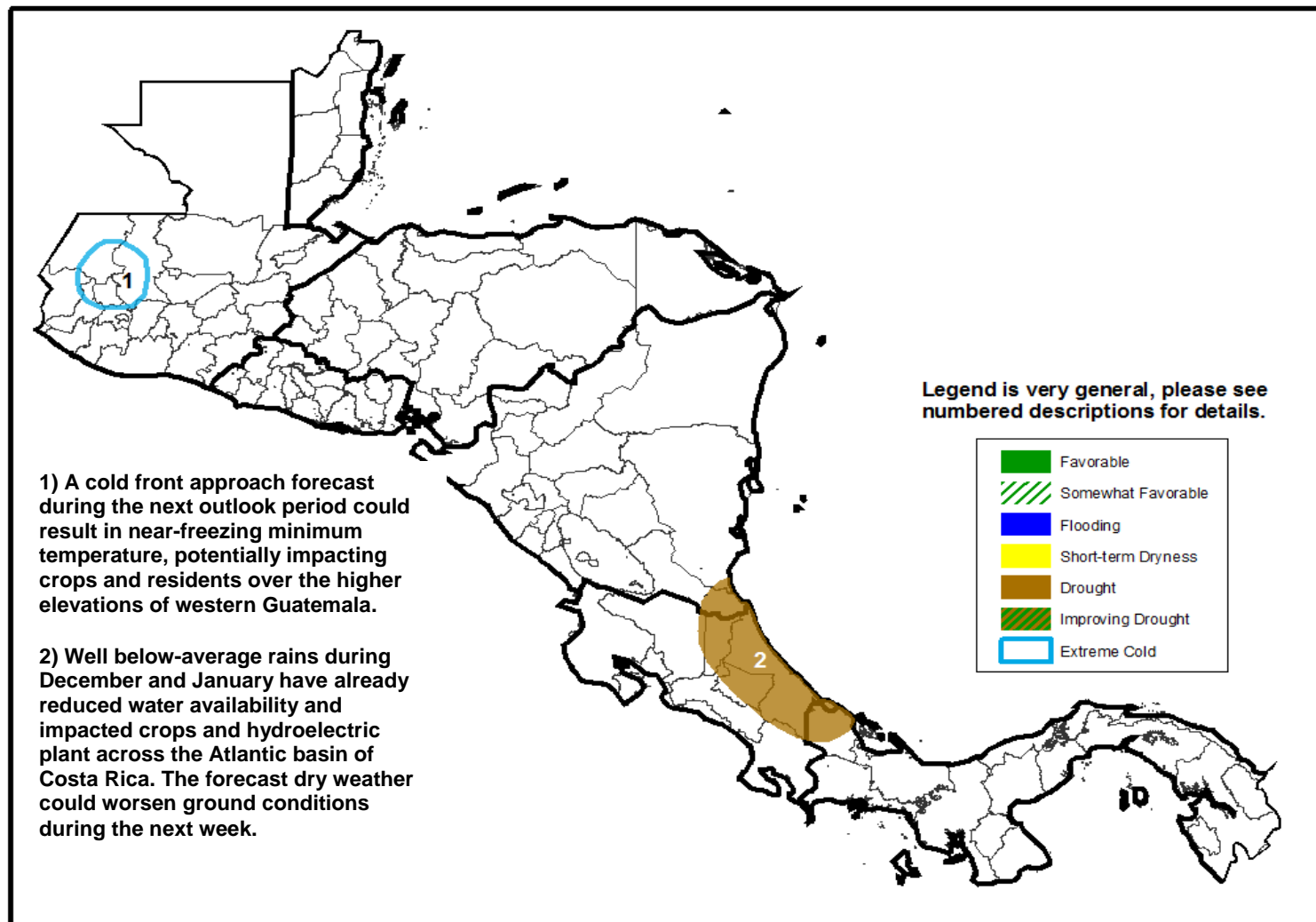


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 14 – February 20, 2013

- A severe drought has stricken the Caribbean basin of Costa Rica due to poor rains since the start of the season, while frigid minimum temperature threatens the western highlands of Guatemala during the next week.



Increased rainfall is expected over Central America during the next week.

During the past week, meteorological conditions were conducive to suppressed rainfall across much of Central America. The heaviest rainfall remained off-shore of eastern southern Caribbean. In Costa Rica, the little amount of rains during the past week has maintained seasonal deficits across the eastern half of the country. Since the start of the December – April, *Apante* season to date, the Atlantic basin of Costa Rica have accumulated negative rainfall anomalies ranging between 200 - 300 mm, which have negatively impacted water availability of potable water for local population, ground moisture for banana production, and water level use for hydroelectric power plants across the region. Meanwhile, the seasonably dry weather and relatively high daytime temperature have favored environmental conditions for forest fires across many local areas of Central America.

During the next week, the passage of a cold front is expected to result in increased rainfall across northern Central America, with the heaviest rains forecast over the Gulf of Honduras. The forecast high amounts of rain could trigger flash flooding over localized areas of eastern Guatemala. Farther south, while the Pacific South region of Costa Rica could receive light rain, the dry portions of the country is forecast to experience another week of dry weather. Meanwhile, temperature could fall near or below-freezing across western Guatemala during the next outlook period.

