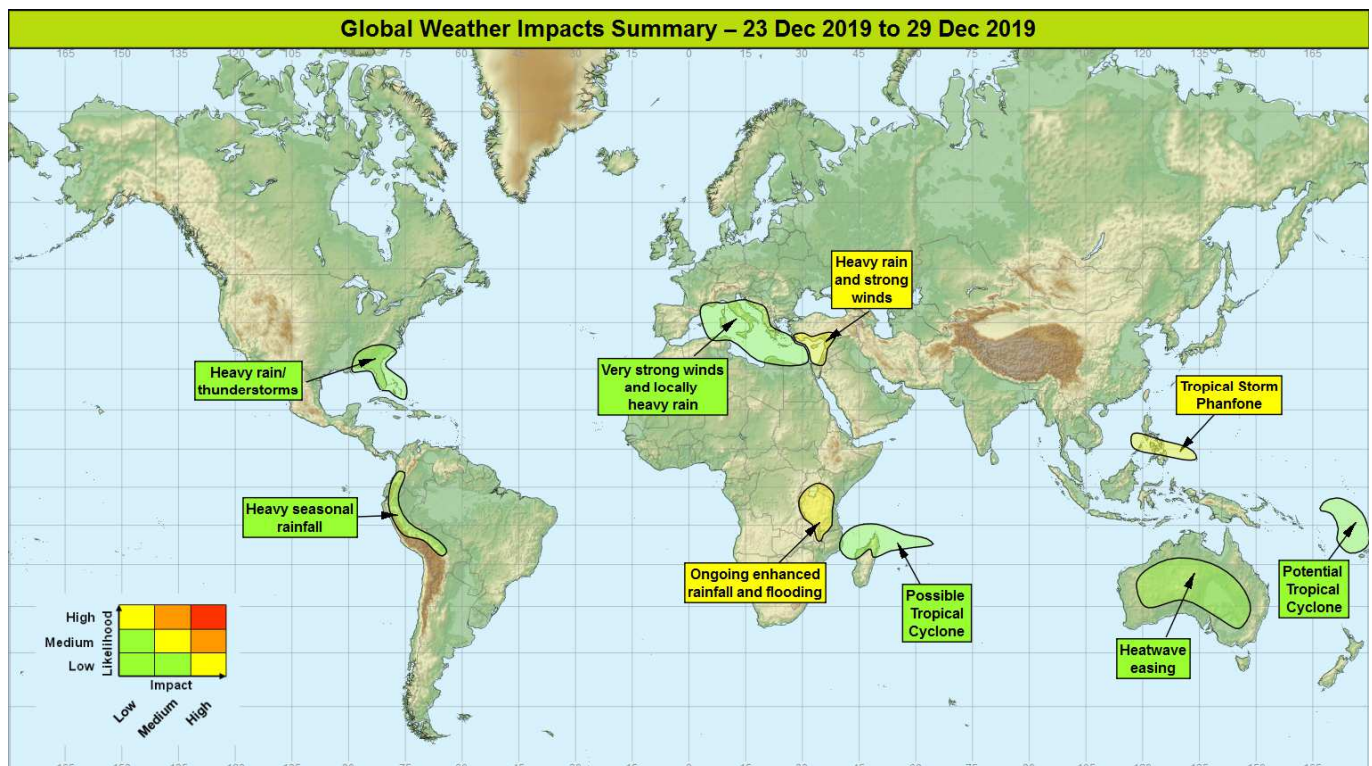


Global Weather Impacts – Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th December 2019

Issued on Monday 23rd December 2019

HEADLINES

- Tropical Storm Phanfone expected to strengthen before crossing the central Philippines over Christmas.
- Remaining unsettled across the Mediterranean, with further strong winds and heavy rain.
- Above average rainfall and flooding continues across parts of eastern Africa.
- Risk of further tropical cyclones this coming week, particular concern for a potential system in the southwest Indian Ocean.



DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Storm Phanfone

Weather

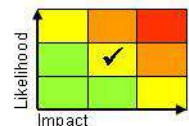
Phanfone has strengthened a little through the past 24 hours as it tracks steadily west-northwest across the Philippine Sea. Phanfone is forecast to strengthen further and move west to reach the central Philippines on Tuesday as Severe Tropical Storm, possibly a Typhoon. Phanfone is likely to bring 100-200 mm of rainfall along its path, in addition to some damaging winds. Thereafter this system will likely move into the South China Sea.

Discussion

Phanfone will deepen due to shear and favourable sea surface temperatures and will be steered quickly northwestwards towards the central Philippines by Tuesday, with high confidence in forecast track.

Expected Impacts

Potential for torrential rainfall, flash flooding, and enhancing the risk of landslides. Strong winds may damage some poorly built structures and hinder travel (especially marine).



This forecast may be amended at any time

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The following areas are being monitored for potential development:

Southwest Indian Ocean

Weather

There remains the possibility of a tropical cyclone development across the south-western Indian Ocean in the coming week. Regardless of development heavy rainfall is expected across northern Madagascar with 125-250mm possible by the middle of next week. Should a cyclone form, there is the potential for this to move through the Mozambique Channel, bringing a spell of torrential rainfall to northern Mozambique over the weekend.

Discussion

While there is consistency across the models for the development of a circulation in this region, there is presently a very large spread as to where, when and to what intensity any system may develop. This region will have to be monitored carefully over the coming days. Of the more concerning possibilities is the development of a potent system in the Mozambique Channel, potentially going on to impact Mozambique itself.

Expected Impacts

Over the next 5 days flash flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides for northern Madagascar. Thereafter the potential for strong destructive winds, large waves and very heavy rainfall to cause a multitude of hazards in and around Madagascar or northern Mozambique.



Southwest Pacific

Weather

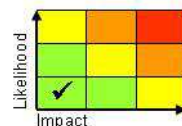
An area of enhanced thunderstorm activity in the south-west Pacific is expected to slowly drift southeast over the coming week. As this occurs a tropical cyclone may form in this region, perhaps affecting Fiji in around a week's time.

Discussion

A Kelvin Wave moving east towards the dateline will likely spawn a pair of ERW over the coming days. The wave in the southwest Pacific will come to sit in an area favourable for development of a tropical cyclone.

Expected Impacts

Locally strong winds and rough seas over a portion of the southwest Pacific. Risk of torrential rainfall and flash flooding across the tiny islands in the region.



Europe

Central Mediterranean and many adjacent countries

Weather

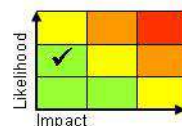
Very strong winds will continue through Monday with gales or severe gales across much of the region slowly moderating from the west. In addition to the wind, heavy rainfall will affect parts of southern Italy, the southwestern Balkans and western Greece. Perhaps some prone locations could see a further 50 mm, perhaps 75 mm through Monday. The strong winds fringe northern Africa they are likely to lift some dense areas of sand and dust, with these perhaps being drawn northeast into parts of southeast Europe.

Discussion

Although the disturbed weather will persist through Monday, a building upper ridge with a downstream trough extension into the eastern Mediterranean will see an improvement in conditions across much of this area for Tuesday.

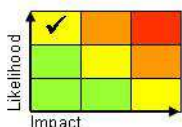
Expected Impacts

Strong winds are likely to cause disruption to travel and some property/infrastructure damage. Large waves bring the potential for dangerous sea conditions across the central Med. Rainfall may lead to some flash flooding in the areas highlighted. Lifted dust and sand, may cause travel and air quality issues.



Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Israel

Weather



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The disturbed weather across the central Mediterranean on preceding days, will reach this region through Monday into Tuesday. Here, however, the heavy rain and thunderstorms will likely become longer lived, not clearing the region until the end of the week or next weekend, by which time 150-300mm of rainfall could have fallen in some spots. As a result of the event being of a longer duration in this area, and these areas generally being more arid than those further west, the chance of impacts is judged to be higher.

Discussion

The strong south-shifted jet will amplify a trough extension taking place just to the west of this region early next week. This will lead to a slowly evolving pattern with at least 3-4 days of fairly frequent shower and thunderstorm activity. Only later this week when the trough begins to edge away to the east will conditions begin to improve.

Expected Impacts

Flash-flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides are likely. Strong winds will also likely impact transport and damage some poorly constructed structures. From midweek snowfall will likely be seen across the higher mountains in the region.

North America

Southeast United States and The Bahamas

Weather

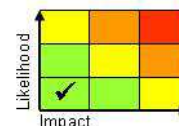
Heavy rain and thunderstorms are expected to affect the area through Monday, bringing 40-80mm of rainfall fairly widely, and perhaps locally as much as 150mm for parts of Florida. The storms will also affect the Bahamas on Monday and Tuesday.

Discussion

An area of low pressure will gradually transfer east into the Atlantic over the coming day or two. This feature is expected to show virtually no tropical characteristics, instead having frontal structures more typical of a mid-latitude system.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding is likely, especially in urban areas.



Central America

Nil

South America

Ecuador, western Colombia, Peru and Bolivia

Weather

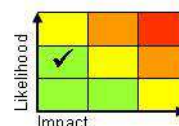
Frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms will continue across these regions through the next 7 days, with the showers each day bringing 50-75mm in just a few hours, with some locations receiving over 200mm (around the December average rainfall). As is the nature of showers, spatial coverage on any one day will be highly variable.

Discussion

With the South American Monsoon now extending well southward, daily rounds of showers and thunderstorms are expected to form to the west of the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador, and to the east of the Andes further south. The region highlighted has seen above average rainfall during the past weeks, and is also forecast to receive the highest rainfall totals.

Expected Impacts

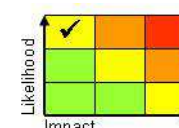
Flash flooding likely, with increased likelihood of landslides.



Africa

Parts of eastern/central Africa

Weather



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Continued heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with the seasonal rains are expected to be heavier than normal in the coming 3 to 5 days, with a further 100-150 mm, perhaps locally 200 mm of rain falling in places. This is close to the average rainfall in this region for the whole of December, with this area having already seen 200-400% of the usual rainfall over the past few weeks. Whilst the area affected and severity of showers and thunderstorms is beginning to ease, further heavy showers and antecedent conditions mean further impacts are likely.

Discussion

Enhanced seasonal rainfall in association with the strong positive Indian Ocean Dipole event which, although declining, is still influencing the large scale shower distribution. Large tracts of eastern Africa have seen well above average rainfall over the past few months. The combination of all these factors dramatically increases the likelihood of further flash and river flooding along with further deadly landslides. There are signs that the area of enhanced rainfall is slowly waning, with totals offered by extended models also slowly reducing.

Expected Impacts

A continued increased threat of flash flooding and landslides in the region, with further river flooding likely.

Madagascar and Mozambique Channel – See *Tropical Cyclones* section

Middle East

Western Levant – see *Europe* section

Asia

Philippines – see *Tropical Cyclones* section

Australasia

Parts of central/southern Australia

Weather

Following the recent extreme heatwave experienced across much of Australia, conditions are now beginning to cool towards near normal across the majority of the large population centres around the coasts. The heatwave will become displaced to the north and centre of the continent, where it is still possible that some all time station maximum temperature records could be broken.

Discussion

Temperatures have now reduced across the main population centres as a weak cold front has pushed inland across southern Australia and the high that has built with the cold advection in its wake generating a cooling onshore breeze across eastern New South Wales. The hot air will remain across the continent, but has been displaced away from the main population centres.

Expected Impacts

Continued enhanced risk of bushfires.

Fiji – see *Tropical Cyclone* section

Additional Information

Southern and eastern Australia

Numerous bush fires continue across parts of Victoria, eastern New South Wales, Queensland and Australian Capital Territory with dry conditions persisting across much of the region. However, across northeastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland, showers are likely to develop during the next week. Whilst fire weather conditions have improved relative to recent days, the sheer size of many ongoing fires will continue to produce large amounts of small particulates that will contribute to very poor air quality for several weeks to come.



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Issued at: 230820 UTC **Meteorologists:** Mark Sidaway / Brent Walker

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