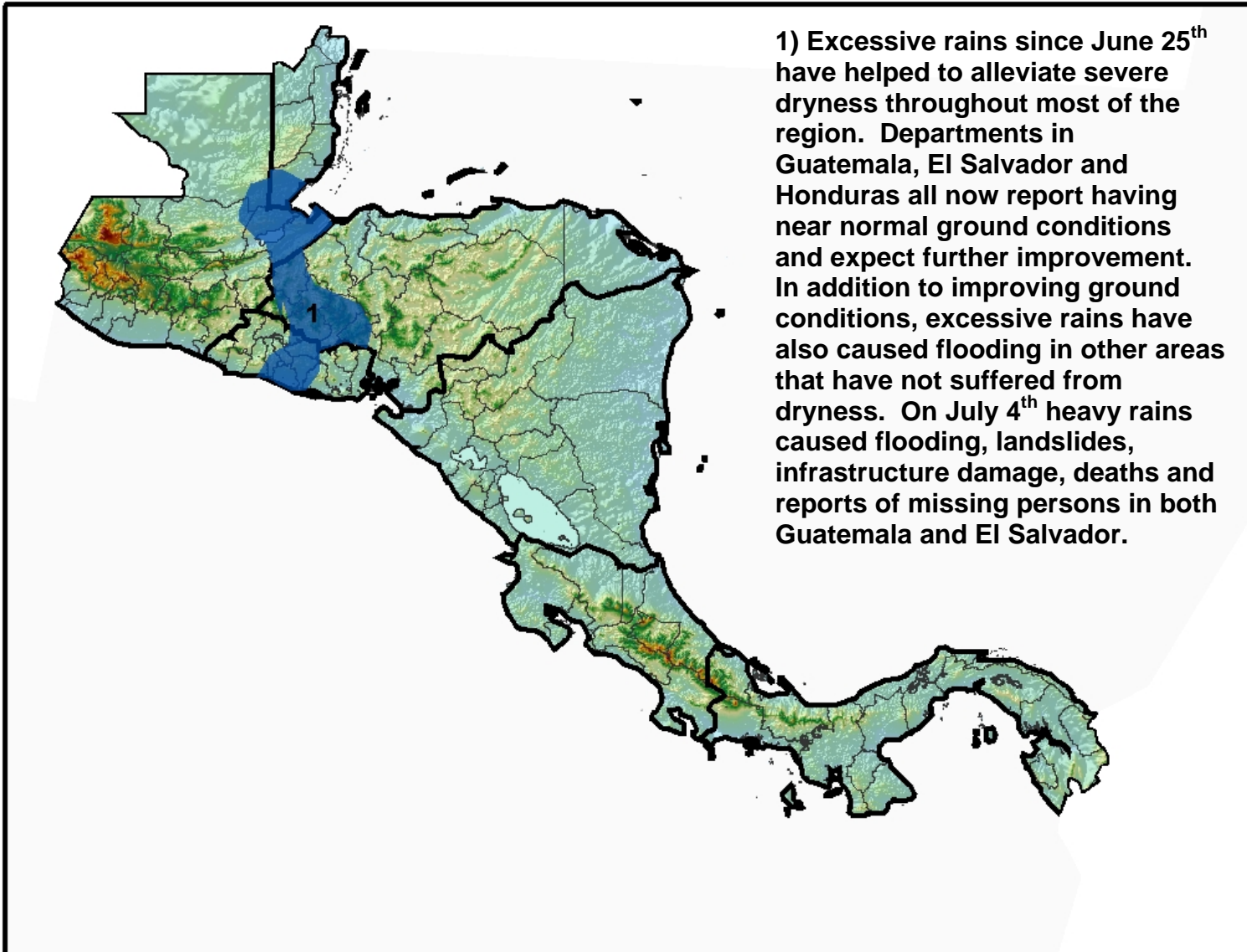


## The MFEWS

### Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

July 10 – July 16, 2008

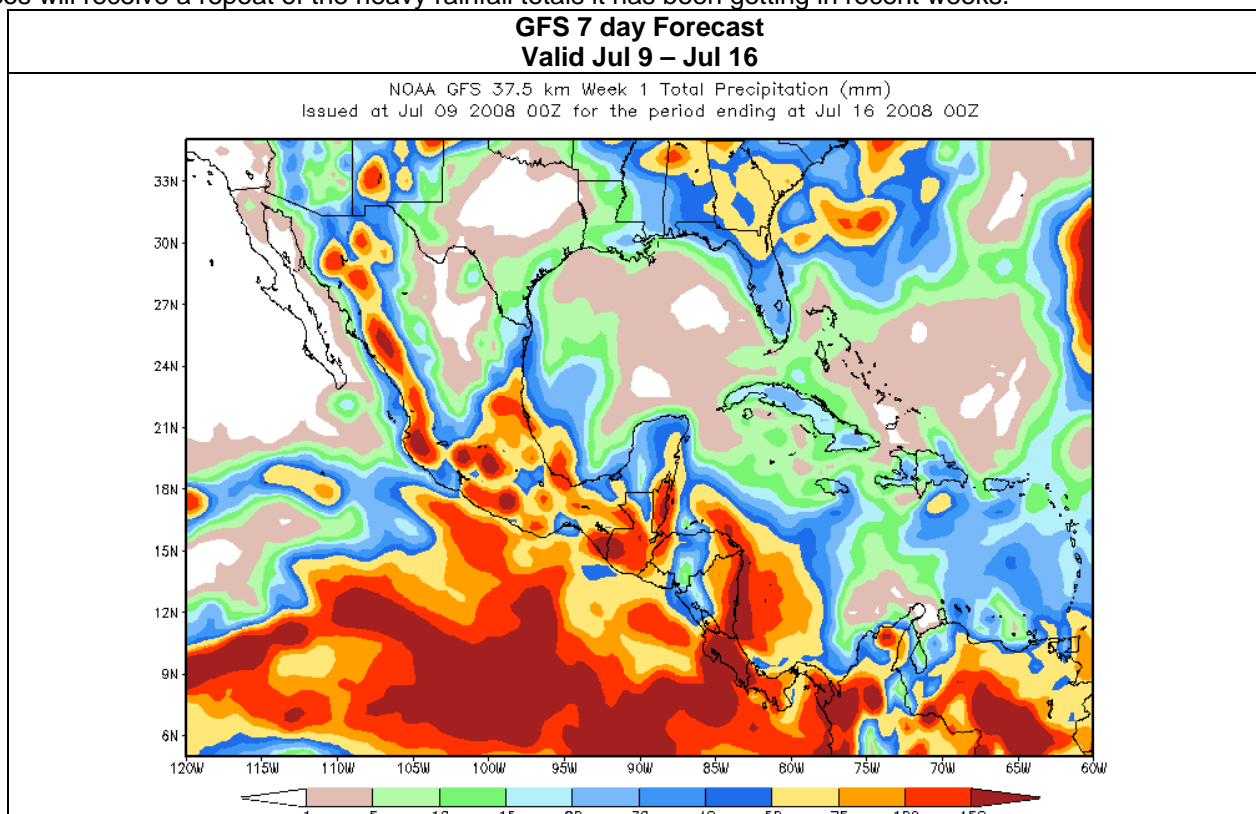


## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Since June 25<sup>th</sup> the Central America region has been receiving an abundance of rain. Specifically in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua where rainfall totals for the last two weeks have been well above average. Guatemala's southern departments of Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, San Marcos, and Suchitepéquez had been experiencing dryness in the coastal areas for weeks due to the insufficient rains in late May to June. This led to crop stress, but with the recent revival of rains soil moisture has been replenished and crops are faring well with respect to water. More recently crop pests have become a concern. Local farmers report pest infestations of blind hen and collojero worm that are destroying crops. In Nicaragua, there has been significant improvement to rainfall deficits along the coastal areas of the country. Crop losses associated with June dryness were minimal in the dry corridor located in the central area of the country near Lake Nicaragua. However, Nicaragua's ministry of agriculture, MAGFOR is now concerned with problems caused by floods in the southern Atlantic region. A field assessment of rice crops is being conducted to verify the situation.

In Honduras, the recent increase in rains has returned ground conditions to normal and alleviated concerns of dryness. However, there are reports of crop losses in Ocotepeque due to floods and crop losses in the southern and central part of the country due to the dryness in June.

Although the recent rains brought improvement to considerably dry areas, on July 4<sup>th</sup> much of Guatemala and El Salvador were hit with excessive rains that reportedly caused flooding, landslides, infrastructure damage, death and others remain missing. In Guatemala, bridges and roads were hit hardest by the rains. During the July 10 – 16 observation period moderate rains are expected in southern Guatemala and western El Salvador, eastern Nicaragua and the Guatemalan departments of Huehuetenango and San Marcos will receive a repeat of the heavy rainfall totals it has been getting in recent weeks.



**Figure 1**  
**Source: NOAA**

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)