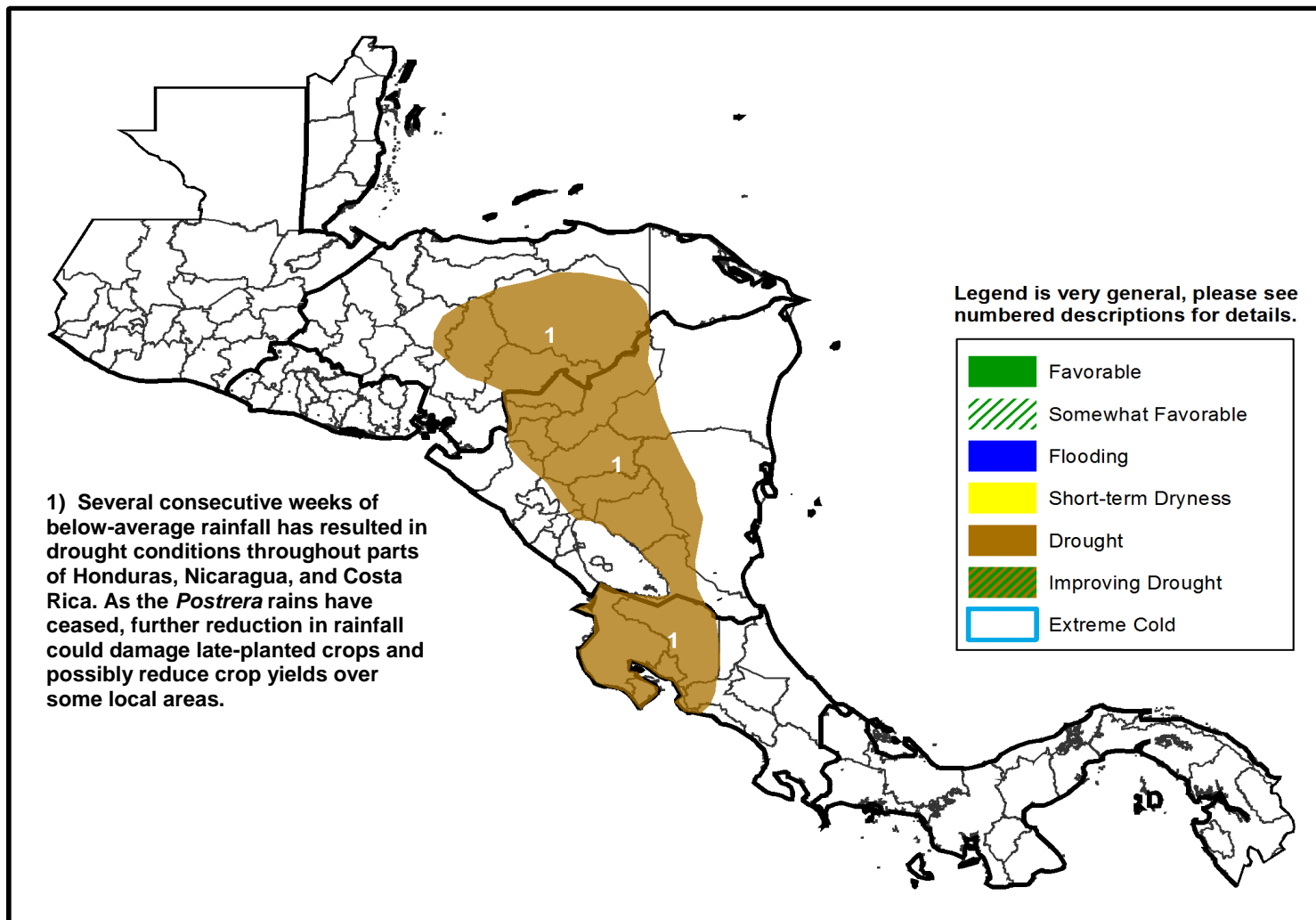




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 8 – December 14, 2011

- Below average rainfall during early December continues to negatively impact many moisture stressed areas in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras.



Drought is expected to continue over regions of Central America.

During the past seven days, light to fair amounts of precipitation were received throughout Central America, with the highest rainfall amounts (>30 mm) observed over portions of Panama and along the Atlantic coastline of Nicaragua and Honduras. Despite a continuation of light to moderate rains into early December, precipitation has been below average for many local areas further inland in Central America. Over the last 30 days, rainfall deficits have strengthened, as many inland departments of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Costa Rica have received nearly half of their normal rainfall since early November. Although rains normally decrease during December across much of Central America, the anomalous dryness is expected negatively impact crops in late maturation stages, as there remains less of an opportunity for a sufficient moisture recovery during this time of the year.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest light to no rainfall to continue over many inland areas of Central America. However, the potential for moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation remains high for areas in the Gulf of Honduras and southern Caribbean region. While this may relieve anomalously dry areas along the Atlantic coastline, drought conditions are expected to persist for many departments in central Honduras and central Nicaragua.

