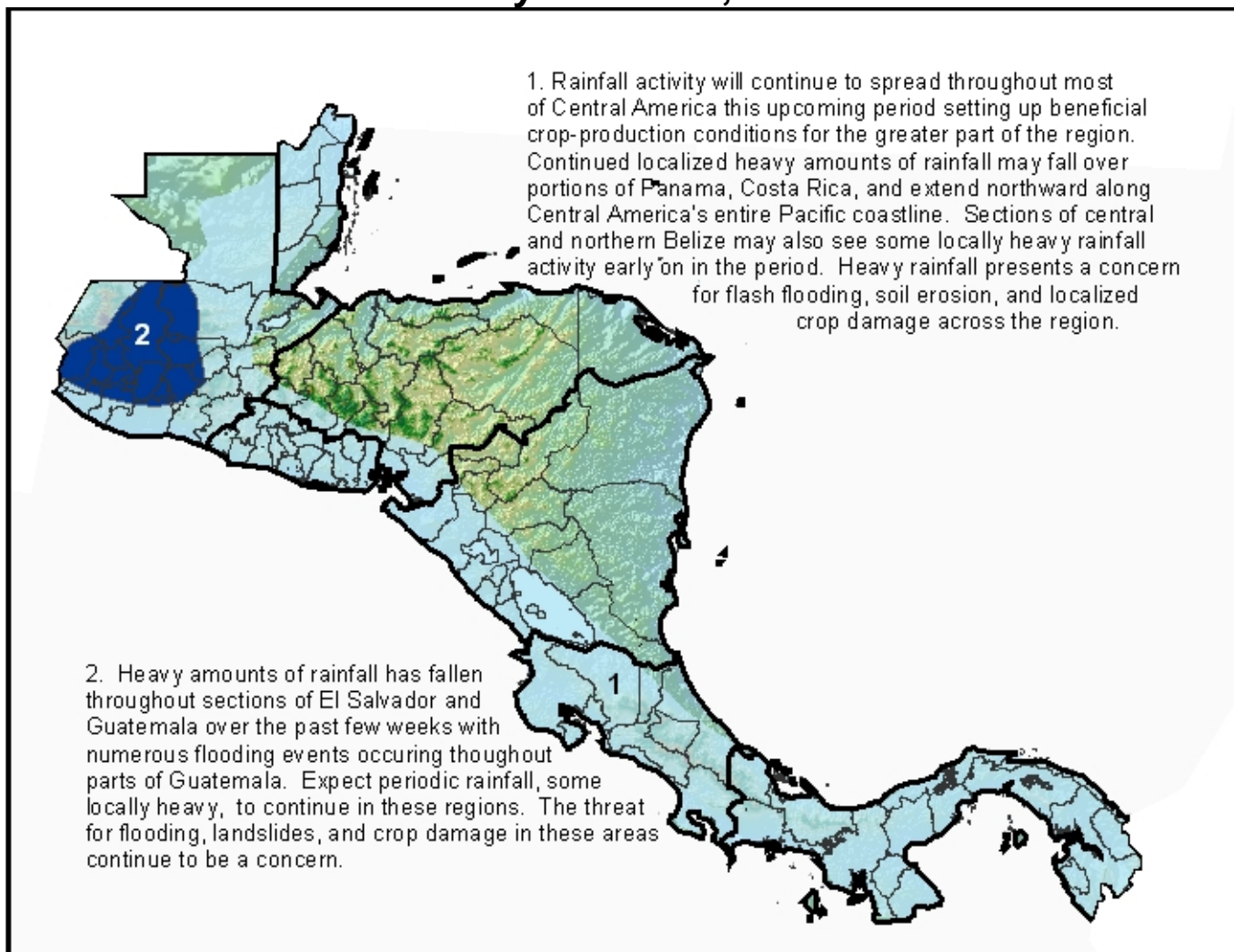


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

May 25 – 31st, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

*Seasonal rains continue to spread across Central America this past week with areas around the Gulf of Fonseca in southern Honduras, north-western Nicaragua region receiving the bulk of the moisture. High rainfall values were also reported along the Pacific coastline of Costa Rica and Panama as well as in sections of south-west Guatemala.

As expected, rains will continue throughout the entire Central America region this upcoming period with heavy amounts forecasted to affect Panama, Costa Rica, and extend northward along Central America's entire Pacific coastline. Sections of central and northern Belize may also see some locally heavy rainfall amounts early on in the period.

With the Eastern Pacific ITCZ position being further north than usual, areas in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama will most likely see enhanced rainfall activity placing a concern for flash flooding, soil erosion, and localized crop damage for the upcoming period.

Sections of Guatemala, namely the south-west, have seen not only earlier than usual rainfall activity over the past few weeks, but heavy amounts of rainfall as well. This rainfall has sparked numerous flooding events across the area. Expect periodic rainfall, some locally heavy, to continue in this region. Possible flooding, landslides, and crop damage within this area continues to be a concern for runoff will be an issue due to the already saturated ground.

The Primera season lasts from May through August and is known for its ample amount of rainfall the region receives. The amount of rain and its timing is critical for crop production throughout the entire region. Seasonal rains usually start mid way through May for most of Central America excluding Panama and Costa Rica which have already seen plentiful rainfall this month.

AUTHOR: Kevin N. Berberich