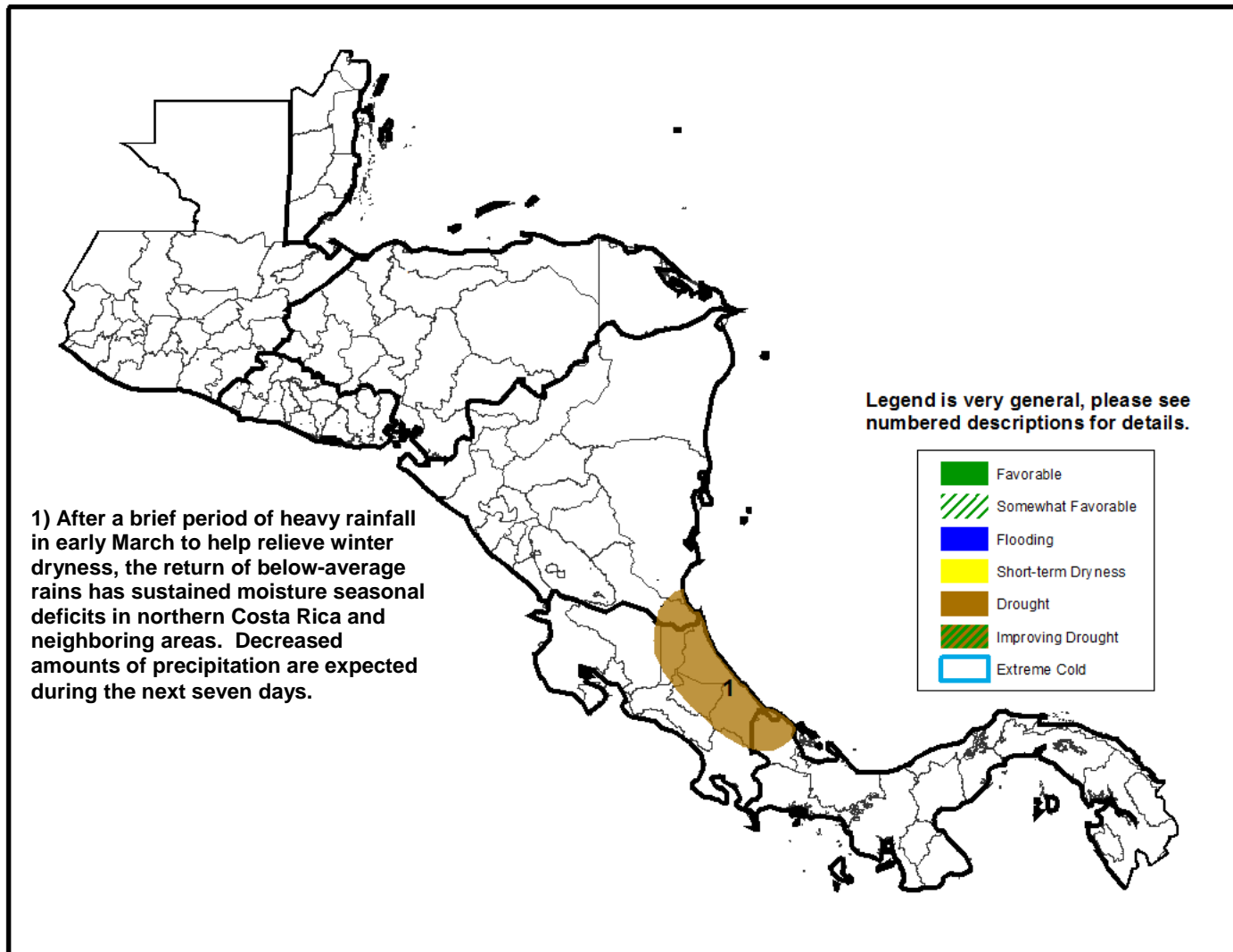




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 28 – April 3, 2013

- Moderate, locally heavy rains received in central Guatemala and southern Honduras during the last week.



Favorably early seasonal rains observed throughout parts of Guatemala and Honduras.

In the past week, many local areas in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador observed an increase in precipitation. Weekly precipitation accumulations (25-50mm) were received across the central and northern departments of Guatemala, as well as, throughout northern El Salvador and southern Honduras, with locally heavy amounts (>75mm) received in the higher elevations. Isolated torrential rainfall near Tegucigalpa, Honduras also resulted in flooding in many local areas during the last week. Towards the south, many areas in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama observed little to no rainfall during the last week. During the last 30 days, much of northern Central America has experienced average to above-average rainfall due to the enhanced rainfall activity on a weekly basis. The highest 30-day rainfall surpluses remain prevalent over central Guatemala and northern Honduras, which is expected to provide favorable ground moisture for early season planting activities. However, anomalously dry conditions have persisted across parts of southern Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest the return of moderate to locally heavy rainfall amounts across the Gulf of Honduras, which is expected to sustain above-average moisture conditions across parts of central and northern Guatemala, and northern Honduras. Potentially moderate to heavy rainfall is also expected across the southern Caribbean, but not much precipitation is forecast over many interior areas of Costa Rica and Panama. As a result, lesser and poorly distributed rainfall is not expected to relieve much of the seasonal dryness in Costa Rica during the end of the March.

