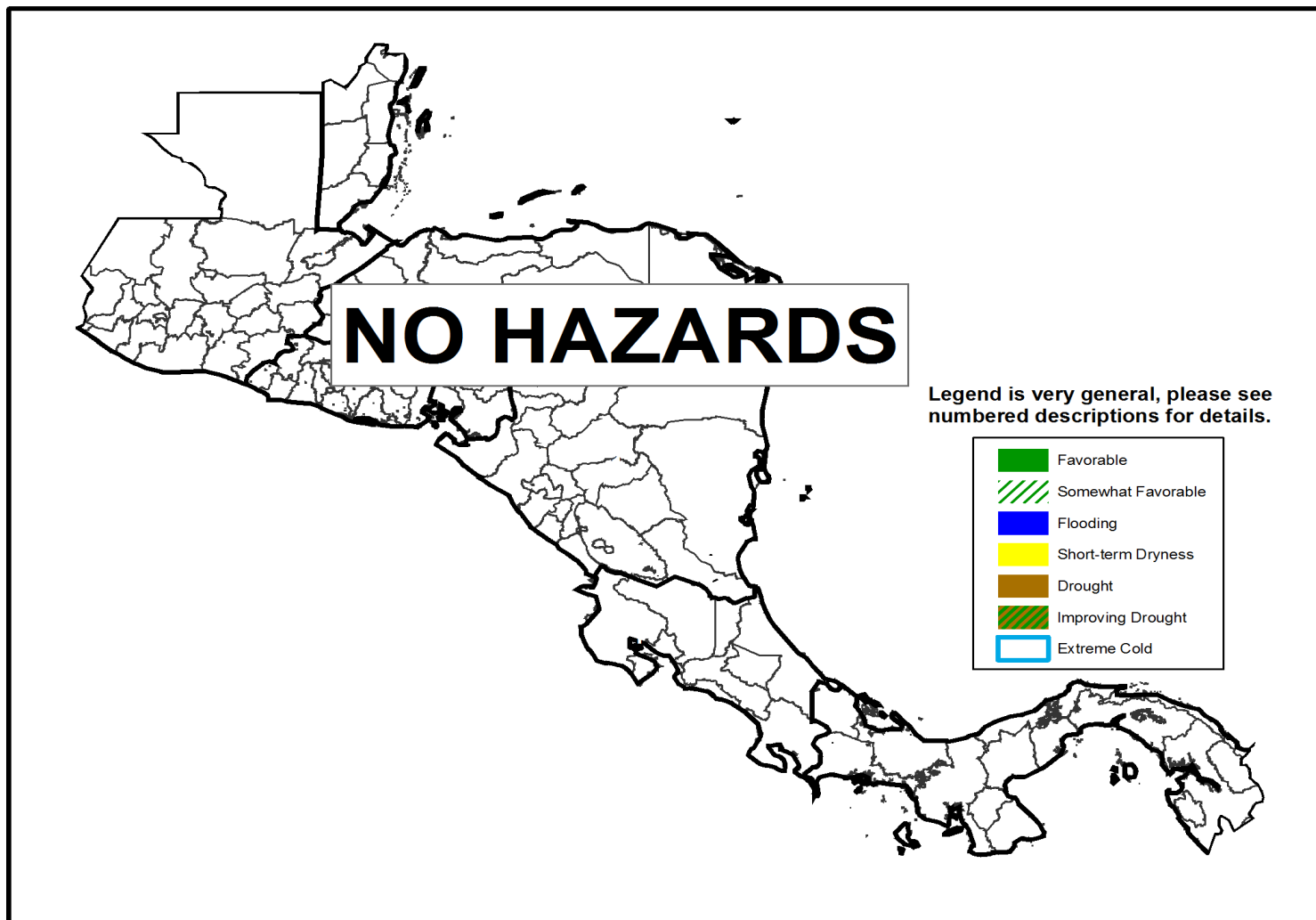




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 12 – April 18, 2012

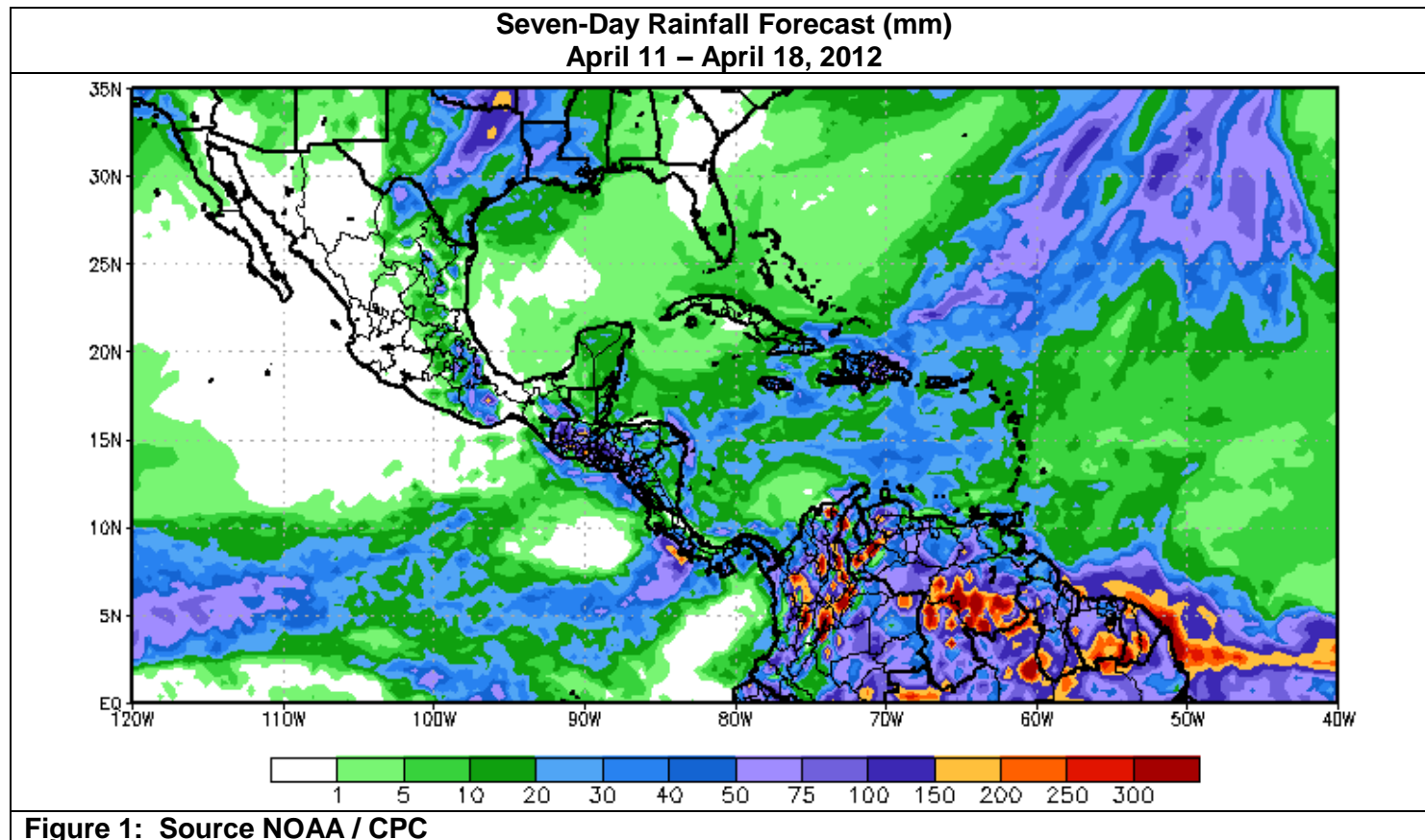
- Above-average rainfall was recorded across much of Central America during the past week; however a slight reduction in rainfall is expected in the region over the next seven days.



Above-average rainfall was observed across Central America during the past seven days.

A significant increase in rainfall amounts has been observed across much of Central America due to low-level convergence, which brought heavy showers and thunderstorms over wide portions of the region during the past seven days. In northern Central America, heavy (> 100 mm) downpours were recorded across Honduras and bordering north central Nicaragua, while moderate to heavy (30 – 50 mm) rainfall was observed in central Guatemala. Meanwhile, heavy downpours also fell across the southern Caribbean. Compared to climatology, the accumulated rainfall during the past week was above-average and has accounted for more than 300 percent of the average across Central America. The above-average rainfall has turned moderate thirty-day rainfall deficits into surpluses over local areas. Furthermore, it has resulted in infrastructure damages, flooding, and displaced people in many local areas of Central America, including central Guatemala, southern and central Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. However, the resulting increase in ground moisture is expected to benefit agricultural activities during the upcoming crop cycle.

During the next seven days, forecasts suggest high pressure systems to dominate the weather pattern, with its prevailing northeasterly to easterly winds over northern Central America. Although eastern Honduras and eastern Nicaragua could experience heavy rainfall, much of the inland of Central America is forecast to receive light (< 20 mm) rains. However, localized heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall could still fall across the Pacific basin of the region. In the southern Caribbean, heavy rainfall is forecast along the Pacific coasts of Costa Rica during the next week.



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