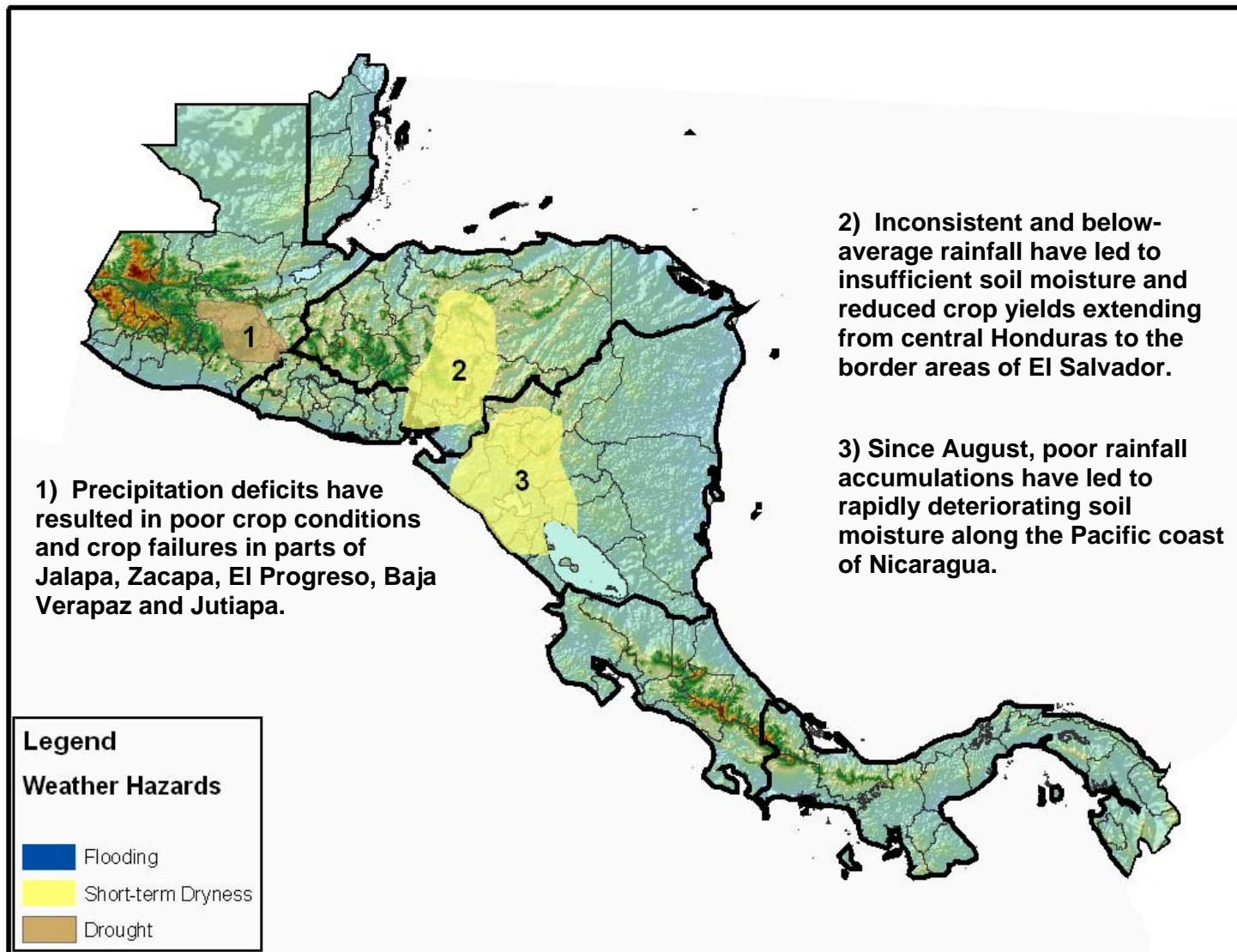


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For
October 1 – 7, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

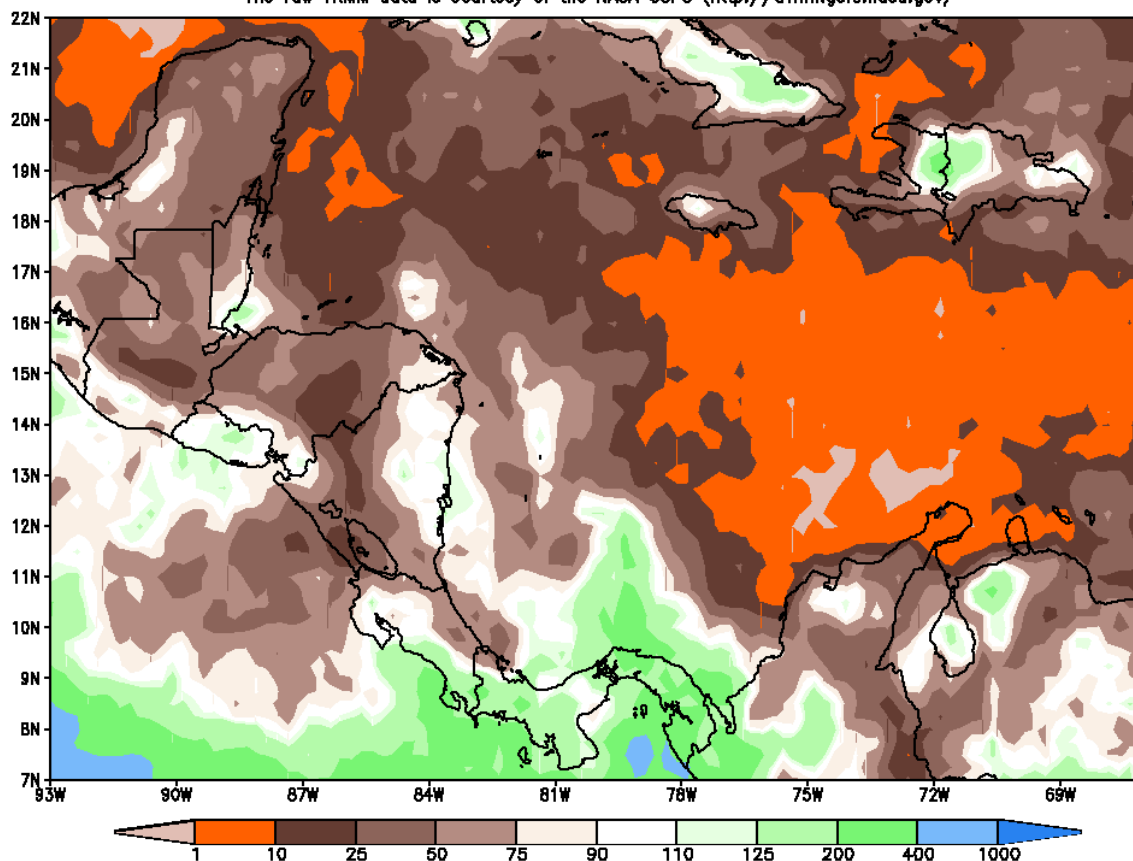
The primera season was a mixed bag throughout Central America. From Belize to Nicaragua, rainfall totals were 25 – 75 percent of average for the May to August period. As a result some areas experienced crop losses. In Guatemala, crops were lost in the Jalapa, Zacapa, El Progreso, Baja Verapaz, and Jutiapa departments. In Honduras, the Ministry of Agriculture reports that the poor primera season rains did not affect the national production of crops. They have chosen, however not to distribute seeds to some areas in the departments of Olancho, El Paraiso and Yoro because, according to climatology, they are likely to be affected by drought during the postrera season. The Ministry of Agriculture in El Salvador reports that there is only a 13.7% reduction in crops due to poor primera season rains.

The postrera season is off to a more favorable start than the primera season, but remains below average in many areas. Southern Guatemala, El Salvador, the Gulf of Fonseca, and much of eastern Nicaragua are currently experiencing rainfall totals ranging from 75 – 125 percent of average.

TRMM Postrera Season Percent of Average Totals Valid: August 1 – September 28, 2009

TRMM MERGED Satellite Estimated Precipitation Percent of Normal August 1 2009 – September 28 2009

The raw TRMM data is courtesy of the NASA GSFC (<http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov>)



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