



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 19 – April 25, 2012

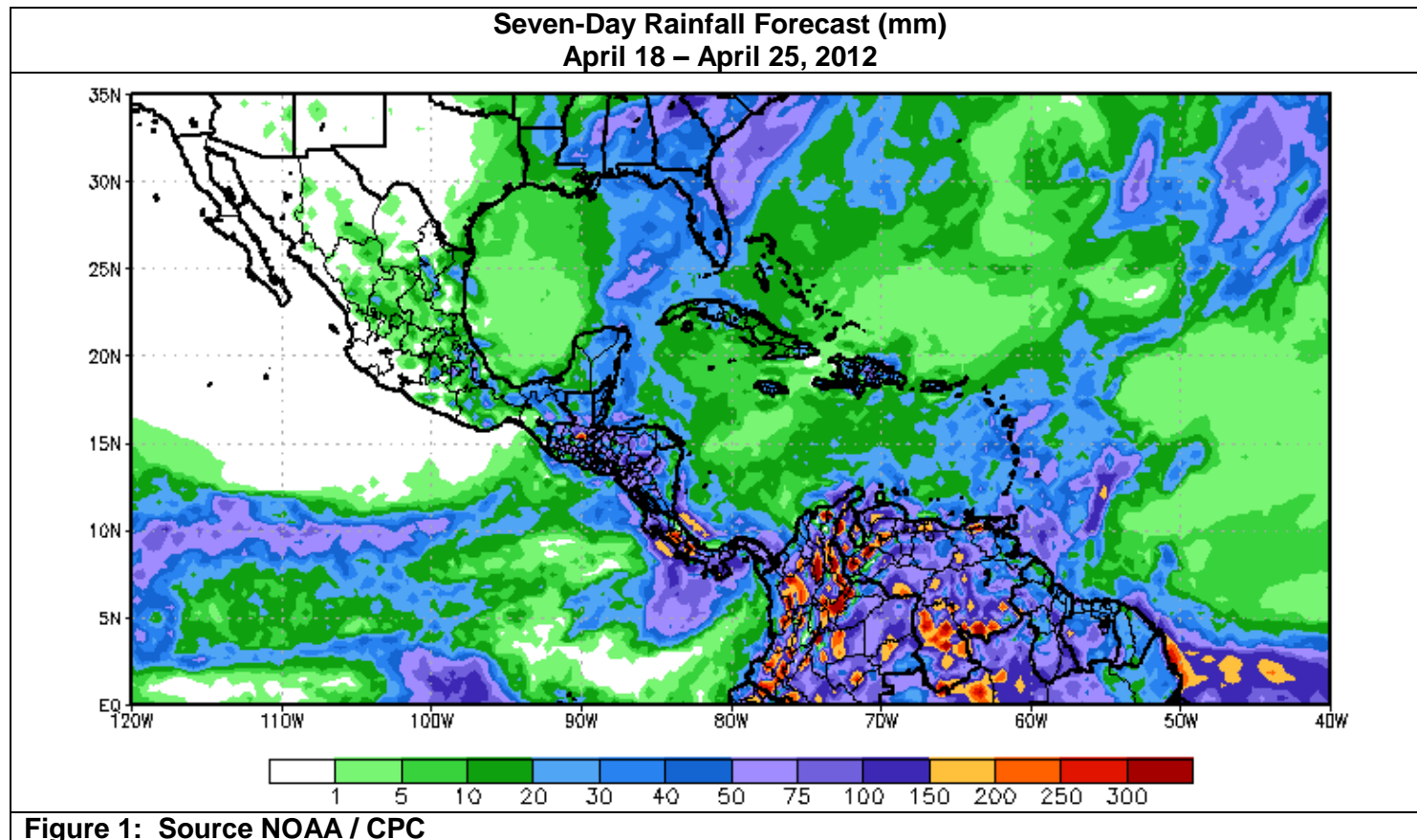
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During the past seven days, a reduction in rainfall was observed across Central America relative to that recorded during the previous week. While light to moderate (20 – 50 mm) rainfall fell over the Central Plateau region and southern Petén department of Guatemala, western Honduras and bordering El Salvador, southeastern Nicaragua, and Pacific basin of Costa Rica, much of the inland of Central America received little (< 10 mm) rainfall during the past week. In some areas such as the Petén department of Guatemala, the observed low rainfall amounts favored conditions for forest fires. In general, the abatement in rainfall during the past week has helped to provide relief to oversaturated grounds of many local areas, resulting from an intense rainfall during the previous week. The observed moderate to strong (20 – 100 mm) rainfall surpluses over the past thirty days are expected to provide adequate soil moisture for cropping activities over a wide proportion of Central America.

For next week, model forecasts suggest frontal boundary activities to dominate the weather conditions across northern Central America. Atmospheric instabilities are expected to produce heavy showers and thunderstorms over many local areas, including the Central Plateau and northern transversal strip regions of Guatemala, western and central Honduras, and northwestern Nicaragua. Hence, the potential for localized flooding exists. Strong easterly flow could also enhance rainfall along eastern Nicaragua during the next seven days. Meanwhile, heavy downpours (> 150 mm) and heavy rains are forecast across Costa Rica and Panama, respectively.



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