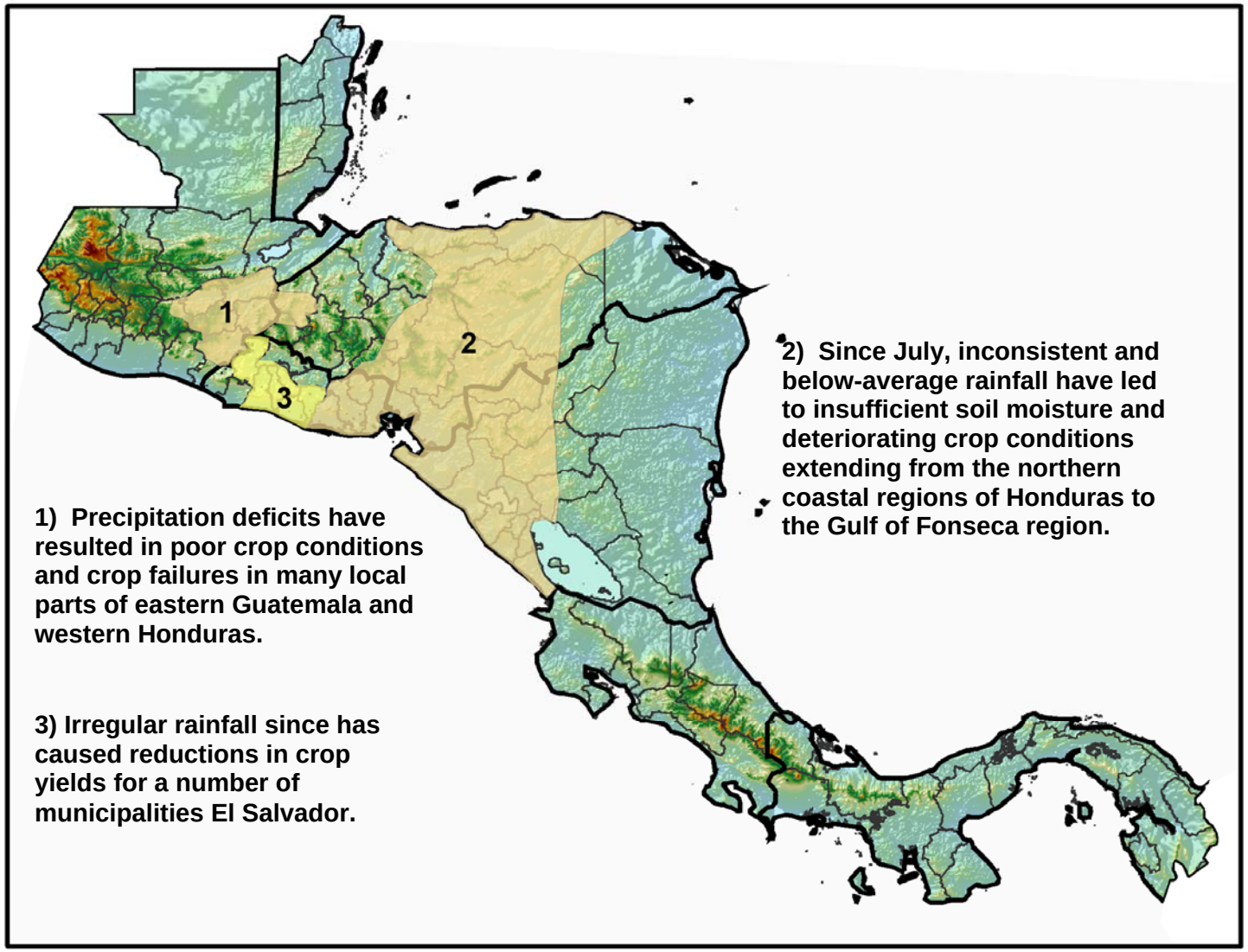
MFEWS Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System
Sistema Mesoamericano de Alerta Temprana para Seguridad Alimentaria

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

August 27 – September 2, 2009



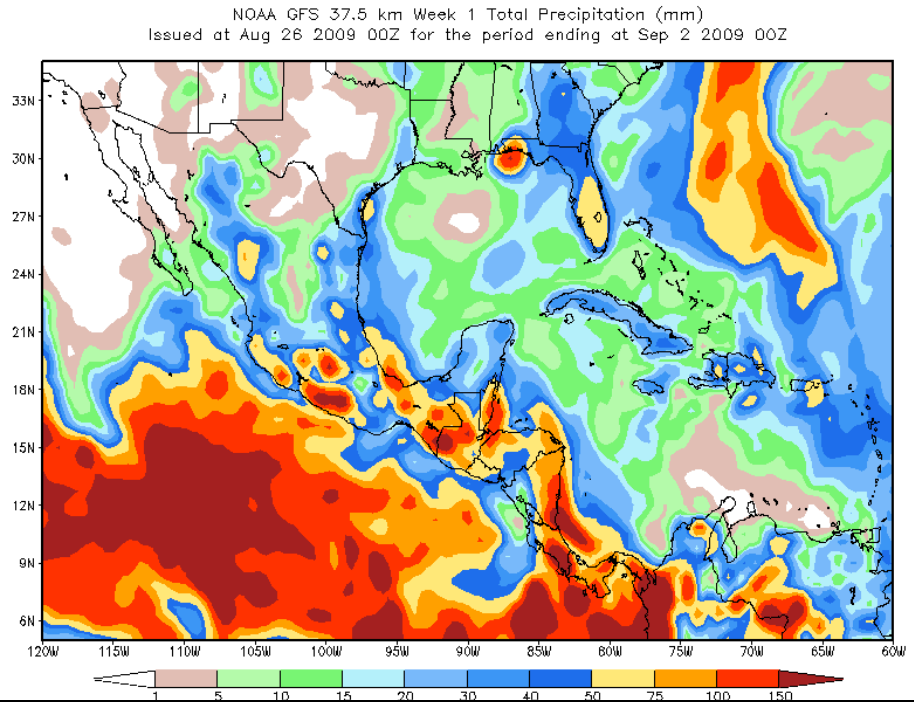
Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

During the last observation period, moderate amounts of rainfall were observed throughout regions of Central America. In Guatemala, seasonal showers were seen along the southern highlands, with heavier totals exceeding 75 mm near the mouth of the Gulf of Honduras. In El Salvador, heavy amounts of precipitation near the Gulf of Fonseca region, while much lesser amounts were received throughout many parts of central Honduras and western Nicaragua.

Although some portions of eastern Guatemala have seen some relief in rains and moisture in recent weeks, parts in the Zacapa, Chiquimula, El Progresso, Jalapa, and Jutiapa departments remain below-average for the Primera and Postrera seasons. This dryness has led to widespread crop degradation and failure for many local areas in these departments, and is likely to lead to reduced crop yields by the end of the season. In western Guatemala, nighttime low temperatures have led to damaged crops in the San Lorenzo municipality of the San Marcos department . In Honduras, the recent absence of precipitation continues to exacerbate dryness for the Atlantida, Colon, Yoro, Olancho, Francisco Morazan, and El Paraiso departments. The dryness continues to extend southward into the Gulf of Fonseca region, as soil water has declined greatly along the Pacific side of eastern Nicaragua in the last two weeks. In El Salvador, poorly distributed and irregular rainfall in August has led to reductions in crop yields for many munipalities in the departments of Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, Usulutan, and San Miguel. In Panama, below average rainfall in August has resulted in localized dryness for some local areas in eastern and central portions of the country.

Precipitation forecasts suggest an increase in rainfall across much of Central America in the next seven days. Remnants of a tropical wave are expected to produce heavy precipitation amounts in excess of 75mm over many parts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica during the earlier portion of the observation period. In Guatemala and Honduras, favorable amounts of rainfall between 50-75mm are also expected for many local areas that have been experiencing long-term dryness.

7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Aug 26th – Sep 2nd, 2009



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