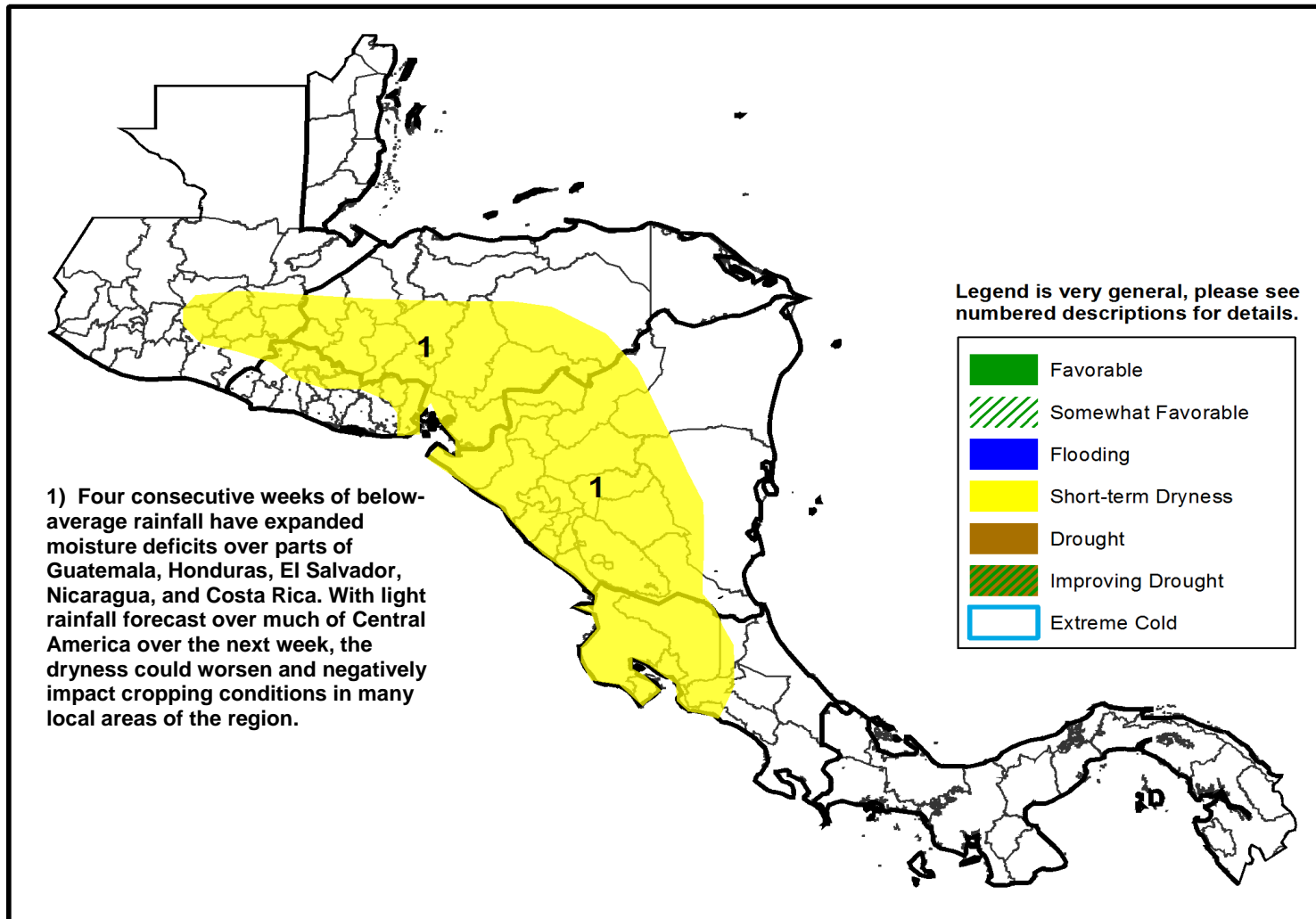




## Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET November 17 – November 23, 2011

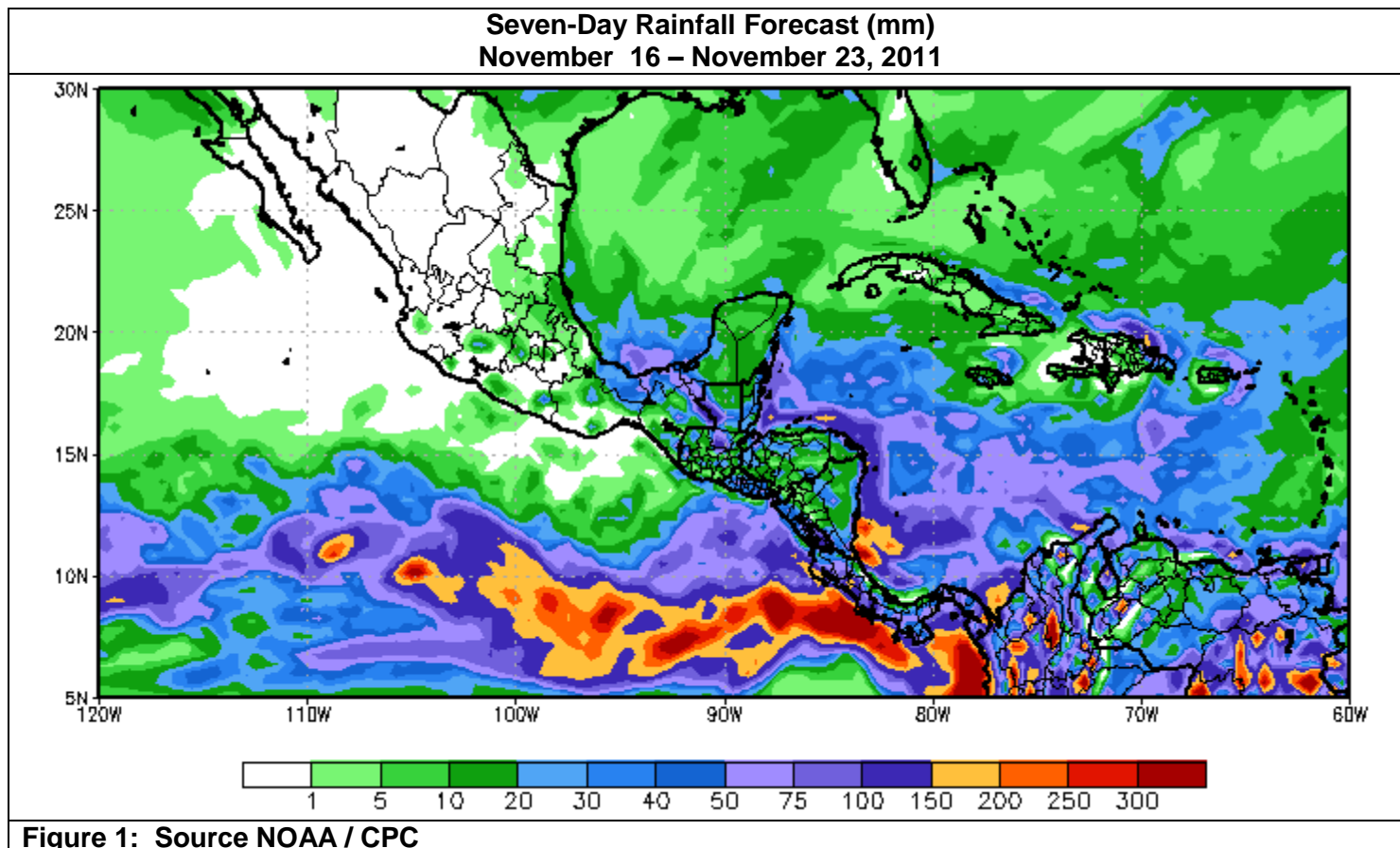
- Suppressed rainfall has continued and strengthened moisture deficits across many regions of Central America during the past week.



**Dryness is expected to continue during the next observation period.**

A major proportion of Central America received little to no rainfall during the past week. The heaviest (> 30 mm) rainfall was observed in the Gulf of Honduras, Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, and the southern Caribbean region. Following the second dekad of October, the poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall has enhanced the thirty-day negative rainfall anomalies across Central America. Portions of southern Guatemala, central Honduras, and western Nicaragua have experienced moisture deficits exceeding 100 mm or less than 50 percent of the long-term average during the past thirty days. As a result, short-term dryness has expanded over eastern Guatemala, northern El Salvador, southern Honduras, western Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica. The below-average rainfall during the past four consecutive weeks could announce an early cessation of the *Postrera* season. This could negatively impact late-planted crops and impede agricultural activities for the *Apante* season in Central America.

During the next week, forecasts indicate light (< 20 mm) rainfall over much of Central America, with possible isolated thunderstorms and showers over local areas of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. While a cold front passage is expected to bring heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras, an active InterTropical Convergence Zone is likely to bring heavy rainfall over the southern Caribbean. However, the light amount of rains forecast over the inland of Central America may not be sufficient to eliminate moisture deficits and could worsen dryness in the region.



**Figure 1: Source NOAA / CPC**