

NCEP Contributions to the WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and to the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) Initiative

1. Rainfall Forecast: Valid 06Z of January 31 – 06Z of February 04, 2015. (Issued at 1600Z of January 30, 2015)

1.1. Twenty Four Hour Cumulative Rainfall Forecasts

The forecasts are expressed in terms of 75% probability of precipitation (POP) exceeded, based on the NCEP/GFS and the NCEP global ensemble forecasts system (GEFS) and expert assessment.



Summary

In the next five days, lower-level wind convergence in the region between Angola and Mozambique is expected to enhance rainfall in these regions. There is an increased chance for heavy rainfall over Zambia, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Zimbabwe, DRC and Madagascar



1.2. Model Discussion: Valid from 00Z of January 30, 2015

The Azores high pressure system over the Northeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to strengthen from a central pressure value of 1031hpa to a central pressure value of 1033hpa during the forecast period, according to the GFS model.

The Arabian High Pressure system is expected to strengthen from a central pressure value of 1022hpa to 1025hpa in 48 hours then weaken to 1022hpa in 72 hours during the forecast period, according to the GFS model.

The central pressure value of the Mascarene high pressure system over the southwestern Indian Ocean is expected to weaken from 1031hpa in 24 hours to 1027hpa during the forecast period, according to the GFS model.

The St Helena high pressure system over the Southeast Atlantic Ocean is expected to strengthen from a central pressure value of 1022hpa to 1025hpa in 120 hours, according to the GFS model.

At 925Hpa level, dry northeasterly to easterly wind (>20kts) is expected to prevail across much of the Sahel countries through 24 to 72 hours, and the intensity of the wind tends to weaken across the Northcentral and Northeastern regions of Africa, while remaining strong across Northwestern Africa towards end of the forecast period.

At 850Hpa level, northeasterly wind is expected to prevail across Central and East African countries during the forecast period. Wind convergences are expected to remain active in Southern Central African Republic, Zambia, southern Tanzania, Malawi, Angola, eastern Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, DRC and Madagascar, during the forecast period. Zonally oriented wind convergence is expected to prevail in the region.

At 700hpa level, a zonal trough is expected between Angola and Mozambique and a ridge over the Greater Horn of Africa, during the forecast period, according to the GFS model.

At 500Hpa, a trough associated with a mid-latitude frontal system is expected to prevail across eastern Mediterranean Sea. Divergence over the greater Horn of Africa countries will prevail in the region. Westerly wind flow over southern Africa and convergence off eastern Southern African coast will prevail towards the end of the forecast period, according to the GFS model.

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2.0. Previous and Current Day Weather Discussion over Africa (January 29, 2015 – January 30, 2015)

2.1. Weather assessment for the previous day (January 29, 2015)

Intense convective deep clouds were observed across Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, northern Malawi, DRC, northern Mozambique, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Congo Brazzaville, some parts of C.A.R., Mozambique and Madagascar.

2.2. Weather assessment for the current day (January 30, 2015)

Intense convective deep clouds are over across Angola, southern Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Congo Brazzaville, south C.A.R. Zimbabwe, DRC, Mozambique, Gabon and some parts of Madagascar and southern parts of South Sudan



Previous day rainfall condition over Africa (top Left) based on the NCEP CPCE/RFE and current day cloud cover (top right) based on IR Satellite image

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