

The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) weakened during late February and the beginning of March as it destructively interfered with the ongoing La Nina. The recent 200-hPa velocity potential, low-level wind, and OLR anomalies are more consistent with La Nina and an emerging Kelvin wave currently over northern South America. Although the GFS and ECMWF ensemble means depict an increase in the amplitude of the MJO RMM index during the next week, it is highly uncertain that a coherent MJO develops. La Nina is likely to remain the major influence on anomalous global tropical rainfall into late March.

On March 7, Tropical cyclone (TC) Gombe developed just to the east of northern Madagascar. According to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, TC Gombe is forecast to track west across northern Madagascar and may rapidly intensify over the Mozambique Channel. By March 12, it is expected to make a second landfall in northern Mozambique. Heavy rain and flooding are likely to accompany TC Gombe as it tracks across northern Madagascar. Moderate confidence exists for another TC to develop across the southwestern Indian Ocean later in week-1. Model guidance continues to feature additional TC genesis over the southern Indian Ocean during the next two weeks, but model agreement and continuity differ on timing and location. Therefore, a broad area favoring TC development is posted for weeks 1 and 2.

Recent GFS model runs have featured TC development near Darwin, Australia either late in week-1 or early in week-2, but lack of other model support precludes designation of a TC area for that region.

The precipitation outlook during the next two weeks is based on a consensus of GEFS, CFS, and ECMWF model solutions, La Nina precipitation composites, and consistent with where TCs are most likely to develop and track. Following a drier-than-normal February and start to March, a southward displaced storm track is likely to result in heavy rainfall across the southeastern United States during week-1. In addition, below-normal temperatures are likely to affect the south-central United States and northern Mexico through much of week-1. The favored dryness for much of the southwestern United States during the next two weeks is consistent with La Nina heading into the early spring.

For hazardous weather concerns during the next two weeks across the U.S., please refer to your local NWS Forecast Office, the Weather Prediction Center's Medium Range Hazards Forecast, and CPC's Week-2 Hazards Outlook. Forecasts over Africa are made in consultation with the International Desk at CPC and can represent local-scale conditions in addition to global scale variability.