

The RMM index and the CPC velocity potential index both indicate that the MJO is currently inactive. Most of the GFS, ECMWF, and other models' ensemble members forecast the MJO to re-emerge over the eastern Indian Ocean or Maritime Continent during the latter part of Week-1. There is considerable spread in this forecast and confidence is low. A moderate or strong MJO during early September would probably aid El Nino development.

Typhoons Cimaron and Soulik in the northwest Pacific are expected to lead to above-average rainfall in that region and over eastern Asia. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center forecasts Typhoon Cimaron to pass over Japan on August 23 and Typhoon Soulik to pass over the Korean Peninsula on August 23-24. Model guidance suggests that another tropical cyclone could form in that area during Week-1, so a moderate risk has been posted.

There is a moderate chance of below-average rainfall over Hispanola and Puerto Rico during Week-1 as models indicate that recent dryness in that region will continue. There is also high confidence in above normal rainfall off the west coast of Africa, which is supported by strong ITCZ and easterly wave activity.

Although models suggest that there is little chance that the easterly waves will turn into tropical cyclones during the forecast period, the GFS does spin up a weak tropical cyclone in early September that warrants monitoring.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center is forecasting Hurricane Lane to track just west of the Big Island in Hawaii on August 23, so a high confidence forecast of above normal rainfall has been posted for that region. There are no indications of further tropical cyclone development in the Central Pacific at this time.

During Week-2, model guidance suggests that tropical cyclone formation is possible in the Eastern Pacific. The GFS has reduced the likelihood of this happening during the past 24 hours, so we will continue to monitor the development potential and will make any necessary changes in the Friday update. Otherwise, the tropics look fairly quiet during Week-2. Some dryness is possible over the Indian Ocean and eastern Pacific as a weak MJO develops.

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