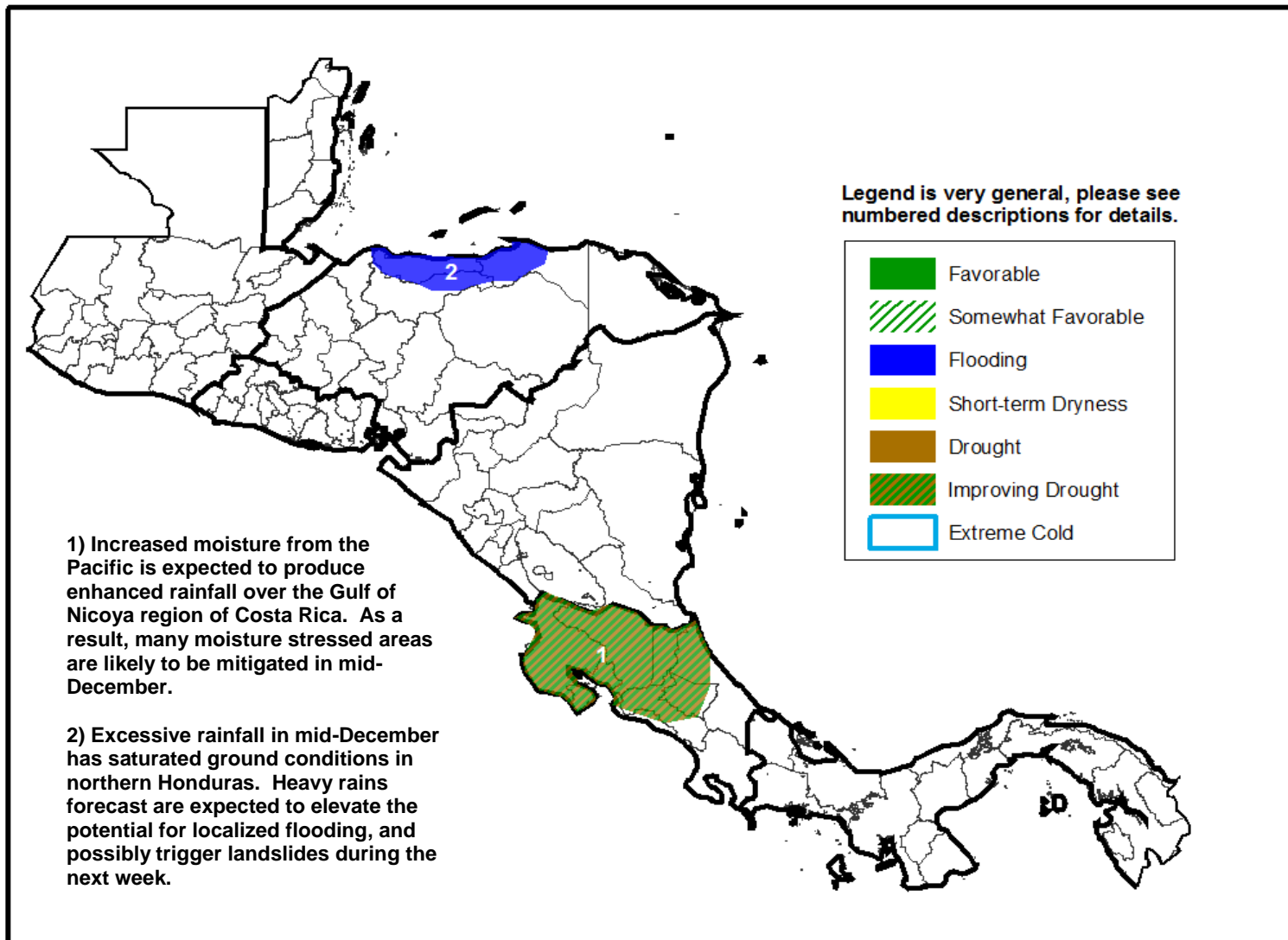




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 15 – December 21, 2011

- Increased rainfall in southern Caribbean expected to relieve dryness in Costa Rica.



Moisture improvements expected in Costa Rica during the next week.

During the last observation period, slightly less seasonable amounts of precipitation were observed throughout Central America. The highest seven-day rainfall totals (> 40mm) were received mostly offshore in the Atlantic with lesser amounts observed (20-30mm) in northern Honduras and across Costa Rica. Locally higher amounts (~100mm) were received in central Panama. Since the beginning of December, precipitation continues to be below average for many local areas in many coastal areas in Central America. Moderate rainfall deficits (50-100mm) have been observed mostly along the Atlantic coastline, as many local areas in central Honduras and Nicaragua have received less than 5 days of rain since mid-November. Although rains normally decrease during December across much of Central America, the anomalous dryness is expected to negatively impact crops in late maturation stages, as there remains less opportunity for sufficient moisture recovery during this time of the year.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest a general increase in rainfall across much of coastal Central America. The potential for moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation remains high for the southern Caribbean and Pacific due to the development of wave disturbance over Panama. Enhanced rains are expected to help relieve many anomalously dry areas of Costa Rica.

