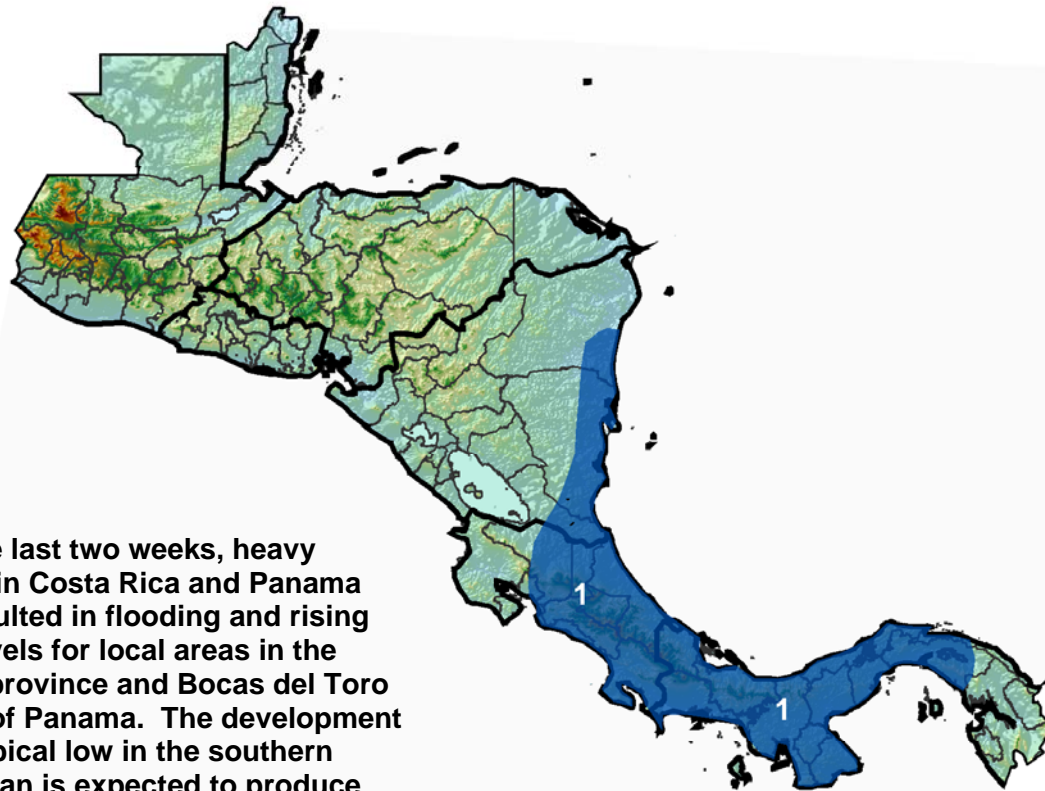


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

November 27 – December 3, 2008

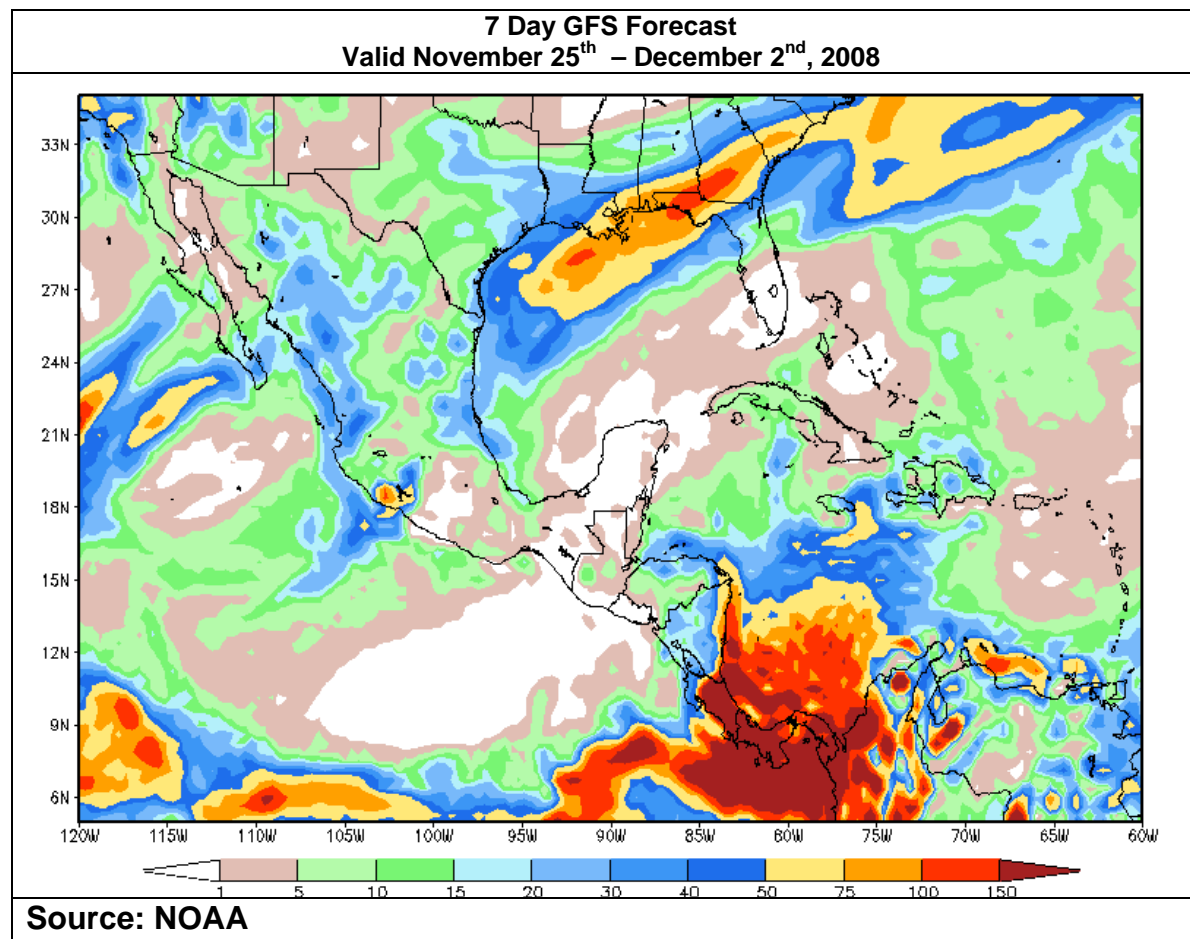


1) In the last two weeks, heavy rainfall in Costa Rica and Panama has resulted in flooding and rising river levels for local areas in the Limon province and Bocas del Toro region of Panama. The development of a tropical low in the southern Caribbean is expected to produce significant rainfall across the Atlantic regions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama over the next seven days.

Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Over the last seven days, little to no rainfall was observed across Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador with increased precipitation in excess of 50 mm observed, across local areas in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The persistent decrease in weekly rainfall over Guatemala and Honduras continues to provide much needed relief to the flood-affected regions of Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, however anomalously wet conditions in the southern Caribbean have resulted in localized flooding and rising river levels Costa Rica and Panama. Government authorities in Costa Rica have issued an alert for municipalities in Limon province, as roads have been closed and hundreds of residents have been displaced from their homes. Presently, increasing water levels in the Barbilla, Reventazón (Siquirres), Chirripó (Matina) and Parismina Rivers in Costa Rica and Panama continue to be heavily monitored.

For the November 27 – December 3 observation period, precipitation models indicate the persistence of a tropical low located in the southern Caribbean. Because this tropical low is forecast to remain quasi-stationary over the next 3-5 days, excessive rainfall totals (> 150 mm) are expected to negatively impact many local areas in the Bocas del Toro, Chiriqui provinces in Panama, the Limon, Puntarenas, Heredia, Alajuela and Cartago provinces of Costa Rica, and Atlantic departments of Nicaragua. Localized flooding and landslides are likely for areas that have already experienced heavy rains in the last two weeks. In Guatemala, cropping conditions in the higher elevations may be affected by near-freezing temperatures over the next seven days.



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