

The MJO signal remained weak during the past week and much of the recent anomalous convection has been the result of other higher frequency features such as variations in the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), tropical cyclone activity, and an equatorial Rossby wave. During the past week, enhanced rainfall was limited to the western Indian Ocean along with parts of Africa and South Asia. A monsoon low resulted in more than 200 mm of rainfall across southeast Pakistan and Gujarat. Multiple tropical waves emerged from western Africa and tracked into the eastern Atlantic. Suppressed rainfall was observed across Indonesia, Mexico, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Numerical model forecasts of the MJO indicate a greater amplitude but with no eastward propagation. The increase in the amplitude of the MJO index is likely related to an expected increase in convection across Africa and the western Hemisphere much of which is from forecast tropical cyclone activity in the east Pacific and Atlantic basins.

Across the Atlantic Basin, weak Tropical Storm Franklin was short-lived as it developed north of 35 degrees N and quickly became extratropical. Tropical Storm Gert passed just east of Bermuda before

weakening. On August 16, Tropical Storm Fernanda developed in the east-central Pacific. Meanwhile, during the past week, no tropical cyclones formed in the west Pacific.

During the first week of the assessment period, enhanced precipitation is expected across parts of Africa due in part to anomalous low-level westerlies across the Gulf of Guinea. Current satellite imagery indicates an absence of convection across the Philippines and the northwest Pacific. Suppressed convection can be expected across these areas along with southeast China and Taiwan. As of Tuesday, August 16, a tropical disturbance near Acapulco, Mexico is expected to become a tropical cyclone in the east Pacific. A large wave of low pressure may slowly develop into a tropical cyclone as it tracks across the Caribbean Sea. Due to this low pressure system, enhanced rainfall can be expected across southern Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, and the western Caribbean Sea. Later in Week-1, model guidance indicates the potential for tropical cyclone development east of the lesser Antilles (10-22N/45-70W).

Uncertainty is relatively high during week-2 for areas with enhanced or suppressed convection. Model guidance indicates continued suppressed rainfall across southeast China, the Philippines, and the South China Sea with a drying trend across Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. No strong signal for tropical cyclone development exists among tools across the west Pacific. Above normal SSTs, enhanced rainfall across Africa with westward propagating easterly waves, and entering the peak period of the tropical cyclone season all contribute to elevated chances for tropical cyclone development in the tropical Atlantic and eastern Pacific.