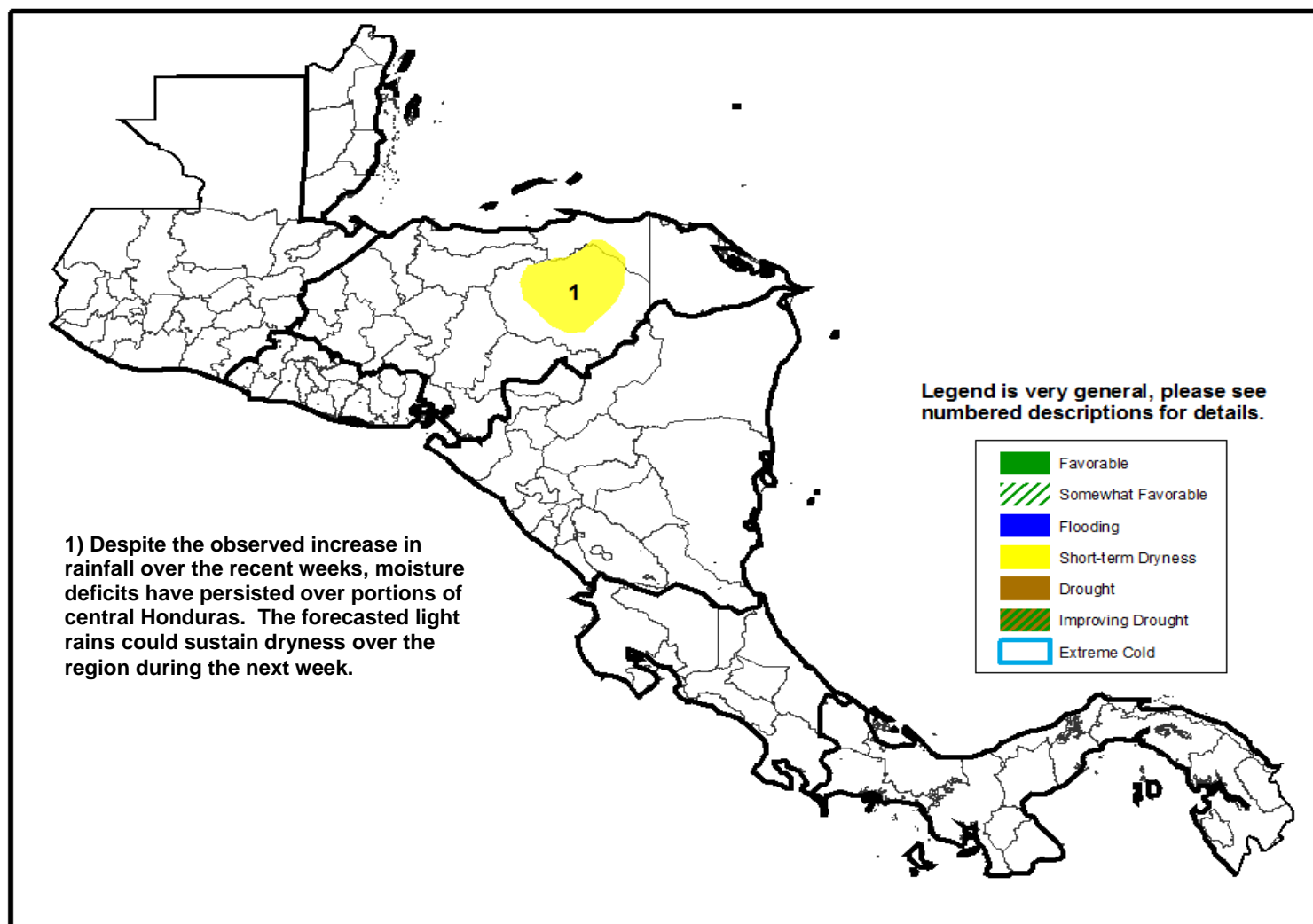


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET October 25 – October 31, 2012

- Dryness may worsen across central Honduras as reduced rains are forecasted over northern Central America during the next week.



Light rains expected over northern Central America.

During the past week, heavy (> 50 mm) rains have continued along the Pacific Basin of Central America, with downpours (> 100 mm) over the Pacific region of Guatemala, Gulf of Fonseca, and southern Pacific region of Costa Rica. In Guatemala, high amounts of rain have caused flooding, affecting hundreds of people across the southwest, including the San Marcos, Suchitepéquez, and Retalhuleu departments during the past week. Meanwhile, moderate to heavy (30 -75 mm) rains were observed over Honduras, central Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean. The average to above-average rain during the past week has helped to reduce thirty-day moisture deficits over central Honduras. In contrast, little (< 10 mm) rains fell over central Guatemala and strengthened thirty-day moisture deficits in local areas of the country. Since the beginning of the *Postrema* season, the dry portions of Central America have received only between 50 and 75 percent of the average rainfall. The continued lack of rains could negatively impact and possibly reduce seasonal crop yields in many local areas of Central America.

For next week, Hurricane SANDY is expected to deflect the wind flow patterns across northern Central America. This is likely to result in prevailing northerly winds, which are expected to suppress rainfall over much of Guatemala and Honduras. While isolated heavy rains could still fall over local areas of southwestern and northern Guatemala, light (< 20 mm) rains are forecasted over Honduras and northern Nicaragua. Farther south, the Intertropical Convergence Zone is expected to bring heavy showers and thunderstorms over southwestern Nicaragua and the southern Caribbean.

