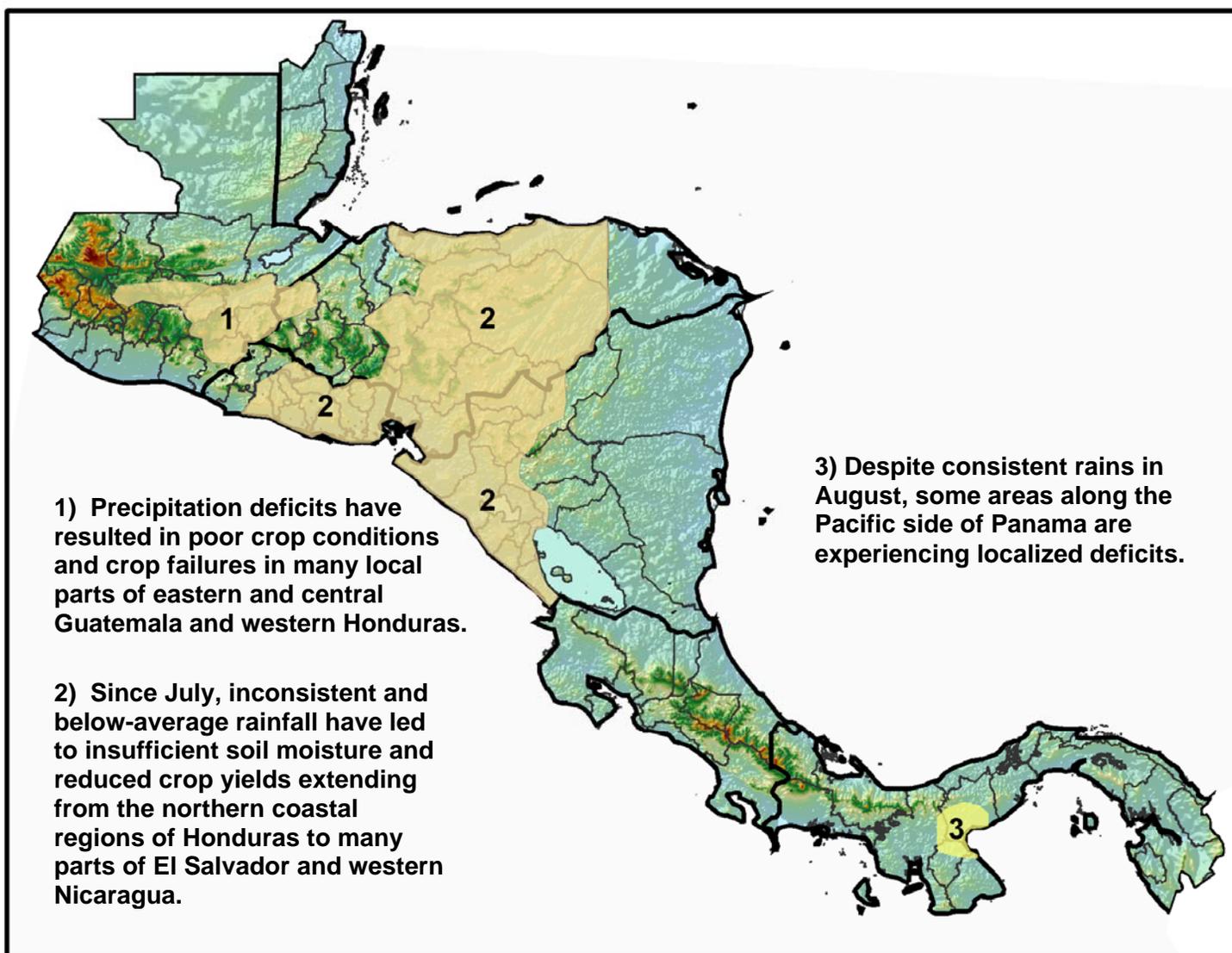


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 3 – September 9, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

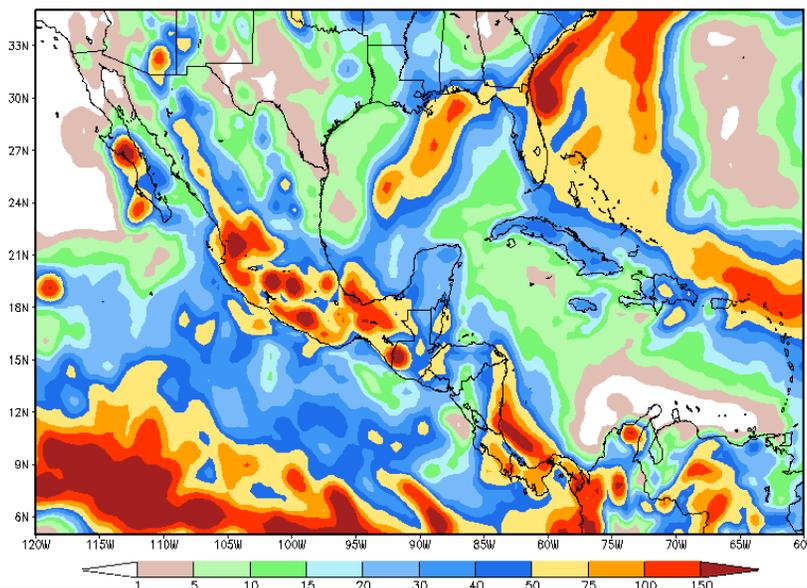
In the last seven days, fair to moderate amounts of precipitation were received in Central America. In Guatemala, precipitation totals in excess of 75mm were observed in the north and throughout the central highlands near the department of Guatemala. In El Salvador, favorable amounts of rainfall were received throughout many local areas that have been below-average since late July. Throughout many parts of Honduras and Nicaragua, seven day rainfall totals were minimal, with many departments including the Atlantida, Colon, Yoro, Olancho, Francisco Morazan departments receiving lower than average accumulations ranging between 10 -25 mm. In Costa Rica and Panama, seasonal showers continue to sustain ground moisture for many local areas.

Since July, below-average rainfall has led to crop degradation and failure in parts in the Zacapa, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Jalapa, and Jutiapa departments of Guatemala. Seasonal rainfall deficits in the El Progreso department have strengthened to less than 25 percent of average, as this dryness is likely to lead to reduced crop yields by the end of the season. In El Salvador, poorly distributed and irregular rainfall since July has led to a 50 percent reduction in crop yields for many municipalities in the departments of Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, Usulután, and San Miguel. In western Nicaragua, many local areas along the Pacific coast are experiencing precipitation deficits ranging between 50 to 80 percent of normal, which has resulted in deteriorating soil water conditions. Despite consistent rainfall in Costa Rica and Panama over the last several weeks, some local areas in Panama are beginning observed rainfall shortages less than 75 percent of average.

Precipitation forecasts do not suggest much change in terms of the distribution of rainfall. Seven day rainfall totals ranging between 5-15 mm are expected for many areas affected by increasing dryness north of Lake Nicaragua and into parts of central Honduras. No significant tropical activity is expected.

7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook Valid: Sep 2nd – Sep 9th, 2009

NOAA GFS 37.5 km Week 1 Total Precipitation (mm)
Issued at Sep 02 2009 00Z for the period ending at Sep 9 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