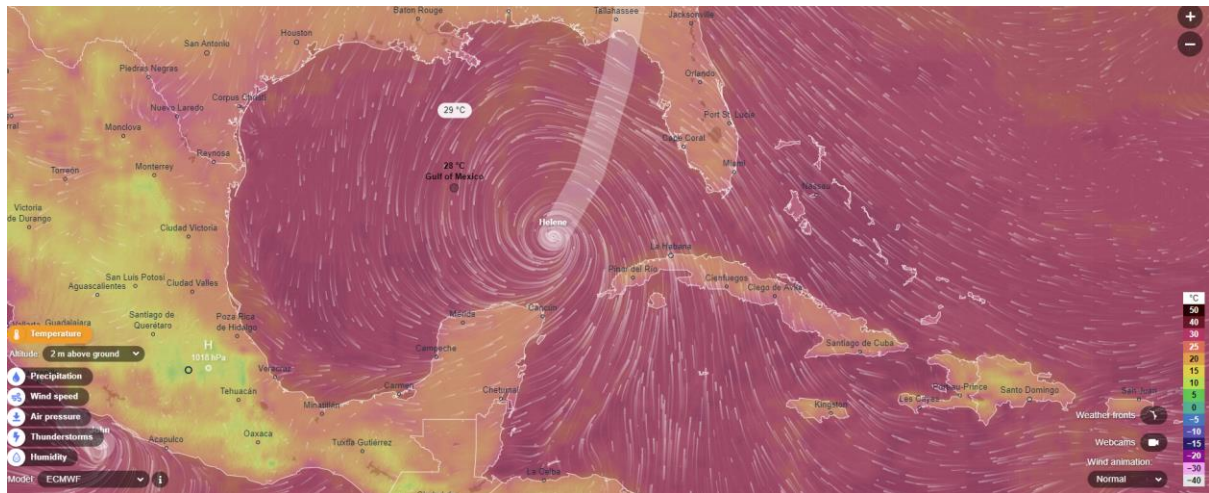


Gulf of Mexico: Hurricane Helene



As of late September 25, Hurricane Helene is moving away from the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico and toward the north in the Gulf of Mexico. The centre of circulation of the system was located about 425 miles (680 km) southwest of Tampa, Florida, as of 22:00 CDT. Prediction models suggest that the storm, which is now tracking north-northeast over the Gulf of Mexico, will intensify into a Category 4 hurricane before making landfall on the Big Bend region of Florida late on September 26. Following landfall, the system is predicted to intensify into a tropical storm as it moves north across western Georgia early on September 27. Later on same day, when it moves northwest over middle Tennessee, it is predicted to weaken much more and become a post-tropical cyclone. It is anticipated that the remaining components of the system will move westward over southwest Kentucky until early September 28. After that, they will reverse course and move eastward along the southern Kentucky border until late September 29. The trajectory and intensity forecast still has some uncertainty, and major changes might happen throughout the coming hours and days.