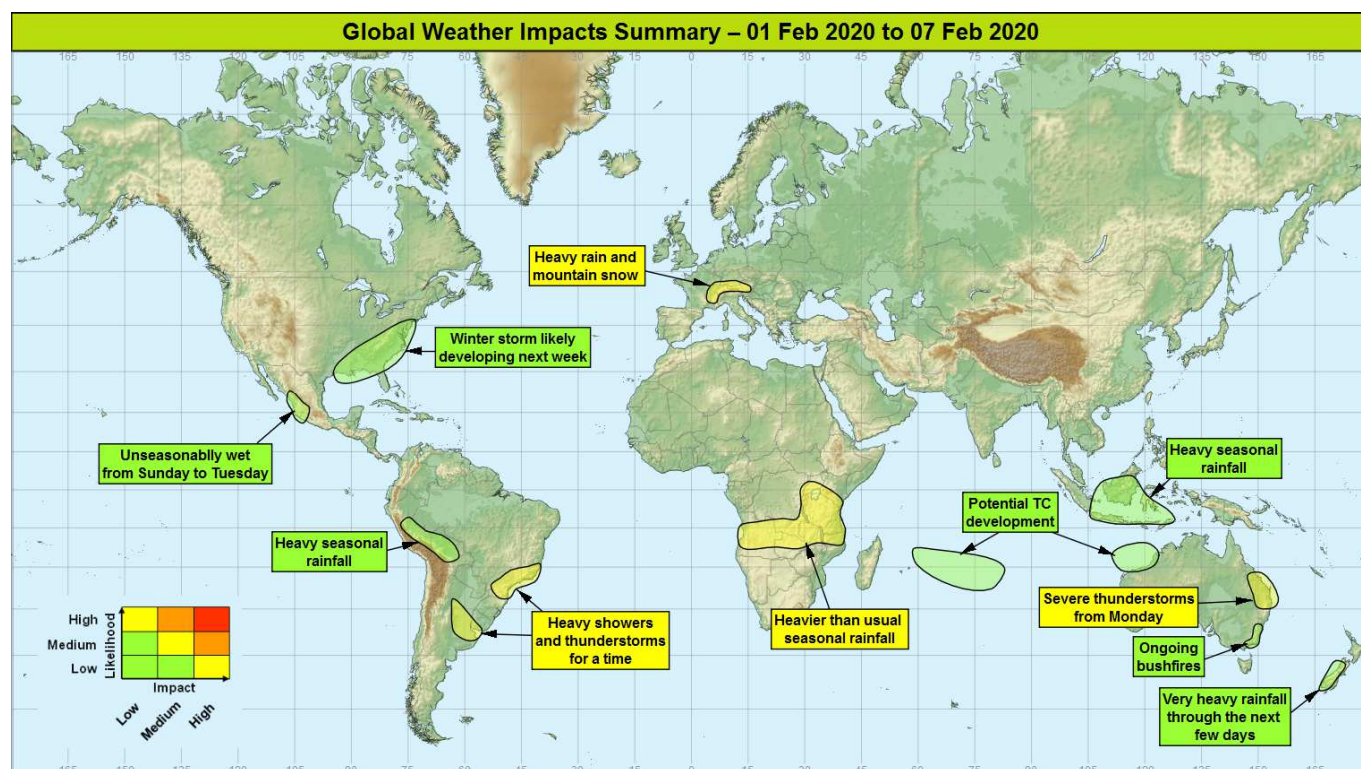


Global Weather Impacts – Saturday 1st to Friday 7th February 2020

Issued on Saturday 1st February 2020

HEADLINES

- Heavy rain and mountain snowfall in central Europe.
- Severe thunderstorms for a time in parts of South America and eastern Australia.
- Continued heavy seasonal rainfall for parts of central and eastern Africa.



DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclones

There are currently no active tropical storms, and no areas are being monitored for development

The following areas are being monitored for potential tropical storm development:

Southwest Indian Ocean

Weather

There remains a signal for a potential development or developments in the Southern Indian Ocean next week. Currently there is no indication that any system will directly impact land.

Discussion

High SST temperatures and low shear is conducive to the development of a tropical storm across the south-western Indian Ocean in the coming week. Models differ as to where any development may be, but there presently none suggest a threat to land.

Expected Impacts

Nil



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Northwestern Australia

Weather

There is a signal for the potential development of a tropical low close to the Kimberley Coast of northwestern Australia early next week which may subsequently intensify into a tropical storm.

Discussion

Growing signal from models for this development, although its likely proximity to the coast makes it uncertain as to whether this system is able to strengthen into a tropical storm.

Expected Impacts

Threat of very heavy rainfall along the coast of northwestern Australia next week. Lower likelihood of damaging winds. As this area is sparsely populated impacts are likely to be low.



Europe

Eastern France, Switzerland, southern Germany and parts of Austria

Weather

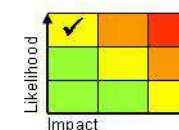
Becoming very unsettled across the region over the weekend and through the early part of next week, with repeated spells of heavy rainfall followed by showers early next week. Around 50-100 mm of rain is likely to have fallen widely by midweek, with up to 200 mm in parts of the Alps, which will fall as snow above 2000 metres above sea level bringing very heavy snowfall. The snow will fall to increasingly lower altitudes through the first half of next week, with low altitudes (500 metres above sea level) seeing snowfall by Tuesday.

Discussion

A broad warm conveyor will become established across this part of continental Europe this weekend. Various waves will run along this frontal zone bringing heavy spells of rain to the region, with the heaviest rainfall likely to be over high ground. Initially high freezing levels could allow significant snowmelt to occur across lower elevations of the Alps. Early next week a marked upper trough will drive the frontal systems south, allowing much colder air to sweep south, turning the increasingly showery precip wintry to increasingly lower levels.

Expected Impacts

Threat of flooding due to heavy rainfall and snow melt. Increasing avalanche threat at higher elevations. Increasing threat of disruption due to heavy snow at lower elevations towards midweek.



North America

Southeastern and eastern USA

Weather

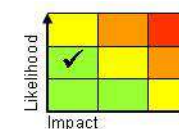
There is the potential for a significant winter storm to develop next week across the south and east of the USA, producing heavy rain and severe thunderstorms, with the possibility of heavy snow or freezing rain on the northern fringes of this zone.

Discussion

Good model agreement for a marked long wave upper trough to push east across the Rockies, engaging a warming plume across southern and eastern parts of the USA to develop a marked winter storm.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding looks likely, with a lower threat of severe storm impacts (frequent lightning and tornadoes). Northern fringes will be at threat of power and transport network disruption from heavy snow and freezing rain.



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Central America

Parts of western Mexico

Weather

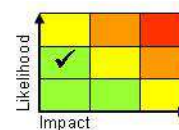
A period of unseasonably wet weather is expected from Sunday to Tuesday, with up to 100-150 mm of rain expected in places where the average rainfall is 10-20 mm.

Discussion

A low latitude upper trough will engage a warming plume to produce enhanced shower and thunderstorm activity across this part of western Mexico that is usually dry at this time of year.

Expected Impacts

Out of season flash flooding is possible in places.



South America

Southeast Brazil, southern Uruguay and northern Argentina

Weather

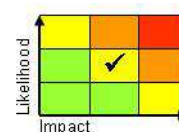
Heavy showers and thunderstorms will affect parts of southeast Brazil from Sunday through the middle of next week, with severe thunderstorms likely developing across parts of northern Argentina and Uruguay from Tuesday. In addition to the potential for up to 100 mm of rain fall in 6-12 hours these storms will produce additional hazards of hail, strong winds and frequent lightning.

Discussion

One pulse of the South Atlantic Convergence Zone (SACZ) will bring an enhanced thunderstorm threat to southeastern Brazil, while a second SACZ pulse will introduce a severe storm threat further south next week.

Expected Impacts

Heightened threat of flash flooding and landslides, including across some of densely populated regions, with cities such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires potentially impacted.



Parts of Peru and Bolivia

Weather

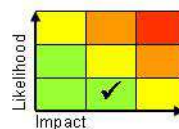
Heavier than usual shower and thunderstorm activity is expected to affect this region through much of the next week, bringing up to 200-300 mm of rain (up to twice the February average) in places.

Discussion

Good model agreement for this region seeing heavier than average rainfall through the next week.

Expected Impacts

Increased threat of flash flooding and landslides, particularly in mountainous terrain.



Africa

Central and East Africa

Weather

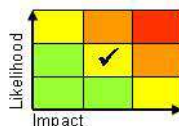
More widespread / frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms are expected across the region through the next week. Rainfall will vary significantly across relatively small distances but there is the potential for locally 50-150 mm to fall in a 24 hours period, with up to 200-300 mm accumulating through the next week in places. This would result in many places seeing the average February rainfall in just a week.

Discussion

High SSTs in the western Indian Ocean continue to enhance convection along the ITCZ, bringing above-average rainfall to the region. This region has been very wet in recent weeks and months, with multiple reports of ongoing severe flooding.

Expected Impacts

Rainfall is likely to cause some severe flash flooding with some significant river flooding also possible. There will also be a heightened risk of landslides in areas where the terrain is steep.



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Middle East

Nil.

Asia

Parts of Indonesia

Weather

Pulses of enhanced showers and thunderstorms are expected across this region during the next week. During this period up to 150-250 mm of rain is expected fall in some spots, with up to 50-100 mm falling in just 6-12 hours in places. This is not untypical for the region, but this follows recent weeks where it has been very wet.

Discussion

The main driver of the wetter than average signal looks to be an enhanced NE'ly monsoon phase across the South China Sea that enhances the convergence along the ITCZ that lies across much of Indonesia.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding and a heightened risk of landslides are the principle hazards from this event.



Australasia

Southeastern Queensland

Weather

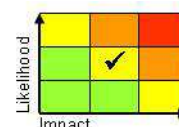
Intense showers and severe thunderstorms are expected to develop across southeastern Queensland next week producing up to 100 mm of rain in just 6 hours with 5 day accumulations of up to 250 mm which is around the average for the whole of February. In addition to the intense rainfall, frequent lightning, large hail and very strong winds are possible too.

Discussion

A succession of upper troughs will engage the tropical plume across this part of Queensland, producing vigorous deep convection that will pose a threat of severe storms.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding along with hail and wind damage are likely. Aviation and power networks could be disrupted by lightning damage. Brisbane and the Gold Coast look likely to be affected.



New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria

Weather

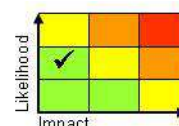
The latest bout of very high temperatures will peak through on Saturday across this region of Australia. Temperatures are expected to rise well above (as much as 10-15 Celsius) as a strong northerly develops (the BoM fire risk for the area is mainly Very High/Severe during this time reflecting this). Later in the weekend some rainfall and reducing temperatures will push northeast across this region, once more reducing the fire risk.

Discussion

An approaching upper trough combined with a southward transferring surface low to produce a northerly flow across the east of Australia that has produced a marked increase in temperatures southwards into southeastern Australia. The upper trough will drive a cold front northeast across southeastern Australia later this weekend, with strong northerly winds ahead of the front and the potential for severe thunderstorms on the front. Post front temperatures and winds will ease bringing relief into early next week.

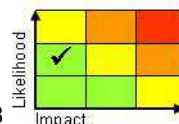
Expected Impacts

Existing fires will continue to produce fine particulates and contribute to localised areas of very poor or hazardous air quality.



South Island, New Zealand

Weather



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Intense rainfall is expected through the next 3 or 4 days, producing up to 500 mm of rainfall, perhaps more on high ground. The west of South Island is a wet place, but this is usually the drier time of the year and so this intense rainfall is quite unusual for the time of year. It should become much drier from midweek

Discussion

An active cold front will remain slow moving for an extended period of time, resulting in unusually heavy rainfall in this region. Significant orographic enhancement is expected across the high ground due to the strong low level northwesterly flow.

Expected Impacts

Flash flooding looks likely, with an enhanced threat of river flooding and landslides.

Additional Information

Nil.

Issued at: 010300UTC **Meteorologists:** Paul Hutcheon

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