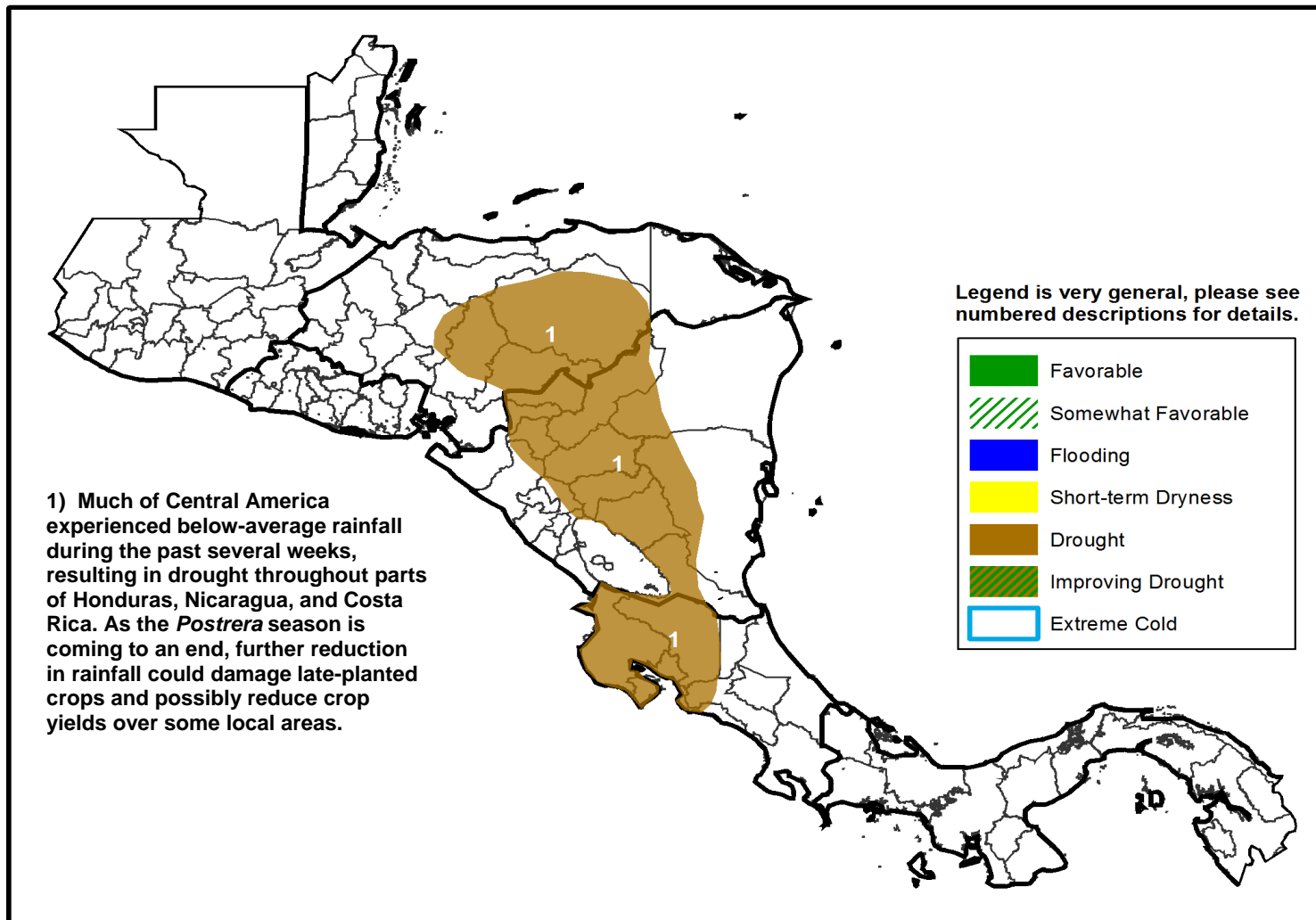




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 1 – December 7, 2011

- Drought is expected to continue as light rainfall is forecast over much of Central America during the next week.



Drought is expected to continue over regions of Central America.

During the past seven days, much of Central America has received light to no (< 10 mm) rainfall, with the heaviest rainfall (> 100 mm) observed over the Caribbean region of Costa Rica. Compared to climatology, the weekly rainfall totals were marginal. However, rainfall has been deficient since the beginning of November, with several areas receiving only less than 50 percent of their averages. This has further depleted ground moisture and has resulted in persisting drought across portions of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Also, as the season is ending, rainfall is expected to decrease, thus further reducing the chance for moisture recovery during this time of the year. This could negatively impact crops in their late maturation stages and potentially reduce crop yields over some local areas.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest light to no rainfall to continue over Central America. Rainfall suppression is expected in southern Guatemala and Gulf of Fonseca region during the next week. However, the passage of a cold front could bring heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras region and northern Honduras. Strong northeasterly winds are also forecast to enhance shower and thunderstorm activities along the Atlantic coasts of Nicaragua and southern Caribbean. While the heavy rainfall is expected to benefit cropping conditions over eastern Costa Rica, which had experienced drought during the previous months, the forecast light rainfall amounts could worsen dryness in many local areas.

