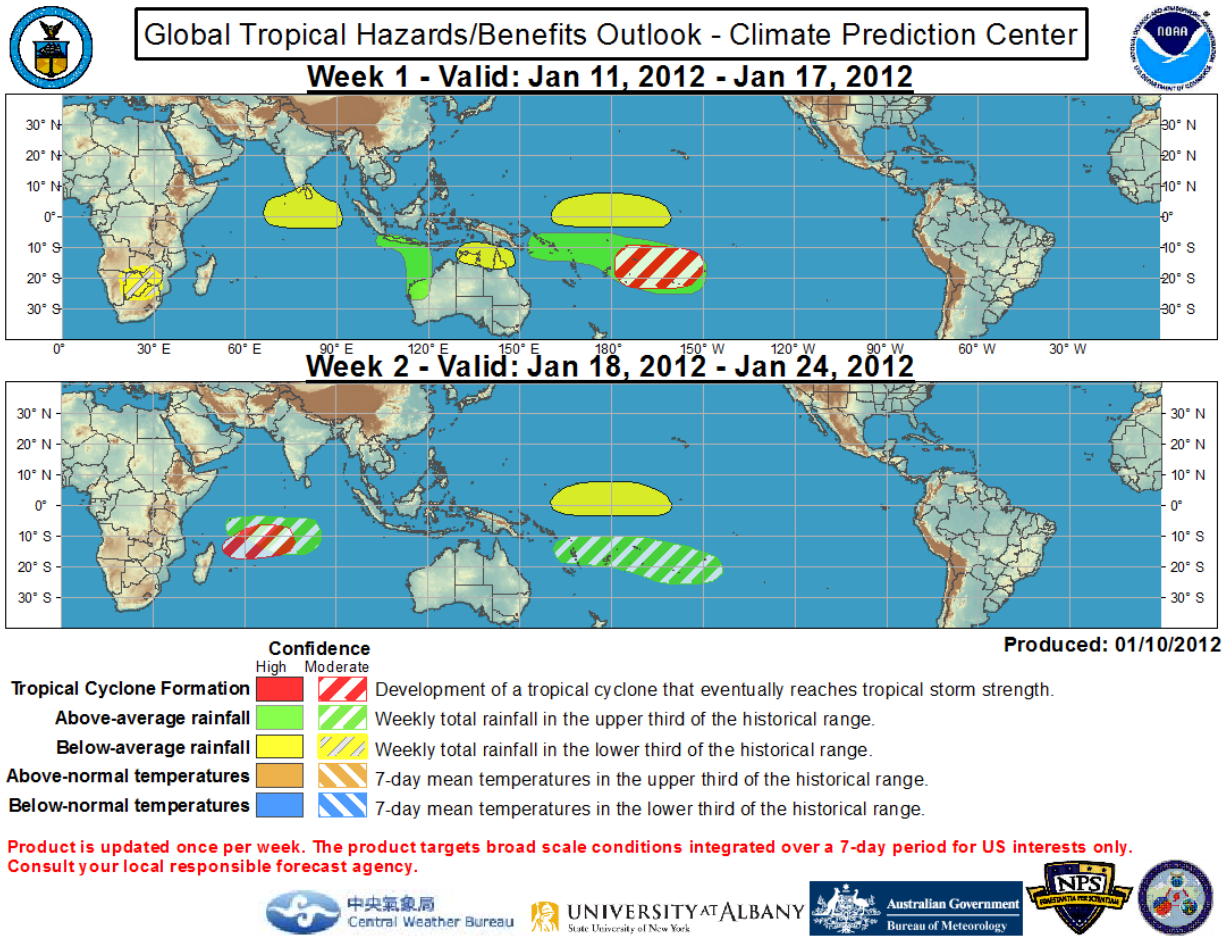

The MJO remained active during the past week with the enhanced phase centered over the Pacific Ocean. At this time, the current activity appears somewhat weaker than the MJO that was observed during the fall of 2011. The MJO and La Nina contributed to enhanced convection across parts of the Maritime Continent (MC), western Pacific, and an eastward shifted South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ). Tropical cyclone Chanda developed in the Mozambique Channel and then crossed Madagascar where heavy rainfall triggered flash flooding. Suppressed convection was observed over the equatorial Indian Ocean, the central equatorial Pacific, northern Australia, and parts of southern Africa.

The Week-1 outlook is based on La Nina, a continued active MJO signal, and model guidance. The Week-1 outlook favors above-median rainfall extending southeast of New Guinea and along the SPCZ. Due tothe enhanced convection in this region, elevated chances exist for the development of a tropical cycloneto the east of the Date Line. The enhanced odds for above-median rainfall across western

Australia is associated with a tropical disturbance forecast to track south, while model guidance continues to support drier-than-average conditions across northern Australia. Model guidance and the suppressed phase of the MJO signal favor below-median rainfall across the eastern Indian Ocean. As convection is expected to increase across the southwest Indian Ocean late in week-1, some model guidance indicates tropical cyclone development in this region.

A large spread exists among the dynamical models on the evolution of the MJO signal over the period. Across the southern Indian Ocean, the elevated chances for above-median rainfall and tropical cyclone development in Week-2 are based on the potential for the enhanced phase of an MJO signal shifting into the eastern Hemisphere. Above average SSTs and model guidance also support the increased chances for tropical cyclone development in the southwest Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, wetter-thannormal conditions are favored to linger along the SPCZ. An enhanced north Pacific jet is expected to develop by week-2 which may result in a much wetter pattern along the West Coast of North America.

Below-normal rainfall is favored for the central equatorial Pacific Ocean, consistent with the ongoing La Nina conditions for the entire period.