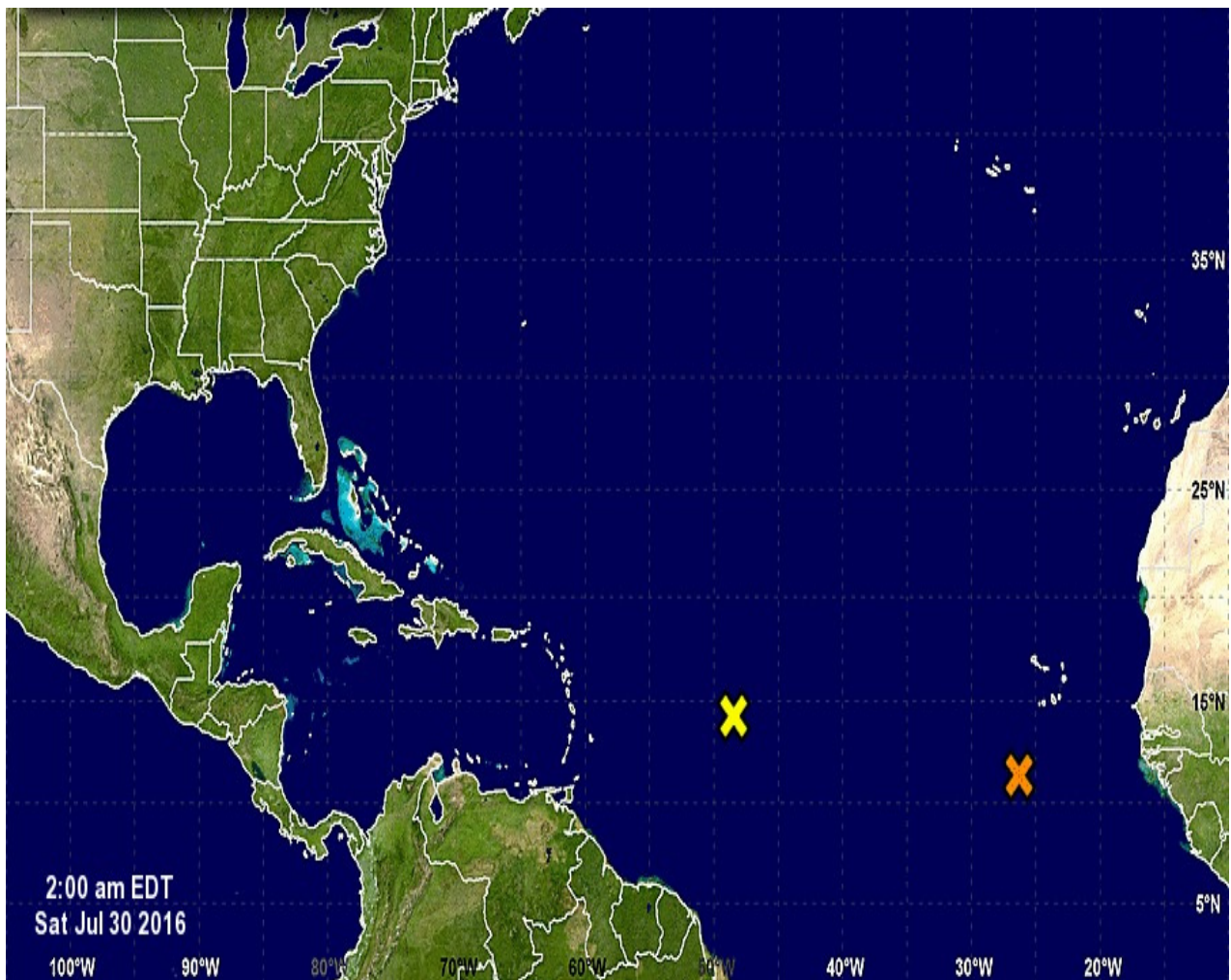


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Strong Tropical Wave Expected to Begin Impacting Territory Tonight

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The strong tropical wave located about 850 miles east of the Lesser Antilles continues to move westward at 25 to 30 miles per hour. According to the National Hurricane Center, the associated shower activity is poorly organized, and given the fast motion of the system any development should be slow to occur.

The system will likely bring showers and gusty winds to portions of the Leeward Islands, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the eastern Caribbean Sea during the weekend. Formation chance through 48 hours, low at 10 percent.

The US National Weather Service – San Juan Forecast Office has focused its attention on the strong tropical wave which is located near 50 west longitude as of 2 a.m. today. Updates have been provided to the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA).

The wave is accompanied by very deep tropical moisture, increasing the potential for flooding between Sunday morning and Monday, according to the US National Weather Service – San Juan Forecast Office. Most of global models agree on bringing this system to the local area early Sunday morning. However, the leading edge of this system is expected to affect the local region as early as tonight. The tropical wave is forecast to reach the region from late tonight through Sunday night.

The US National Weather Service is forecasting that the strong tropical wave will bring unstable conditions and significantly enhance the development of showers and thunderstorms across the region. Periods of heavy rainfall, gusty winds, and lightning activity can be expected as the tropical wave moves through the area. Flooding and mudslides as well as hazardous marine conditions can also be expected.

VITEMA Director Mona Barnes encourages the public to monitor this system as it approaches the USVI tonight and be aware that urban and gut flooding is possible.