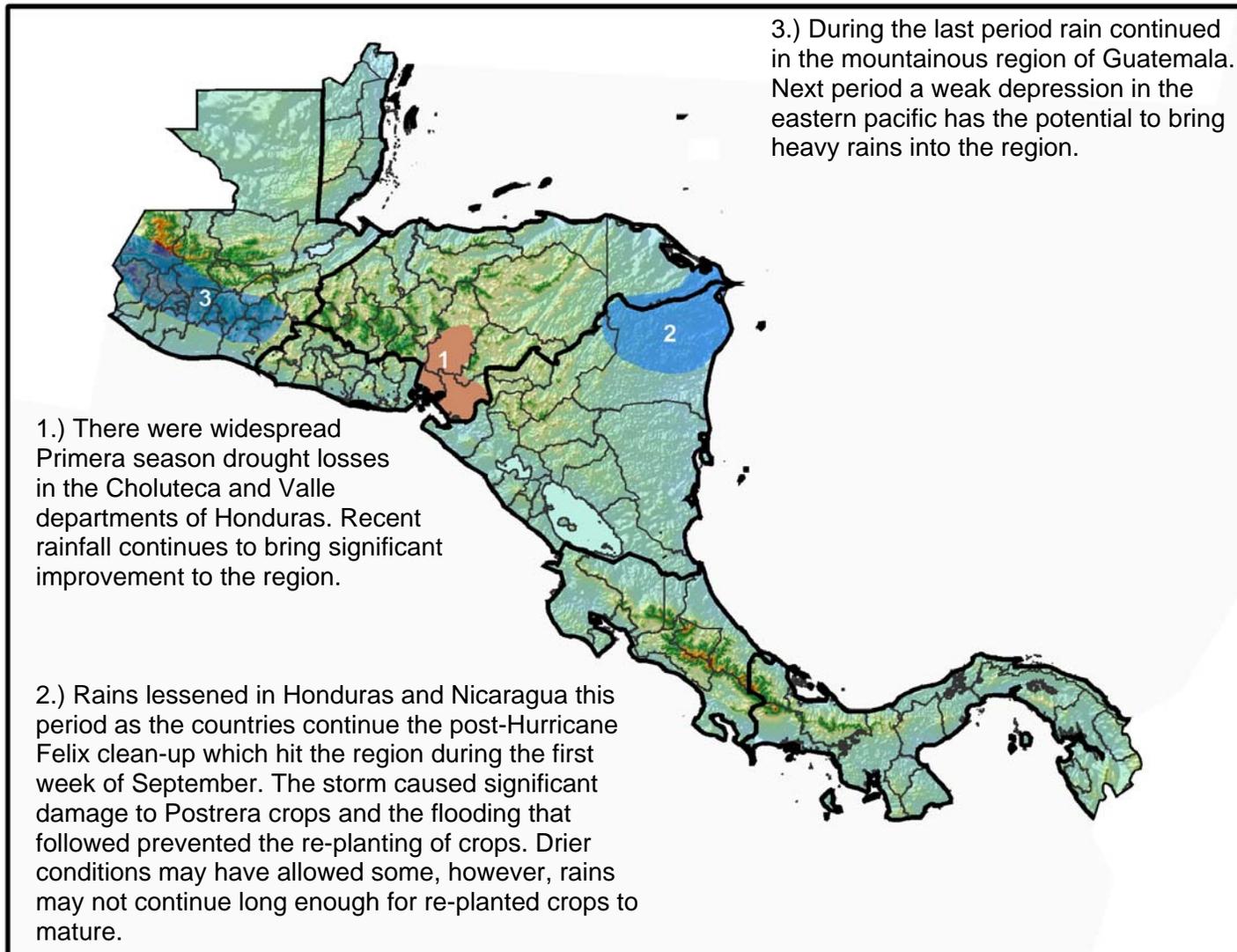


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

October 11 – October 17, 2007

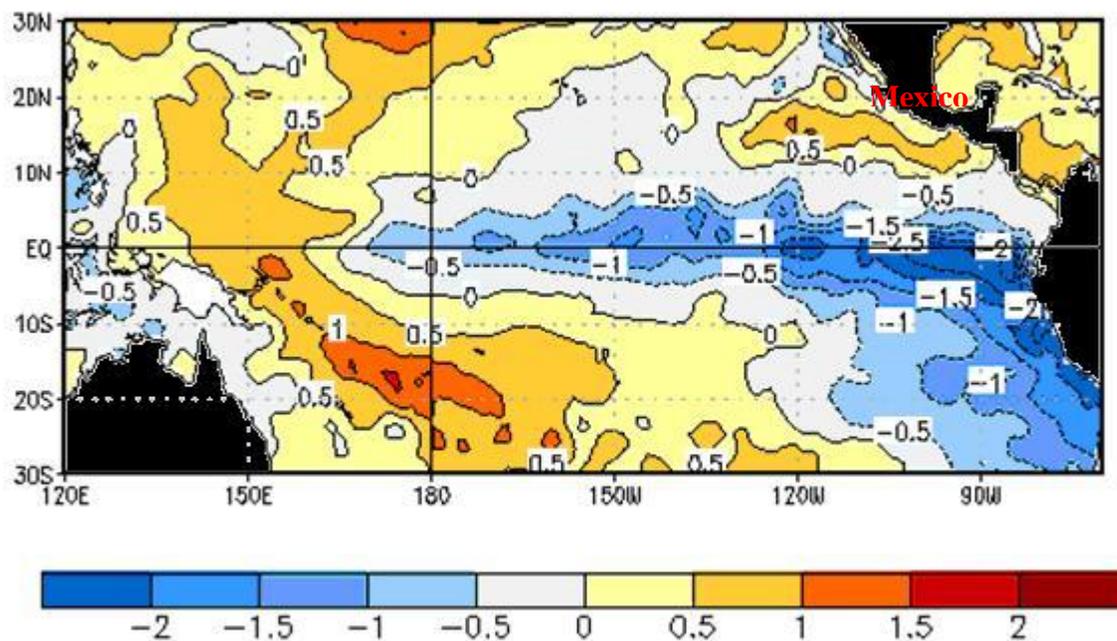


Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

A weak tropical depression is present in the eastern Pacific near the coast of Guatemala. It appears to be moving slowly in the north-northwestern direction. At present it poses no threat to Guatemala, but if it begins a more northerly trek it will bring heavy rains to the coastal mountainous region. Also, there appears to be a low pressure system centered off the coast of Belize. This system will bring needed rains to the north of the country, however it is expected to continue into the Gulf and dissipate. Some forecast models indicate significant rainfall accumulation for the next week in Guatemala and the entire coastal Pacific of Central America.

La Niña is now in full swing in the tropical Pacific. In the past month average sea surface temperatures have become increasingly negative in the central equatorial Pacific. La Niña will strengthen during the next several months; models predict the phenomenon to be weak to moderate into early 2008.

Difference from Normal Average Sea Surface Temperatures For September 9 – October 6



Source: NOAA

Figure: The above image shows the departure from normal of sea surface temperatures. Having a temperature that is 1 degree to 2 degrees below average in the equatorial eastern Pacific constitutes a La Niña episode.

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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