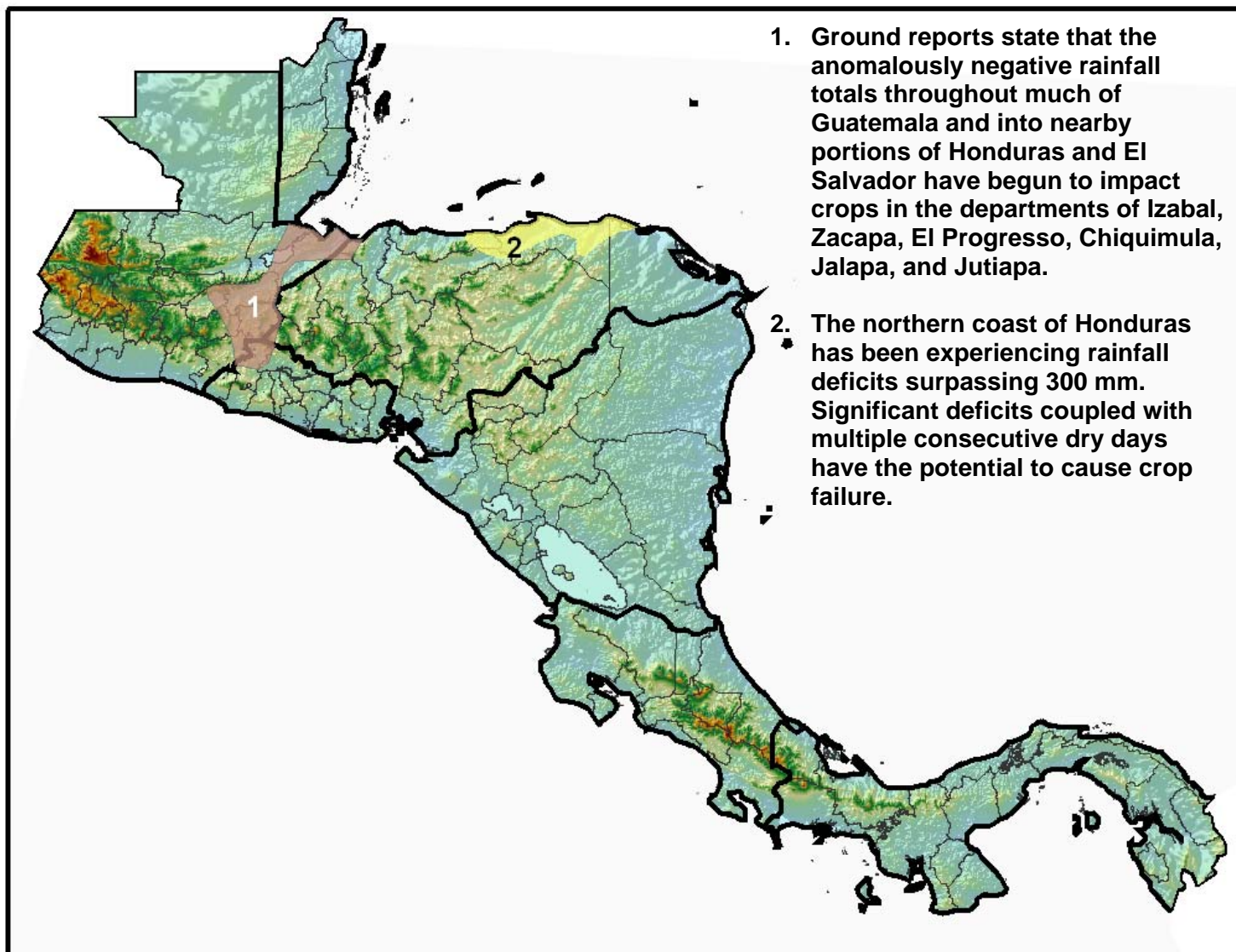


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For  
July 9 – 15, 2009



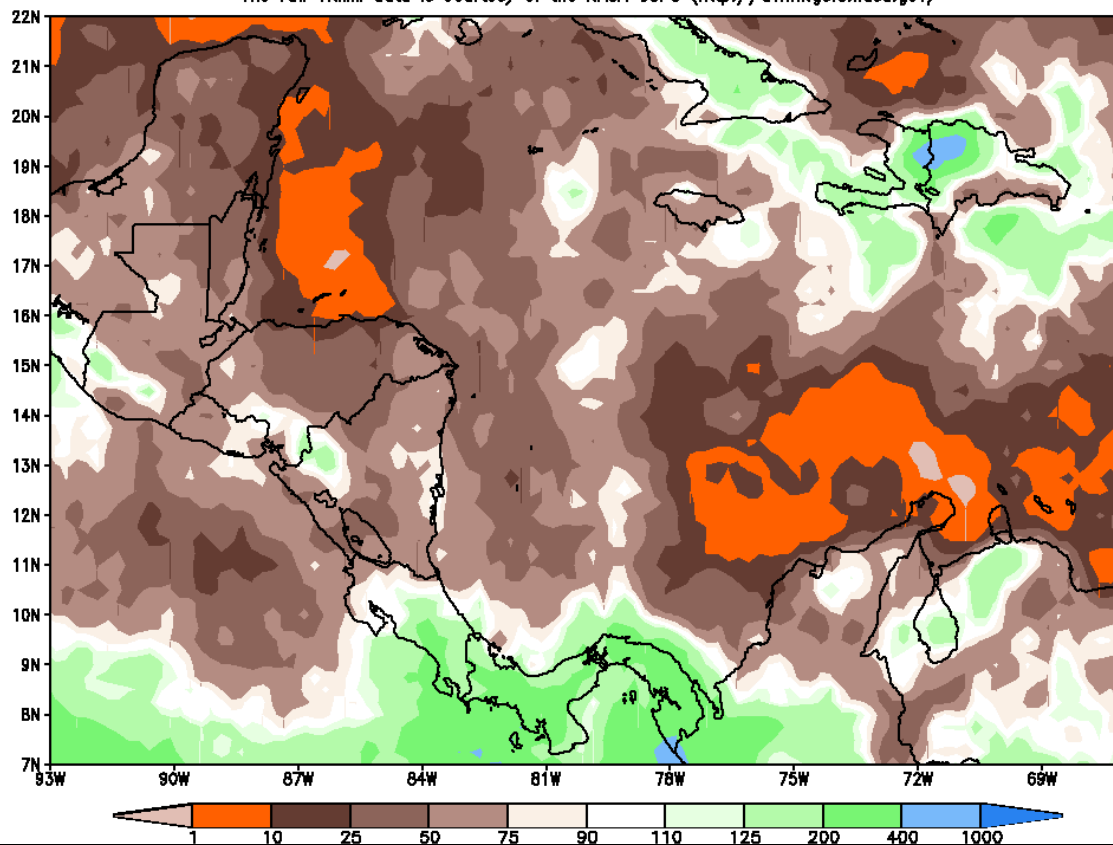
## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Light-to-moderate rains in Central America gave a needed break to saturated soils in the southern Guatemala mountains and continued to aid in improving rainfall deficits in eastern Nicaragua. However, the light rains continue to hamper ground conditions in the northern coast of Honduras where the area received only 10 – 25 mm of rainfall in the past week causing negative rainfall anomalies to worsen and spread spatially.

**El Nino:** The Pacific is transitioning from ENSO Neutral conditions to El Nino. The Nino 3.4 region, which is normally used to determine whether or not the Pacific is in an El Nino, is currently experiencing sea surface temperatures of .9 degrees Celsius above average. El Nino is declared when sea surface temperatures reach .5 degrees Celsius after five consecutive overlapping three month seasons with a forecast to persist for three consecutive months. Outlook models indicate El Nino will develop during the summer of 2009 and continue through the winter of 2009 – 2010. In a typical El Nino, drier and warmer conditions occur over much of Central America.

### Primera Season Percent of Average Valid: May 1 – July 6, 2009

TRMM MERGED Satellite Estimated Precipitation Percent of Normal May 1 – July 06 2009  
The raw TRMM data is courtesy of the NASA GSFC (<http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>)



Source: NOAA / FEWSNET

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)