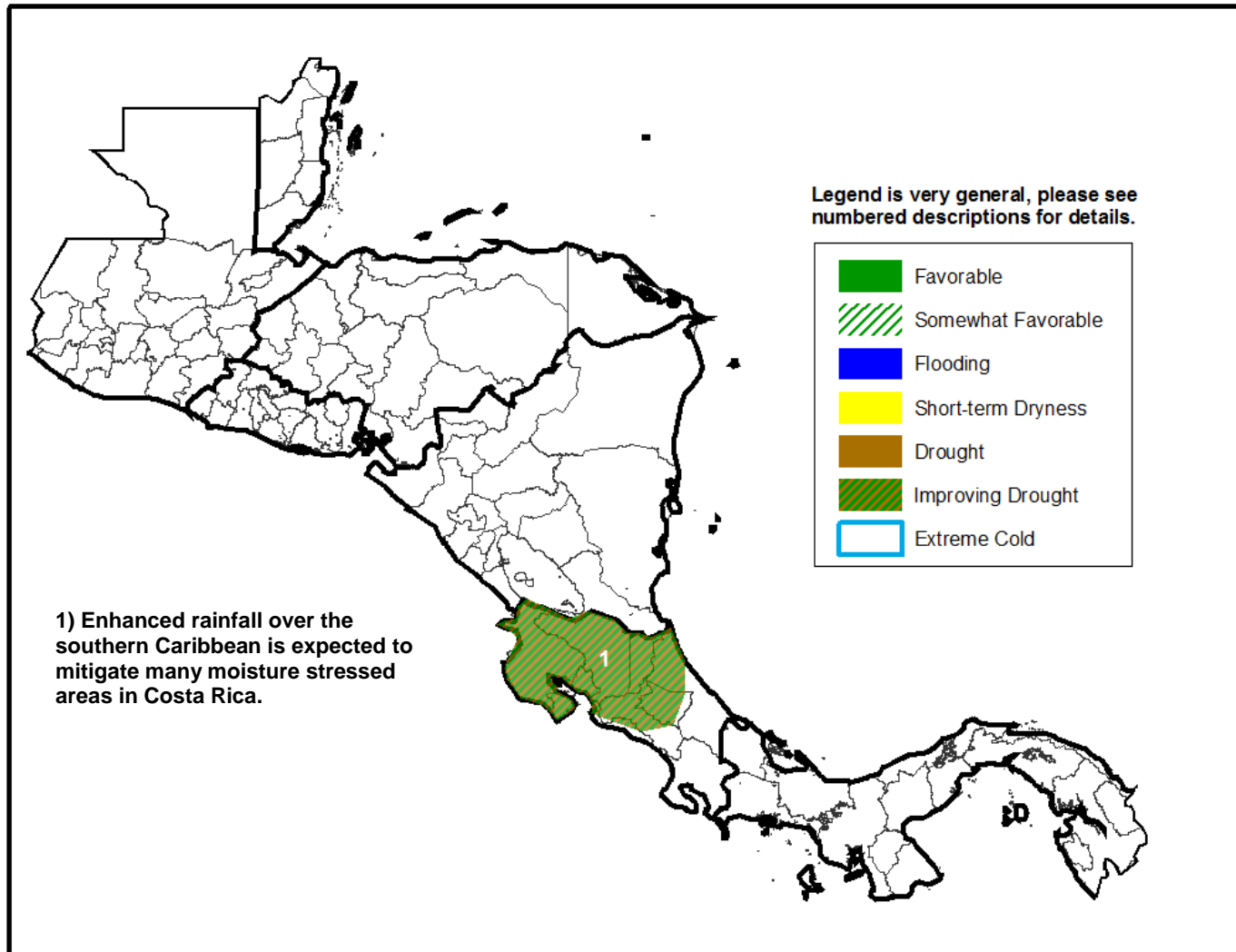




Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 22 – December 28, 2011

- Increased rainfall in southern Caribbean expected to continue to relieve dryness in Costa Rica.



A continuation of moderate to heavy rainfall is expected throughout Costa Rica and Panama.

During the last week, heavy amounts of precipitation were observed throughout the southern Caribbean region. Seven-day precipitation amounts in excess of 200mm were received mostly offshore in the Atlantic coastlines of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, with inland rainfall accumulations ranging between 100-150mm. Further north, light to moderate rainfall was received throughout many areas in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Heavy rains in the Bocas Del Toro, Colon and Darien provinces of Panama have reported resulted in elevated river levels and losses in livestock during the last week. Since the beginning of December, precipitation continues to remain well above average across the southern Caribbean, as moisture surpluses in Panama, Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua are expected to provide relief for many local areas that have experienced dryness in October and November. Further north, precipitation has generally remained near average throughout many parts of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador since the beginning of the month.

For the upcoming observation period, precipitation forecasts suggest a more seasonable rainfall distribution for late December. Moderate to heavy amounts of precipitation are expected for many coastal Atlantic parts of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

