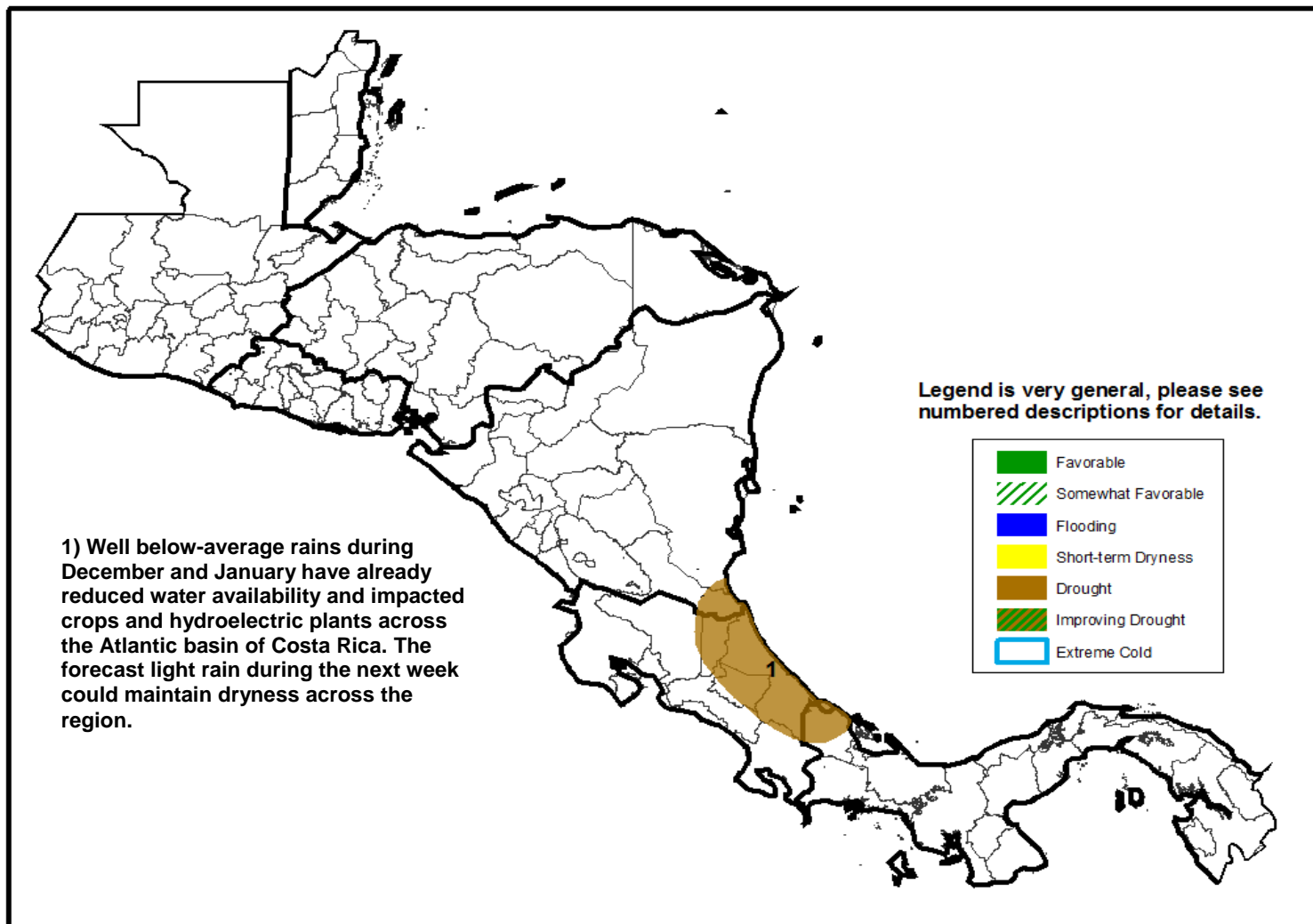




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 21 – February 27, 2013

- Slightly increased rain fell along the Atlantic coasts of Central America, while little to no rainfall was observed elsewhere during the past week.



Unseasonably low rainfall amounts observed over eastern Costa Rica.

Seasonably dry weather continued across a wide portion of Central America during the past week, while the heaviest rains were recorded along northern Honduras and the Caribbean Basin of Costa Rica. This has helped to partially reduce accumulated deficits across the dry portions of Costa Rica following drier than average conditions during the past two months. Also, below-average rain has persisted throughout February and has maintained seasonal deficits, with negative anomalies between 200 and 300 mm in the region. Reports have indicated that the drought has already negatively impacted water availability for the population, agricultural activities, and hydroelectric plants in the region. Meanwhile, the seasonably dry but warmer daytime weather has favored conditions conducive to forest fires across many local areas of Central America, including southern and central Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

During the next week, drier weather is forecast to continue across the inland of Central America. The Gulf of Honduras and Atlantic coastlines of Central America could receive light to locally moderate showers as strong easterly winds are expected to dominate the flow during the next week. Farther south, model forecasts suggest the heaviest rain to remain mostly off-shore of the Caribbean coasts of Costa Rica, while the central inland is expected to receive light rain. The return of adequate rainfall distribution over the next few weeks is well needed to compensate for the seasonal deficits across the southern Caribbean.

