Americas Regional Forecast: Total Rain and Snow for November 2012 - January 2013

Produced by the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society

Forecast Update: The forecast signals this month are not very strong, as we are no longer in a La Niña or El Niño phase.

IRI Global Forecast Map: Colours on this map indicate areas where we have increased confidence that the next three months will be unusually wet or dry. The darker the colour, the more confident we are.

Areas of Concern
There is moderately increased confidence that parts of the western United States and the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) will be unusually dry this December-February.

There is moderately increased confidence that parts of the United States will be unusually wet this December-February.

What can I do?
To anticipate impacts, monitor local rainfall forecasts to see when and where rainfall events might occur. Some regional resources include: NOAA

If below-normal rainfall does occur, the following sectoral impacts are possible:
- Increased forest fires
- Food security: change in planting/harvesting times, crop drying/storage

If above-normal rainfall does occur, the following sectoral impacts are possible:
- Increased chances of flooding
- Health: enhanced transmission rates of infectious diseases

For more information to help interpret the forecast, see accompanying document called: ‘Important Forecast Guidance and Resources’.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the IFRC Helpdesk at IRI: ifrc@iri.columbia.edu.