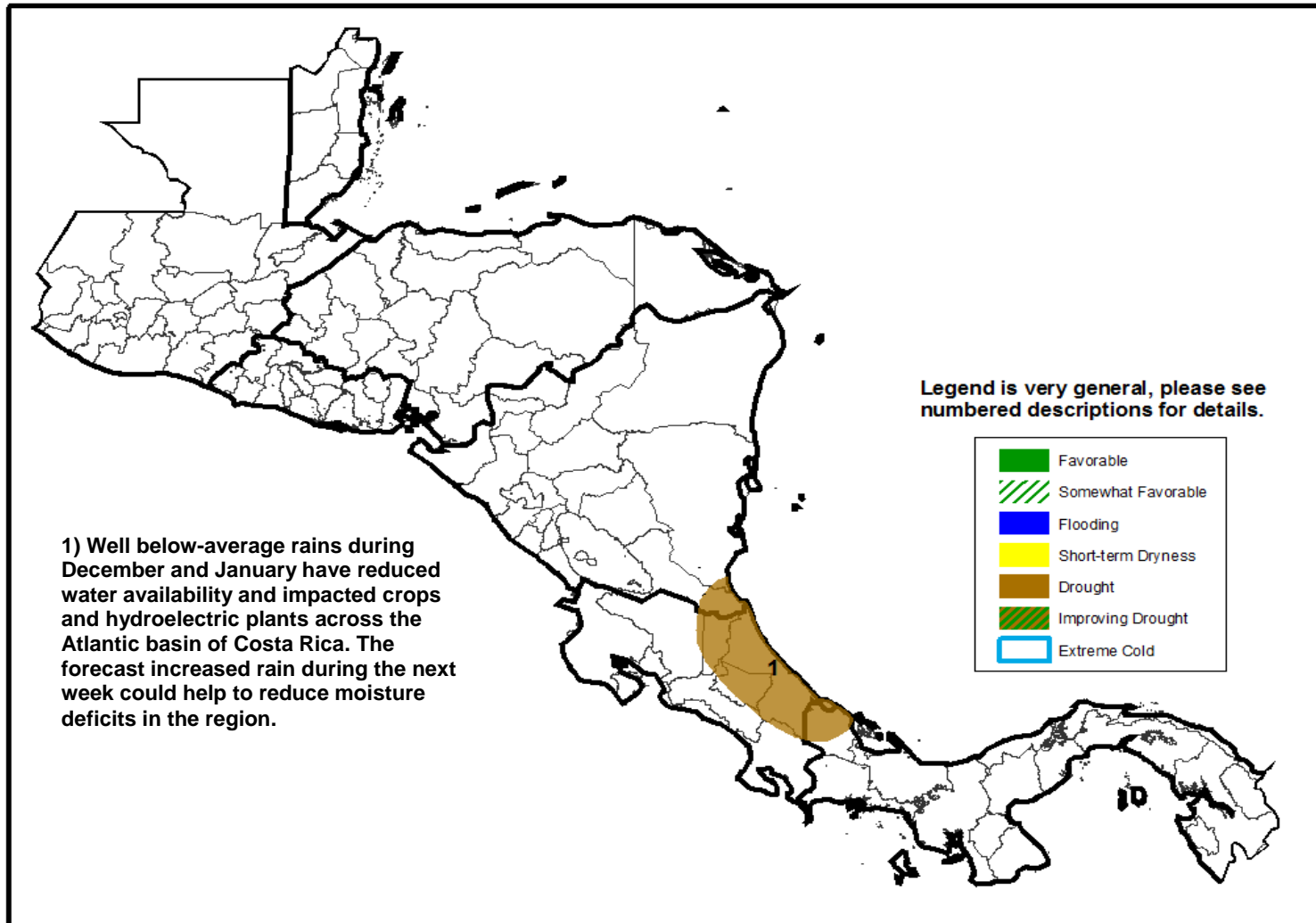




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET February 28 – March 6, 2013

- An increase in rainfall is expected across Central America during the next week.



Dry weather observed across Central America.

During the past seven days, dry weather prevailed throughout much of the interior of Central America. The heaviest rain fell along the Caribbean Basin of Costa Rica, while suppressed rain was observed elsewhere. The reduced rain since the beginning of the season has led to drier soil that is favorable for forest fire across many local areas of Central America. In Guatemala, forest fires have damaged up to 650 hectares of forest, most of which have occurred over the Jalapa and Baja Verapaz departments, according to the Coordinadora Nacional para la Reducción de Desastres (CONRED). River water levels have also decreased significantly over Guatemala, potentially impacting drinking water and crops. Over the southern Caribbean, dryness has occurred from insufficient rain throughout the current month, already negatively impacted the central and eastern parts of Costa Rica. A gradual increase in rainfall is expected over the next few weeks, which should help to alleviate accumulated deficits in the region.

During the next week, an increase in rainfall is expected across Central America as a frontal system is forecast to bring moderate to locally heavy rain over northern Central America, including the northern half of Guatemala and northern coastlines of Honduras. Farther south, prevailing easterly winds and anomalous low-level convergence are expected to enhance rainfall throughout Costa Rica and Panama. Meanwhile, seasonably little to no rainfall is expected to continue across much of the inland of the region during the next week.

