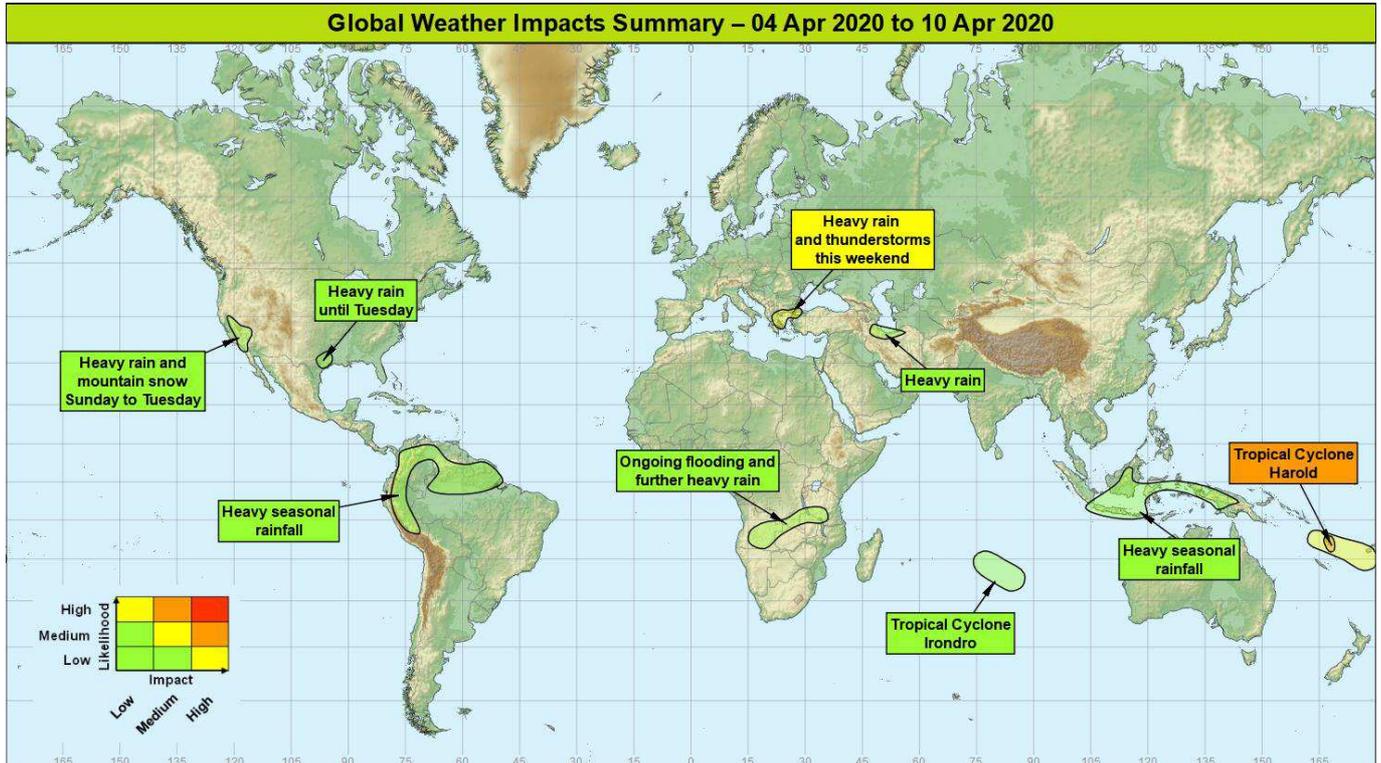


Global Weather Impacts – Saturday 4th to Friday 10th April 2020

Issued on Saturday 4th April 2020

HEADLINES

- Damaging winds and torrential rain from Tropical Cyclone Harold to impact Vanuatu over the next few days.
- Heavy rain likely to cause some flooding across parts of Greece this weekend.



DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Cyclone Harold (Southwest Pacific Ocean including Vanuatu)

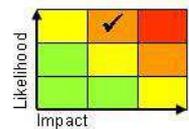
Weather

Harold was located around 350 miles northwest of Port Vila, Vanuatu on Saturday morning and is moving slowly southeast. It is expected to continue intensifying as it approaches Vanuatu over the weekend with maximum sustained winds of up to 95 mph possible. Some uncertainty exists in the exact track across the archipelago, with the centre likely crossing the islands during Monday. 200-300 mm of rain is expected along its track with isolated accumulations of 600-800 mm. Average April rainfall in Port Vila is 320 mm and annually 2300 mm. There is the possibility of Harold then passing close to Fiji through the middle of next week.

Discussion

Low vertical wind shear and warm sea surface temperatures support continued intensification over the next 36 hours, potentially rapidly so. As Harold approaches Vanuatu, weaker steering flow across the system is likely to result in a period of slower or even quasi-stationary motion before sub-tropical westerlies associated with a broad upper trough strengthen across the system and accelerate it south-eastward. However, the rate and degree of interaction results in fairly large differences in position by next week and consequently rain, wind and coastal impacts across Vanuatu, as well as potentially impacting Fiji midweek.

Expected Impacts



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Damaging winds are likely to disrupt communication between islands. Poorly built structures, trees and crops are likely to be significantly damaged or destroyed. Heavy rain is likely to cause flooding with a risk to life. High seas and large waves are likely to cause damage to harbours and some coastal flooding.

Tropical Cyclone Iroandro (South Indian Ocean)

Weather

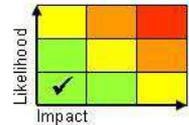
Tropical Cyclone Iroandro continues to move southeast over the open water of the southern Indian Ocean with no impact to land expected before dissipating early next week.

Discussion

Whilst Iroandro continues to move through a region favourable for some modest intensification today, there is no prospect of this system affecting land before it merges with a mid-latitude depression early next week.

Expected Impacts

Nil.



Europe

Aegean Sea region including Greece and western Turkey

Weather

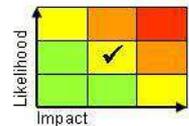
An area of low pressure is expected to bring a combination of heavy rain and strong winds to southeast Europe, with the heaviest rainfall expected around the Aegean coastline of Greece through the next 2-3 days. The heaviest rainfall is expected to affect the coastal areas of Central Greece and Thessaly where 100-200 mm locally 250 mm is expected by Monday. With the exception of the Peloponnese, much of Greece and the far west of Turkey (including Istanbul) will receive their average April rainfall of 30-60 mm in this time. Severe gales are also likely to affect parts of the Aegean Sea.

Discussion

A diffluent upper trough is engaging a plume of high WBPT from northeast Africa with the occluding portion of the resulting system pivoting over the Aegean this weekend before slowly clearing east through Monday. Strong winds are likely to develop on the cold conveyor belt of the developing system through Sunday into Monday.

Expected Impacts

Surface water and riverine flooding are both likely, with an increased risk of landslides in areas where the terrain is steep. Strong winds in the Aegean is likely to disrupt maritime transport in the region.



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North America

Texas

Weather

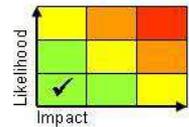
Whilst the likelihood of severe thunderstorms diminishes across south Texas on Saturday, further heavy rain is expected to affect east Texas until Tuesday before drier conditions develop thereafter. South Texas is currently experiencing drought conditions but localised flooding is possible across eastern Texas where a further 40-80 mm of rain is possible.

Discussion

Shortwave disturbances in the sub-tropical jet across the southern USA will continue to engage the return flow moisture being drawn north from the Gulf of Mexico over the next 3-4 days. Through the middle of next week though, a cut-off low on the Pacific coast will act to build geopotential height downstream leading to more settled conditions developing.

Expected Impacts

Localised flash flooding across eastern Texas, although the rain will be welcome further south where a drought is ongoing.



California and Nevada

Weather

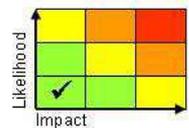
Heavy rain and mountain snow is expected to affect California and western Nevada from Sunday through to Tuesday. Along the South California coast, including Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, locally 100 mm of rain could fall during this 72-hour period. The snow level will steadily decrease through early next week with accumulating snow possible to around 1400 metres over the Sierra Nevada and Northern California ranges where 50-100 cm of snow is likely.

Discussion

A cut-off low will develop from an extending upper trough over the weekend and dredge up a plume of sub-tropical moisture on its eastern flank. Orographic enhancement of rainfall within a persistent south-westerly flow will support some large snowfall accumulations over the Northern California and Sierra Nevada ranges with heavy rain along the southern California coast.

Expected Impacts

Localised flash flooding, particularly in burn scar regions. Heavy snow may affect some transport routes.



Central America

Nil.

South America

Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, northern Brazil, Suriname, Guyana and Venezuela

Weather

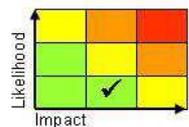
Enhanced shower and thunderstorm activity are signalled to continue across much of the northern Andes and Amazon through this period. A further 150-300mm of rainfall is likely to fall across the area. This represents locally more than double the average rainfall for parts of this region which have been very wet over recent weeks and months.

Discussion

Convective activity is forecast to remain well above average across the northern Andes over the next week. For Colombia and Ecuador, above average SSTs are likely contributing to the increased activity, with onshore winds/orographic lift triggering convection on western upslopes.

Expected Impacts

Continued threat of landslides and flash flooding, particularly in the steep terrain of the northern Andes.



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Africa

Angola, Zambia, southern DRC, northern Zambia, Tanzania and northern Malawi

Weather

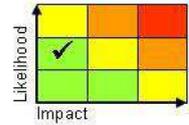
Following a wet March where much of the region received around double of the average rainfall for the month, shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to remain above normal through the next week. This will initially be concentrated over Angola this weekend before transferring east into southern DRC, Tanzania and northern Malawi early next week.

Discussion

The northern portion of an upper trough in the mid-latitude flow well to the south will engage tropical moisture across Angola initially this weekend. Further east, despite being at a time of year where the ITCZ bodily shifts northward across Africa, a temporary southward shift is signalled bringing renewed rainfall further south to prolong the wet season a little longer.

Expected Impacts

Given recent heavy rainfall that has already caused flooding impacts to some communities in the region, this additional rainfall will likely maintain high river levels and saturated ground for a little longer. Crops in the region may also be adversely affected.



Middle East

Northern Iran

Weather

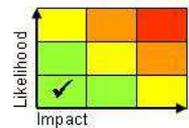
Further spells of persistent and locally heavy rain are expected to affect the northern provinces of Iran over the next week. The heaviest rainfall is expected to remain north of Tehran, affecting the Caspian Sea coast including cities such as Rasht and Sari. 40-60 mm of rainfall is expected over the next week, equivalent to the average monthly rainfall for April.

Discussion

A succession of Western Disturbances embedded within the subtropical jet will continue transfer east across northern Iran over the next week. Increasing baroclinicity due to a cold surge across northwest Asia by Tuesday will be the focus for a prolonged spell of rainfall until Friday.

Expected Impacts

Whilst the focus for flooding impacts in recent weeks has been across the south of the country, localised flash flooding is likely across the northern provinces.



Asia

Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

Weather

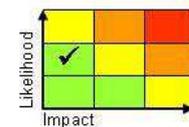
Shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to remain more widespread than normal over this week with many places receiving 50-100 mm during this time, with 300 mm for a few spots. The heaviest rainfall is expected to affect coastal regions around the Java Sea, particularly southern Borneo and East Java, including Surabaya.

Discussion

Whilst the MJO is now moving east into the western Pacific, a Kelvin wave is now approaching the Maritime Continent and will act to maintain the theme of above average rainfall over the next week. However, the impact of Tropical Cyclone Harold will likely draw drier air northward across the Solomon Islands and act to suppress rainfall here relative to this week.

Expected Impacts

Increased risk of flash flooding and landslides, particularly in areas that have been affected by recent heavy rainfall.



Australasia

Vanuatu – see *Tropical Cyclones* section.

Additional Information:

Nil.

Issued at: 040300 UTC **Meteorologists:** Matthew Lehnert

Global Guidance Unit

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