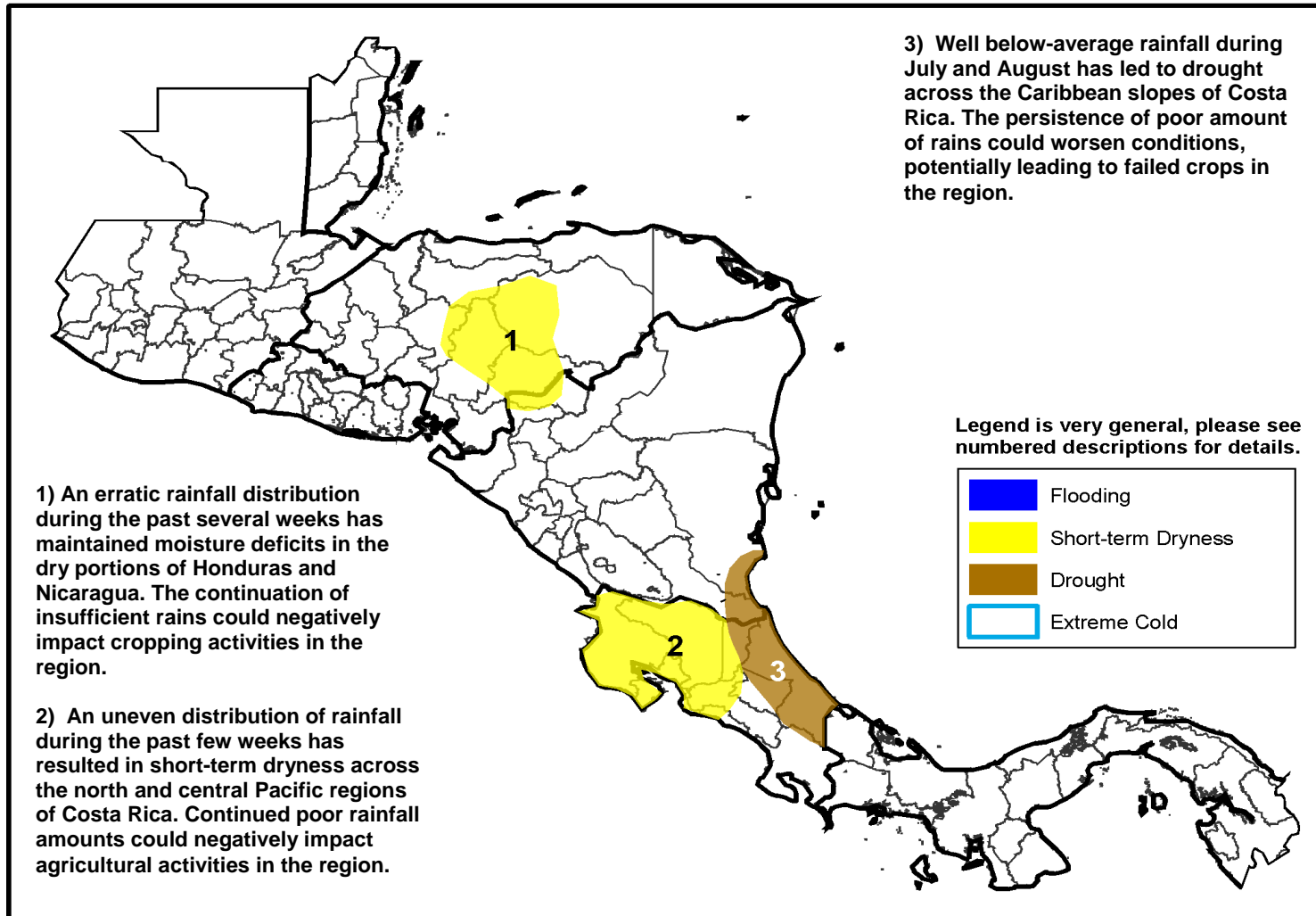


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 29 – October 5, 2011

- Heavy rains have persisted over the south Pacific region of Guatemala, Gulf of Fonseca, eastern Honduras, eastern Nicaragua, and the Southern Caribbean, while light rains were observed across the inland of Central America during the past week.



Continued heavy rains observed along the coastal regions of Central America.

During the past week, rainfall patterns were characterized by continued heavy (> 50mm) rains across the Pacific and Atlantic Basins of Central America. Abundant (> 50mm) rains were observed over the Huehuetenango and Quiché departments of Guatemala, Gulf of Fonseca, eastern region of Honduras and Nicaragua, and Panama during the past week. In Guatemala, heavy rains during the past week have caused landslides that had resulted in fatalities over the Huehuetenango, inundation over the Suchitepéquez, and rising water levels over the San Marcos, Izabal, and Petén departments. Further south, fatalities have also been reported in the Managua region of Nicaragua due to heavy rains during the past week. In contrast, the inland of Central America and the Caribbean slopes of Costa Rica have continued to receive light to moderate (10-40mm) rains, resulting in the persistence of below-average rainfall during the past thirty days. In Costa Rica, the drier than average conditions that have persisted since the previous Primera season, have lasted and have led to a long-term drought over the Caribbean sides of the country.

Rainfall forecasts during the next week, however, suggest an increase in rainfall across Central America, with the heaviest (> 150mm) rains forecast over Guatemala. Copious (> 50mm) amounts of rainfall are also expected in the Gulf of Fonseca, southern and central Honduras, Pacific regions of Costa Rica, and the Southern Caribbean during the next week. This could exacerbate the flooding and landslide conditions in many local areas.

