

Recent observations of tropical convective anomalies have been more consistent with MJO activity than in the prior month, although that is most likely the result of other modes of variability being aliased into the MJO band. The Wheeler-Hendon MJO index indicates a rapid eastward propagation during the past week to 10 days, with a dramatic slowdown during the last 4 days. This activity is consistent with the interaction of an atmospheric Kelvin Wave and an Equatorial Rossby Wave interacting over the Maritime Continent. A slowly evolving base state favoring enhanced convection over anomalously warm sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central Pacific also remains a significant contributor to the global tropical convective pattern.

Dynamical model forecasts support a halt in the eastward propagation of convection over the west-central Pacific during Week-1, with growing uncertainty about eastward propagation during Week-2. The bias corrected GFS resumes eastward propagation over the Central Pacific, in contrast with the much less progressive ECWMF, UKMET, and JMA models.

During Week-1, an atmospheric Kelvin Wave is projected to move across the central Pacific while the convectively active phase of an Equatorial Rossby Wave is forecast to move across the eastern Indian Ocean. Above-average precipitation is likely across each of those areas. Below-average precipitation is likely over the Maritime Continent. Tropical Cyclone formation potential is enhanced over the western North Pacific and western South Pacific, roughly between 150E and 170E. Also, a slightly increased chance of formation exists over the southeastern Indian Ocean.

During Week-2, the emerging background state is likely to contribute significantly to the pattern of convection across the tropics. Above-average rainfall is likely near the Date Line and over the eastern Indian Ocean, with below-average rains over the Maritime Continent. Tropical cyclone formation chances are elevated over the western North Pacific, although confidence in that is lower than in Week-1. Additional tropical cyclone formation is likely over the Timor Sea.

Forecasts for areas of enhanced or suppressed convection over Africa are based on dynamical guidance for regional scale features.