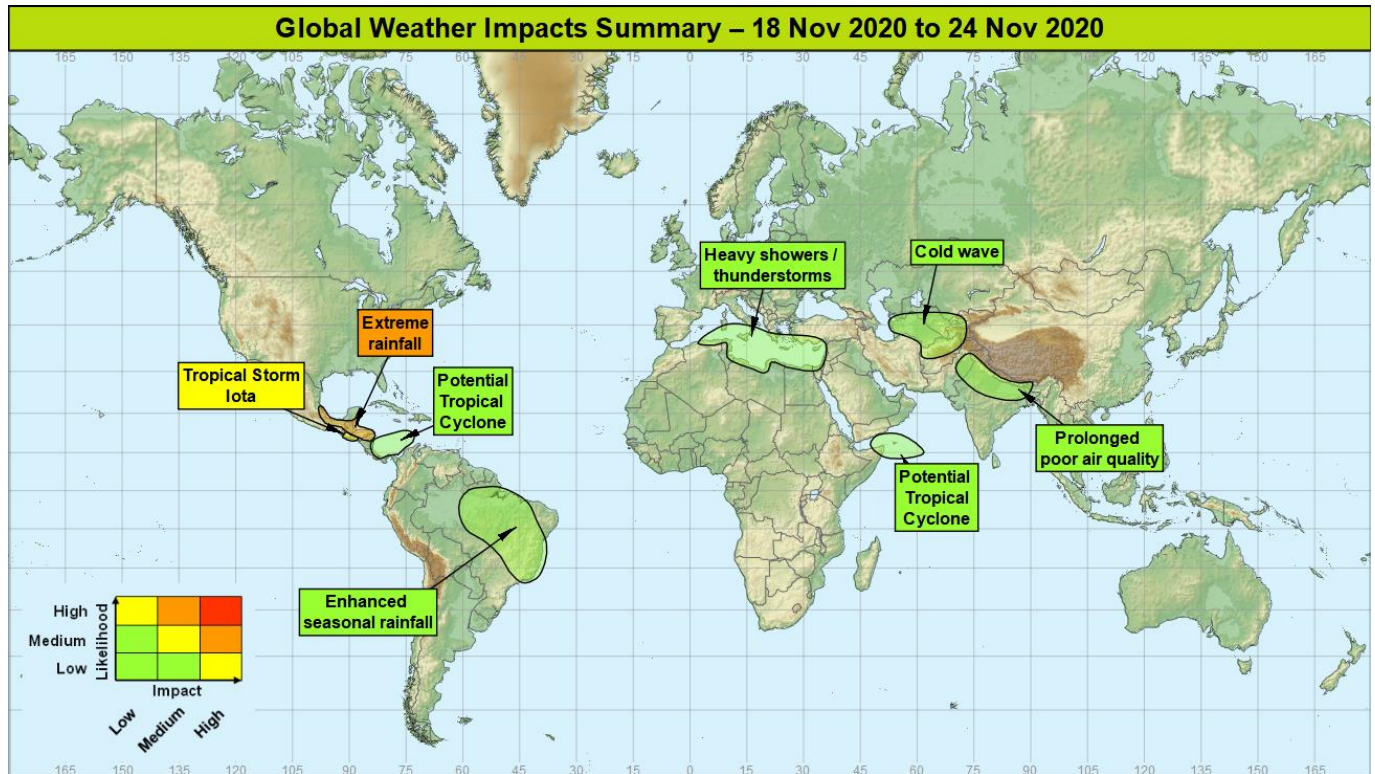


Global Weather Impacts – Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th November 2020

Issued on Wednesday 18th November 2020

HEADLINES

- Tropical Storm Iota clearing Central America but bringing further severe flooding.
- Further potential tropical development in the Caribbean and the Arabian Sea.



Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Storm Iota – Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador

Weather

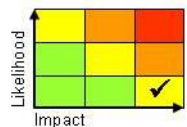
Iota has now cleared Nicaragua and Honduras and has brought devastating impacts. Further heavy rainfall today across El Salvador and Guatemala with 150 to 300 mm falling quite widely.

Discussion

Iota will soon clear out into the Pacific Ocean and weaken into a depression. Potential for damaging winds has now passed but further very heavy rainfall will affect parts of Central America today.

Expected Impacts

Severe flooding is likely to continue for several more days, with further landslides and also the possibility of lahars (volcanic debris flows) in the west of the area.



The following tropical cyclones that will remain over open ocean:

Eastern Pacific – Tropical Depression Twenty One is being watched for potential development into a tropical storm in the coming days. Any development is expected to remain well away from any land.

This forecast may be amended at any time

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The following areas are being monitored for tropical cyclone development that may impact land:

Arabian Sea – Somalia and Socotra Island (Yemen)

Weather

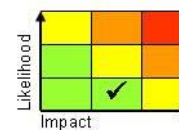
A cluster of showers and thunderstorms moving northwestwards across the south-eastern Arabian Sea has a moderate chance of developing into a tropical cyclone this weekend as the area approaches the Horn of Africa. If this cyclone forms this could bring heavy rainfall across the usually dry northeast of the Somalia and Socotra Island, with 100-200mm possible.

Discussion

An Equatorial Rossby Wave in the northwest Indian Ocean will likely continue to progress slowly northwestwards. As it does so it will move through a marginally favourable environment for the development of a tropical cyclone with reasonable warm underlying SSTs (26-28°C), and fairly good other environmental factors. Regardless of the degree of development some enhanced rainfall is expected across the region this coming weekend.

Expected Impacts

Increased risk of minor riverine and potentially more significant flash flooding.



Southwestern Caribbean

Weather

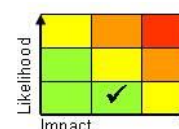
There is a low risk (currently around 30%) for the development of a further tropical cyclone across the central or western Caribbean later this week. The environment in this region looks relatively favourable for at least some development, however not as favourable as it was for Iota in part due to slightly cooler SSTs in the wake of Iota crossing the region – so even though this is in a similar area to which has been affected by Iota, there are no indications that this will be anywhere near as destructive, if it forms at all.

Discussion

On the eastern edge of a fairly broad gyre there is signalled to be a zone of enhanced low level vorticity where the southwesterly flow circulating around the gyre meets the easterly trade winds of the Caribbean. This is likely to lead to enhanced shower and thunderstorm activity, with the potential that this could consolidate into a tropical cyclone later in the week in fairly favourable atmospheric conditions. As this system has yet to form confidence in its evolution is low, however anything which did form would be steered westwards towards the coast of Central America once again.

Expected Impacts

A risk of further most likely rainfall related impacts with flash and riverine flooding across parts of Central America.



Europe

Central and Eastern Mediterranean and adjacent coasts

Weather

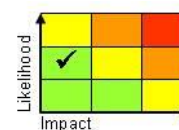
An unsettled week ahead across the central and eastern Mediterranean with enhanced shower and thunderstorm activity across much of the basin, and some periods of strong winds too. Although there are always marked localised variations with showers, daily totals of 25-50mm could fall fairly widely, with peaks over 100mm in some spots. The greatest impacts from this are more likely across the usually drier areas of North Africa, for example northern Libya typically only sees 15-30mm of rainfall in November.

Discussion

A markedly amplified pattern Europe will see a series of troughs (and associated upper cold pools) extend and disrupt across the Central Mediterranean, with these features then relaxing eastwards across the eastern Med. As such a couple of cyclogenesis events are expected across the Med, bringing precipitation from both dynamic and convective means and some strong winds. The impact from this rainfall most likely across the usually drier parts of North Africa, especially if enhanced rainfall affects an urban area.

Expected Impacts

Enhanced risk of flash flooding, especially across urban areas. Strong winds will lead to some rough seas, which will be hazardous small craft.



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North America

Nil.

Central America and Caribbean

Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador - See *Tropical Cyclones* section

An area from Nicaragua to southern Mexico, (parts that are not already included in the Tropical Cyclone section) including El Salvador and Belize

Weather

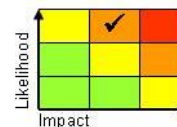
Showers and thunderstorms will remain heavier and more widespread than usual for the time of year through the rest of the week. A further 200-400mm of rainfall is expected widely to the Caribbean coastlines of Belize and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, with as much as 500 – 700 mm over mountainous parts, with similar amounts driven inland from the Bay of Campeche. This region experienced extremely high rainfall in the past 14 days during a similar event that occurred in association with Hurricane Eta.

Discussion

A slow moving cold front extends from the Florida Strait to the northern Bay of Campeche, which a moist tropical airmass to the south of this. As such frequent showers and thunderstorms within the tropical airmasses will push onto the coastlines, and be further enhanced by orographic ascent in the strong northeasterly flow.

Expected Impacts

A much increased risk of flash and riverine flooding, and landslides in areas where terrain is steep. In addition across the west of the area rainfall may mobilise some lahars.



South America

Northern and eastern Brazil

Weather

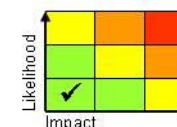
Showers and thunderstorms will gradually become more widespread and intense through this week. Daily accumulation of 50-75mm are likely and in some locations 150 to 200 mm of rain could build up over the course of the week.

Discussion

Signal for enhanced seasonal rainfall to develop during this week, probably due to a favourable MJO phase and the background La Niña state, which increases the chance of wetter than normal conditions (see <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/seasonal-to-decadal/gpc-outlooks/el-nino-la-nina/enso-impacts> for typical impacts). Some reduction in rainfall is probable next week as the MJO weakens and moves into the Maritime Continent.

Expected Impacts

Increased risk of flash flooding.



Africa

Somalia - See *Tropical Cyclones* section

Mediterranean Coastline from Algeria to Libya - See *Europe* section

Middle East

Mediterranean Coastline of Syria and Lebanon - See *Europe* section

Socotra Island, Yemen - See *Tropical Cyclones* section

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Asia

Northern India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal

Weather

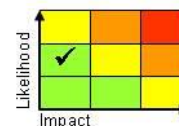
Very poor air quality is likely to continue readily as light winds, increased particulate emissions, and seasonal crop burning combine to bring hazardous conditions, particularly by night.

Discussion

Particulate emissions remain elevated 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. As temperatures fall through this week, it is expected that emissions will increase further.

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.



Northeast Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Weather

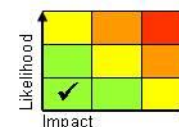
A marked cold wave is expected through the rest of the week and into the weekend, bringing temperatures 10-15°C below average. This represents maximum temperatures failing to exceed 0°C particularly in the north of the region highlighted and very low overnight minimums. These temperatures are more typical of those experienced in the colder spells in December and January.

Discussion

A marked pattern amplification sees cold air of originating from central/northern Russia being drawn southwards across this region. The peak in the cold is likely to be on Thursday and Friday with a gradual recovery in temperatures beginning as the cold airmass begins to warm out over the weekend.

Expected Impacts

Some cold weather health related impacts likely for vulnerable or exposed people.



Australasia

Nil.

Additional Information

Nil.

Issued at: 180820 UTC

Meteorologists: Mark Sidaway / Brent Walker

Global Guidance Unit

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