

The MJO remained weak during the past week with no coherent behavior among observational indicators. La Nina and additional subseasonal tropical variability contributed to enhanced convection from the Maritime Continent extending southward into western Australia and across the South Pacific, to east of the Date Line. Tropical Storm Heidi developed near the northwest coastline of Australia on January 10. Although it was a short-lived tropical cyclone, it brought locally more than 200 mm of rainfall to Western Australia. Suppressed convection was observed over the central equatorial Pacific, northern Australia, and the Coral Sea.

The Week-1 and Week-2 outlooks are based primarily on La Nina and numerical model guidance. The Week-1 outlook favors above-median rainfall across the Mozambique Channel, Madagascar, and the southwest Indian Ocean. The enhanced convection in these areas and warmer-than-normal SSTs increase the chances for tropical cyclone development in the Mozambique Channel and near 10S/70E in the southwest Indian Ocean. A small area of above-median (below median) rainfall is also favored for the South Pacific (equatorial Indian Ocean). During the next week, a very strong north Pacific jet is expected to bring heavy precipitation to the Pacific Northwest and northern California as it taps into some tropical moisture from the western Pacific.

During Week-2, elevated odds for above-median rainfall are expected to continue for the Mozambique Channel, Madagascar, and the southwest Indian Ocean where a pair of tropical cyclones may linger. Elevated odds for above-median rainfall are also forecast for parts of the Maritime Continent, Western Australia, and the SPCZ.

Below-normal rainfall is favored for the central equatorial Pacific Ocean, consistent with the ongoing La Nina conditions for the entire period.