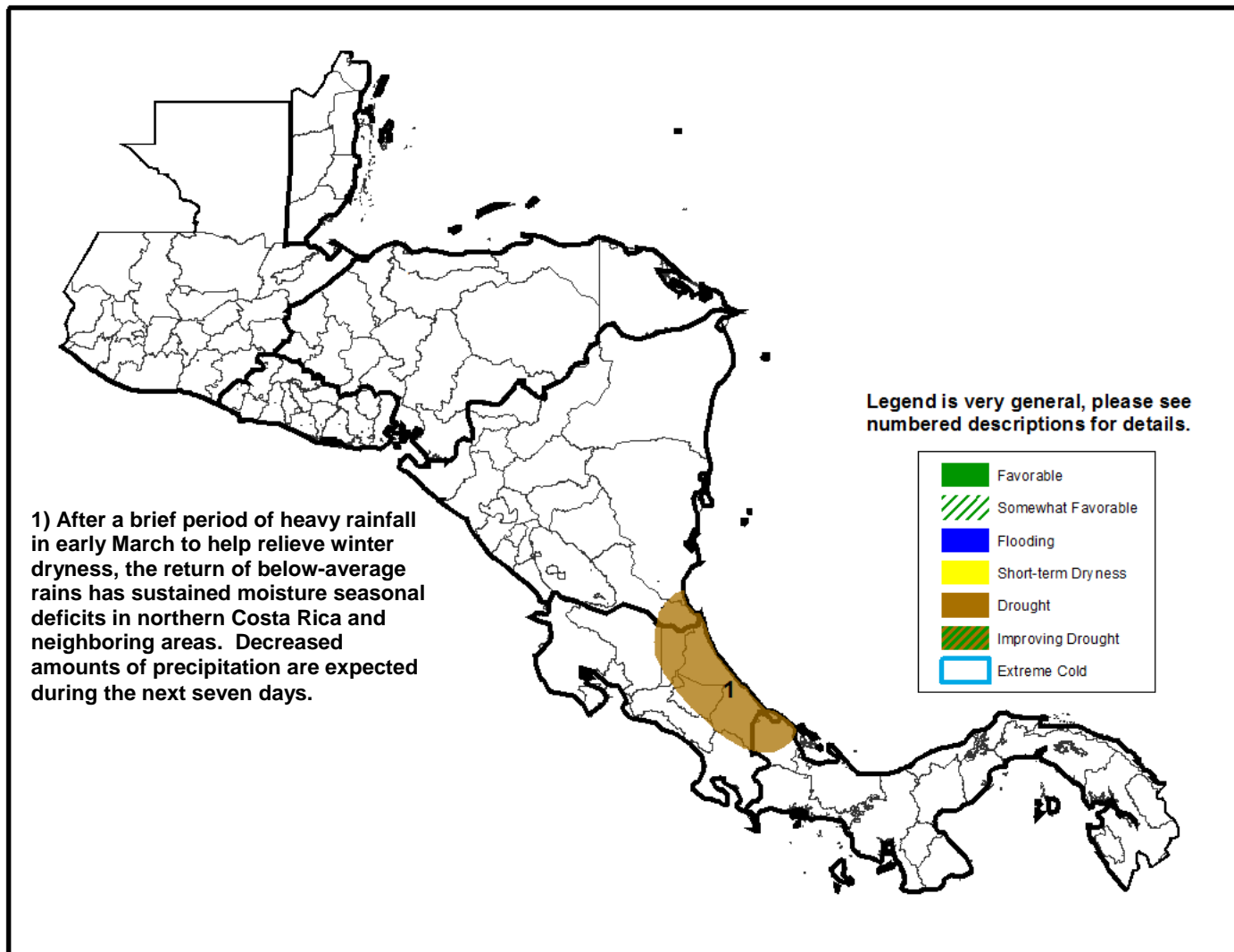




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 21 – March 27, 2013

- Increased amounts of precipitation are expected for the higher elevations of Central America during the next week.



Heavy rains fell over Gulf of Honduras, above-average rainfall expected for central Guatemala.

During the past seven days, enhanced precipitation was observed across the Gulf of Honduras, bringing above-average amounts of rainfall across parts of northern Honduras, northern Guatemala and Belize. The highest precipitation amounts (>100mm) were received in the northern departments of Honduras. In Guatemala, light to locally moderate rainfall amounts (5-20mm) were received in the higher elevations of the country. In Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador, little to no rainfall was observed during the last week. During the last 30 days, marginally below-average rains have developed across the Petén department of northern Guatemala, however much of Central America has remained near average in precipitation since the middle of February. In Costa Rica, several weeks of suppressed precipitation has sustained seasonal moisture deficits, as many local areas have experienced less than 75% of their normal rainfall accumulation since January.

During the next week, precipitation models suggest a suppression of seasonal rainfall across the southern Caribbean and Gulf of Honduras, with an enhancement of rainfall across the interior of Central America. Moderate to locally heavy amounts of precipitation are expected for the higher elevations of Guatemala, extending eastward into southwestern Honduras and El Salvador. Further south, increased amounts of rainfall are also expected for the Pacific sides of Costa Rica and Panama, with lesser amounts forecast for in northern Costa Rica where it has been anomalously dry for the season.

