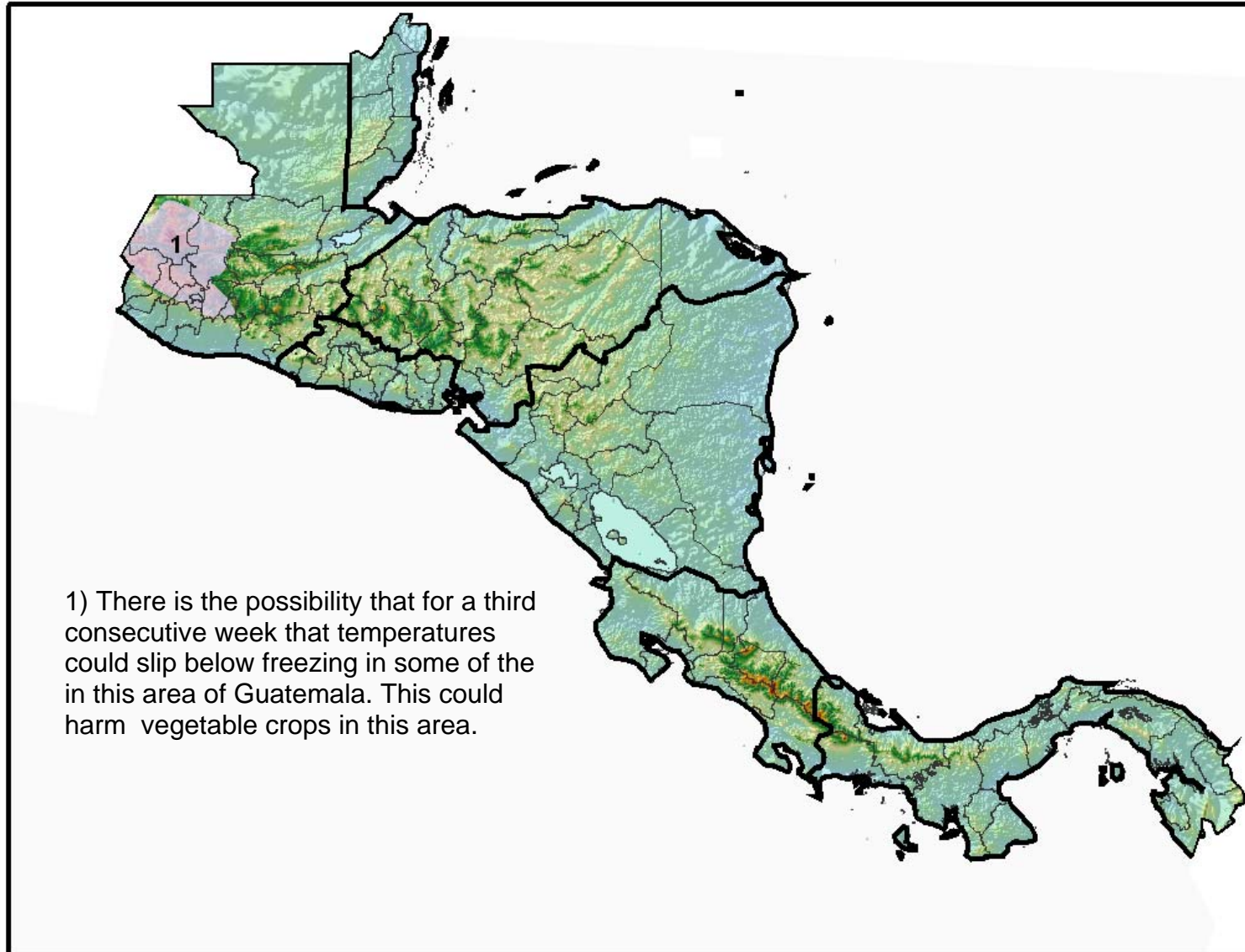


# The MFEWS

## Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

November 29 – December 5, 2007



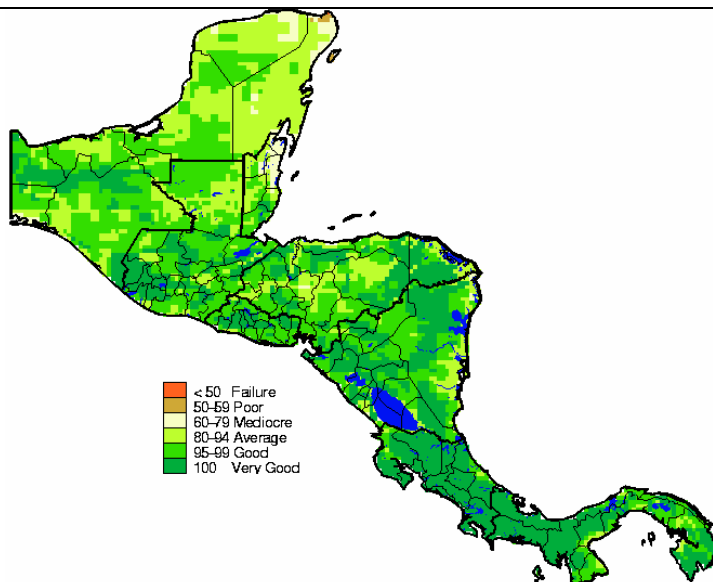
## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Most of the region has experienced a good Postrera season. However, there are three areas of significant concern. RAAN, Nicaragua was the location where Hurricane Felix made landfall in earlier this year and heavy rainfall since then has prevented conditions from improving. Northern and western areas of Nicaragua have also experienced crop losses. Partially as a result of Felix, but also due to excessive rainfall at other times and in other locations, Nicaragua lost a portion of its annual crops this year and the country now has an expected maize harvest of 5.31% below normal, a beans harvest 20.19% below normal, sorghum harvest 4.39% below normal, sesame harvest 14.5% below normal. The other area of concern is in Honduras, where the MET service expects some crop losses in the southern part of the country, caused by flooding during the Postrera season. The highest impact of the floods was on maize crops, particularly along rivers in Marcovia, Choluteca, Namasique and El Triunfo. This was during Postrera during the floods. The main crop impacted is maize specifically in Marcovia, Choluteca, Namasique and El Triunfo. The worst impacted locations are along rivers.

Cold temperatures may impact crops in Guatemala's western highland areas. The higher elevations are at the most risk. Frosts and freezes would damage crops grown at higher elevations, primarily vegetables. Most of the harvest, however in this region is over and thus impacts will be extremely localized. Cold temperatures may also reach El Salvador, but that is not considered likely at this time.

According to COF for the December through March time frame heavier than normal precipitation is expected in northern Guatemala, throughout Panama and along the Atlantic coast of the whole region. Most other areas will likely experience normal precipitation patterns. Fronts are expected to have a heavier than normal influence on weather conditions in northern Central America. No large areas are expected to experience below normal rainfall during the Apante season. Cold temperatures are also likely to continue in Guatemala, and occasional cold temperatures (although not likely to be below freezing) may occur in El Salvador.

### Model Primera Crop Conditions As of November 20, 2007



Source: USGS

The above image indicates a positive outlook for many areas. Note that this product does not factor in damage caused by floods or winds.

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, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to [Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov)