

WTIO30 FMEE 221250

RSMC / TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / LA REUNION
TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST WARNING (SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN)

0.A WARNING NUMBER: 18/5/20182019

1.A INTENSE TROPICAL CYCLONE 5 (CILIDA)

2.A POSITION 2018/12/22 AT 1200 UTC:

WITHIN 21 NM RADIUS OF POINT 17.9 S / 58.8 E

(SEVENTEEN DECIMAL NINE DEGREES SOUTH AND FIFTY EIGHT DECIMAL EIGHT DEGREES EAST)

MOVEMENT : SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST 10 KT

3.A DVORAK ANALYSIS: 5.5/5.5/W 0.5/12 H

4.A CENTRAL PRESSURE: 949 HPA

5.A MAX AVERAGE WIND SPEED (10 MN): 95 KT

RADIUS OF MAXIMUM WINDS (RMW) :19 KM

6.A EXTENSION OF WIND BY QUADRANTS (KM):

28 KT NE: 140 SE: 190 SW: 140 NW: 140

34 KT NE: 90 SE: 90 SW: 90 NW: 90

48 KT NE: 70 SE: 70 SW: 70 NW: 70

64 KT NE: 50 SE: 50 SW: 50 NW: 50

7.A FIRST CLOSED ISOBAR (PRESSURE / AVERAGE DIAM): 1005 HPA / 600 KM

8.A VERTICAL EXTENSION OF CYCLONE CIRCULATION : DEEP

1.B FORECASTS:

12H: 2018/12/23 00 UTC: 19.7 S / 59.9 E, MAX WIND=085 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

24H: 2018/12/23 12 UTC: 21.7 S / 61.3 E, MAX WIND=075 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

36H: 2018/12/24 00 UTC: 24.0 S / 63.2 E, MAX WIND=065 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

48H: 2018/12/24 12 UTC: 26.0 S / 65.2 E, MAX WIND=055 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM

60H: 2018/12/25 00 UTC: 28.5 S / 67.0 E, MAX WIND=045 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM

72H: 2018/12/25 12 UTC: 31.6 S / 68.9 E, MAX WIND=040 KT, POST-TROPICAL DEPRESSION

2.B LONGER-RANGE OUTLOOK :

96H: 2018/12/26 12 UTC: 36.8 S / 72.6 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, EXTRATROPICAL DEPRESSION

120H: 2018/12/27 12 UTC: 37.7 S / 79.8 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, EXTRATROPICAL DEPRESSION

2.C ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

T=5.5;CI=5.5+

DURING THE LAST 6 HOURS, CILIDA HAS SHOWN A WEAKNESS IN ITS CONVECTIVE ACTIVITY IN THE WESTERN SECTOR THAT COULD HAVE SUGGESTED AN EYEWALL REPLACEMENT CYCLE. THE 0256UTC MICROWAVE DATA DO NOT VALIDATE THIS HYPOTHESIS. CONVECTION HAS RESUMED UNIFORMLY AROUND THE CILIDA'S CENTER OVER THE LAST FEW HOURS WITH A DVORAK ANALYSIS THAT ESTIMATES WINDS IN THE ORDER OF 105KT AROUND THE CENTRE.

IN TERMS OF TRACK, NO MUCH CHANGE: THE DISPLACEMENT OF CILIDA REMAINS STEERED BY THE WESTERN EDGE OF A MID-TROPOSPHERE SUBTROPICAL RIDGE. THE GRADUAL EASTWARD SHIFT OF THESE SUBTROPICAL HIGH GEOPOTENTIALS AND THE ARRIVAL OF A MID-LEVEL TROUGH FROM THE WEST, MAINTAIN A SOUTH-SOUTHEAST ORIENTATION FOR THE NEXT NIGHT. AS THE DISPERSION OF THE MODELS REMAINS RELATIVELY LOW, A GOOD CONFIDENCE IS GIVEN TO THE TRACK FORECAST. CILIDA IS EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE ITS TRACK DURING THE NIGHT FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY AS IT PASSES AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, BEFORE MOVING TOWARDS MORE SOUTHERN LATITUDES.

THE SYSTEM IS STILL CURRENTLY UNDER THE UPPER LEVEL RIDGE, WITH LOW TO MODERATE WIND SHEAR. A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF WIND SHEAR AHEAD OF AN UPPER TROUGH AND A DRIER ENVIRONMENT ON AVERAGE TROPO SHOULD INITIATE THE WEAKENING OF THE SYSTEM. CILIDA'S INTENSITY IS EXPECTED TO DECREASE TO THE THRESHOLD OF A TROPICAL CYCLONE IN SUNDAY MORNING AT THE TIME OF ITS ACCELERATION. THE GRADUAL WEAKENING WILL CONTINUE AND ON TUESDAY, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS UPPER TROUGH THAT SHOULD EVENTUALLY CATCH UP, THE SYSTEM SHOULD BEGIN AN EXTRATROPICALISATION PHASE.

CILIDA IS VERY DANGEROUS. IT IS POSING A POTENTIAL THREAT TO THE MASCARENES ISLANDS ESPECIALLY MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES ISLANDS. A CYCLONIC SWELL IS AFFECTING THESE ISLANDS AND WILL INCREASE IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS. REUNION ISLAND IS ALSO CONCERNED BY THIS SWELL BUT TO A LESSER EXTENT. BECAUSE OF THE GOOD CONFIDENCE IN THE TRACK, BOTH ISLANDS SHOULD AVOID THE MOST DISASTROUS IMPACTS, NOTABLY IN TERMS OF WINDS. THE CLOSEST PASSAGE IS STILL FORECAST AT THE END OF THE NIGHT FROM SATURDAY TO SUNDAY. THE INHABITANTS OF THESE ISLANDS ARE INVITED TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF THE SYSTEM.