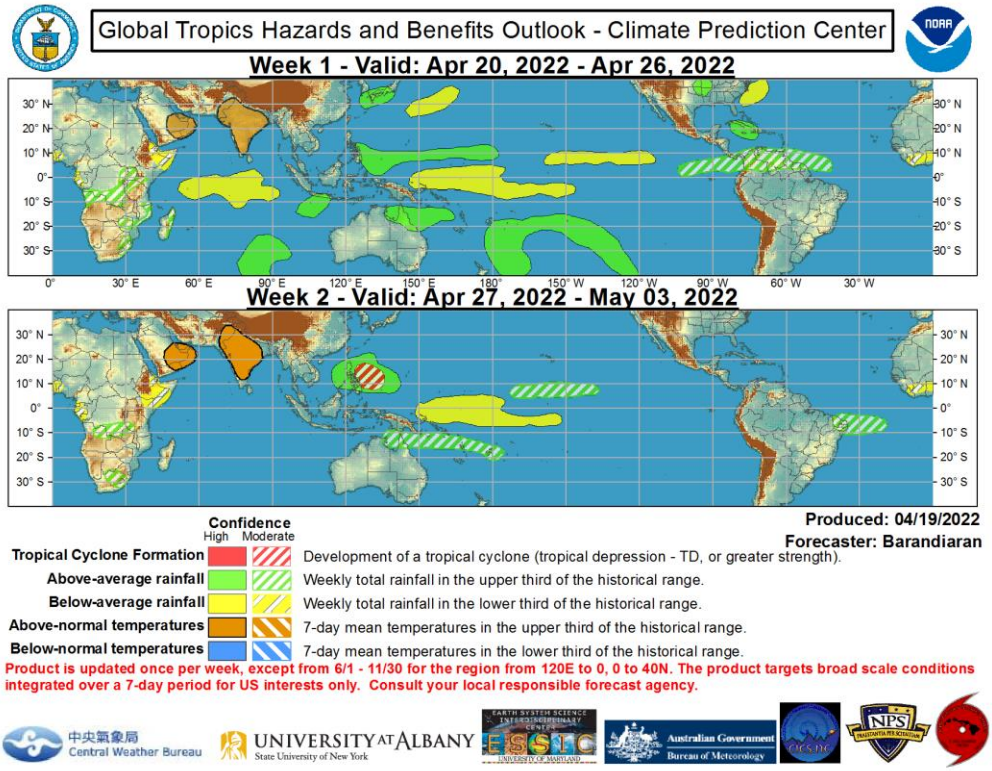

The Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) has been slightly more active in the last week following several weeks of minimal activity, but remains fairly weak and there is a lot of uncertainty concerning the future evolution of the MJO over the coming weeks. There is currently an established region of enhanced convection moving off the Maritime Continent and into the Western Pacific as well as an emerging center of anomalous upper-level divergence forming over Africa. The RMM index is currently just outside the unit circle and in phase 8, consistent with the divergence centered over Africa. Looking ahead, both the GEFS and ECMWF push the RMM index into the unit circle and quickly into phase 6, with some ensemble members suggesting a strengthening event in the week 2-3 timeframe.

Tropical cyclone (TC) activity is currently very quiet in all basins. There has been some activity in the last week. First, in the West Pacific there were two TCs that had previously formed and subsequently dissipated last week: TC Megi (April 8-13), which came ashore in the Philippines and caused extensive flooding and landslides, and Typhoon Malakas (April 6-13), which remained out to sea and moved northward into the North Pacific where it transitioned into an extratropical system. There was also a subtropical system Issa (April 12-13) which formed off the coast of South Africa and caused heavy flooding in the KwaZulu-Natal region. Finally there was an area of organized convection over the Gulf of

Carpentaria (33U, April 16-19), but this has weakened significantly and is no longer an area of interest. Looking ahead there are no TCs expected in the week-1 period, but for the week-2 period there is a moderate chance of TC formation east of the Philippines with anticipated enhanced convection and conditions favorable for TC development.

The precipitation outlook for the next two weeks is based on anticipated TC tracks, expected contributions from MJO and La Nina conditions, and consensus of GEFS, CFS, and ECMWF ensemble mean solutions. In the western Pacific, there continues to be enhanced (suppressed) precipitation over portions of the Maritime Continent (western Pacific south of the Equator), consistent with La Nina conditions. Continued wet conditions are of concern over northeast South Africa given the recent heavy rainfall and flooding associated with Subtropical Cyclone Issa last week. There have also been flooding and landslide issues in northwest Colombia, and continued rainfall will exacerbate these problems. Excessive heat conditions will persist for India and eastern portions of the Arabian Peninsula, where high temperatures will continue to exceed 40C.

For hazardous weather conditions in your area during the coming two-week period, please refer to your local NWS office, the Medium Range Hazards Forecast produced by the Weather Prediction Center, and the CPC Week-2 Hazards Outlook. Forecasts made over Africa are made in coordination with the International Desk at CPC.