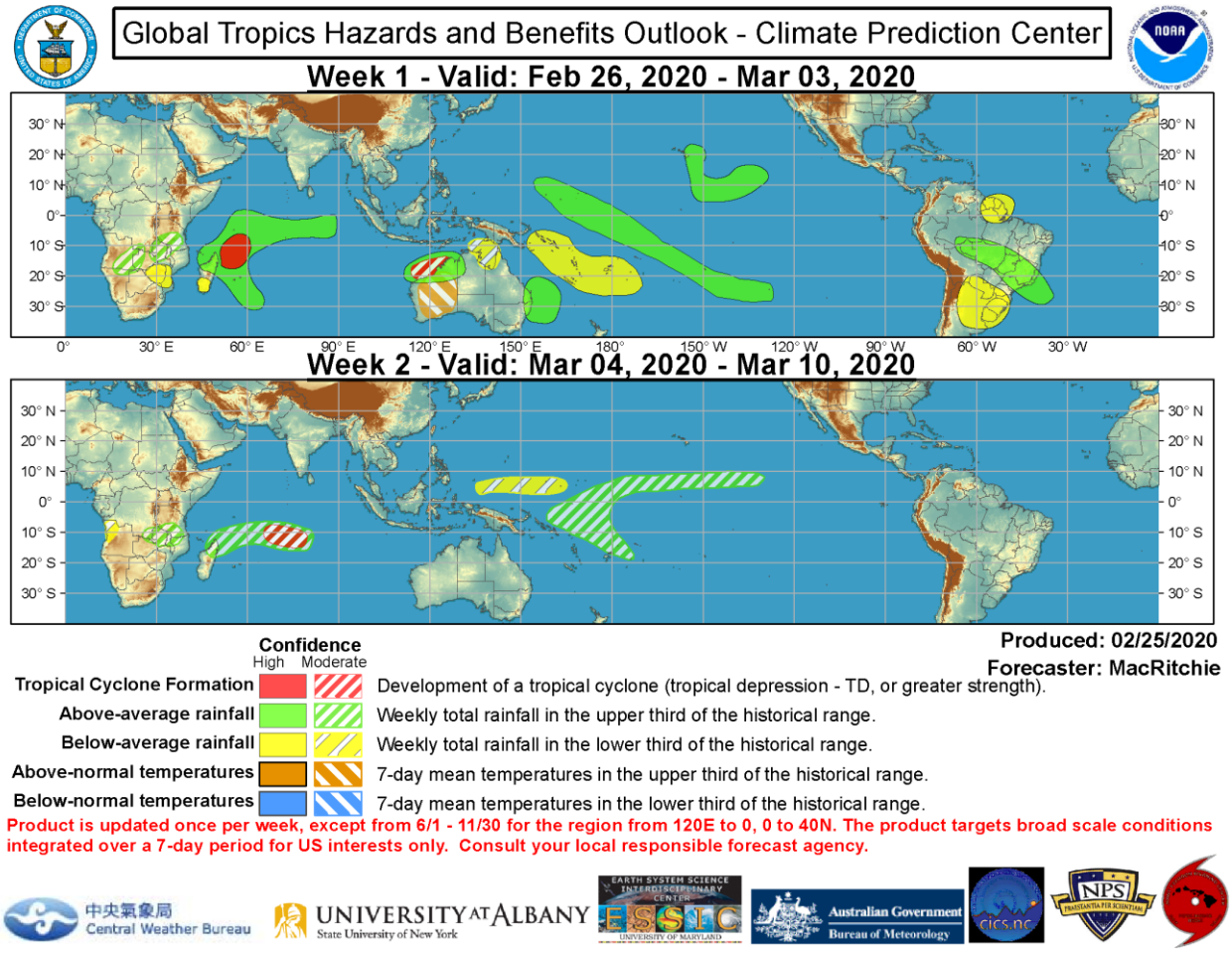

The MJO signal remains weak in an RMM sense, primarily because the OLR and low-level zonal wind fields lack coherent MJO structures. The upper-level zonal wind field suggests a weak MJO signal over the Indian Ocean with a higher frequency signal within the broader MJO envelope, produced by an atmospheric Kelvin wave. There is also an equatorial Rossby wave in the region. The intersection of these three modes of variability enhance the possibility of tropical cyclone formation over the eastern Indian Ocean. As a result, we have issued a high chance of tropical cyclone formation just east of Madagascar during Week-1 and a moderate risk of TC formation during Week-2.

Both the CFS and ECMWF forecast this MJO signal to propagate eastward during the forecast period. Although it is too weak to appear in the CFS's RMM projection, the upper-level subseasonally filtered wind and OLR fields are coherent enough in the models to help inform our rainfall forecasts. Above average rainfall is forecast over the western and central Indian Ocean during Weeks-1 and 2, which is consistent with our subseasonal forecast. There is also a high probability of above normal rainfall during Week-1 in the central Pacific and to the southeast of Hawaii during Week-1. A moderate risk is extended into the central Pacific during Week-2.

There were two tropical storms during the past week. Ferdinand, which formed on Feb. 23 off the Kimberley Coast, and Esther, which also formed on Feb. 23 in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The remnants of Esther are currently located over northern Australia and model guidance suggests that they may track westward and re-develop off the Kimberley Coast during Week-1. Regardless, this area is likely to experience above normal rainfall during Week-1. The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts warm temperatures throughout western Australia over the next few days and interested parties are encouraged to follow updates from the Bureau as necessary.

Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with CPC's international desk, and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global-scale variability.