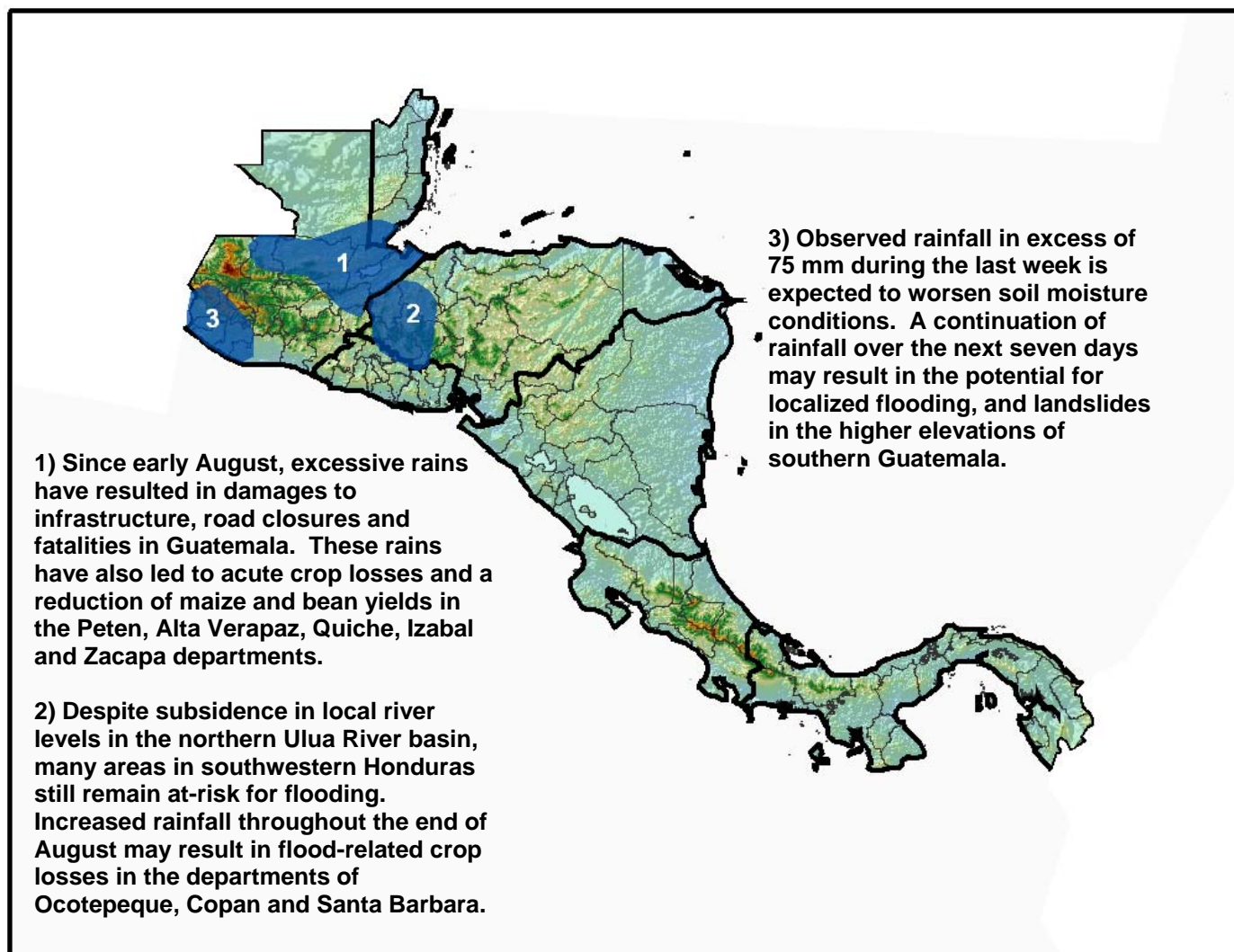


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 28 – September 3, 2008

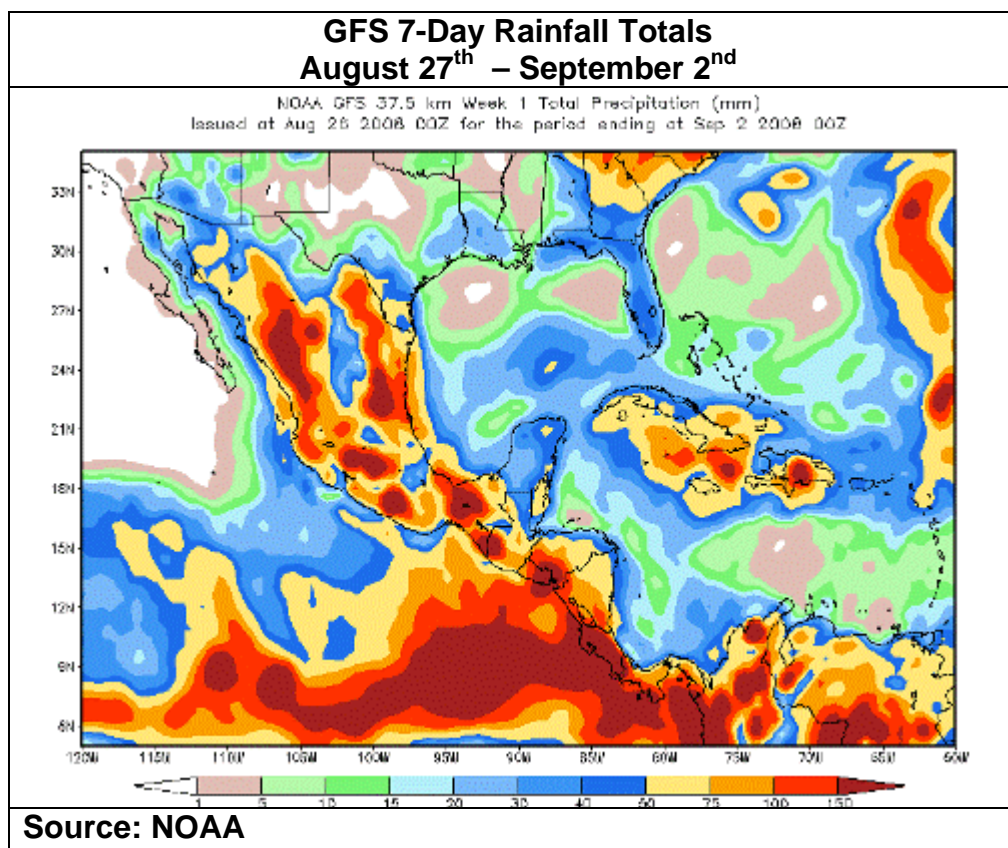


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

During the last seven days, widespread rains were observed across parts of the Gulf of Fonseca region with precipitation totals in excess of 75 mm over El Salvador, southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua. The increase in rainfall continues to provide favorable conditions for cropping areas in El Salvador, as well as the drier parts of northern Nicaragua. However, last week's rainfall continues to leave many local areas in southern Ulua River basin at risk for flooding. Areas in the northern Ulua River basin, as well as parts along the Chamelecon River, have generally experienced subsidence in river levels since mid-August.

Further west, a decrease in weekly rains is expected to provide some relief from flooding for crops in northern Guatemala. Above-average rainfall since July has resulted in losses in bean and maize crops, and there remains a moderate potential for reduced crop yields due to excessive soil moisture. In central Honduras, lack of Primera rains and poor August rains have led to deteriorating crop conditions. At present, many localized areas of central Honduras and along the northern coastline are 50 percent below average since May with declining soil water conditions since the beginning of August.

For the August 28th – September 3rd observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall along the Pacific side of Central America due to an active ITCZ. Precipitation totals in excess of 75 mm may be expected for many parts in southern Guatemala, while totals between 30 – 60 mm are also expected for regions near the Gulf of Fonseca.



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