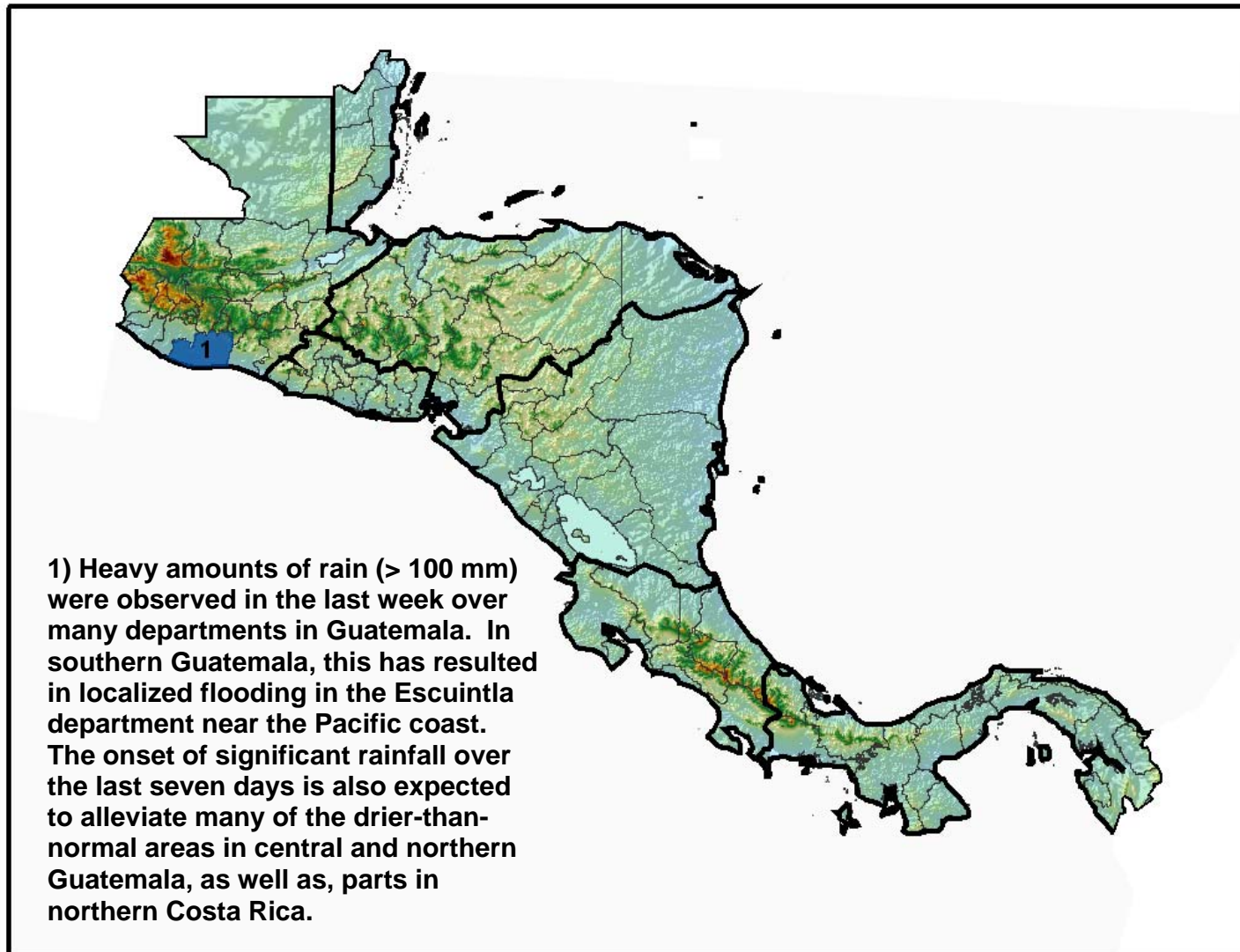


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 29 – June 4, 2008



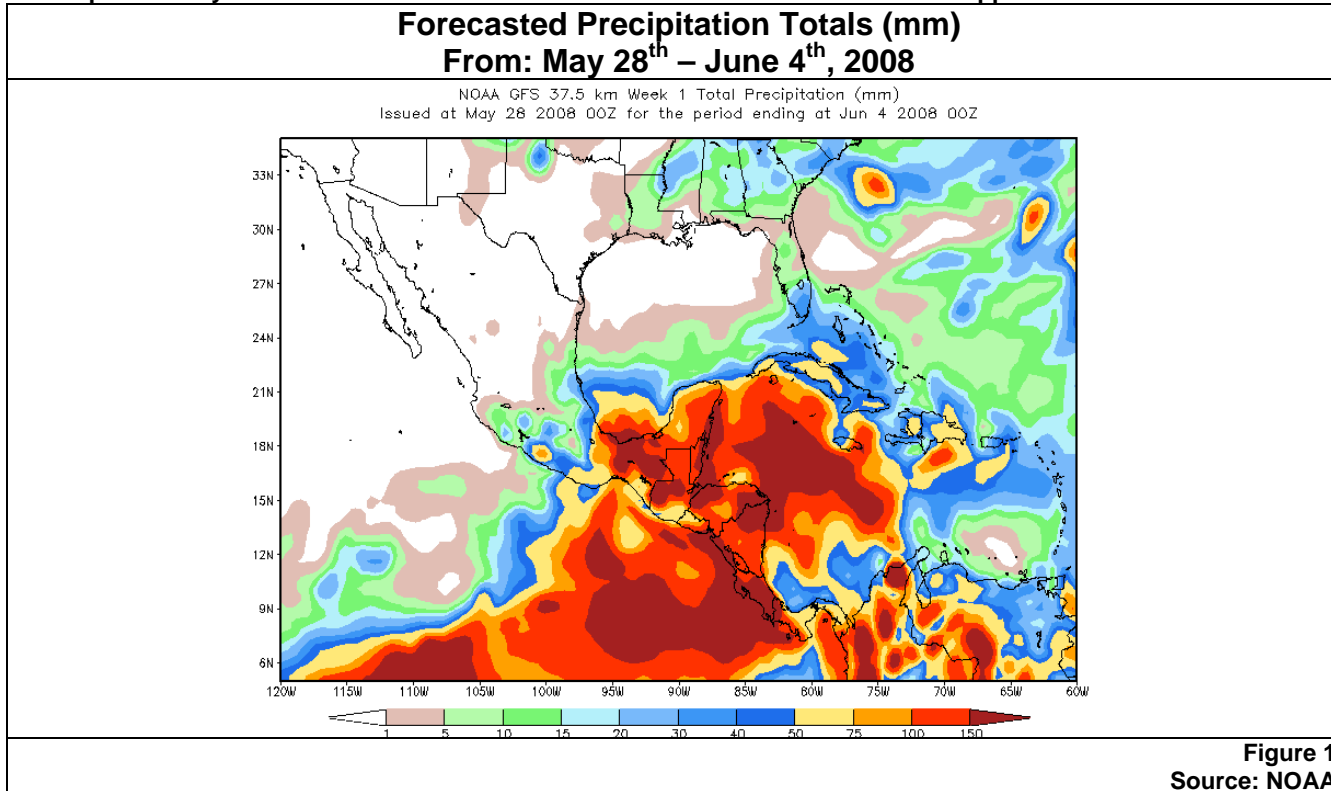
Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Over the last seven days, significant amounts of precipitation were felt over many portions of Central America. In Guatemala, heavy rainfall totals exceeding 100mm were observed in the Peten, Quiche, Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments of Guatemala. This excessive rainfall has resulted in localized flooding for areas in the Escuintla department in southern Guatemala. These floods are likely to have caused damage to houses and infrastructure in many local communities. In Nicaragua and Costa Rica, precipitation amounts ranging between 75-100 mm were also observed east of Lake Nicaragua in many areas along the San Juan River. Despite last week's rainfall totals, the prolonged absence of precipitation prior to this past week has reportedly resulted in the loss of beans and livestock in parts of northern Costa Rica. In addition, many areas along the eastern coastal Nicaragua and southeastern Honduras are beginning to fall below-normal for Primera rainfall. Further south, soil moisture deficits are being felt in the Chiriqui province in Panama due to the weak Primera rains. The onset of last week's rains is expected to help regenerate soils and promote cropping activities for many of these local areas.

Precipitation forecasts for the next seven days suggest a continuation of heavy rainfall for many areas in Central America. A developing low pressure system in eastern Pacific is likely to bring excess rainfall (>100 mm) for parts of Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and southern Honduras for the earlier part of this hazard period. This tropical activity may also result in heavy winds, localized floods, and damages to infrastructure. Further north, widespread precipitation totals in excess of 75 mm area are expected for parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Presently, most of Belize and other departments of Guatemala are off to a relatively normal start of season. In Honduras, Primera season precipitation is not expected to begin until June for the inner-North and Caribbean coastal departments. The western center and southern regions of Honduras are experiencing an early start to Primera rains, with a slightly delayed start for departments further in the east. In El Salvador, the Primera season has already begun throughout most of the country since the 2nd dekad of May. For Nicaragua, most departments are off to a relatively normal start of season. For Costa Rica and Panama, Primera rainfall has been observed.

Primera Start of Season Information provided by the XXIV CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM OF CENTRAL AMERICA supported BY CRRH



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