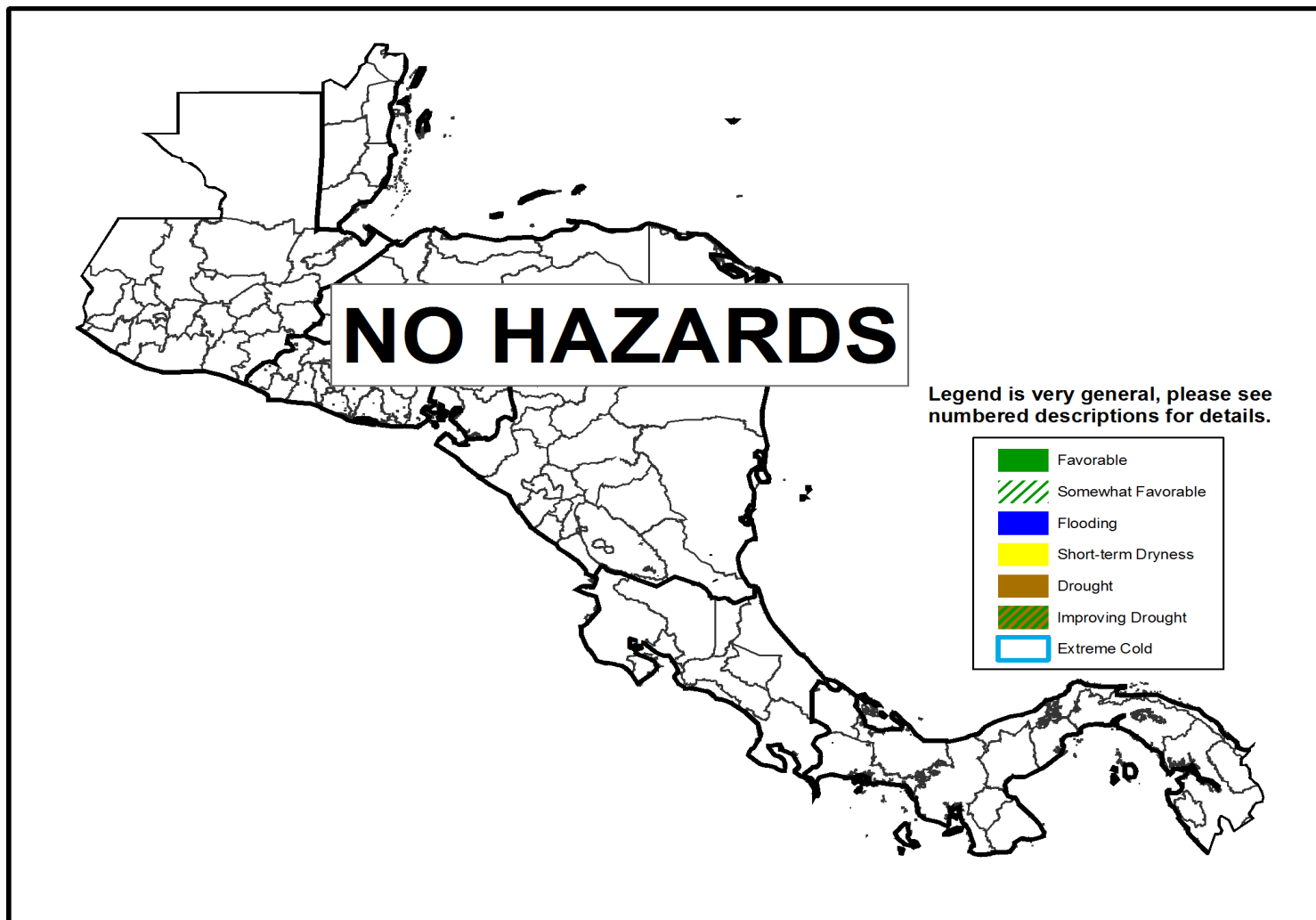




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 26 – May 2, 2012

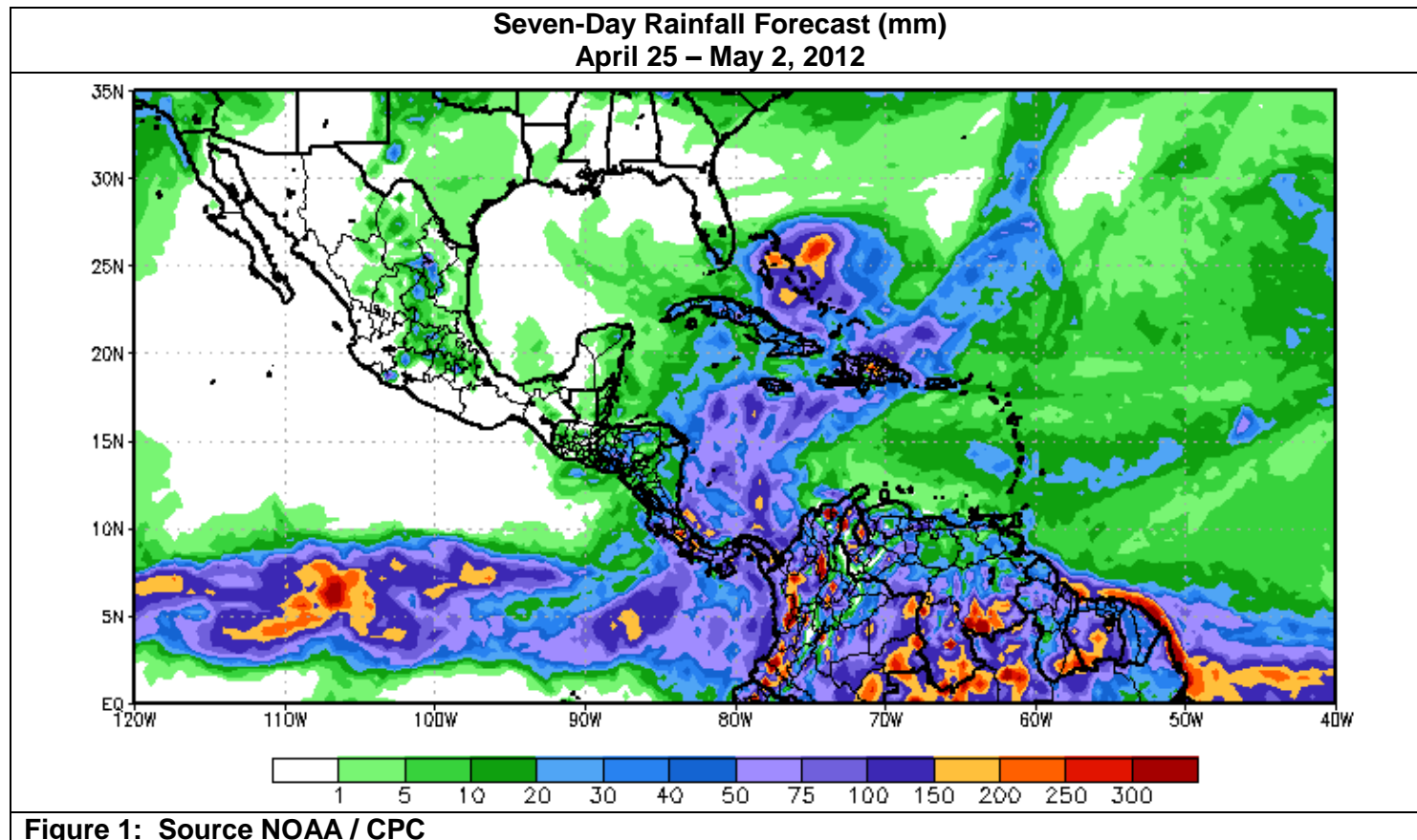
- Central America has experienced increased rainfall during the past seven days; however, reduced rainfall amounts are forecasted across northern Central America during the next outlook period.



Wetter than average conditions observed across Central America.

Over the past thirty days, a large portion of Central America has experienced above-average rainfall, with moisture surpluses up to 300 mm over some local areas of the region. The wetter than average conditions were primarily attributed to frequent and above-average rainfall that was observed during late March and throughout April. Despite a reduction in rainfall during the previous week, above-average rainfall has returned over Central America as moderate to heavy (30 – 75 mm) rainfall has been recorded across many areas, including northeastern and central Guatemala, southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama during the past seven days. The heaviest (> 100 mm) rainfall has been observed near the Gulf of Fonseca region and Panama. This has strengthened further thirty-day moisture surpluses, which are expected to benefit cropping activities, including grains sowing over Central America during the *Primera* season.

With building high pressure systems in the Gulf of Mexico, northerly to northeasterly flow is expected to reduce rainfall across northern Central America during the next week. Model rainfall forecasts suggest light (< 20 mm) rainfall to prevail across much of the inland of the region over the next seven days. The lack of moisture could be conducive to conditions that are favorable for forest fires in many local areas of Central America. Conversely, the southern Caribbean is likely to continue to observe seasonal heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall, with the heaviest (150 mm) rainfall forecast across the Atlantic basin of Costa Rica and Panama, respectively.



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