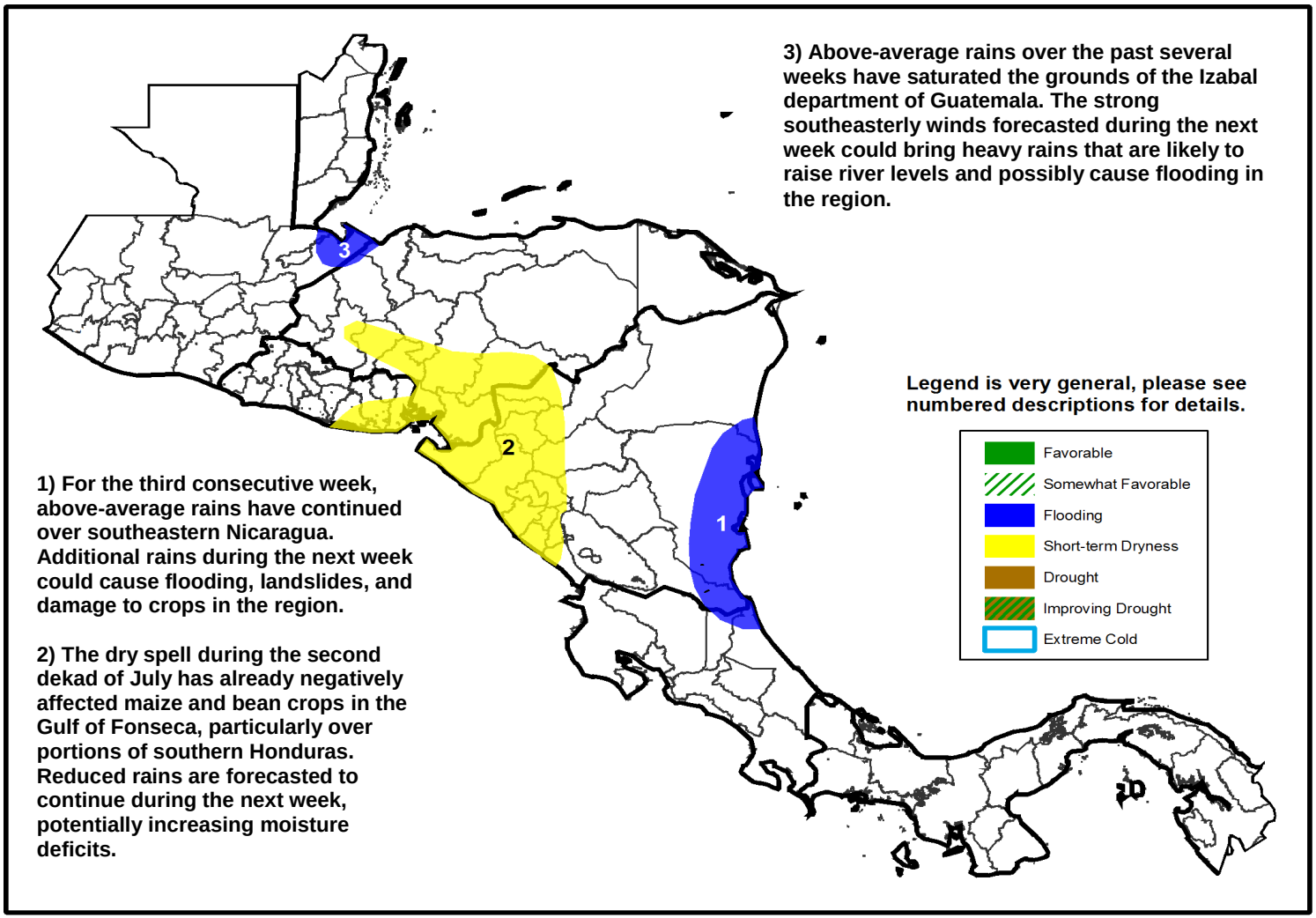
Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
July 26 – Aug 1, 2012

- **Short-term dryness has settled across southern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua due to the dry spell during the second dekad of July.**



Moisture deficits have impacted crops in the Gulf of Fonseca.

Although reduced rains have been observed across the Gulf of Fonseca over the past several weeks, the dry spell during the second dekad (10-day period) of July, which could have coincided with the start of the *Canicula,* has substantially depleted soil moisture in the region. This has negatively affected crops over portions of the inland of Central America. In southern Honduras, maize and bean crops have been affected in Belen, Mercedes de Oriente, San Antonio del Norte, Caridad, Aramecina, Aguanqueterique, Lauterique, San Jose, San Antonio Flores, San Isidro, Pespire, Maraita, Yauyupe, Texiguat, San Lucas, San Antonio de Flores, Vado Ancho, and Morolica. Meanwhile, torrential (> 100 mm) rains have continued over the Pacific region of Guatemala, Gulf of Honduras, and Atlantic coasts eastern Honduras and of southern Central America, maintaining moderate to strong (> 200 mm) rainfall surpluses over the past thirty days. While the continued lack of rainfall could reduce crop yields over the dry portions of Central America, the excessive moisture could also adversely impact crops and damage infrastructures over the flood-prone areas.

For next week, the prevailing easterly flow and passage of tropical waves are expected to bring heavy (> 50 mm) rains in the Gulf of Honduras, Atlantic coasts of eastern Honduras and Nicaragua. The additional rains could exacerbate the already-saturated grounds and trigger new flooding over portions of the Izabal department of Guatemala and southern Atlantic region of Nicaragua. Meanwhile, light (< 30 mm) rains are expected across the inland of Central America, potentially increasing moisture deficits over southern Honduras, eastern El Salvador, and western Nicaragua.

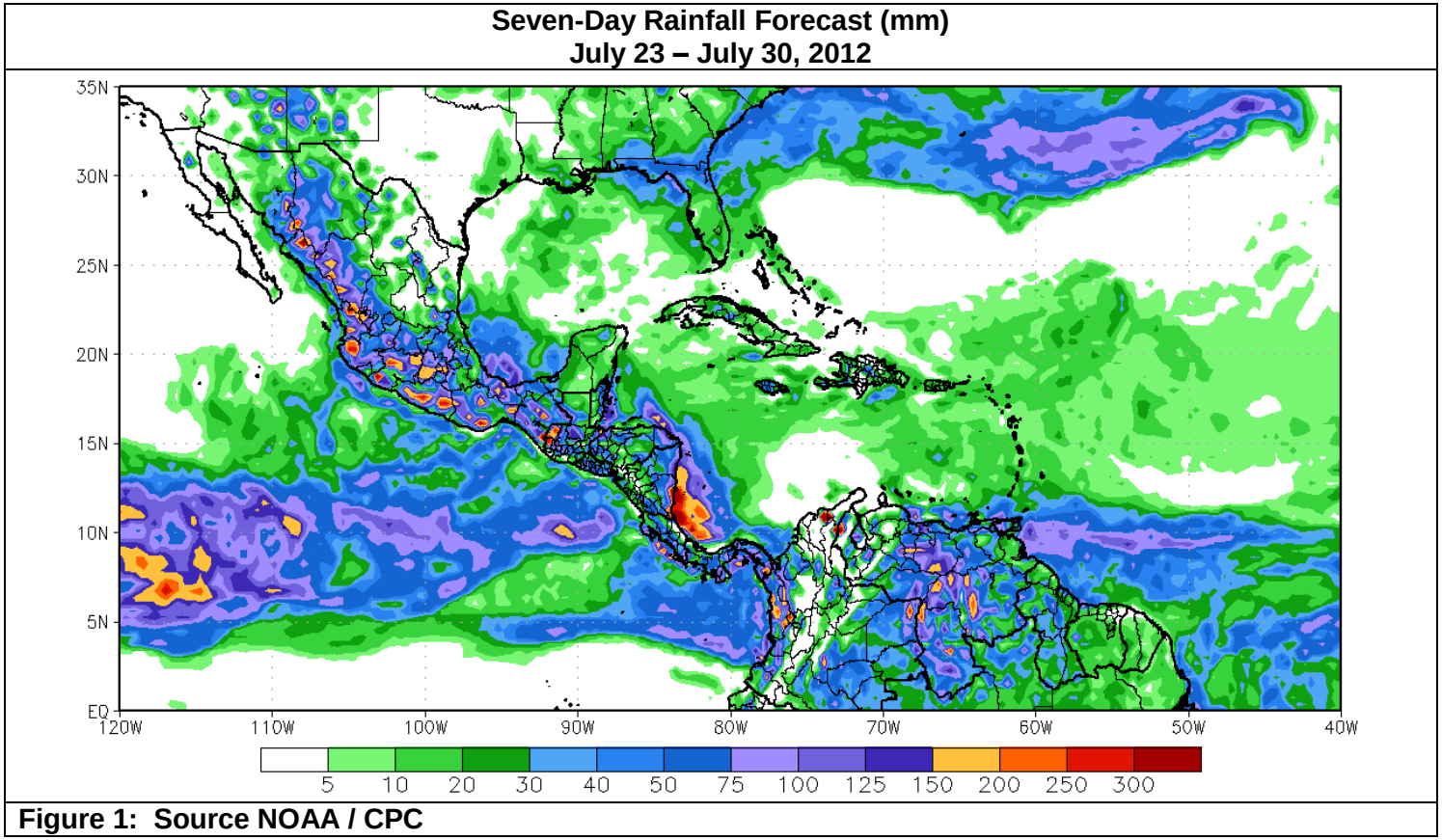


Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC