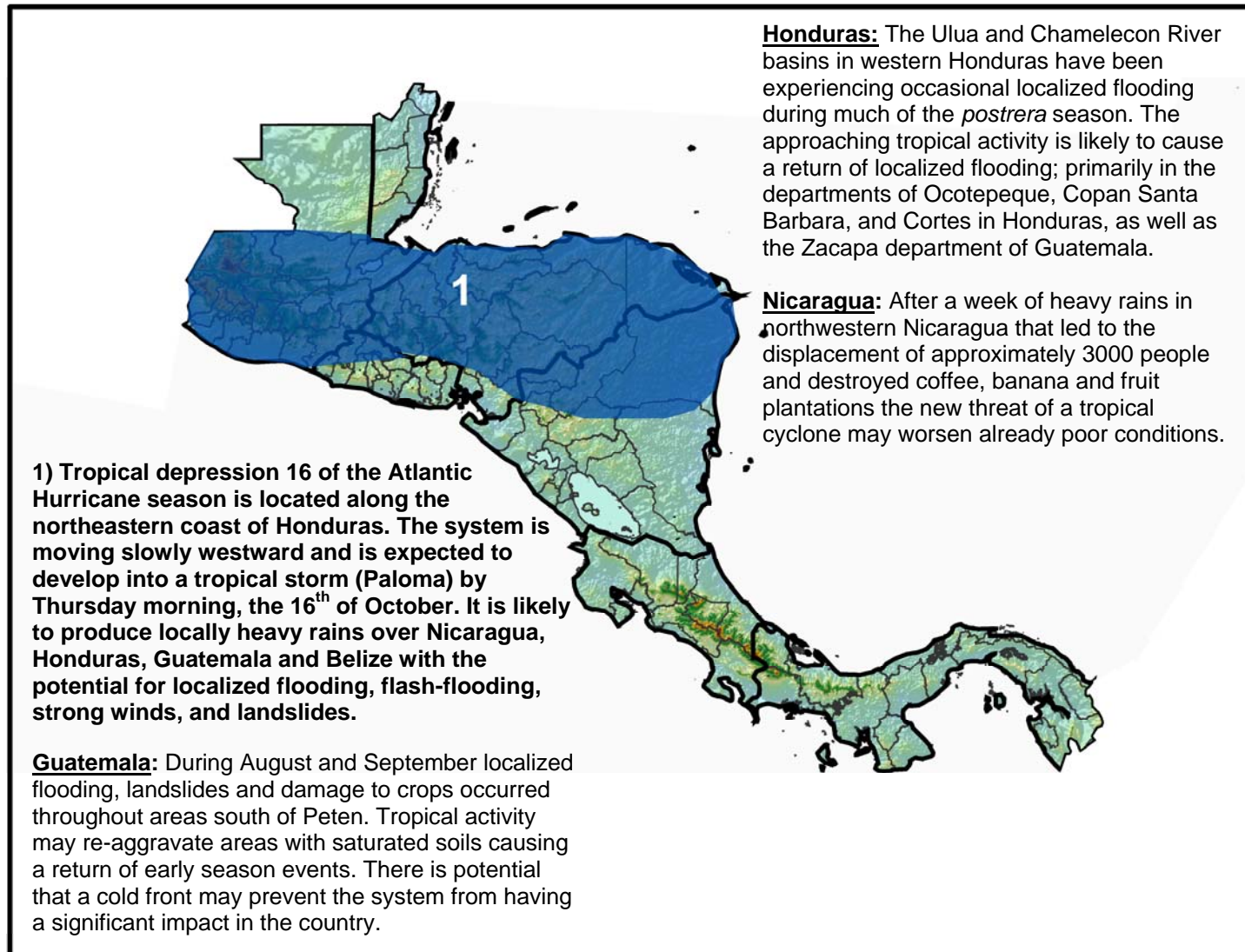


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

October 16 – 22, 2008



## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

The sixteenth tropical development of the Atlantic Hurricane season is located along the northeastern coast of Honduras. According to the National Hurricane Center, as of 11:00 am EDT the system had maximum sustained winds of 30 mph and moving westward at 5 mph. **See Figure 1.** The system is expected to develop into a Tropical Storm (Paloma) early Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. It will likely remain a storm for almost a day as it skirts the northern Honduras coastline before returning to a depression early Friday morning as it enters Guatemala. It is likely to dissipate Saturday. However, there is one forecast model that is showing potential for the system to redevelop in the eastern Pacific as the 18<sup>th</sup> tropical development of the season.

The August update of the Atlantic Hurricane Season outlook predicted 14 – 18 tropical storms, 7 – 10 hurricanes, and 3 -6 major hurricanes. At present, there have been a total of 16 Atlantic tropical developments with 15 tropical storms, 7 hurricanes, and 3 major hurricanes. The season ends November 30<sup>th</sup>. Currently active in the Atlantic is Hurricane Omar. It is a category 1 hurricane projected to strengthen to category 2 status by Thursday.

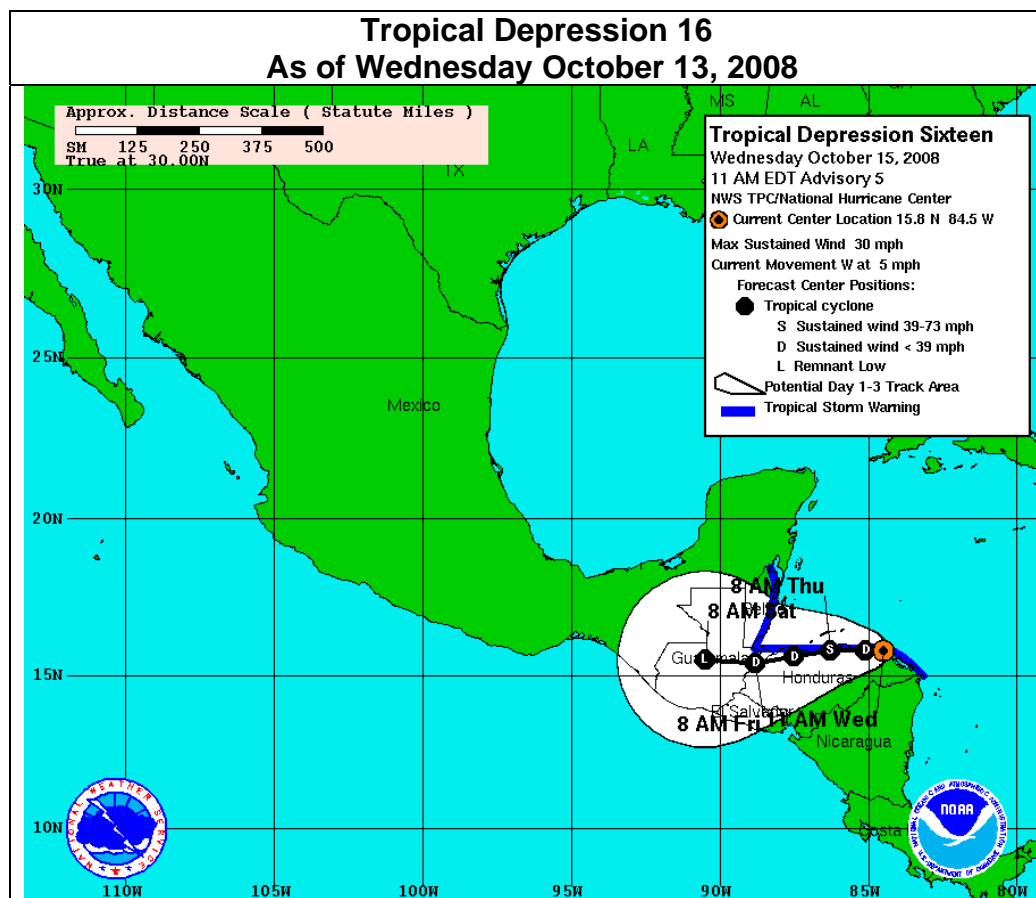


Figure 1: The above image depicts Tropical Depression 16 and its projected path through Saturday.

**Source: NOAA/NHC**

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)