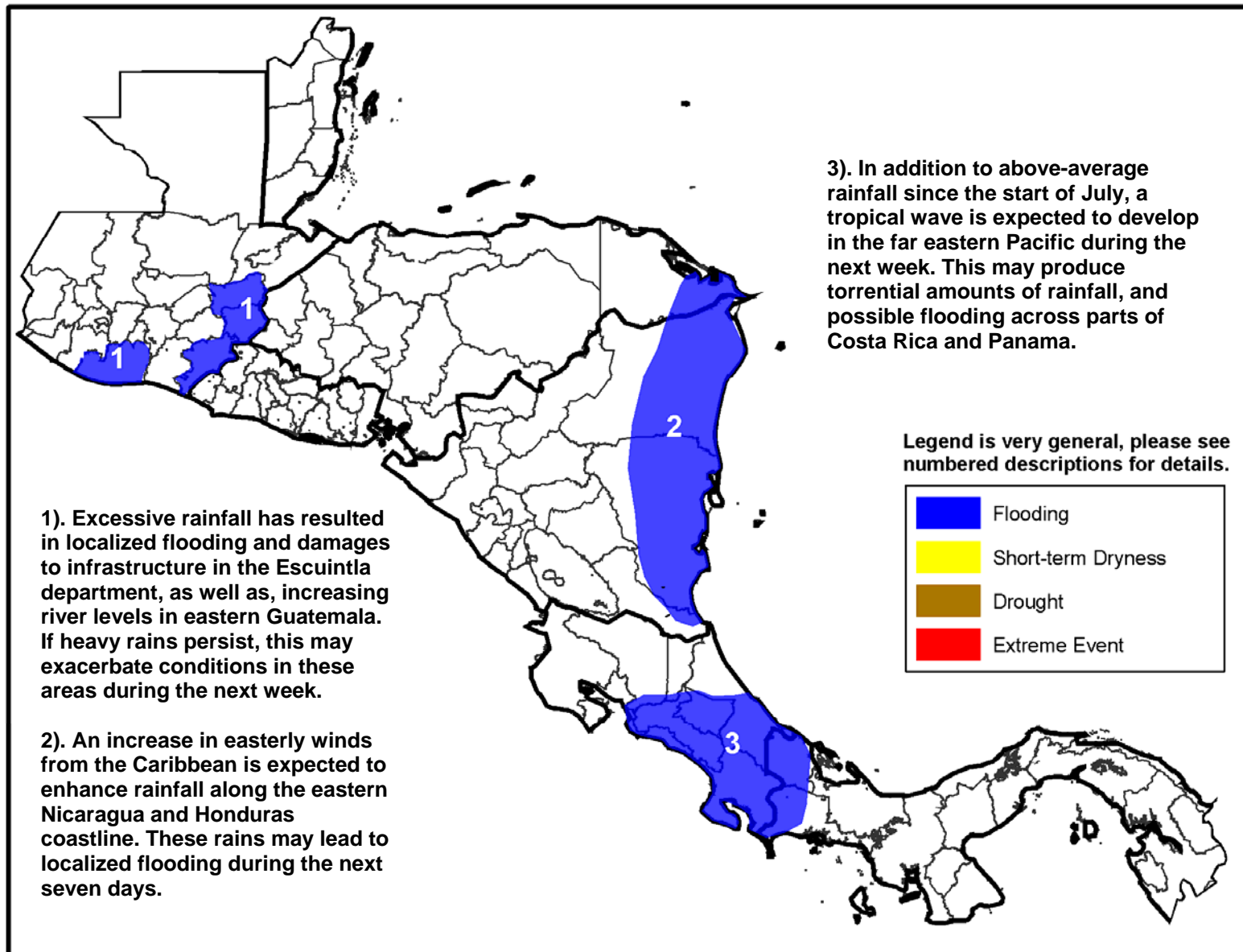


## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America July 15 – July 21, 2010

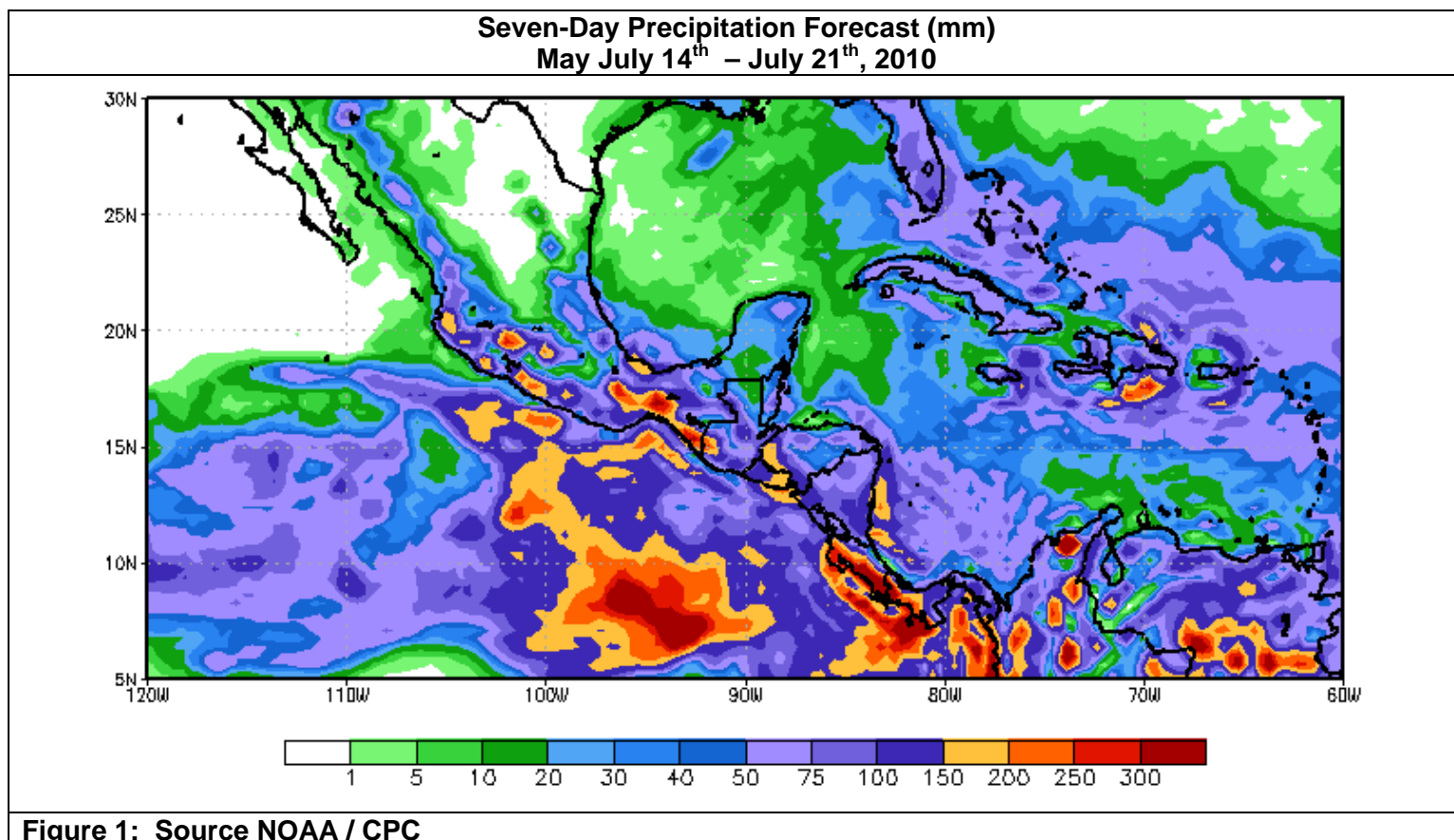
- Heavy rains cause flooding and rising river levels in parts of southern and eastern Guatemala.
- The possible development of a tropical wave in the eastern Pacific may trigger flooding in parts of Costa Rica and Panama.



## Many areas in Central America may not see relief to excessive rainfall.

During the last observation period, heavy amounts of rainfall in excess of 100mm were observed along eastern Nicaragua and Honduras. In Guatemala, excessive rainfall during the last week resulted in localized flooding and damages to infrastructure in the Escuintla department, as well as elevated river levels in the Zacapa, Jutiapa, Chiquimula departments. Further south, high amounts of precipitation ranging between 75-100mm were also received along many coastal parts of eastern Costa Rica and southwestern Panama. Since the start of the Primera season, rainfall has remained above-average throughout many areas in Central America. The enhanced rainfall activity since the start of May has helped to provide sufficient soil moisture, which is expected to continually benefit the development of crops over the next several weeks.

Precipitation forecasts suggest another anomalously wet week for a number of areas in Central America. Due to the potential development of a tropical wave during the later end of the upcoming observation period, heavy rainfall amounts in excess of 100mm are expected for portions of Costa Rica and Panama. Heavy rainfall may also be observed for portions of eastern Nicaragua and Honduras due to an increase in winds and moisture from the Caribbean. The continuation of above-average rainfall for parts of Costa Rica, eastern Nicaragua, and Guatemala may trigger localized flooding and worsen ground conditions in many areas during the next week.



MFEWS is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The MFEWS weather hazards assessment process and products include participation by MFEWS field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries such as, 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. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID MFEWS activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for MFEWS, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.