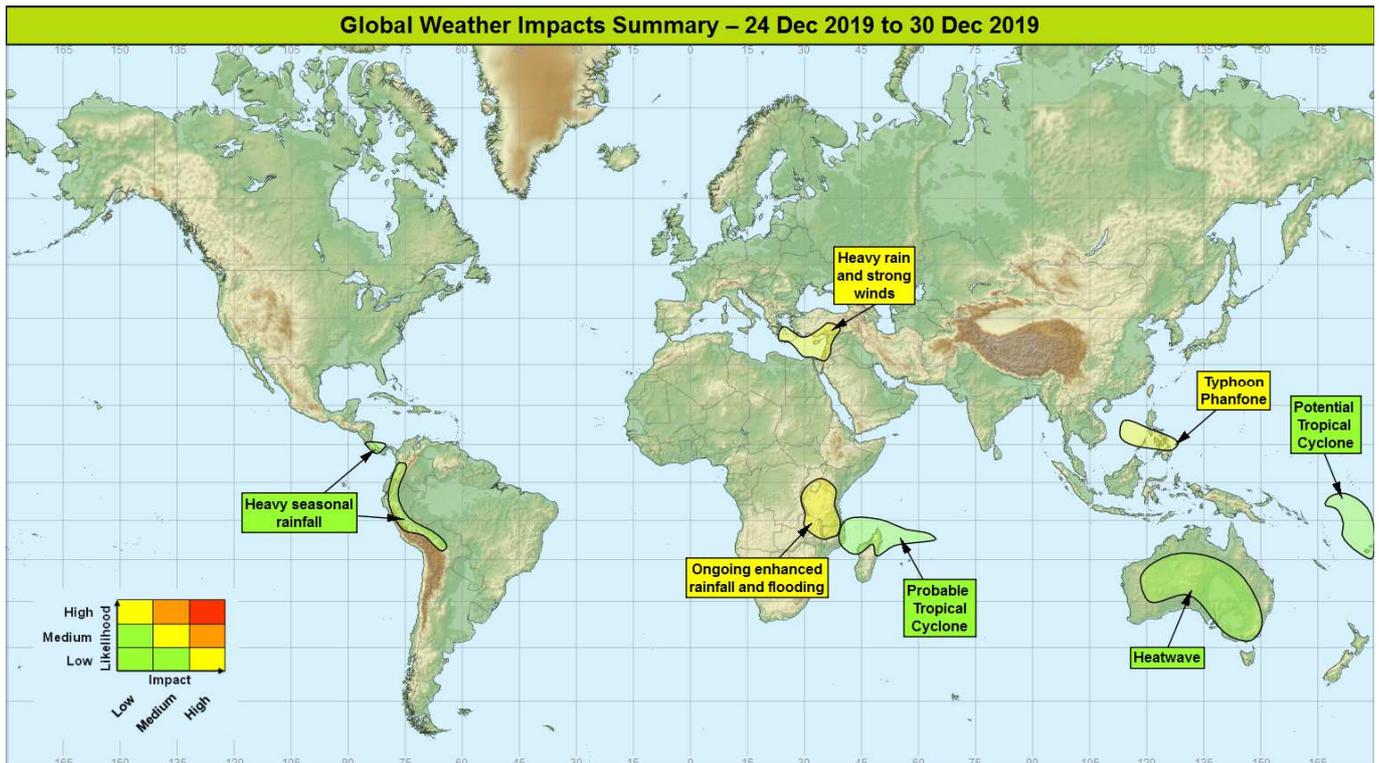


Global Weather Impacts – Tuesday 24th to Monday 30th December 2019

Issued on Tuesday 24th December 2019

HEADLINES

- Tropical Storm Phanfone crossing central Philippines over the next 24 hours.
- Very unsettled across the eastern Mediterranean with strong winds and heavy rain.
- Above average rainfall and flooding continues across parts of eastern Africa.
- Potential further tropical cyclone in the southwest Indian Ocean later this week.



DISCUSSION

Tropical Cyclones Typhoon Phanfone Weather

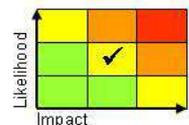
Phanfone has strengthened into a typhoon over the last 24 hours with sustained winds of 70-80 mph and gusts 110-120 mph. Phanfone is now (~0800 UTC) making landfall over the Samar Island and is expected to continue to track west over the central Philippines over the next 24 hours. Some modest weakening is anticipated before Phanfone emerges in the South China Sea. This will bring a swathe of torrential rain with 100-200 mm, perhaps locally 300 mm along its path, in addition to some damaging winds.

Discussion

Despite landfall the warm inland seas of the Philippines mean that significant weakening of Phanfone is unlikely over as it moves across the country. Ultimately the system is expected to dissipate across the South China Sea later this week.

Expected Impacts

Potential for flash flooding, this also 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

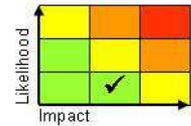
There remains the possibility of a tropical cyclone development across the south-western Indian Ocean later this week. Regardless of development heavy rainfall is expected across northern Madagascar with 125-250mm over the next few days. Should a cyclone form, there is the potential for this to move through the Mozambique Channel, bringing a spell of torrential rainfall to northern Mozambique over the weekend. This aspect of the forecast is still very uncertain.

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. This has been consistently signalled by GM for several runs now, but has yet to gain much support from other output.

Expected Impacts

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



Southwest Pacific

Weather

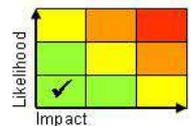
An area of enhanced thunderstorm activity in the south-west Pacific is expected to slowly drift southeast over the coming days. As this occurs a tropical cyclone may form in this region, perhaps affecting Fiji later this week.

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

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

Weather

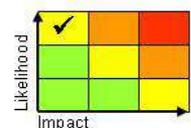
The disturbed weather across the central Mediterranean of the last few days will affect the eastern end of The Mediterranean through to the end of this week and into the weekend, by which time 150-300mm of rainfall could have fallen in some spots. The repetition of heavy rain events in these areas makes impacts more likely.

Discussion

Repeated trough extensions will continue to impact this area over the coming days with a couple of bouts of cyclongenesis likely over the E Med. This will lead to a slowly evolving pattern with several spells of 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.



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Central America

Panama and Costa Rica – see *South America section*

South America

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

Weather

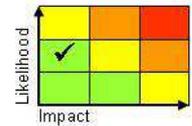
Frequent heavy showers and thunderstorms will continue across these regions through the next 7 days, with the showers each day bringing 50-75mm in just a few hours, with some locations receiving over 200mm (around the December average rainfall). As is the nature of showers, spatial coverage on any one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



Africa

Parts of eastern/central Africa

Weather

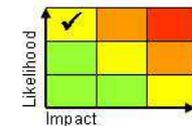
Continued heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with the seasonal rains are expected to be heavier than normal in the coming 3 to 5 days, with a further 100-150 mm, perhaps locally 200 mm of rain falling in places. This is close to the average rainfall in this region for the whole of December, with 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*

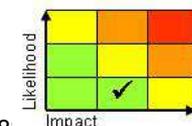
Asia

Philippines – see *Tropical Cyclones section*

Australasia

Parts of central/southern Australia

Weather



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Following the recent extreme heatwave experienced across much of Australia, conditions are now 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. There is an emerging signal that the heat may extend to southern and south-eastern Australia once again as we head toward the New Year.

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 for now. Recent model runs are suggesting that this may extend into southern and south-eastern Australia later this week, perhaps again threatening local records.

Expected Impacts

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

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 north-eastern 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.

Issued at: 240845 UTC **Meteorologists:** Mark Sidaway / Chris Bulmer

Global Guidance Unit

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