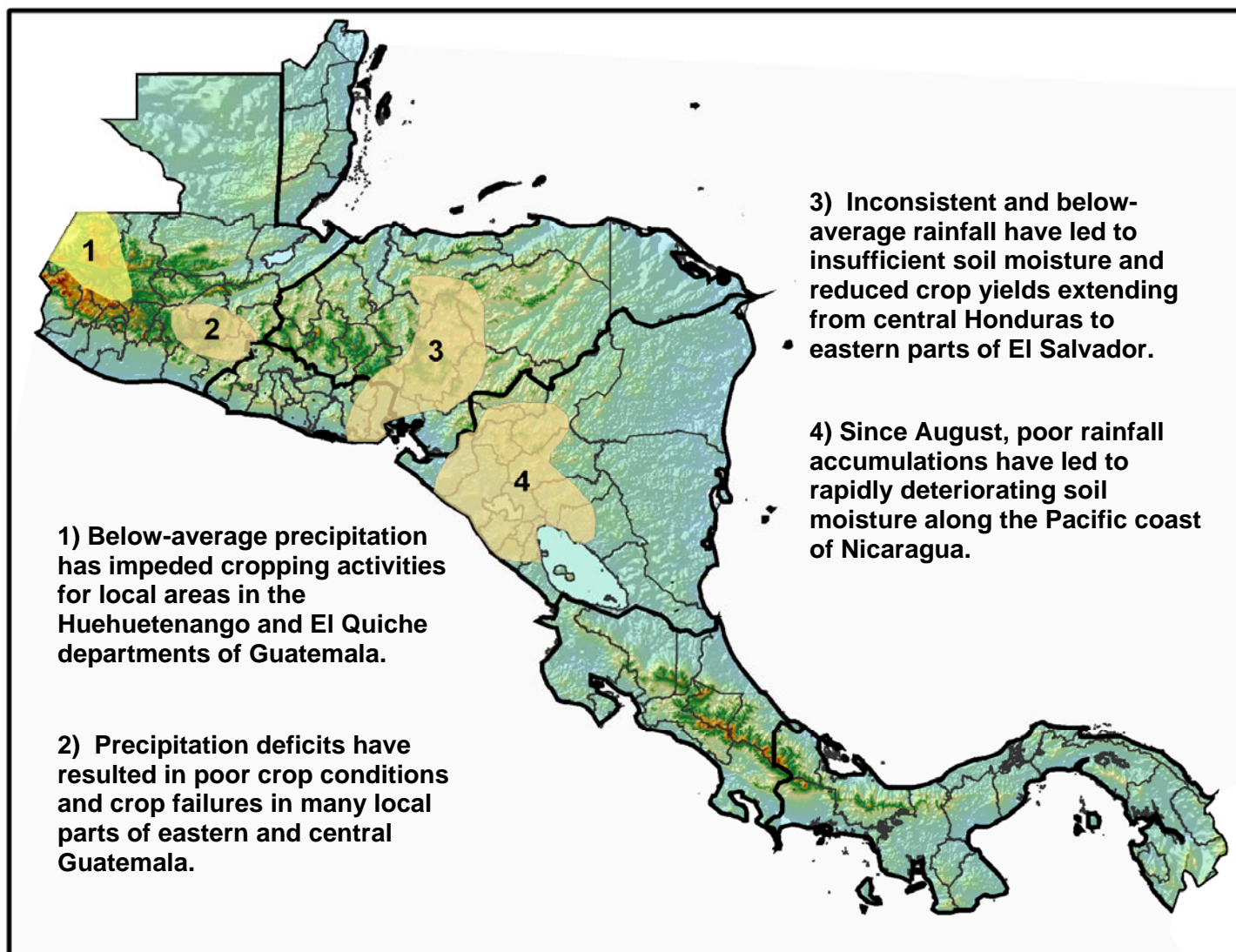


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 10 – September 16, 2009



## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

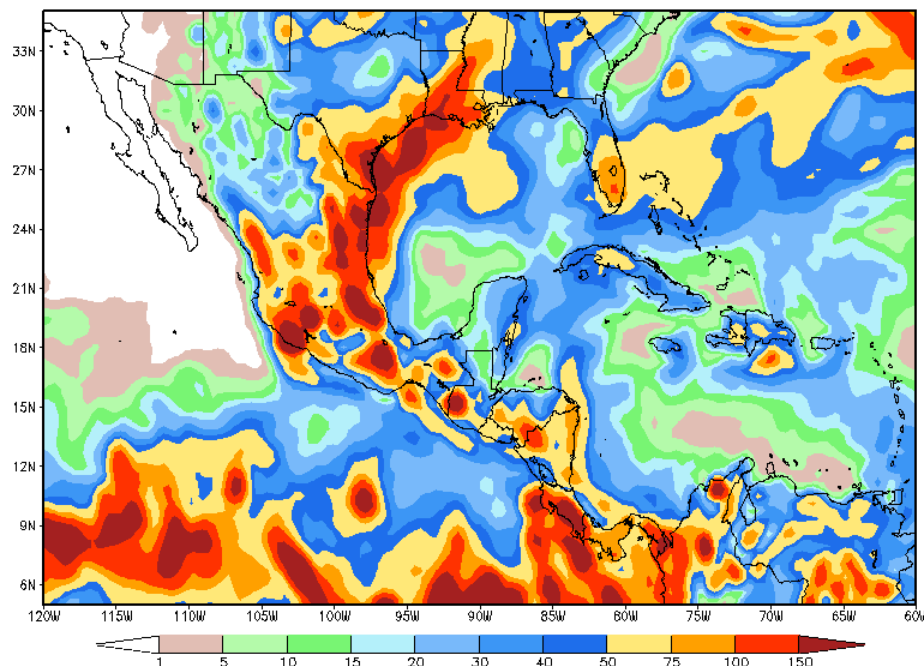
Another week of suppressed rainfall was observed across Central America. In Guatemala, precipitation amounts for the last observation period were less than 20 mm across central Guatemala, with higher totals (< 25 mm) observed further north near the Gulf of Honduras, and along the Pacific coast. In El Salvador, rainfall remained moderate with many local areas receiving totals ranging between 25 -50 mm. In Honduras and Nicaragua, the heaviest precipitation was confined to the Atlantic side, while many parts of central and western Nicaragua received less than 15 mm over the last seven days. Further south, Costa Rica and Panama received another round of favorable precipitation.

Since July, below-average rainfall has led to crop degradation and failure in parts in the Zacapa, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Jalapa, and Jutiapa departments of Guatemala. In El Salvador, poorly distributed and irregular rainfall in July has led to a 50 percent reduction in crop yields for many municipalities in the departments of Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, Usulután, and San Miguel. Despite a poor end to the Primera season rains, Postrera planting is currently underway for the departments of Choluteca, Valle, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazán, and Yoro in Honduras. In western Nicaragua, poor rainfall has resulted in strengthening deficits and deteriorating soil water conditions, especially for areas neighboring Lake Nicaragua along the Pacific coast.

Precipitation forecasts do suggest an increase in rainfall (>50 mm) over some of the drier portions of Honduras and Nicaragua. Moderate to heavy amounts of rainfall ranging between 50 -75 mm are expected throughout central and southern parts of Guatemala in the next seven days. No significant tropical activity is expected.

### 7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook Valid: Sep 9<sup>th</sup> – Sep 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

NOAA GFS 37.5 km Week 1 Total Precipitation (mm)  
Issued at Sep 09 2009 00Z for the period ending at Sep 16 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](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov)