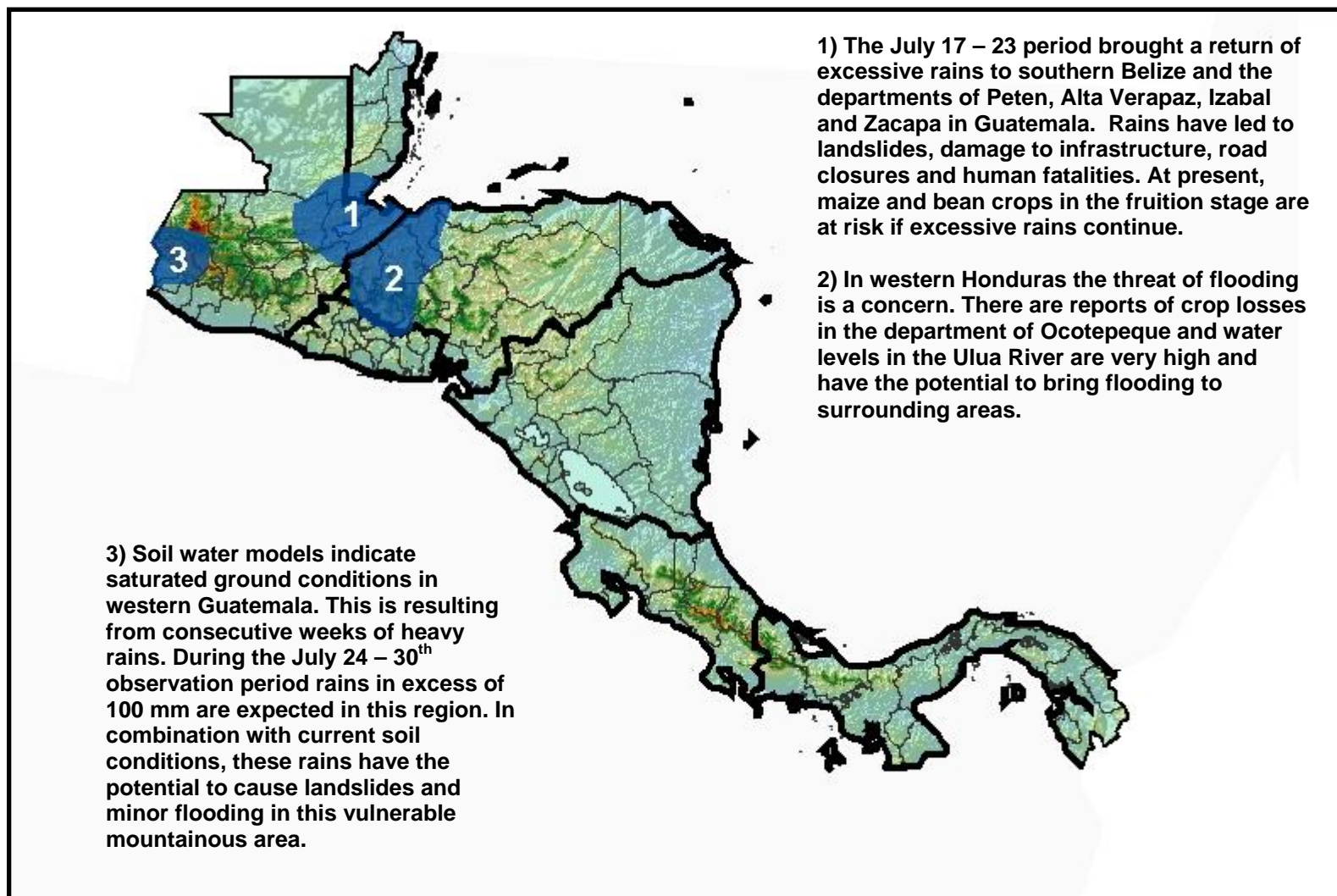


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

July 24 – July 30, 2008



## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

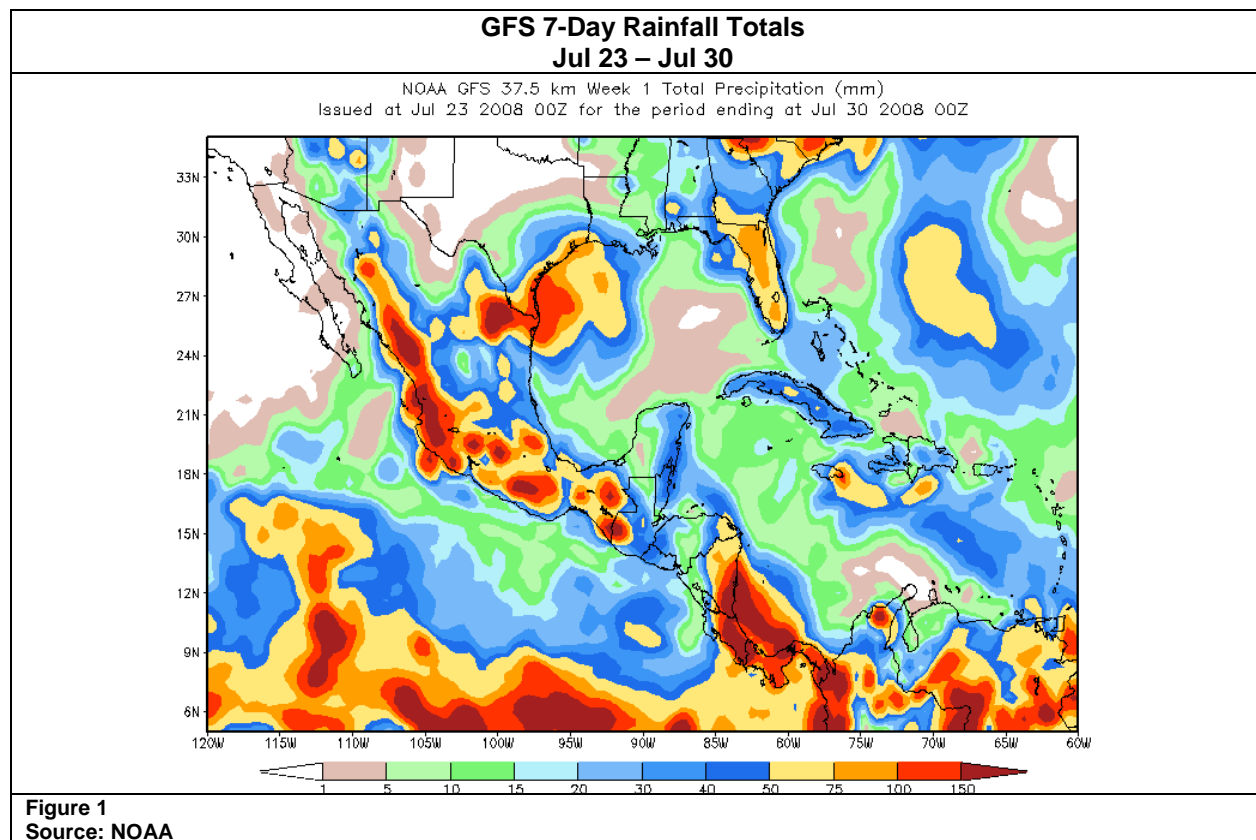
Though the Central American region is in the midst of Canicula, which is typified by dryness; rainfall remains excessive in most areas and threatens crops.

In Guatemala, the departments of Alta Verapaz, Izabal and Zacapa have been receiving excessive rains since June and seasonal rainfall totals in these areas are now approaching or are in excess of 200 percent of normal. At present, maize and black bean crops in the later stages of growth are at the most risk of being lost. Beans are especially vulnerable because they are very sensitive to moisture. In addition to the potential of crop loss, excess soil moisture has raised concerns with the potential that landslides may occur in these departments and in the western departments of Quezaltenango and San Marcos.

Central Honduras has suffered crop losses due to the mid-May to June dryness. While water availability and ground conditions are near normal in the central region, flooding has become a concern in the west. In Ocotepeque, Honduras there are already reports of flood related crop losses. There is also the concern that water levels in the Ulua River could exceed its banks and cause localized flooding.

In Nicaragua, the Ministry of Agriculture reports flooding in the southern Atlantic region. A field trip is being conducted to verify the impacts on rice crops. In the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region, rainfall totals have been continuously excessive for several weeks.

During the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> rainfall totals are expected to remain excessive in western Guatemala and this may lead to landslides and flash flooding. Heavy rainfall is also expected in western Honduras and eastern Nicaragua. Moderate rainfall totals are expected in the Gulf of Honduras departments of Guatemala.



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)