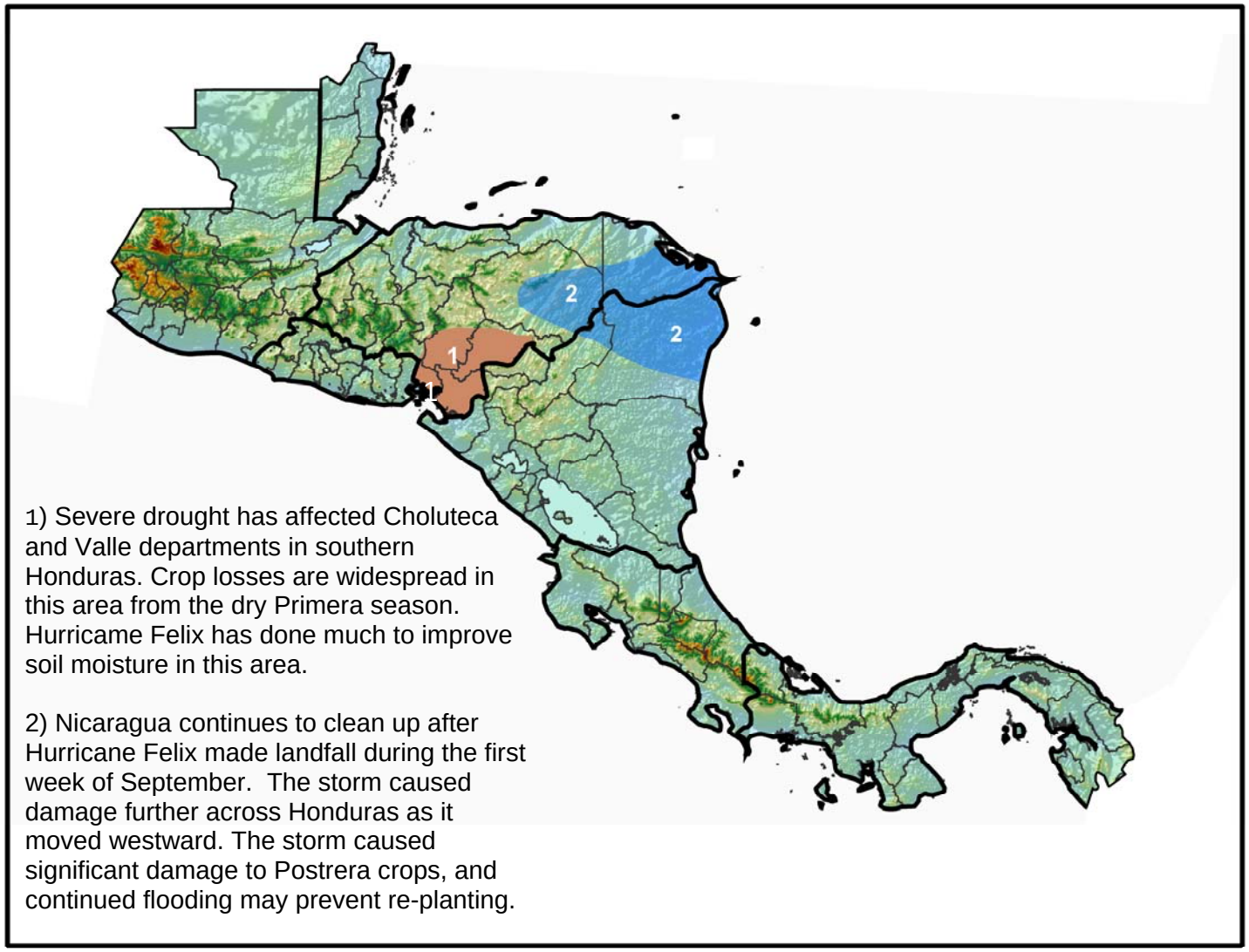
MFEWS Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System
Sistema Mesoamericano de Alerta Temprana para Seguridad Alimentaria

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 13 – 19, 2007



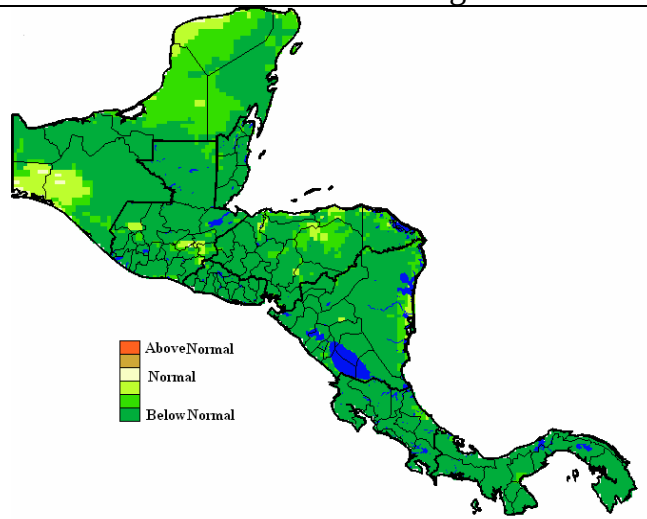
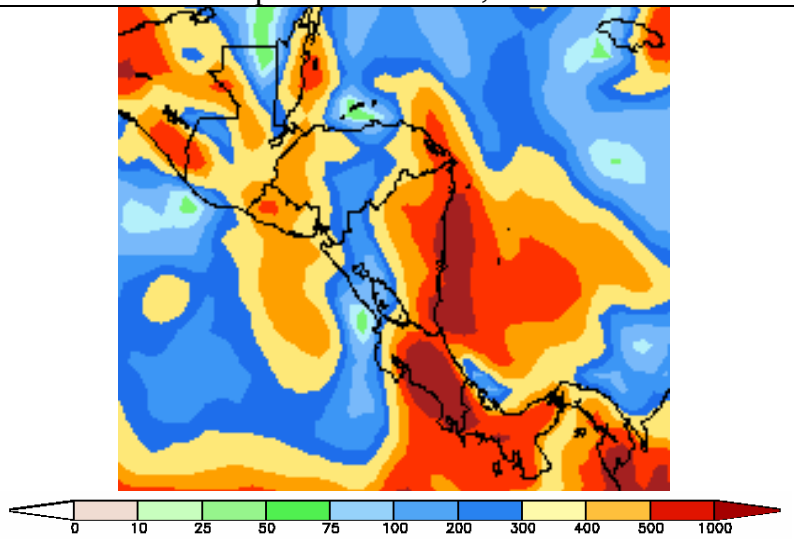
1) Severe drought has affected Choluteca and Valle departments in southern Honduras. Crop losses are widespread in this area from the dry Primera season. Hurricame Felix has done much to improve soil moisture in this area.

2) Nicaragua continues to clean up after Hurricane Felix made landfall during the first week of September. The storm caused damage further across Honduras as it moved westward. The storm caused significant damage to Postrera crops, and continued flooding may prevent re-planting.

Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Hurricane Felix caused significant damage throughout northern Central America. After making landfall in northern NAAS in Nicaragua it devastated buildings, washed out roads and caused flooding. As the storm moved westward it also caused flooding in Honduras as far away from landfall as Tegucigalpa. Isolated flooding also occurred in Guatemala. Many rivers flooded their banks, most dramatically the Ulua and the Chamelecon Rivers. At the current time there are 133 fatalities associated with the storm. The few fatalities can be attributed to the relatively quick movement of the storm, its small size and how quickly it fell apart after making landfall. Despite this, Felix is one of the strongest storms on record and areas that experienced the strongest parts of the storm in NAAS, Nicaragua and Colon and Olancho, Honduras.

Damage has also been done the Postera crops as a result of Felix's high winds and heavy rains. Saturated soils in this region have also made the region highly susceptible to additional flooding. This may prevent re-planting the region.

Water Requirements Satisfaction Index Postrera Season As of Dekad 3 of August	Rainfall Forecast September 10 – 17, 2007
	
Source: MFEWS/USGS	Source: MFEWS/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, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions of comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov