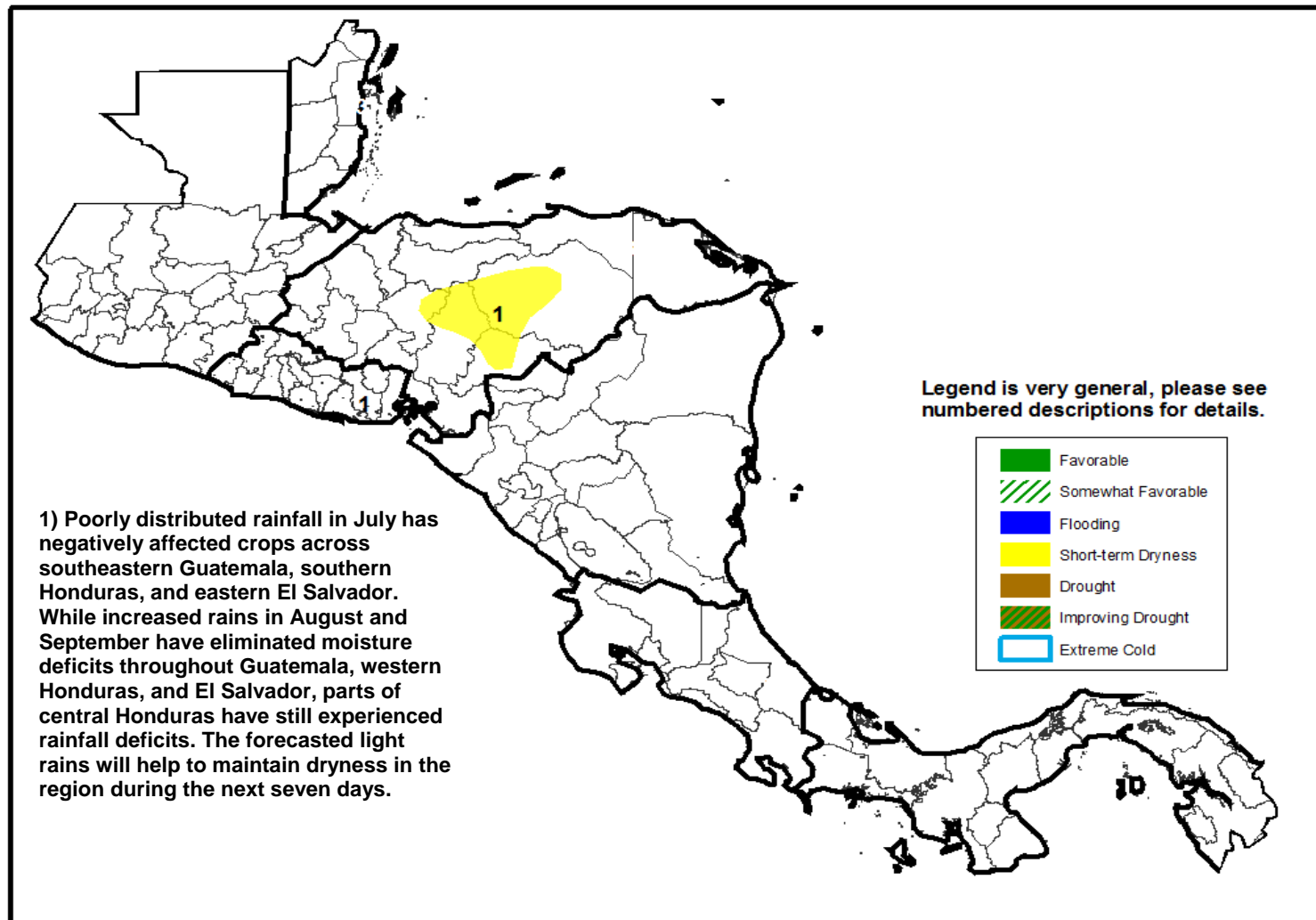


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET September 20 – September 26, 2012

- Heavy, seasonal rains were recorded across much of southern Central America.
- Central Guatemala and Honduras observed light rains which has increased thirty-day rainfall deficits.



The Caribbean coastlines of Costa Rica and Panama recorded heavy rains while dryness continued in central Honduras.

During the past seven days, moderate to heavy rains (>30mm) were observed across much of southern Central America, the Gulf of Honduras and localized areas around the Gulf of Fonseca. The highest rainfall totals (>50mm) were located along the Caribbean coastline of Costa Rica. The heavy rains in Costa Rica and Panama are seasonally expected during this time of year and have maintained good ground conditions across the region. Farther north, locally heavy rains (50mm) were recorded in the Izabal and Petén departments of Guatemala. Thirty-day rainfall in northern Guatemala has been below-average (20-100mm below-average) although ground conditions are suitable for cropping activities. Farther south, light rains (<10mm) were recorded across central Guatemala and Honduras increasing moderate to strong thirty-day rainfall deficits (>50mm) in both regions. In Honduras, the below-average rain has continued short-term dryness concerns in the Olancho, El Paraíso and Francisco Morazán departments as rain has been inconsistent spatially and temporally since late August.

For the next week, northern and southern Central America are forecast to receive moderate to heavy rain (>40mm). The heaviest rains (>50mm) are expected across Costa Rica, Panama and localized areas in central and northern Guatemala. The heavy rains in central Guatemala should provide relief to drier than average conditions experienced over the past thirty days. In contrast, light rains (<20mm) are forecast across Honduras and northern Nicaragua. The lack of rains across central Honduras is likely to increase rainfall deficits and potentially negatively impact cropping conditions.

