



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 5 – March 11, 2012

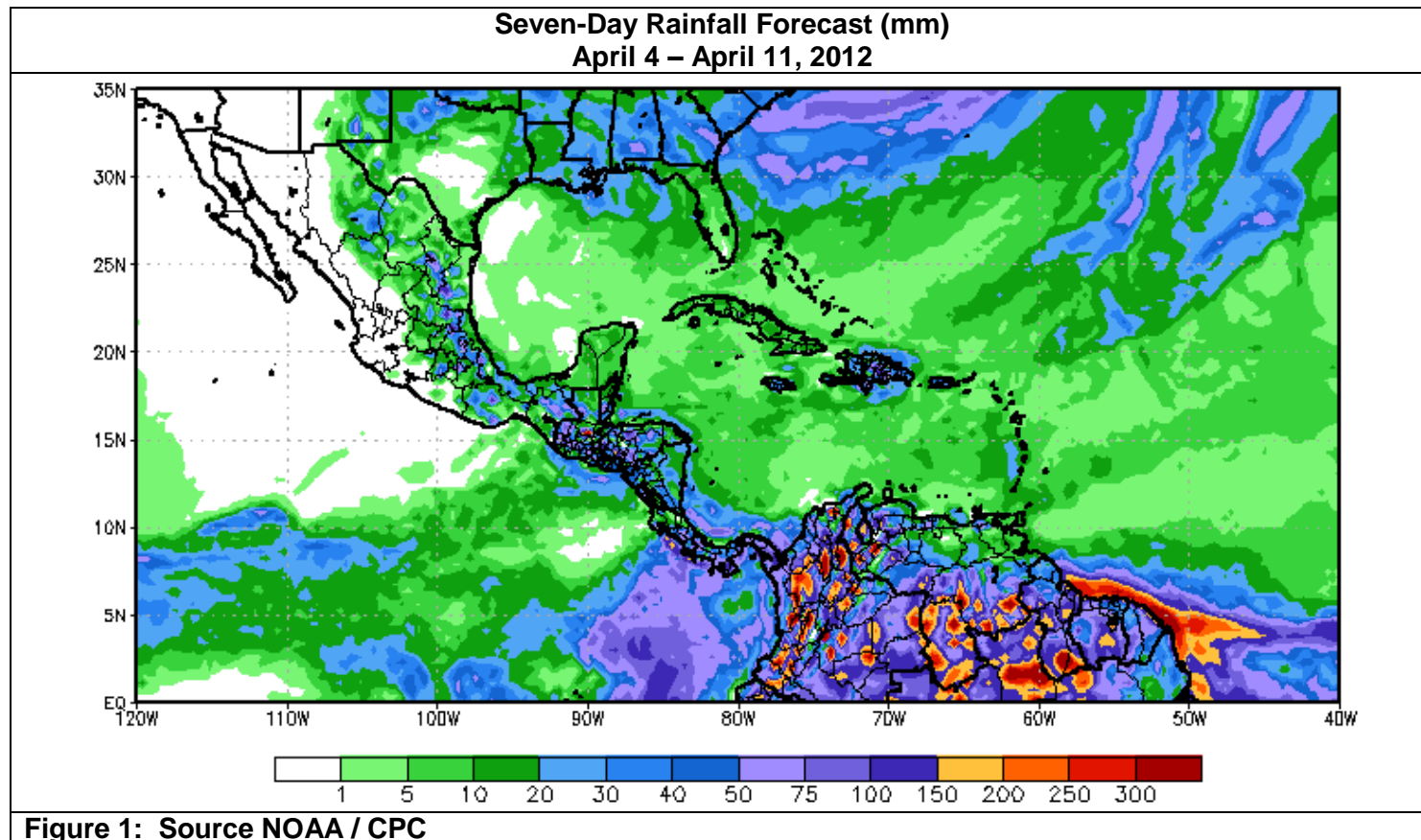
- Heavy rainfall is expected in local areas of central Guatemala, southern Honduras, and the southern Caribbean during the next seven days.



Heavy rainfall forecast in many local areas of northern Central America.

During the past week, while little (< 10 mm) rainfall fell across much of Central America, moderate to heavy (30 - 75 mm) rainfall was recorded over central Guatemala, southern Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. The heaviest (> 50 mm) rainfall amounts were observed in southern Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. Over the past thirty days, parts of Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama have experienced above-average rainfall, with rainfall surpluses ranging between 20 and 200 mm. This is expected to provide favorable moisture for cropping activities during the next growing season in many local areas of the region. Meanwhile, seasonably rainfall was observed over much of Central America except portions of the northern and eastern Honduras, northeastern Nicaragua, southern Costa Rica, and Panama, where weak to moderate (20 – 50 mm) rainfall deficits were observed. However, the southern Caribbean region should receive abundant rainfall amounts during April.

During the next seven days, forecasts suggest heavy rainfall over local areas of the western highlands and Central Plateau of Guatemala. Torrential (> 150 mm) rainfall is also expected across portions of the Alta Verapaz department of Guatemala and western Honduras, while light (< 20 mm) rainfall is forecast over the inland of Central America. In the southern Caribbean, the forecast increase in rainfall during the next week should help to reduce accumulated rainfall deficits in the region.



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