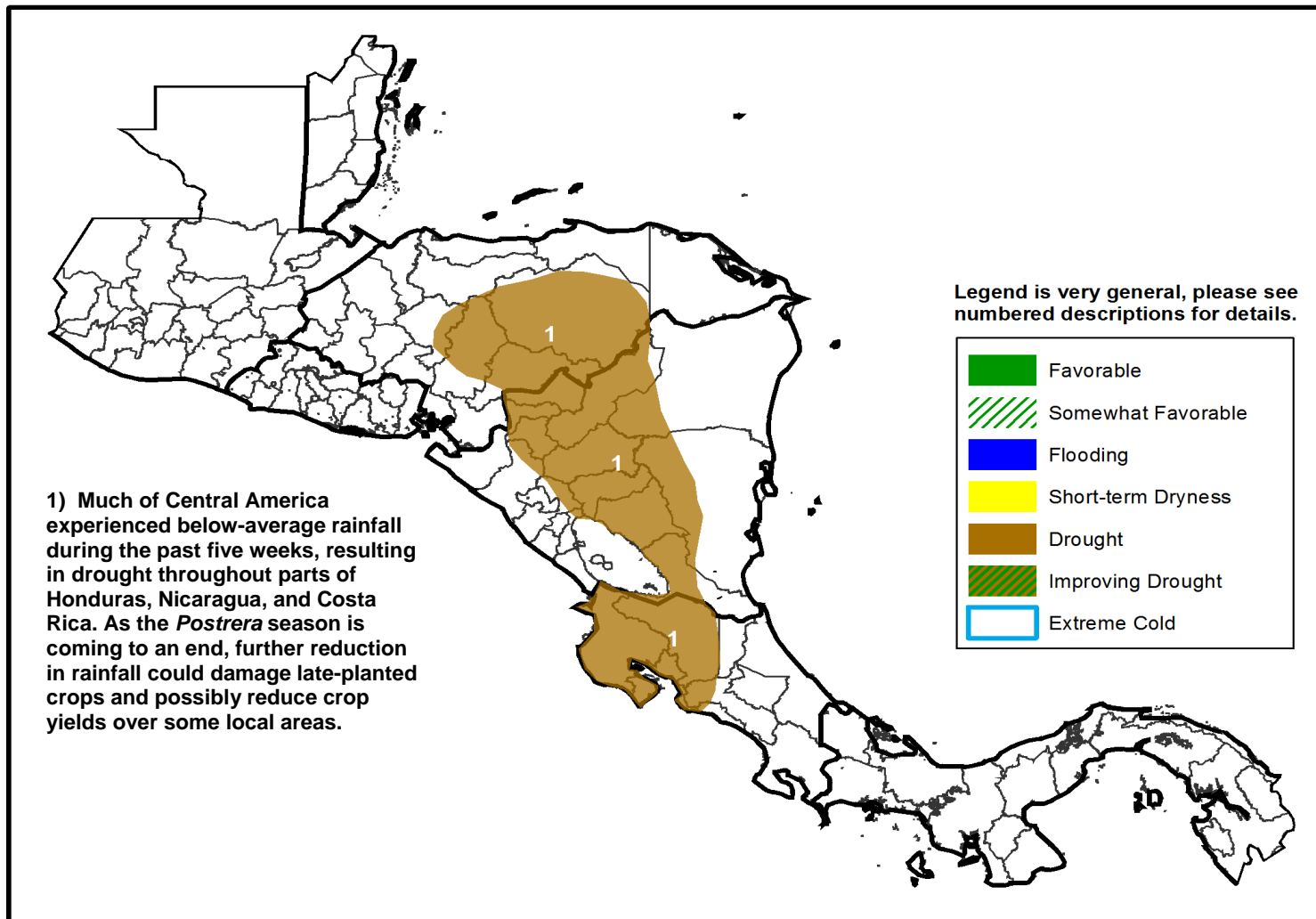




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET November 24 – November 30, 2011

- Despite an increase in rainfall during the past seven days, drought has settled in across regions of Central America.



## An early end to the Postrera rainfall season.

Despite an increase in rainfall during the past seven days, Central America has experienced drier than average conditions since mid-October. Rainfall was suppressed across the inland of Central America during late October, which was followed by a poor rainfall distribution during the first three weeks of November. This has significantly depleted ground moisture and negatively impacted cropping conditions over the Francisco Morazán, El Paraiso, and Olancho departments of Honduras, throughout Nueva Segovia, Jinotega to Rio San Juan departments of Nicaragua, and the Pacific North region of Costa Rica. Since the beginning of the *Postrera* rainfall season to date, Central America has received an average to above-average rainfall, except over local areas of Honduras, northern Nicaragua, and much of Costa Rica, where dryness is observed.

As for the upcoming week, model forecasts indicate continued suppressed rainfall in southern Guatemala, parts of El Salvador, central Honduras, and Nicaragua. Light (< 10 mm) rainfall is forecast across much of the inland of Central America during the next week. The apparent early end to the season could negatively impact crops in their maturation stages in many local areas. However, strong northeasterly winds are expected to bring heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras, northern transversal strip of Guatemala, and northern Honduras. Meanwhile, the InterTropical Convergence Zone is forecast to intensify, likely to bring downpours over Costa Rica and Panama during the next observation period.

