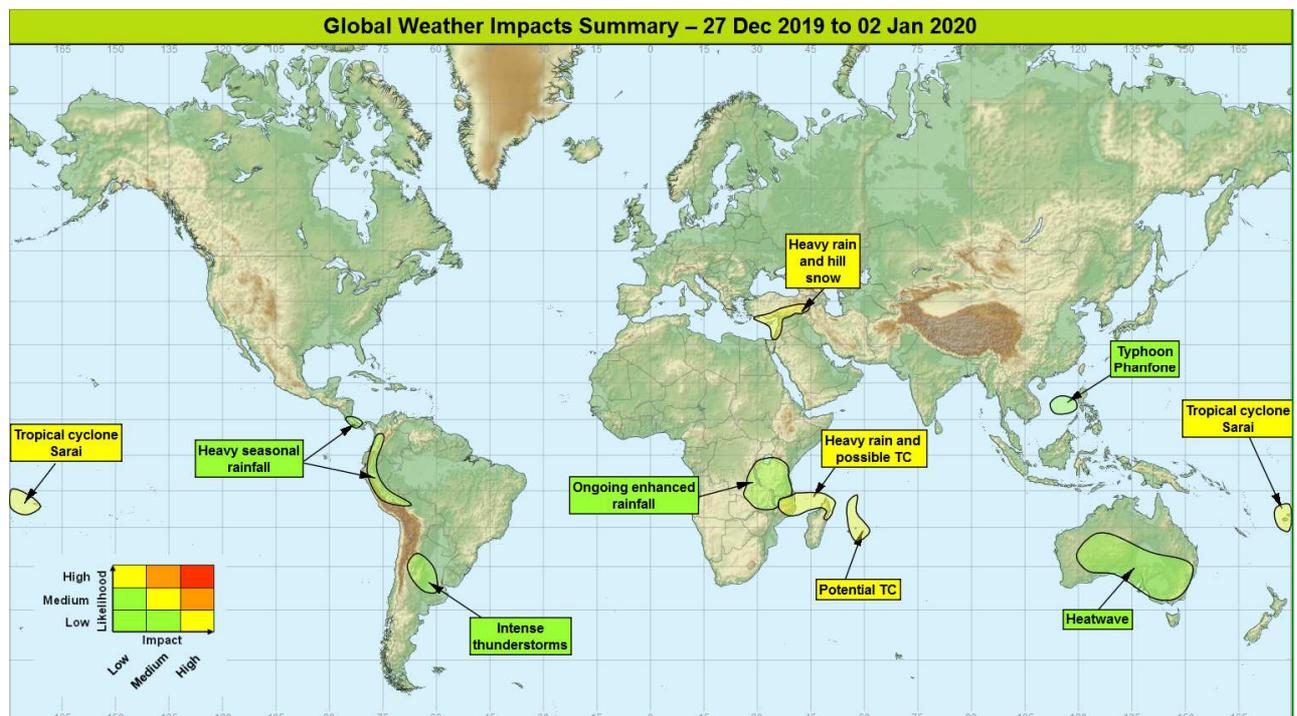


**Global Weather Impacts – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

Issued on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**HEADLINES**

- Very unsettled across the eastern Mediterranean with strong winds and heavy rain.
- Tropical cyclone Sarai expected to affect Fiji and potentially Tonga in the coming days.
- Typhoon Phanfone soon weakening across the South China Sea.
- Potential tropical cyclone in the southwest Indian Ocean along with very heavy rain for parts of Mozambique, Madagascar and La Reunion.



**DISCUSSION**

**Tropical Cyclones**

**Typhoon Phanfone**

**Weather**

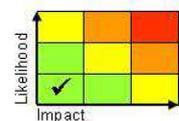
Typhoon Phanfone is now well to the west of the Philippines across the South China Sea, and is forecast to weaken quickly today to become a Tropical depression. This will continue to decay in the next few days as it gradually tracks west and remaining over the open water. The area across the Philippines impacted by Phanfone on Christmas day will continue to see showers in this period, but are likely to be less frequent than normal.

**Discussion**

Strong wind shear will continue to weaken Phanfone during the next few days.

**Expected Impacts**

Any further impacts restricted to maritime activities due to strong winds and rough seas.



**This forecast may be amended at any time**

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**Tropical Cyclone Sarai**

**Weather**

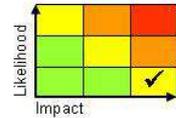
Tropical cyclone Sarai developed from an area of enhanced thunderstorm activity across the south-west Pacific on Thursday. This is expected to continue to track south towards Fiji today (Friday UK time) while continuing to strengthen. The latest forecast track takes Sarai just to the south of the main island on Saturday, before then moving towards Tonga by the end of Tuesday. 400-600mm of torrential rain is associated with this cyclone, along with potentially damaging winds, rough seas and a significant storm surge.

**Discussion**

An ERW lead to an area of organised convection and surface circulation to the N of Fiji in the last few days and this has strengthened as it has tracked south towards Fiji.

**Expected Impacts**

Chance of damaging winds and torrential rain bringing flash flooding.



The following areas are being monitored for potential development:

**Southwest Indian Ocean – Mozambique and Madagascar**

**Weather**

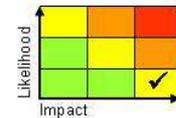
The possibility of a tropical cyclone development across the Mozambique Channel continues for the next few days; however this is a low and decreasing risk. Even if a storm fails to develop, there is likely to be a period heavy rain to parts of northern Madagascar (50-100mm) today (Friday) and some torrential rain (150-250 mm, locally 400 mm) across northern Mozambique in the next 2 or 3 days, especially along the coast. For context average rainfall amounts during December typically range from 100-200 mm.

**Discussion**

Signals for any tropical cyclone developments are currently weak across the Mozambique Channel and have decreased in the last few days.

**Expected Impacts**

Risk of flash flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides with heavy rain. Low probability of destructive winds and large waves in the Mozambique Channel and adjacent coast.



**Southwest Indian Ocean – Madagascar and La Reunion**

**Weather**

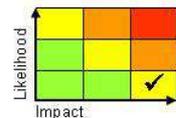
It is increasingly likely that a tropical cyclone will move towards and affect La Reunion by Monday. A tropical depression is expected to form to the northwest of Madagascar today (Friday), then track towards Le Reunion as a strengthening feature. This then becoming slow moving across the area, before likely clearing to south on Wednesday. Torrential rain (450-650mm) is associated with this cyclone along with potentially destructive winds.

**Discussion**

There has been an increasing signal for a tropical cyclone to move towards or develop across La Reunion in the coming days. There still remains some uncertainty as to the evolution and track of this feature with some significant model differences. Most likely is that the developing cyclone will transfer just to the west of La Reunion, but this will continue to be monitored.

**Expected Impacts**

Chance of damaging winds and torrential rain bringing flash flooding.



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**Europe**

**Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Northern Iraq, Lebanon and Israel**

**Weather**

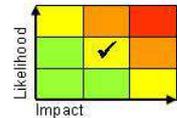
Further spells of heavy rain and thunderstorms will affect the region throughout this period. Daily rainfall accumulations of 50-80 mm are likely, with 200-300 mm potentially building up in some locations by the start of next week, almost double the average rainfall for December. The most intense and prolonged rainfall is expected to be across southern Turkey, northwest Syria and Lebanon. Heavy snow is also expected across higher parts of southern Turkey and northern Syria.

**Discussion**

Repeated trough extensions will continue to impact this area over the coming days with another bout of cyclogenesis over the E Med. This will lead to a slowly evolving pattern with several spells of frequent shower and thunderstorm activity lasting into next week. As the centre of gravity of the upper vortex/trough edges E, cold air will be allowed to flood south, allowing precipitation to increasingly fall as snow over higher parts of Turkey and Syria, mainly above 1200 metres.

**Expected Impacts**

Flash-flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides are likely. Snowfall could bring travel disruption to some of the mountain passes.



**North America**

Nil.

**Central America**

**Panama and Costa Rica** – see *South America section*

**South America**

**Ecuador, western Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Panama and Costa Rica**

**Weather**

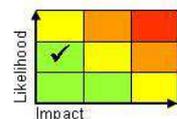
Frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms will continue across these regions through the next 7 days, with the showers each day bringing 50-75mm in just a few hours, with some locations receiving over 200mm (around the December average rainfall). As is the nature of showers, spatial coverage on any one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



**Northern Argentina**

**Weather**

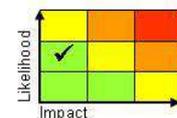
Potential for daily intense thunderstorms to break out early next week, bringing torrential rain, large hail and frequent lightning in places. Around 50-100 mm of rain could fall in a few hours.

**Discussion**

The airmass over northern Argentina will become increasingly unstable next week. Very large CAPE ~3000J/kg will allow some very intense pulse storms with large hail, frequent lightning and strong winds to develop. These storms are unlikely to be long-lived, but the intense nature of them is likely to generate impacts.

**Expected Impacts**

Flash flooding along with the potential for property and crop damage from strong wind and large hail. Lightning strikes could lead to power outages in places.



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**Africa**

**Parts of eastern/central Africa**

**Weather**

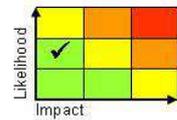
Continued heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with the seasonal rains are expected, with a further 100-150 mm of rain falling in places over the next week. Whilst the area affected and severity of showers and thunderstorms is beginning to ease, further heavy showers and antecedent conditions mean further impacts are possible.

**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, Mozambique Reunion and Mauritius** – See *Tropical Cyclones* section

**Middle East**

**Levant** – see *Europe* section

**Asia**

**Philippines** – see *Tropical Cyclones* section

**Australasia**

**Parts of central/southern Australia**

**Weather**

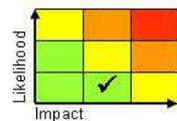
Following the recent extreme heatwave experienced across much of Australia in the last few weeks, conditions were back to near normal across the majority of the large population centres around the coasts in the last few days. The heatwave became displaced to the north and centre of the continent, but is expected to return south for a time in the next few days. It would be possible that some all time station maximum temperature records could be broken early next week. However there by the end of the period more normal temperatures should return to the far south once again.

**Discussion**

There is a consistent signal from the models for hot air currently across the central parts of the continent are expected to return across south across the main population centres in the next few days. Local temperature may be broken once again early next week before more normal vales return to the south of Australia by the end of the year.

**Expected Impacts**

Continued enhanced risk of bushfires and heat health impacts on vulnerable demographics.



**Fiji and Tonga** – see *Tropical Cyclone* section

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**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 north-eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland, showers are likely to develop in the coming few days. 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.

**Issued at:** 270400 UTC    **Meteorologists:** Tony Wardle

**Global Guidance Unit**

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