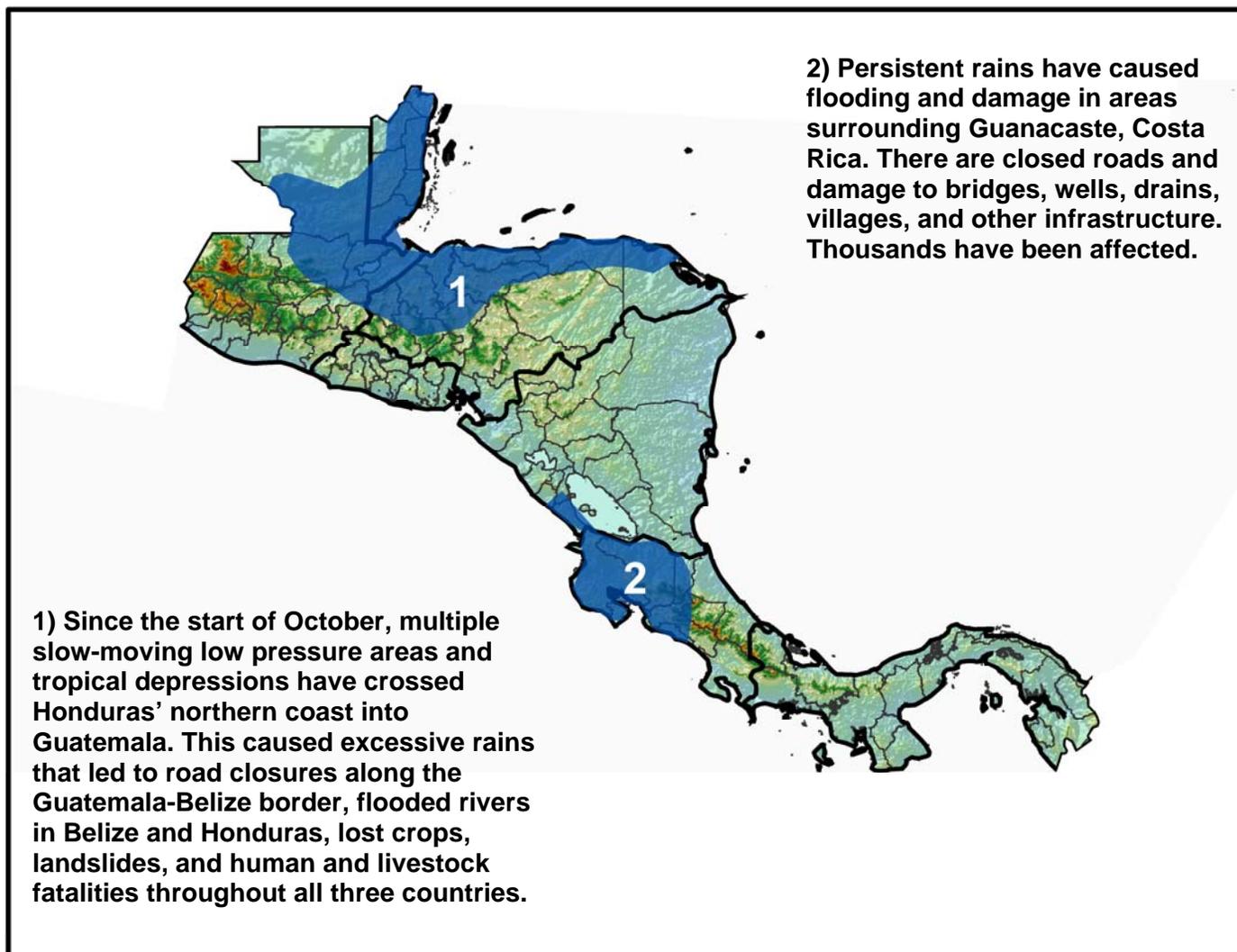


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

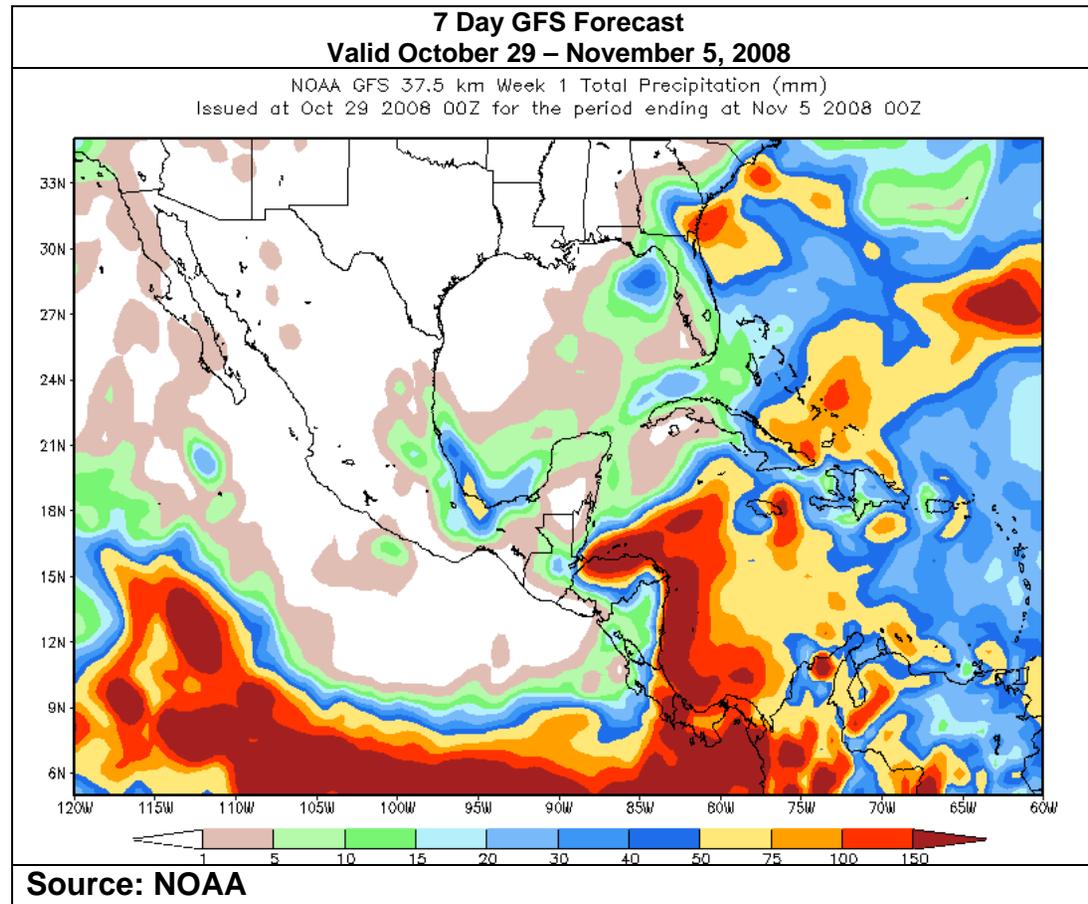
October 30 – November 5, 2008



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Successive tropical developments in Central America causing heavy rains and flooding have complicated the situation on the ground for much of the region. From northern Belize to central Costa Rica, rains have taken their toll on the region. The departments of Peten, Alta Verapaz, and Izabal in Guatemala have suffered greatly from lost crops, flooding, landslides, and infrastructural damage. Localized flooding is still a problem in areas. According to the hydrology department of the National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology, and Hydrology in Peten, the depth of 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. Belize rivers have flooded their banks, roads have been closed, in addition to the country's border crossing between it and with Guatemala. Further west, in Honduras, the basins of the Ulua, Chamelcon, Guayape, and Coyol rivers have caused a high alert status in the departments of Olancho, Copan, Santa Barbara, Yora, and Choluteca. High river levels have led to evacuations, landslides, lost crops, and livestock in these departments. In southern Nicaragua and most of Costa Rica flooding has damaged bridges and villages, and flooded roads.

During the October 30 – November 5 observation period, varying rainfall totals are expected throughout the region. Light to moderate rains will be observed throughout much of Guatemala with the moderate totals centered in the Gulf of Honduras region. Though this is a needed break from heavy rains, the totals in the north are expected to remain above normal for the region for the next 2 weeks. The anomalously high rainfall totals are also expected along the northern coast of Honduras and in Costa Rica. Light to moderate rains will be observed in southern Honduras and most of Nicaragua.



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