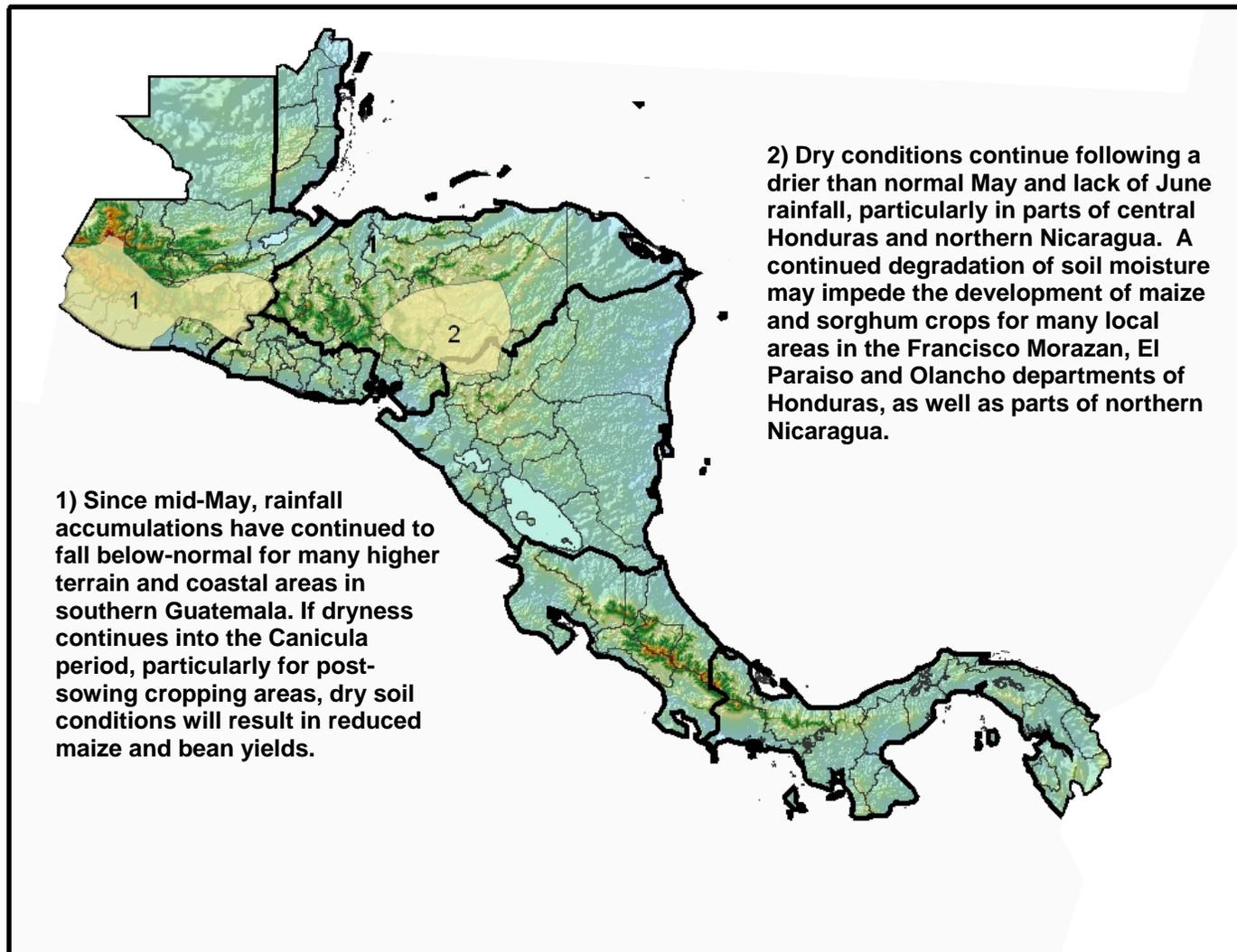


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

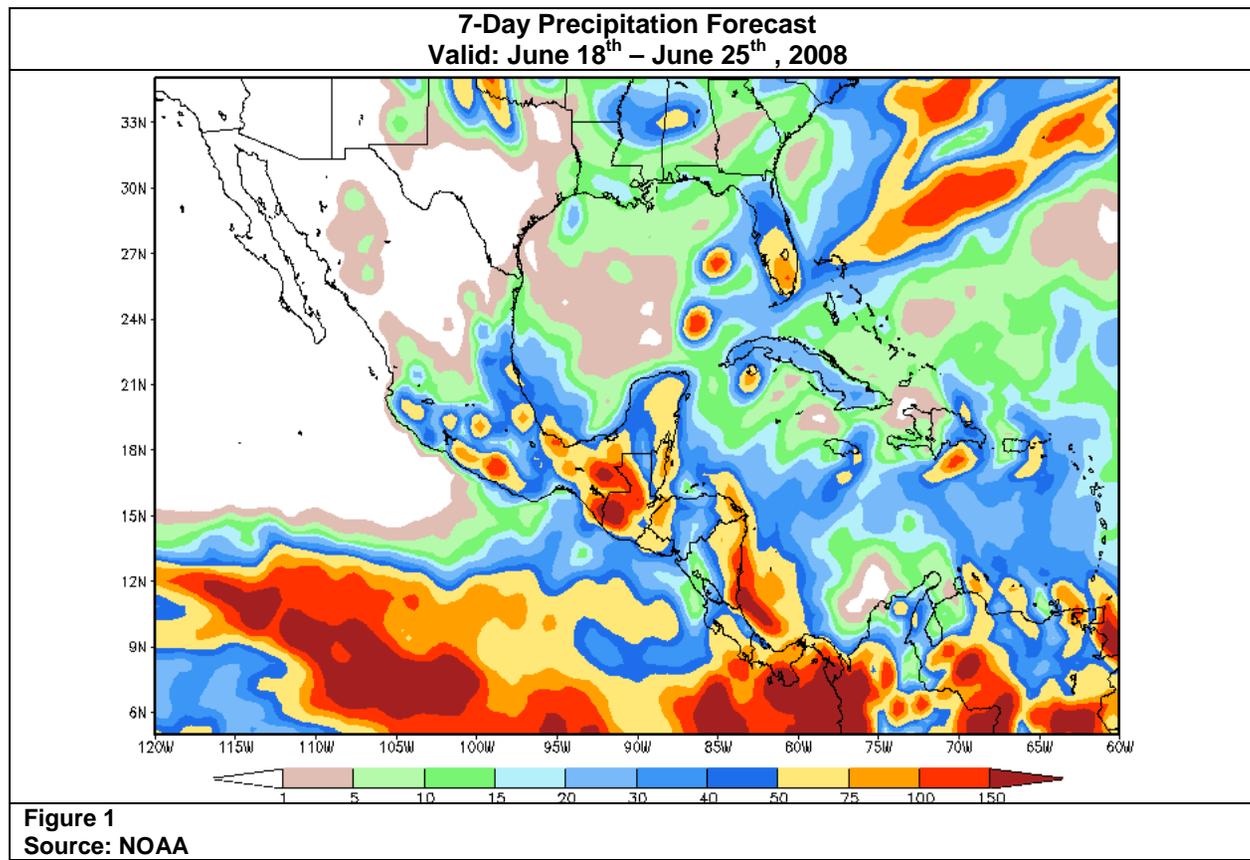
June 19 – June 25, 2008



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Fair to moderate amounts of precipitation fell over Central America in the last observation period (June 9th – June 16th). Higher rainfall ranging between 100-150 mm were observed across many parts of Panama and Costa Rica, with lesser amounts (50-75 mm) recently observed across parts of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. For the Primera season (May – August), precipitation deficits are becoming increasingly evident for parts of southern Guatemala, as well as parts of central Honduras. Field reports indicate that there is a “small area of stress due to the lack of water” and that if dryness continues until the Canicula period, this may negatively impact maize and bean crops that are in vegetative stages along the southern coast. In northern Guatemala, primera precipitation totals remain above-normal in many parts of the Peten and Alta Verapaz departments due to “Alma” and “Arthur”, however banana plantations were reportedly affected in the Izabal department. In central Honduras, many local areas are considerably below normal, having received less than 25% of their average rainfall by mid-June. Continued dryness could potentially lead to a decrease in water resources, and impede the development of maize and sorghum crops in the Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso and Olancho departments of Honduras.

Precipitation forecasts for the next seven days do not suggest much change in the current rainfall pattern (**Figure 1**). Increased amounts of precipitation ranging from 50 - 75 mm are expected in many parts of Costa Rica and Panama, as well as in the Atlantic departments of Nicaragua. In addition, large-scale ridging is expected to transport dry air in the western Caribbean during the later half of the hazard period and is likely to suppress rainfall for the drier parts of northern and central Honduras. However, parts of Guatemala may anticipate an increase in rainfall which may improve ground and crop in the higher elevations.



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