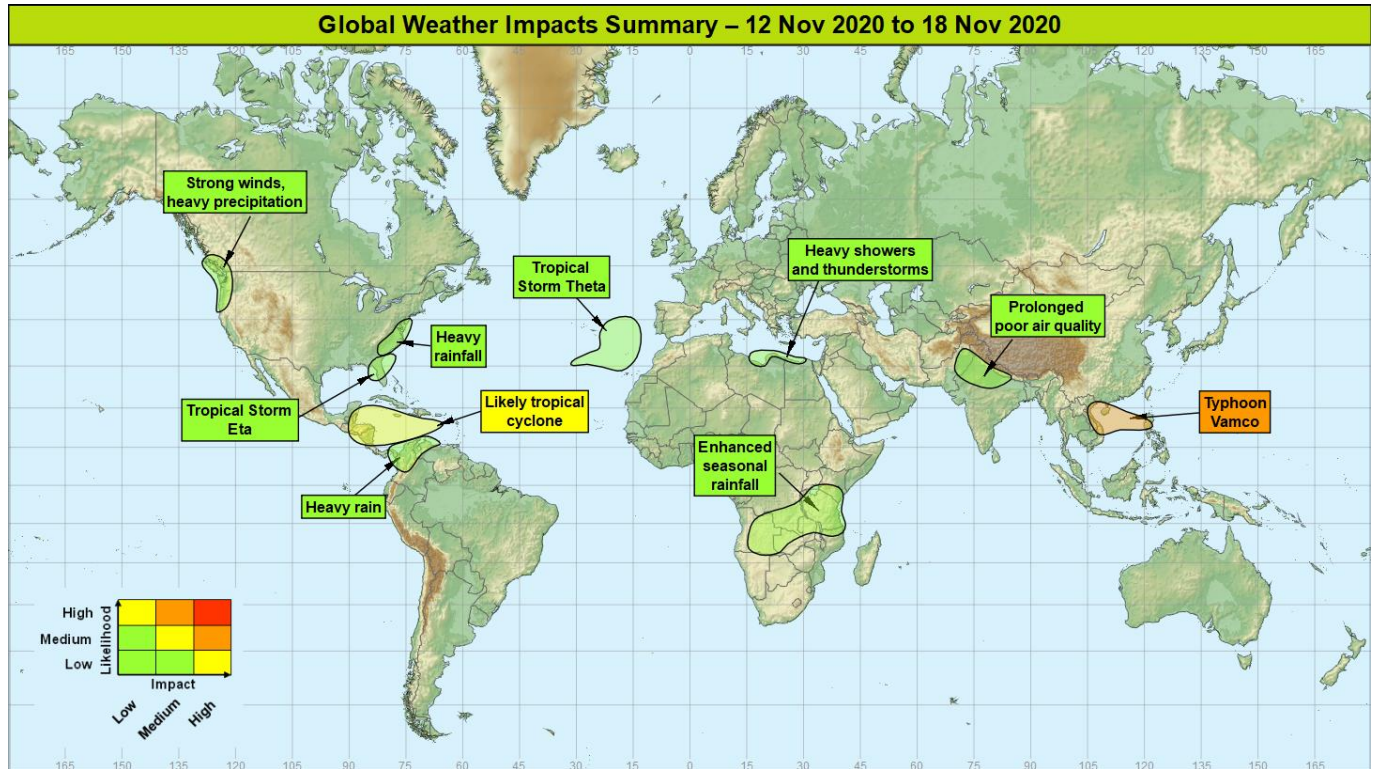


Global Weather Impacts – Thursday 12th November to Wednesday 18th November 2020

Issued on Thursday 12th November 2020

HEADLINES

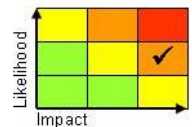
- Typhoon Vamco now clearing the Philippines, likely reaching central or northern Vietnam this weekend.
- Potential for another tropical storm to form in the Caribbean Sea over the coming days.



Tropical Cyclones

Typhoon Vamco – Philippine Sea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia

Typhoon Vamco has now reached the South China Sea after tracking across the Philippines. Vamco made landfall over Luzon at typhoon strength on Wednesday with its track just to the north of Manila (close to the areas worst affected by Goni). Whilst some weakening occurred whilst crossing Luzon, areas near the track of its centre are likely to have experienced destructive winds. In its wake heavy rainfall will continue to fall across Luzon during Thursday with some areas receiving a further 100-150 mm today.



Vamco is expected to continue west towards Vietnam and south China (Hainan) over the next couple of days. Its exact track uncertain but most likely reach central or northern Vietnam over the weekend. Some weakening of Vamco is possible before it reaches Vietnam but damaging or destructive winds remain possible near its track. This is also likely to lead to yet another spell of torrential rain to parts of Vietnam. At this stage it looks like the heaviest rain will probably be to the north of the areas that have been worst affected over the last couple of weeks.

This forecast may be amended at any time

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Discussion

Vamco has now reached the South China Sea and with a shorter land passage over the Philippines compared to Goni, has undergone less substantial weakening. Good agreement that the system will continue west as a typhoon over the next couple of days. As it approaches Vietnam there is increased uncertainty as to whether it will curve north into the Gulf of Tonkin or head due west into Vietnam. NWP currently favours the former which will mean the worst impacts are steered away from the most sensitive areas. Vertical wind shear looks likely to remain low as it moves over the South China Sea which will favour it remaining at typhoon strength. However, the closer it gets to Vietnam it will encounter lowering SSTs and with some dry air entrainment also possible this will probably lead to some weakening ahead of landfall.

Expected Impacts

Impacts ongoing across the Philippines with significant flooding reported in Manila and low-lying suburbs inundated. Further rain today will potentially exacerbating the ongoing flooding. Further severe impacts possible for parts of Vietnam and Hainan this weekend. Flooding, destructive winds and dangerous storm surge all possible.

Tropical Storm Eta – Gulf of Mexico/Florida

Weather

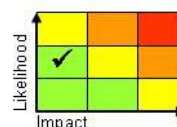
Eta is expected to make its final landfall over Florida (north of Tampa) during today. Eta remains at tropical storm strength, whilst weakening over Florida it is likely to maintain its identity as a tropical depression once emerging into the Atlantic but further interaction with land looks unlikely. A dangerous storm surge is possible for many parts of the Gulf coast of Florida and during landfall and close to the centre of Eta winds could be strong enough to cause some damage and disruption. Heavy rain will affect a large swathe of Florida, likely heaviest in the Tampa area with the potential for 100-150mm during the passage of Eta.

Discussion

After briefly reaching hurricane strength for a time again on Wednesday, Eta again weakened back to a tropical storm as it approached Florida over lower SSTs along with some dry air entrainment. The track of Eta has been subject to significant uncertainty over recent days but models now appear to have converged in its handling regarding landfall although there are still differences in how prolonged the system will be once it reaches the Atlantic. However, increasing wind shear will see it eventually dissipate and be subsumed into an extra-tropical system.

Expected Impacts

Increased threat of flash and coastal flooding for Florida. Disruption is likely due to strong winds which may remain strong enough to cause some damage during landfall.



Tropical Storm Theta - North Atlantic

Weather

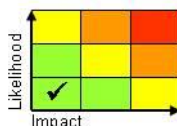
Theta (the record breaking 29th named storm of the season) continues to slowly track east-northeast over the open Atlantic towards Madeira. Theta looks unlikely to strengthen beyond its current tropical storm status. During Sunday and Monday Theta is forecast to pass just to the west of Madeira, although there remains a small chance that it may track close to the Canary Islands or the Azores. All these areas have a low probability of strong winds and heavy rain from this system.

Discussion

Theta continues east-northeast steered by the mid-latitude flow. Relatively low SSTs and strong wind shear will hamper any further development as a typical tropical system. However, the upper environment will promote deep convection which will help maintain the system. Confidence in its track lowers over the weekend, the upper flow likely to turn N'y for a time before eventually being swept NE ahead of an extending trough early next week. This fairly complicate evolution leads to fairly low confidence in its track from Saturday onwards, most importantly for if and which islands it impacts.

Expected Impacts

Low risk of flash flooding and wind damage with the most likely track to be close to Madeira.



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The following area is being monitored for tropical cyclone development that has the potential to impact land:

Caribbean Sea, and parts of Central America

Weather

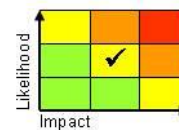
An area of enhanced showers and thunderstorms will continue west over the Caribbean Sea over the coming days bringing heavy rain (50-100 mm) to some of the islands (southern parts of Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Jamaica most prone). It looks likely that a tropical storm will be spawned out of this area, probably over the weekend, then most likely continuing west into Central America. This brings the threat of damaging winds and storm surge, but even if a tropical storm doesn't form parts of Central America are likely to see torrential rain early next week. At this stage, Nicaragua and Honduras look to have the highest threat of severe impacts.

Discussion

An African easterly wave (AEW) continues west across the Caribbean. Underlying SSTs remain high (28-29°C) and it is likely to enter an area of decreasing and favourable vertical wind shear over the next few days. This makes tropical cyclonogenesis a high likelihood (NHC rate it a 90% chance over the next 5 days).

Expected Impacts

Risk of flash flooding, wind damage and storm surge.



The following areas are being monitored for tropical cyclone development that will remain over open ocean:

Southwest Indian Ocean - There are clusters of showers and thunderstorms in the area which have the potential to develop into one, or perhaps two tropical cyclones in the region, both would likely be steered south or southeastwards and remain well away from land.

Europe

Madeira, Azores and Canary Islands – See *Tropical Cyclones section (Theta)*

North America

Southeast USA - See *Tropical Cyclones section (Eta)*

Northwest USA and southwest Canada

Weather

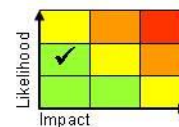
An active low pressure system looks likely to run into parts of British Columbia, Washington State and Oregon during Friday and Saturday. Heavy rain is likely at low levels (25-50 mm widely, perhaps 100-150 mm in places) with heavy snow, mainly over high ground. Winds could also be strong enough for some minor damage.

Discussion

Model agreement is improving for rapid cyclogenesis to occur over the northeast Pacific later this week with the resulting vigorous low pressure system then running into SW Canada and NW USA. There is still some uncertainty in peak wind strength but there is the potential for a spell of gusts as high as 80-90 mph for a time on the S'ern flank of the low. WBFLs look unlikely to fall significantly below 800m so snow should be restricted to high ground.

Expected Impacts

Disruption to transport likely. Winds may be strong enough to cause minor damage to buildings and infrastructure. Dangerous coastal conditions with large waves potentially leading to coastal overtopping/flooding.



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Eastern USA

Weather

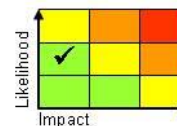
Heavy rain will continue across this area today (Thursday) before tending to clear east on Friday. Many areas will see 25-75mm of rain build up with peaks likely in the order of 150-200mm. Average rainfall in this region in the whole of November is typically 70-90mm.

Discussion

A cold front trailing from a major cyclone which has now clearer Newfoundland has drawn moist tropical air into its warm conveyor. This feature will become aligned to the upper level flow for a time, making the feature slow moving and prone to flat northeast running frontal waves before clearing. This will likely bring very heavy rainfall to a broad region before a more zonal upper pattern becomes established and pushes the frontal zone away to the east during Friday. While clearing the east coast the remnants of Eta are likely to be swept up into the frontal zone which adds uncertainty to the timing that heavy rain fully clears the USA.

Expected Impacts

Increased risk of both flash and some minor riverine flooding.



Central America and Caribbean

Caribbean Sea and parts of Central America - See *Tropical Cyclones* section

Panama, Colombia and Venezuela

Weather

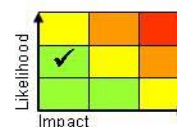
Daily heavy shower and thunderstorms activity is expected to be heavier than usual across these areas over the coming days. Each day there is the potential for 50-100mm of rain to fall in places although most areas will miss the heaviest rain. This is typically one of the wettest times of the year for these areas so forecast totals aren't exceptional but could still lead to impacts.

Discussion

An AEW running west across these areas over the coming days will help lead to enhanced convective activity. This also looks likely to trigger a tropical storm over the Caribbean Sea. Should this form, this would lead to strengthen SW'ly flow into Panama and the pacific coast of Columbia later this week and over the weekend helping to focus heavy rainfall here.

Expected Impacts

Increased risk of flash flooding in places. Landslides possible in more mountainous areas.



South America

Colombia and Venezuela - See *Central America and Caribbean* section

Africa

Coastal Libya and Egypt

Weather

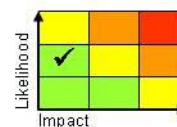
Heavy showers and thunderstorms have been affecting these areas over recent days and after a lull today (Thursday) activity is likely to increase for a time again on Friday and Saturday. Exactly where the heaviest downpours will occur is uncertain but these could bring 25-50mm in a short period (a couple of hours). The typical monthly rainfall in these areas is just 20-40mm.

Discussion

Another upper trough running E across the area on Thursday and more especially Friday will engage the in-situ high WBPT plume leading to convective activity again before clearing E over the weekend. A northerly steering flow will focus showers into the coasts of Libya and Egypt.

Expected Impacts

Impacts largely confined to populated urban areas where this unusual and short duration rainfall could will cause flash flooding.



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Central parts of Africa

Weather

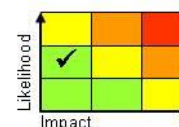
The East African short rains season is well underway and above average rainfall looks likely through the coming week across an area encompassing large parts of East Africa an extending west to Angola. Rainfall accumulations will vary significantly from place to place with the majority of the highlighted region seeing 25-50mm during this time. However, a few places could see 100-150 mm building up. Typical November rainfall totals in this region are 50-100 mm.

Discussion

The passage of the MJO is leading to increased convective activity over a swathe of central Africa. Above average rainfall looks set to increase until the MJO moves out over the Indian Ocean next week.

Expected Impacts

Some flash flooding is likely in places, especially in some of the region's larger and more poorly planned urban centres. Also an increased risk of landslides in regions where terrain is steep.



Middle East

Nil.

Asia

Philippines, Vietnam and southern China - See *Tropical Cyclones* section

Northern India, Pakistan and Nepal

Weather

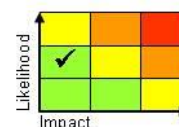
Very poor air quality is being reported and is likely to continue as light winds, increased particulate emissions, and seasonal crop burning combine to bring hazardous conditions, particularly by night. There could be a temporary improvement across the north of this area over the weekend with a spell of stronger winds and showers (heavy mountain snow) likely.

Discussion

Particulate emissions are increasing due to an increase in fires/heating/lighting and ongoing seasonal crop burning. As the post-monsoon dry season progresses light winds and overnight inversions will trap particulates near to the ground fairly widely in this area. Only minimal improvements in air quality are now occurring by day.

Expected Impacts

Human health issues (both short and long term) are likely, and not only be limited to those more susceptible to poor air quality.



Australasia

Nil.

Additional Information

Cox's Bazar, southeast Bangladesh

As is typical for the time of year, dry conditions will prevail. Temperatures look set to remain slightly above average.

Yemen

Predominantly dry conditions are expected inland. A few showers are possible each day for coastal districts and also over western parts of the Western Highlands but rainfall amounts expected to be small.

Sudan/South Sudan

Dry for much of Sudan and South Sudan. A few showers possible each day for the Sudan Red Sea coast and across the south of south Sudan but look unlikely to be heavy enough to be impactful. Temperatures are signalled to be well above average across the north of South Sudan over the next week.

Issued at: 120830 UTC **Meteorologists:** Chris Bulmer / David Oliver

Global Guidance Unit

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