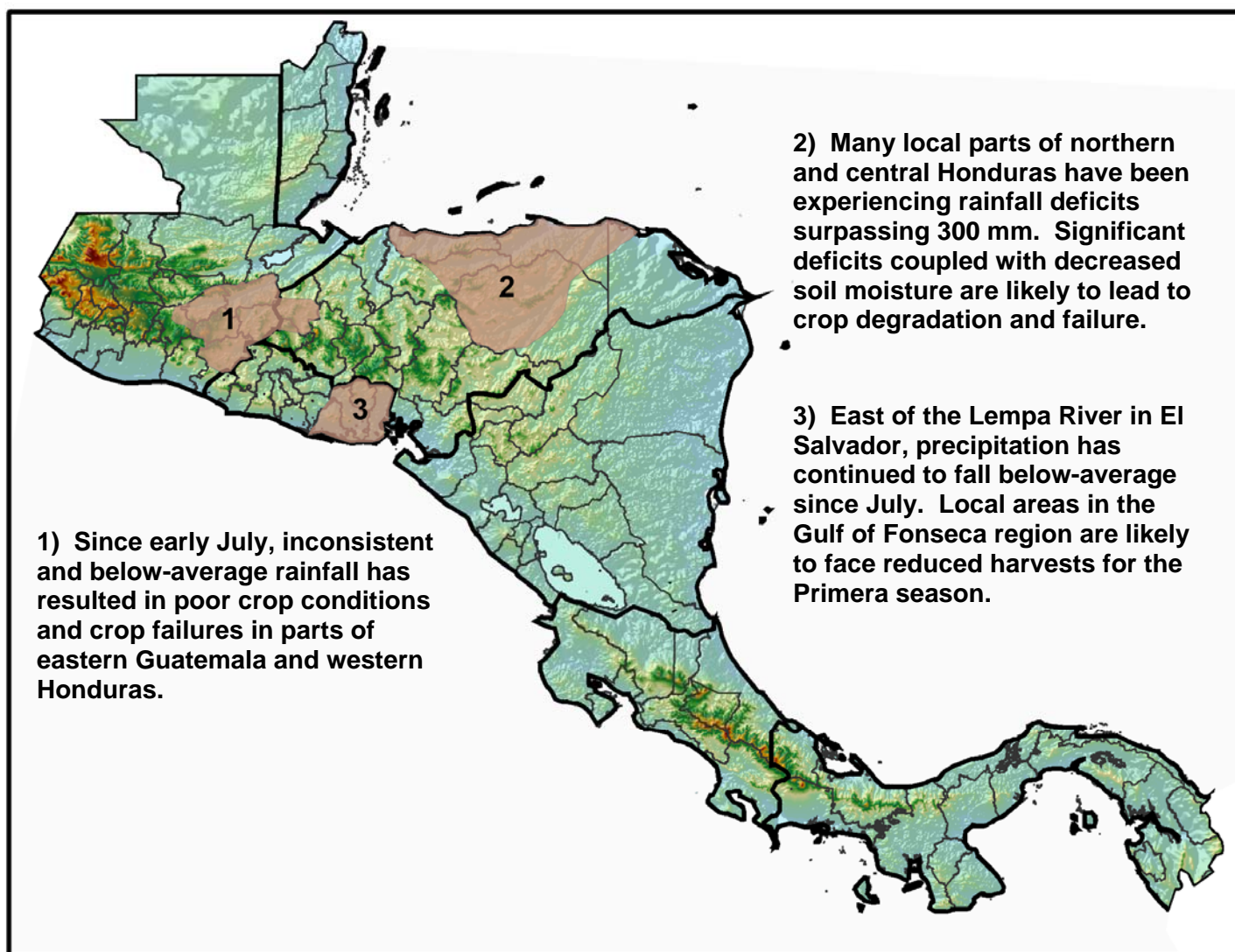


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 13 – August 19, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

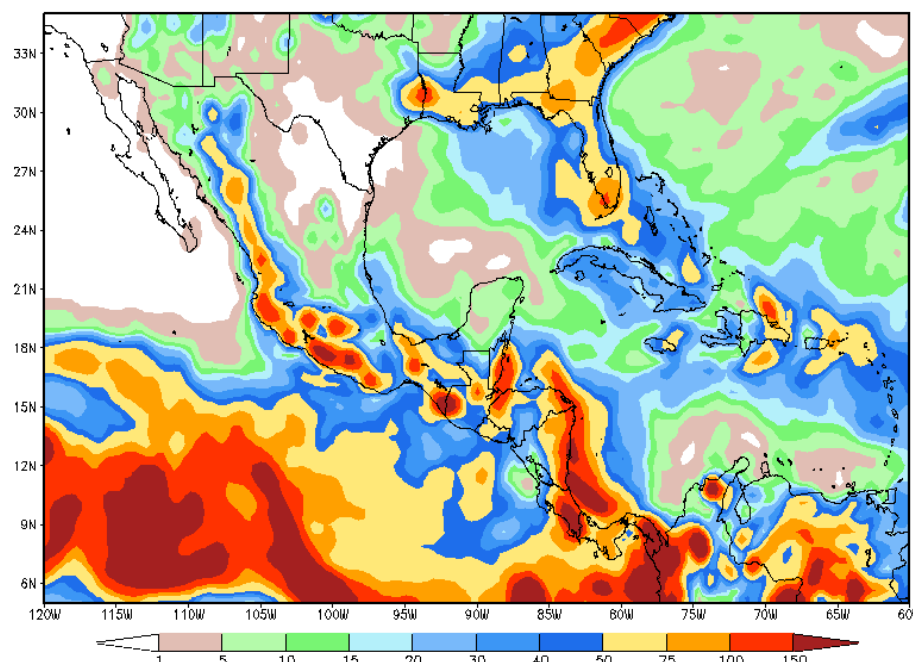
During the last observation period, moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation excess of 75-100mm were received along the Atlantic side of Nicaragua, as well as parts of eastern Honduras and in El Salvador. Although portions of eastern Guatemala received favorable amounts of rain in the last week, inconsistent Primera rains have led to poor crop conditions across many local areas in the Zacapa, El Progreso, Guatemala, Jalapa, Chiquimula and Jutiapa departments of eastern Guatemala.

In Honduras, a recent increase in precipitation is expected to help relieve deficits and provide sufficient soil moisture on the short-term. However, many local areas in the Olancho, Gracias a Dios, and Colon departments of Honduras have observed about one half of their normal rainfall accumulation since the start of the Primera season. In eastern El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca region continues to experience growing rainfall deficits since early July. These deficits have led to deteriorating crop conditions in some local areas, which is likely to result in reduced harvests by the end of the season.

Precipitation forecasts suggest some improvement to the dryness observed in the western half of the Central America domain. Rainfall totals ranging between 50-75 mm are expected for parts of southwestern and northern Guatemala, with the heaviest totals forecast for parts of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. No significant tropical activity is expected in the next seven days.

7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook Valid: Aug 10th – Aug 17th, 2009

NOAA GFS 37.5 km Week 1 Total Precipitation (mm)
Issued at Aug 10 2009 00Z for the period ending at Aug 17 2009 00Z



Source: CPC / NOAA

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