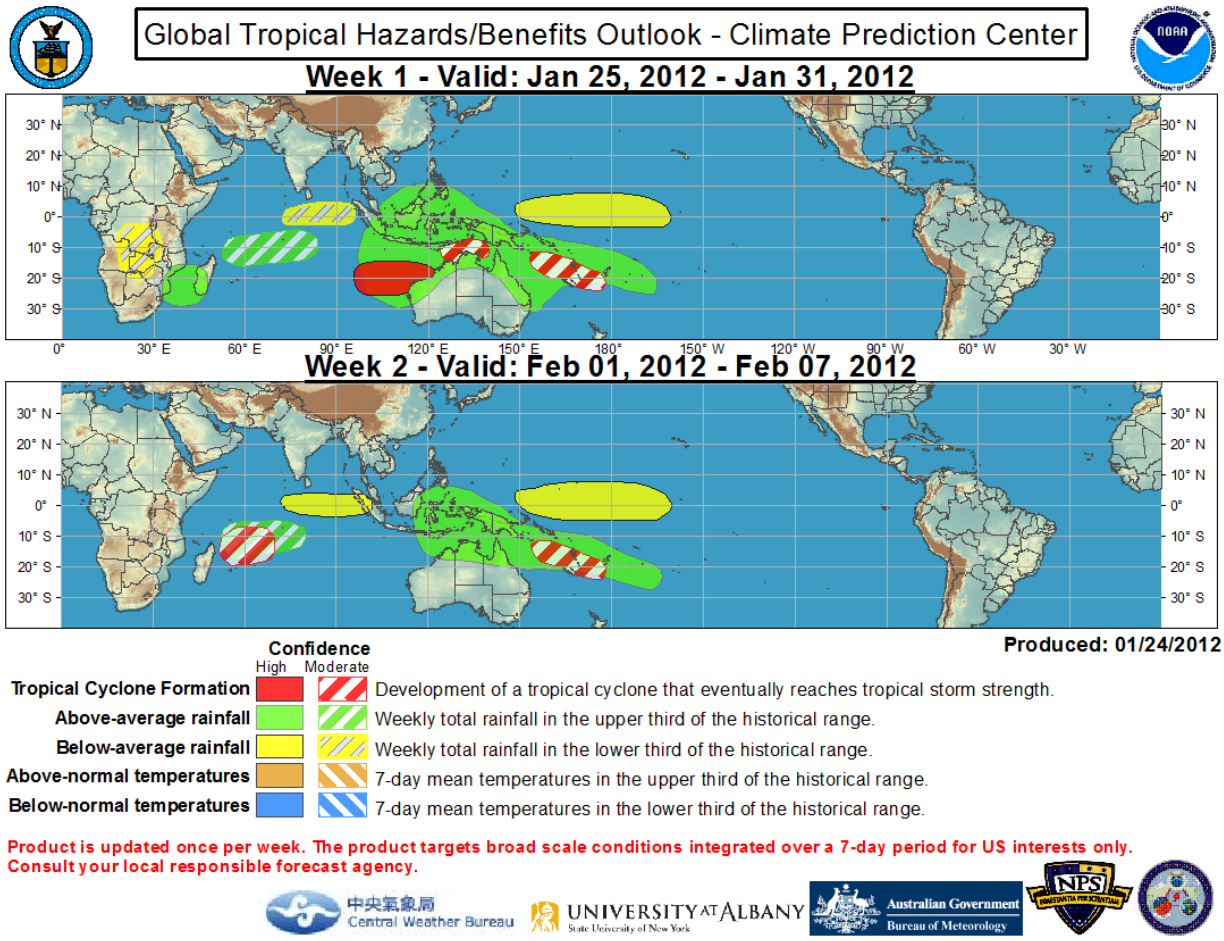

The MJO remained weak during most of the past week as most observations do not depict much clear, coherent behavior. The MJO, however is showing signs of strengthening in recent days. La Nina continues to contribute substantially to areas of enhanced convection across the Maritime Continent.

Enhanced convection was observed across portions of the south-central Indian Ocean with near average to suppressed convection near the equator. Very heavy rainfall occurred across the Mozambique Channel, associated with a tropical cyclone, and also across parts of the southwest Pacific. In recent days, convection has increased over much of the Maritime Continent and the eastern Indian Ocean northwest of Australia. Suppressed convection was observed over the west-central equatorial Pacific. Tropical cyclones Funso and Ethel developed during the past week in the Mozambique Channel and the south-centrla Indian Ocean, respectively.

The Week-1 and Week-2 outlooks are based primarily on La Nina, numerical model guidance, and MJO composities for phases 5 and 6. Below-normal rainfall is favored for the west-central equatorial Pacific Ocean for the entire period, consistent with the ongoing La Nina conditions.

For Week-1, a tropical cyclone is expected to lead to above-median rainfall across the Mozambique Channel and southern Madagascar. Model guidance and the MJO favors below median precipitation in south-central Africa. Above-median (below median) rainfall is favored for the south-central Indian Ocean (northeast Indian Ocean). There are warmer than normal SSTs in the south-central Indian Ocean. The enhanced convective phase of the MJO favors above median precipitation across the eastern Indian Ocean, Maritime Continent, northern Australia, and along the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ). Model guidance indicates a disturbance northwest of Australia could form into a tropical storm near the beginning of this period. Tropical cyclogenesis is also favored north of Australia and in the southwest Pacific late in this period and early in week 2.

During Week-2, elevated odds for above-median rainfall are forecast to continue across the eastern Maritime Continent, northern Australia, and along the SPCZ. This is supported by composities keyed to the MJO in phase 6 and model guidance. In addition, the MJO signal favors below median precipitation in the eastern equatorial Indian Ocean. Some forecast tools indicate enhanced convection and enhanced chances for tropical cyclogenesis in the southwest Indian Ocean.