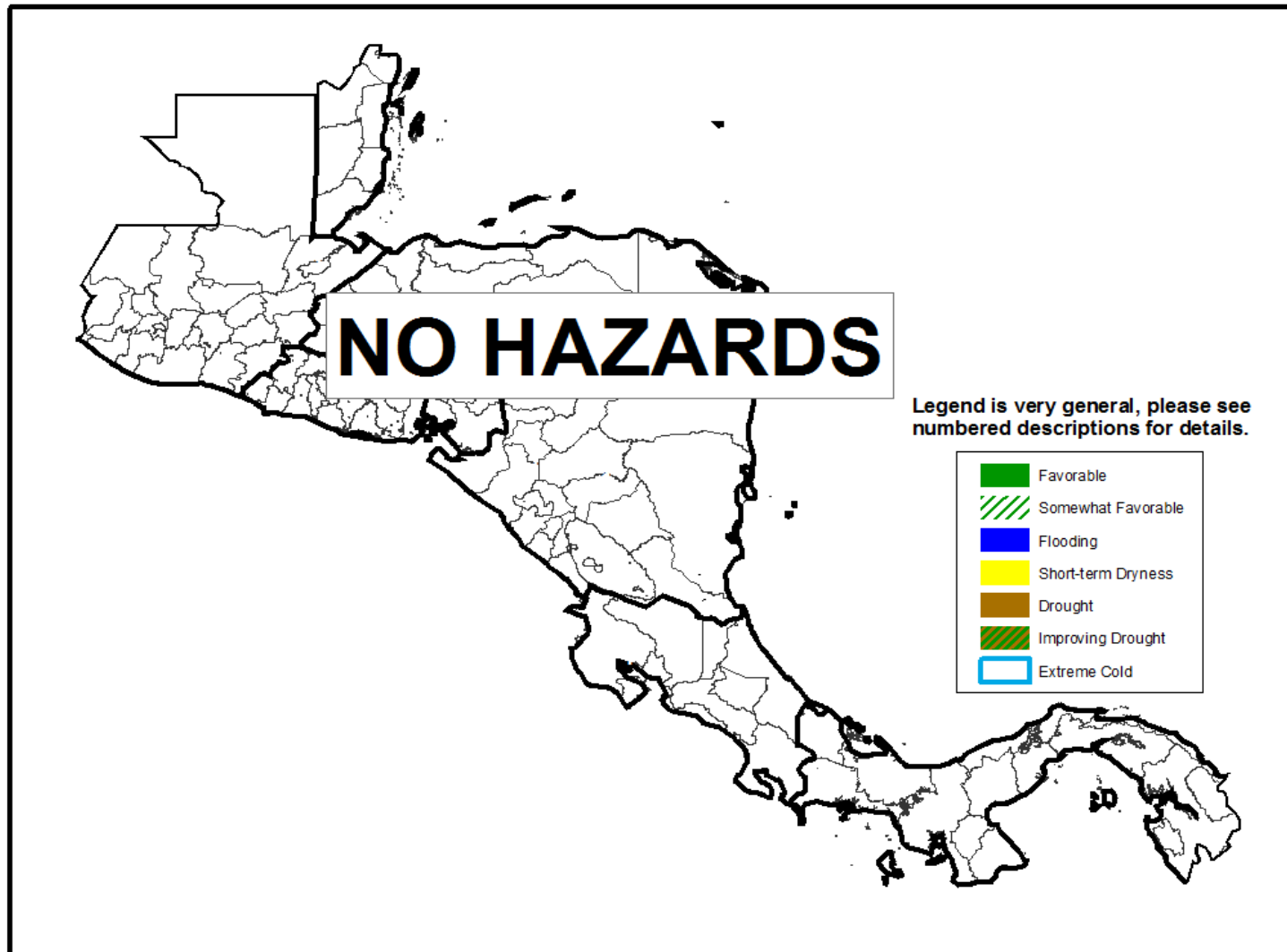




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 22 – March 28, 2012

- Increased winds in the eastern Caribbean are expected to produce favorable rainfall across portions of Guatemala and Honduras.



Seasonal amounts of precipitation expected along Atlantic departments of Central America.

Throughout the middle of March, seasonably light to fair rainfall accumulations were received across Central America. According to gauge data, the highest seven day rainfall totals (20-60mm) were observed throughout many departments along the Atlantic in northern Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica. Little to no precipitation amounts continue throughout many Central America departments further inland and along the Pacific. Since the beginning of March, precipitation has mostly remained near-neutral across much of the domain, with positive rainfall anomalies observed in the Gulf of Honduras region and in the southern Caribbean. Although these rainfall surpluses had elevated the potential for flooding earlier in March, saturated ground conditions is expected to be favorable for planting of Primera crops during the next several weeks.

During the next seven days, forecasts indicate a moderate potential for disturbed weather for northern portions of Central America. Increased winds along the eastern Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico may produce locally high rainfall for portions of northern Guatemala and Honduras during the earlier portion of the observation period. Elsewhere, low to moderate amounts of rainfall may be expected for Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for the next week.

