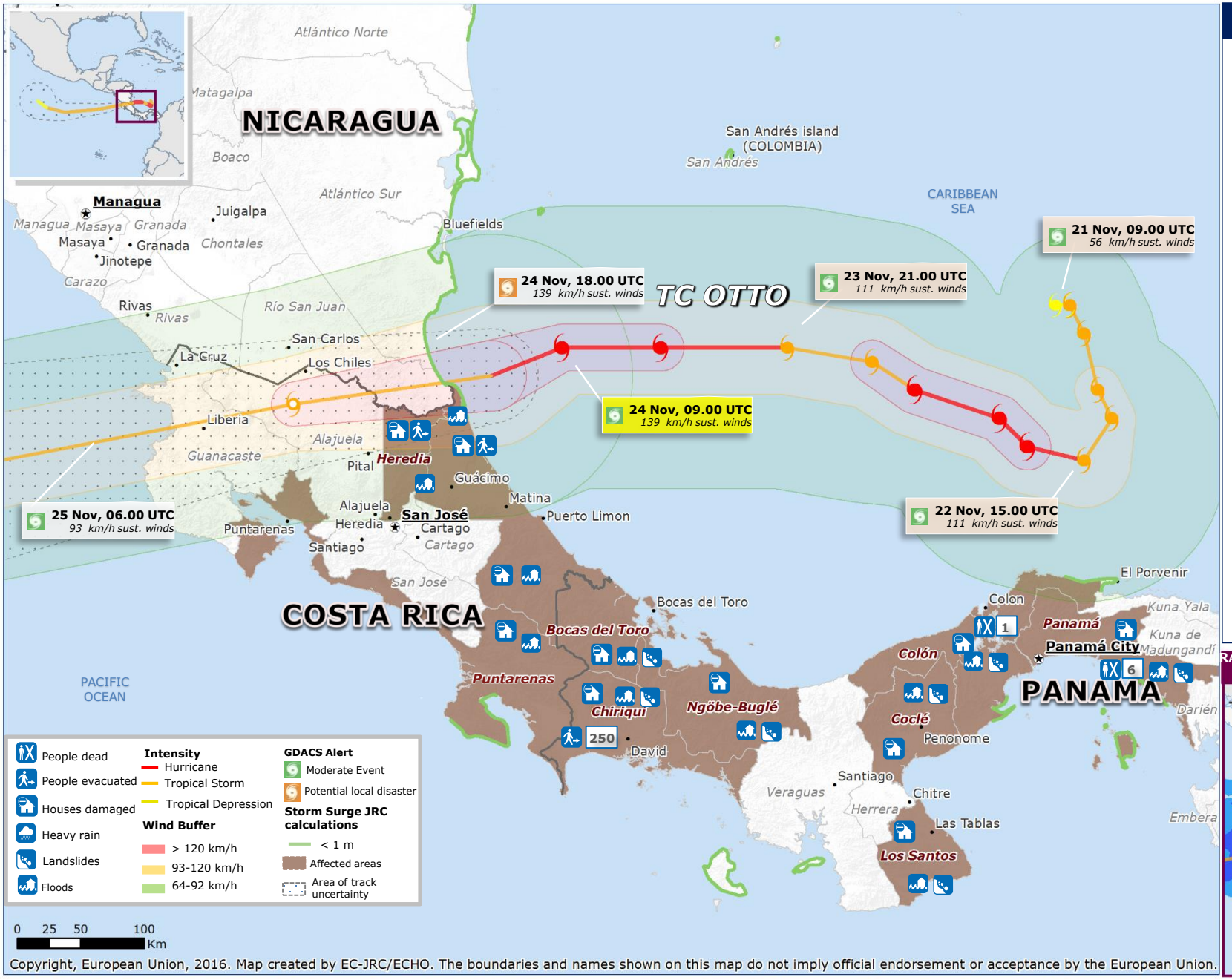
Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – ECHO Daily Map | 24/11/2016

Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia – Tropical Cyclone OTTO

European Commission | Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



SITUATION

- TC "OTTO" formed over the south-eastern Caribbean Sea on 21 November and started moving west-northwest, heading towards eastern Nicaragua and north-eastern Costa Rica. On 24 November at 9.00 UTC its center was located 135 km north-northeast of Limon city (Costa Rica) and had max. sustained winds speed of 140 km/h (Category 1 Hurricane).
- Over the next 24 h it is forecast to continue moving west, strengthening. It may reach the Caribbean coast of south-eastern Nicaragua or north-eastern Costa Rica on 24 November afternoon (UTC). Heavy rain, strong winds and storm surge may affect Costa Rica, southern Nicaragua, the San Andres and Providencia islands (Colombia) as well as central and western Panama. This rainfall may cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides. JRC calculations estimate a max. storm surge of the order of 0.7 m in the area of Amerisco (south-eastern Nicaragua) on 24 November at 15.00 (UTC).
- As of 24 November early afternoon (UTC), Hurricane and Tropical Storm Warnings and Watches are in effect for several areas of Costa Rica, Nicaragua as well as San Andres island (Colombia).
- Heavy rain has already been affecting many areas of Panama and Costa Rica causing floods and landslides. Local media, as of 24 November, report seven people dead, 250 evacuated and 350 homes damaged throughout Panama. They also report as of the same date, over 4 600 people evacuated and over 1 180 homes damaged throughout Costa Rica.
- The area is not particularly prone to Tropical Cyclones. The most recent deadliest one was TC Mitch in 1998 which although never made landfall caused widespread damage and casualties due mudslides caused by the overflow of the crater lake of Casita volcano which is situated in north-western Nicaragua.

Sources: GDACS, NOAA, National Authorities, Redhum, Local media

RAINFALL FORECAST FOR THE POSSIBLE LANDFALL AREA (24 Nov. 0.00 UTC – 29 Nov. 06.00 UTC)