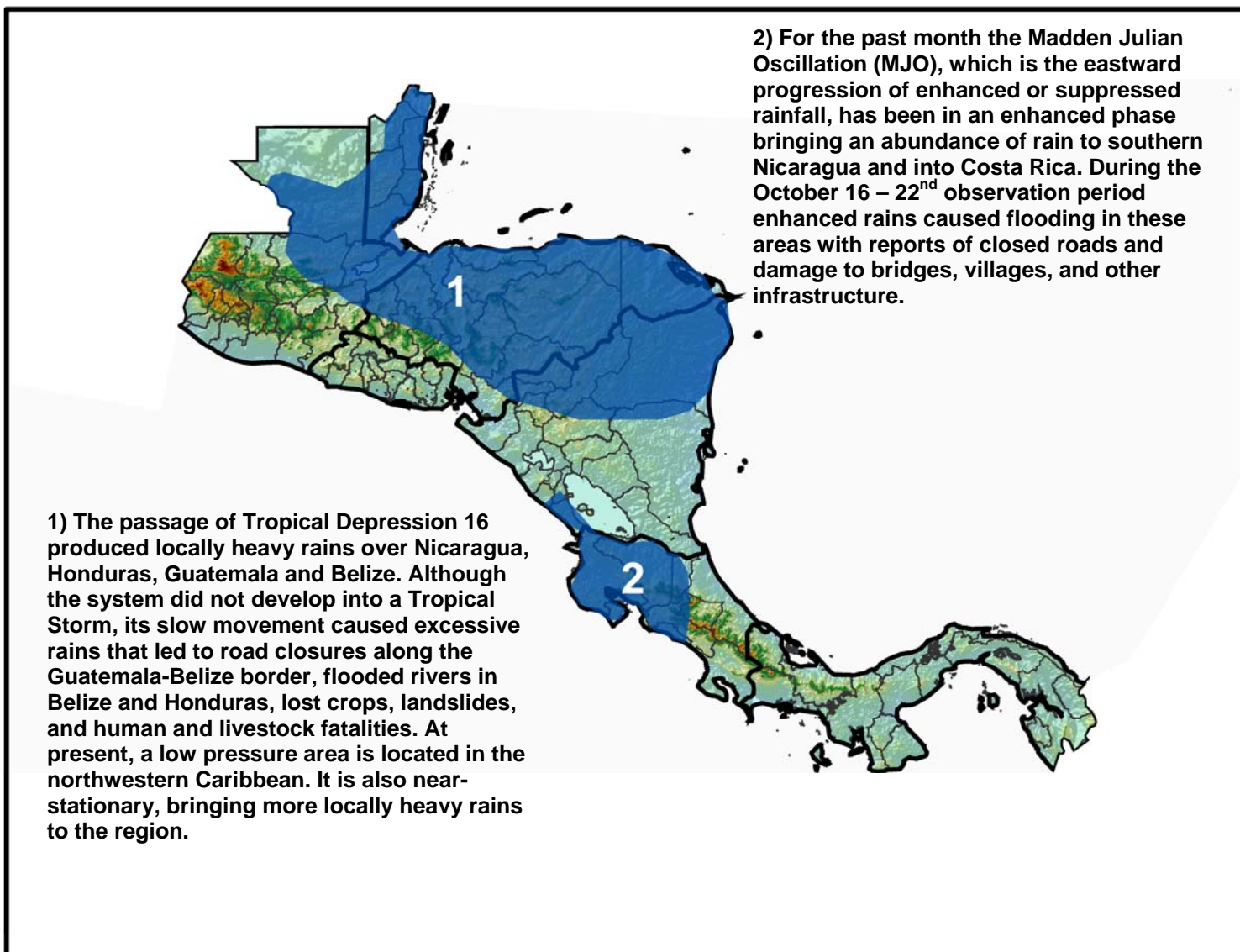


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

October 23 – 29, 2008



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

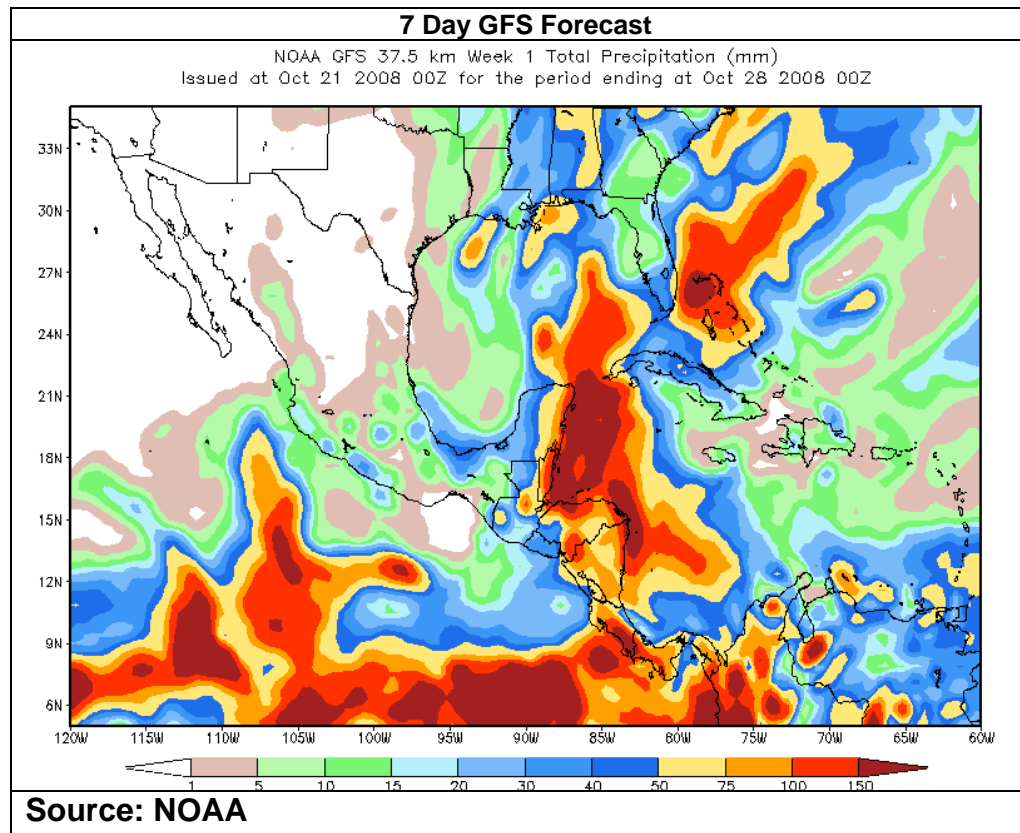
Another mild tropical development situated itself in the western Caribbean bringing excessive rains to Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Belize. This latest low pressure system traveled in a path very similar to last week's Tropical Depression 16 causing an inundation of roads, municipalities, and infrastructure. It is also to blame for landslides, lost crops, and livestock. Many areas may experience flooding in the near future, if they have not already.

During August and September localized flooding, landslides and damage to crops occurred throughout Guatemala. The recent re-emergence of mild tropical activity has aggravated areas with already saturated soils. Ground reports state that river levels in the Alta Verapaz department are very high and that minor landslides have occurred along with damaged roads. According to the hydrology department of the National Institute of Seismology Volcanology Meteorology and Hydrology in Peten the river La Pasion has increased to more than 2.5 times its normal level. It averages 3.1 m and at present sits at 8.1 m.

In Honduras, the Olancho, Copan, Santa Barbara, Yora and Choluteca departments are all on a high alert warning due to the Guayape, Chamelecon, Coyol, and Ulua Rivers. River level concerns have led to evacuations, landslides, lost crops, and livestock in these departments. Belize is also experiencing problems with flooded rivers. Flood waters along the Belize-Guatemala western border have closed the border crossing.

In southern Nicaragua and most of Costa Rica flooding has damaged bridges and villages, and flooded roads.

During the October 23 – 29 observation period heavy rainfall totals are expected throughout the region with the exception of southern Guatemala, where the rainy season is nearly complete; and southwestern Honduras and El Salvador, where moderate totals are expected.



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