

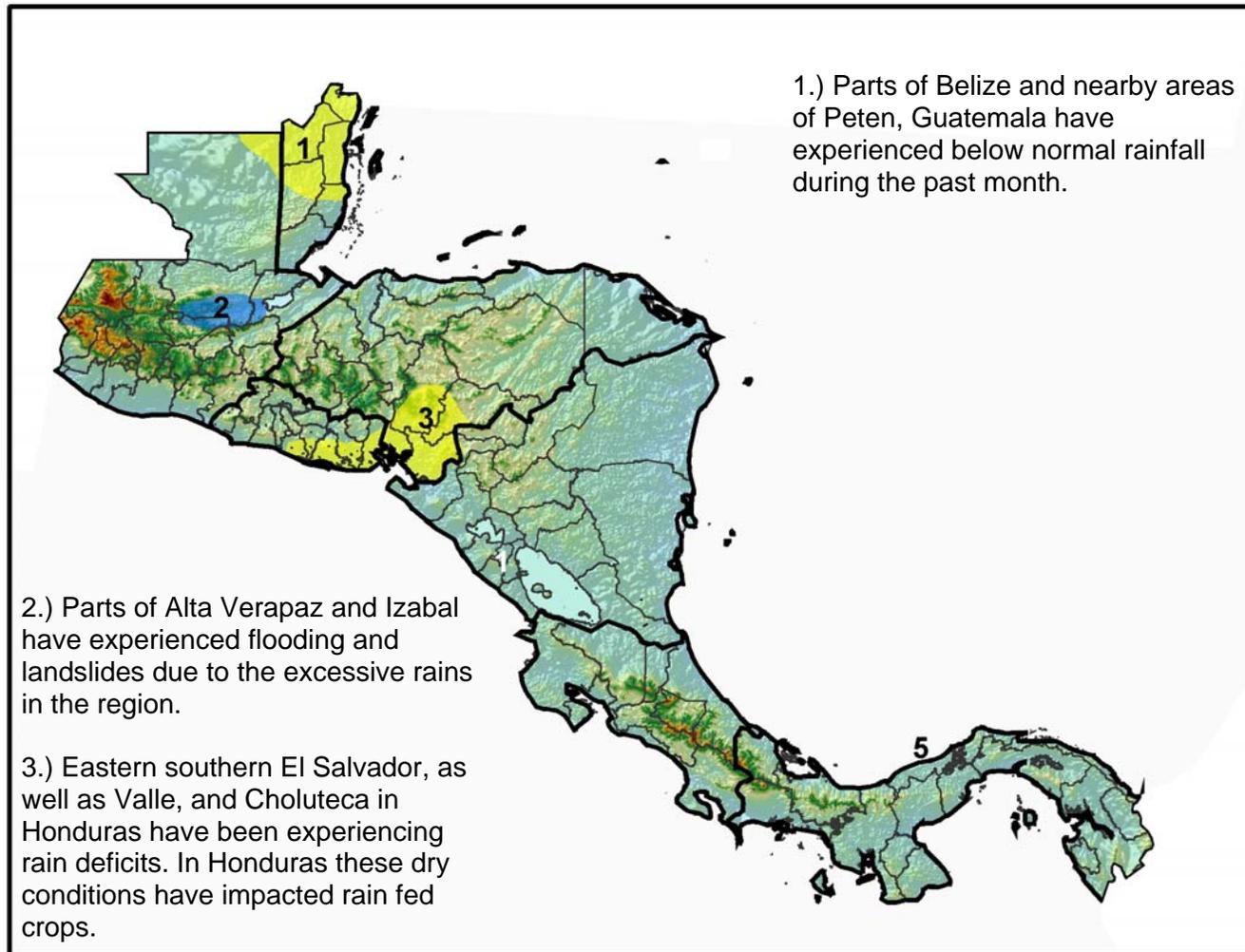
The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 16 – August 22, 2007

- Tropical Storm Dean poses potential threat to region



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Despite the below normal rainfall totals of July in Guatemala crops remain undamaged due to sufficient rains thus far in August. Coastal areas of Guatemala and those bordering El Salvador and Honduras have had excessive rains which have proven beneficial for the crops in fruition there. In Alta Verapaz to Izabal there are reports of landslides and flooding. At present they are not of concern to crops, however, if excessive rains continue soil water may pose a threat. Also, the southern coastal plains of Guatemala have the potential for flooding if heavy rains continue. Models show enhanced rainfall over Central America for the next few weeks.

There was significant rainfall accumulation this past week in El Salvador and south central Honduras, likely providing some relief to the dry conditions there. Despite potentially relieving rains, there have been no reports of improvement in the region. Relative to recent weeks, Nicaragua also had a good rainfall distribution last period. Conditions there are better than what has been reflected in assessments in recent weeks therefore the hazard polygon has been removed.

Heavy rains and storms are expected in Guatemala and Belize. Enhanced rainfall will characterize the remainder of Central America. Tropical Storm Dean is located east of the Antilles and moving westward. It is forecasted to strengthen to a hurricane tomorrow and poses a potential threat to Central America. Coastal Honduras and Nicaragua may experience high winds and rough surf associated with the storm.



Figure: National Hurricane Center advisory of the potential track of Tropical Storm Dean.

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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, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov