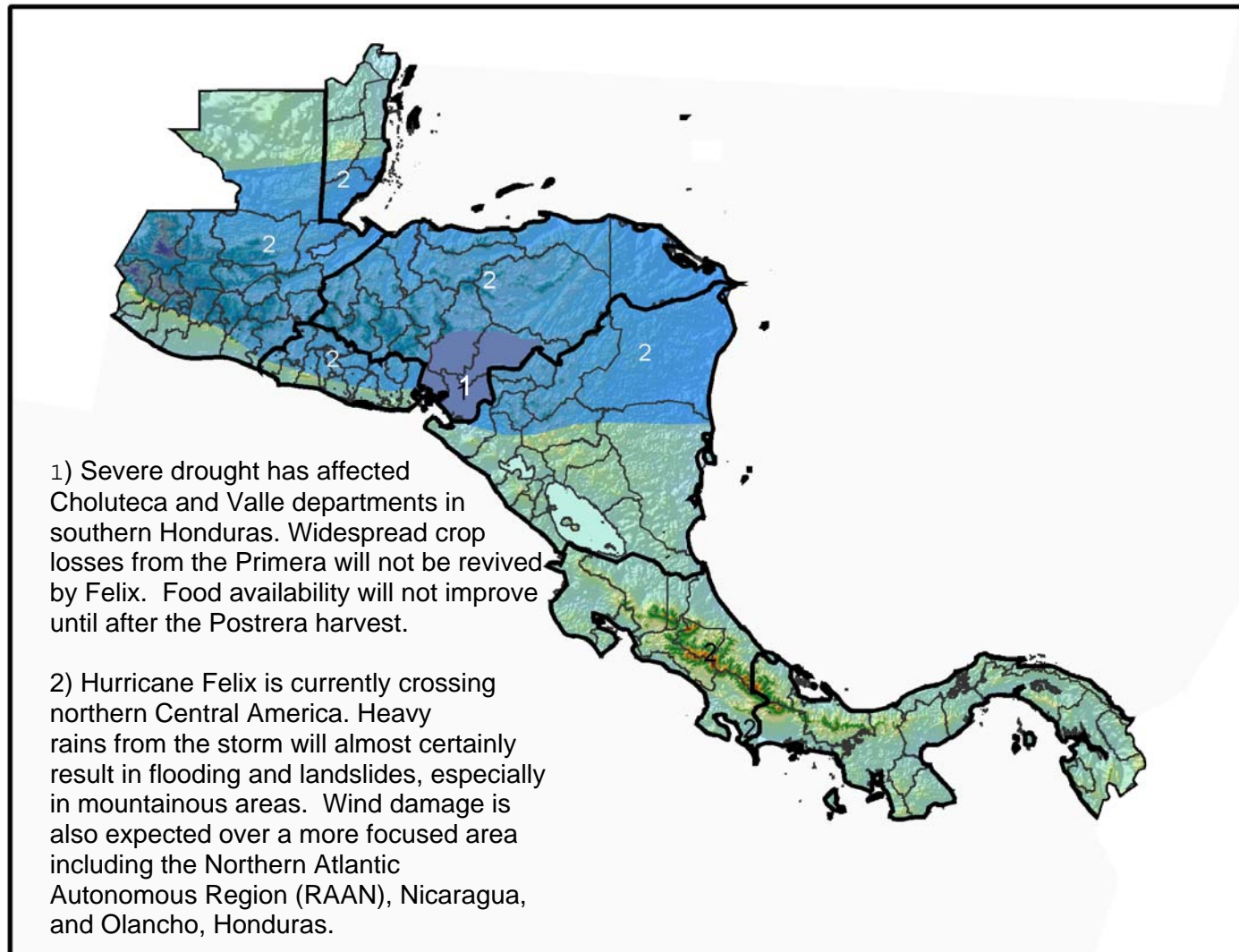


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

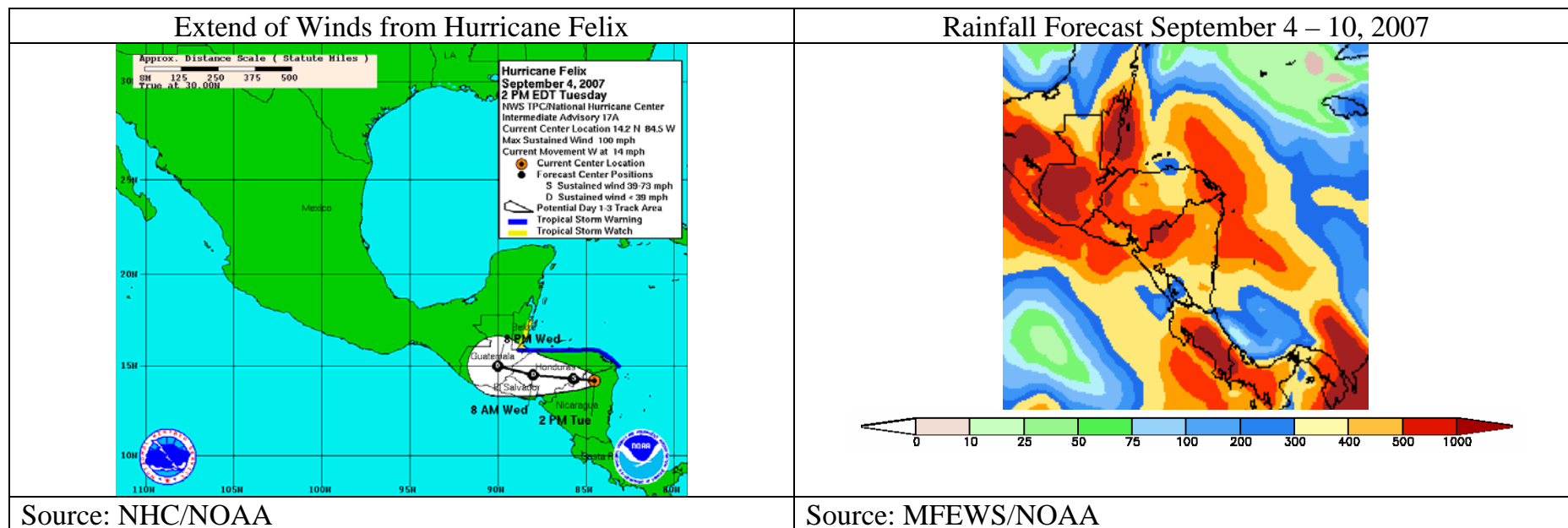
September 6 – 12, 2007



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Hurricane Felix made landfall Tuesday, September 4th in Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN). The storm will continue to travel across the region through Honduras and Guatemala. These areas will experience extremely heavy rainfall. Portions of southern Belize and northern El Salvador will also receive heavy rains. Flooding, landslides, wind damage, storm surge and fatalities are all expected, however major wind damage will likely be restricted to RAAN and Olancho and areas of nearby departments. Rainfall accumulations of up to 300 mm are expected in throughout the area with mountains facing the wind having the potential to double that number. The heavy rainfall has the potential to wash crops in the fields away. Crops that have not yet been harvested from the Primera season and newly sowed crops from the Postrera seasons are both vulnerable. Beans also are at risk due to their low tolerance to high humidity conditions.

At landfall Hurricane Felix had winds of 160 miles/hour (250 kilometers/hour, 140 knots). This is the second powerful hurricane to impact the Central America region in the last two weeks. The first storm was Hurricane Dean in late August. Additional rainfall after the storm has past could easily result in more flooding and landslides. Damage to crops is also possible with more rainfall arriving on already saturated soils.



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