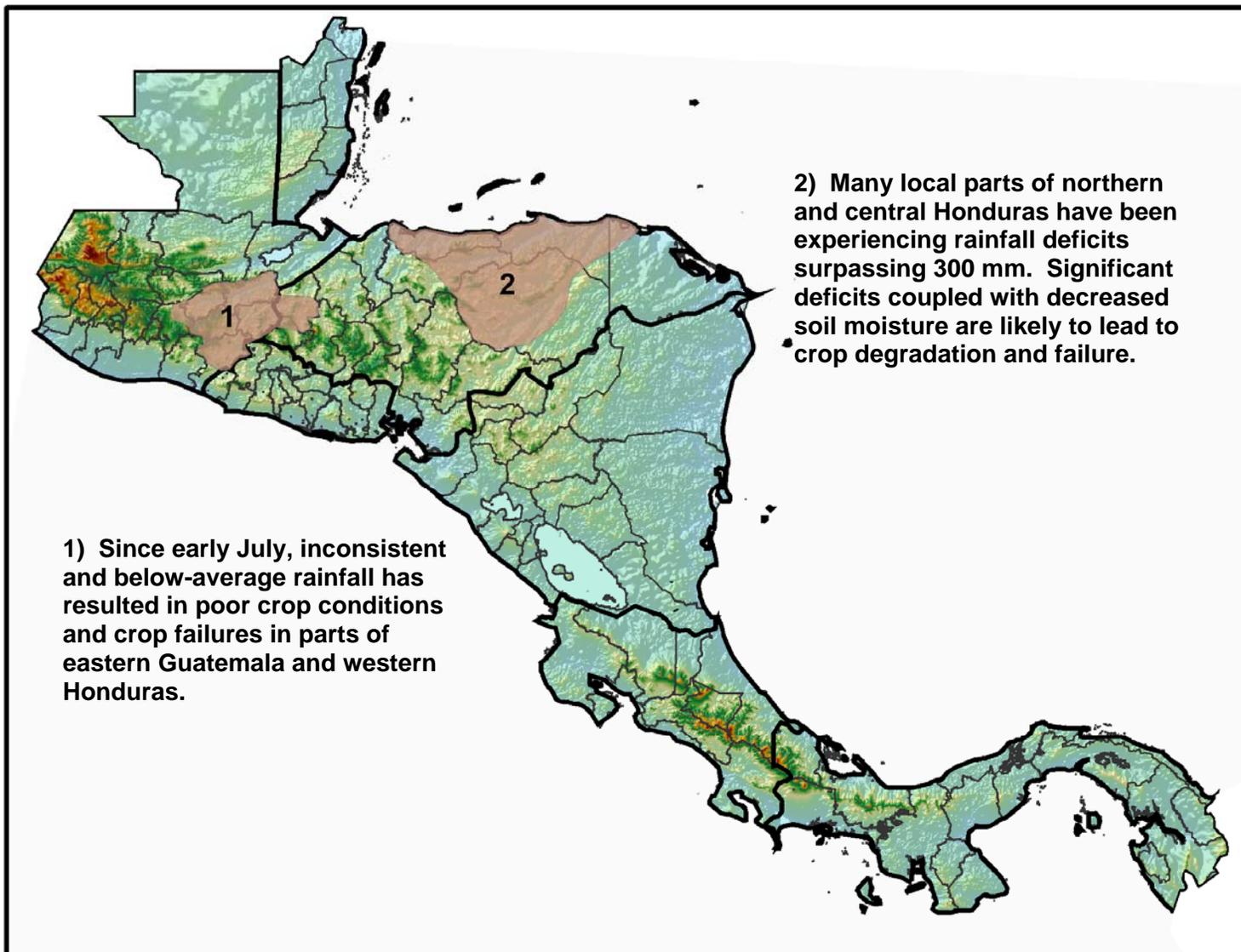


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 6 – August 12, 2009



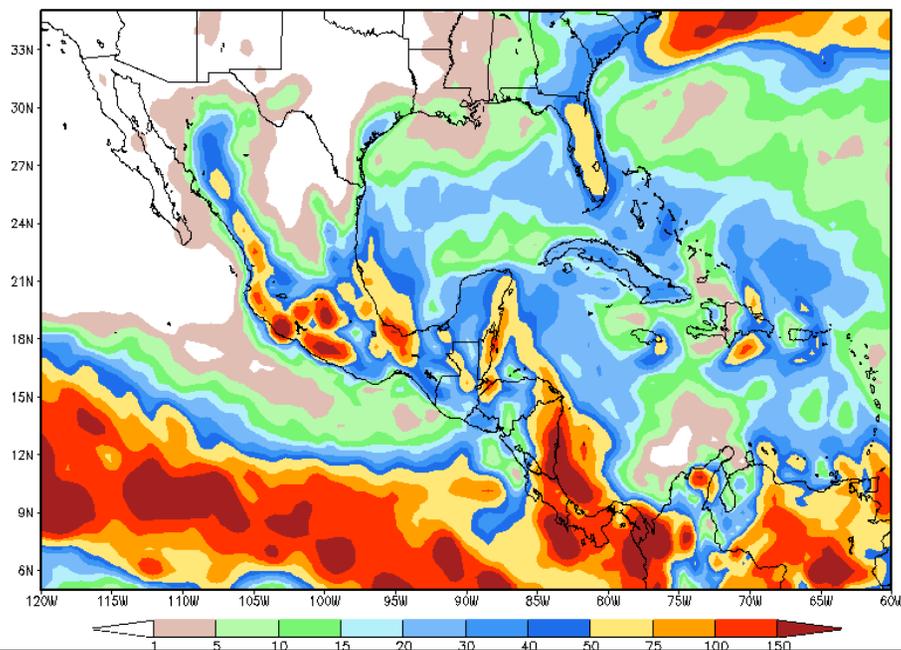
Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

In the last seven days, moderate amounts of precipitation were observed in Central America. Along the Pacific side, rainfall totals in excess of 75-100mm were received in the southern departments of Guatemala, and along the Gulf of Fonseca region. South of Lake Izabal, temporally inconsistent rains during July have led to acute crop failure for many local areas in the Zacapa, El Progreso, Guatemala, Jalapa, Chiquimula and Jutiapa departments of Guatemala, as well as in the Copan and Ocotepeque departments in Honduras. Toward the east, an increase in weekly rains were observed across eastern Nicaragua and parts of western Honduras. Although this rain is expected to help relieve deficits on the short-term, many local areas in the Olancho, Gracias a Dios, and Colon departments of Honduras are still experiencing degraded crop conditions due to poor rainfall accumulations for the Primera season. Further south, Primera rains have remained average to above average for many regions in Costa Rica and Panama.

Precipitation forecasts suggest some improvement to the dryness observed in the western half of the Central America domain. Rainfall totals ranging between 30-50 mm are expected for much of Guatemala, with locally heavier totals in excess of 60mm are expected in the Izabal, Peten and Alta Verapaz departments. A weak tropical wave is expected to produce considerable amounts of precipitation for Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama in the next seven days. Some of this rainfall and moisture is forecast for western Honduras, which is expected to help reduce seasonal deficits observed since July. No significant tropical activity is expected in the next seven days.

7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook Valid: Aug 3rd – Aug 10th, 2009

NOAA GFS 37.5 km Week 1 Total Precipitation (mm)
Issued at Aug 03 2009 00Z for the period ending at Aug 10 2009 00Z



Source: CPC / 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, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov