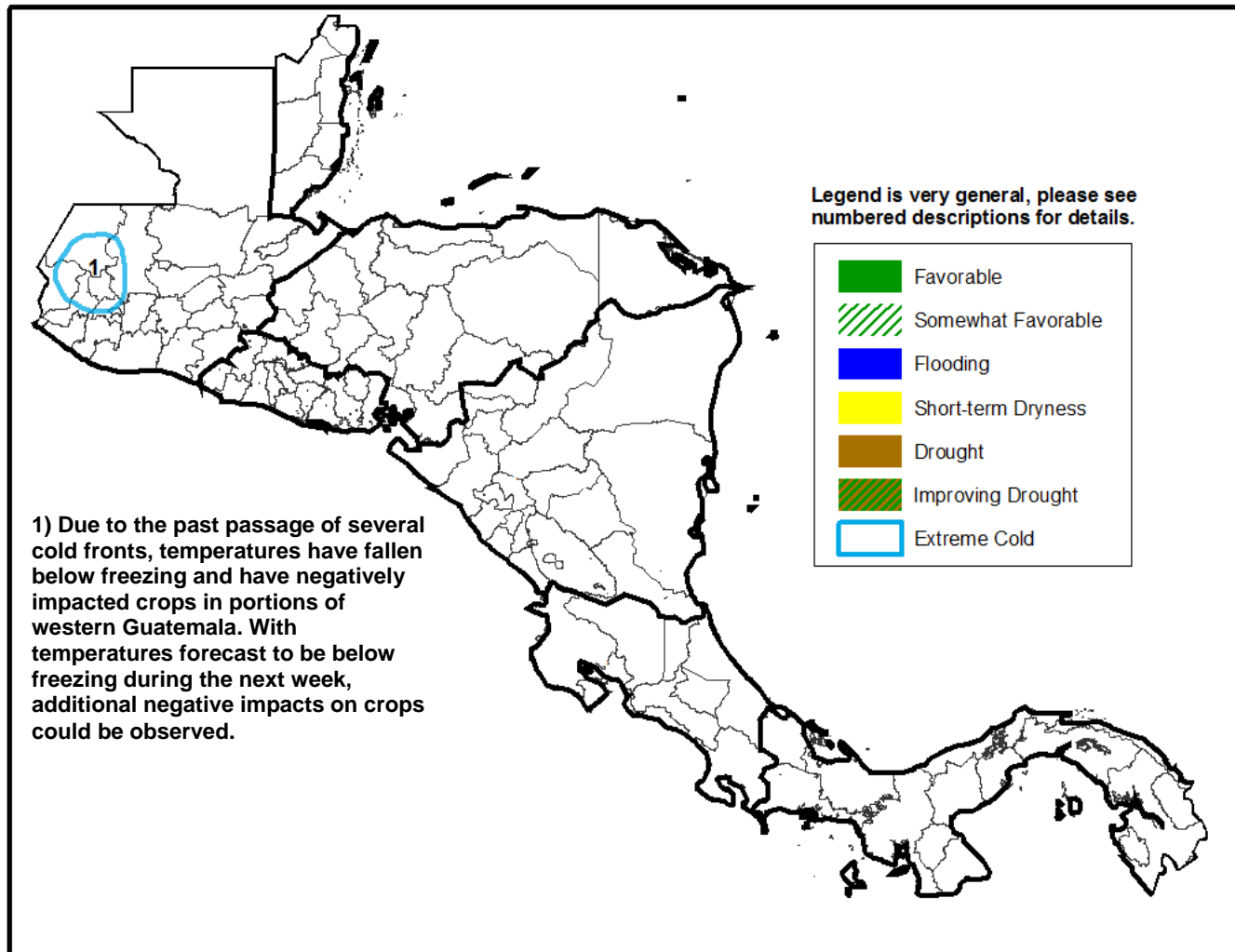




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 26 – February 1, 2012

- Little to no precipitation was recorded across Central America during the past week.



Light precipitation was recorded across Central America during the past week.

During the past week, rainfall was light (< 15 mm) across much of Central America. The highest rainfall totals (15-30 mm) were recorded across localized areas in Belize and the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua. Even though rainfall was limited, weekly rainfall anomalies were within 20 mm of climatology as rains are seasonally limited during the end of January. Thirty-day rainfall anomalies, though, indicate below-average rainfall along much of the Atlantic coastline of Central America and above-average rain across northern Central America. The below-average rains did not affect Apante season crops in Nicaragua as crops performed well and harvesting has commenced. Further north, freezing temperatures have negatively affected crops in portions of the highlands of Guatemala including the Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, Sololá, San Marcos and Huehuetenango departments. An increase in the passage of cold fronts has led to nighttime temperatures below-freezing across much of western Guatemala.

For the next seven days, models forecast the passage of a cold front across northern Central America. With its passage, rainfall is expected to be moderate to locally heavy (> 20 mm) across the Gulf of Honduras including much of Belize, western Honduras and northern/central Guatemala. Further south, moderate rain (10-30 mm) is also forecast along the Caribbean coastline of Nicaragua. Lighter rainfall totals (< 10 mm) are expected in Costa Rica, Panama and the Pacific coastline of Central America. Temperatures are forecast to be below-average across Central America with low temperatures in locations in western Guatemala falling below-freezing during the next week.

