Direction Interrégionale de Météo-France pour l'Océan Indien
50 Boulevard du Chaudron
97490 Sainte-Clotilde
Tél : 0262 92 11 00

WTIO30 FMEE 281303
RSMC / TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / LA REUNION
TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST WARNING (SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN)

0.A WARNING NUMBER: 1/9/20252026
1.A ZONE OF DISTURBED WEATHER 9

2.A POSITION 2026/01/28 AT 1200 UTC:
WITHIN 40 NM RADIUS OF POINT 15.8 S / 41.9 E
(FIFTEEN DECIMAL EIGHT DEGREES SOUTH AND
FORTY ONE DECIMAL NINE DEGREES EAST)
MOVEMENT: NORTH-WEST 3 KT

3.A DVORAK ANALYSIS: NIL
4.A CENTRAL PRESSURE: 1009 HPA
5.A MAX AVERAGE WIND SPEED (10 MN): 25 KT
RADIUS OF MAXIMUM WINDS (RMW): NIL

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

7.A FIRST CLOSED ISOBAR (PRESSURE / AVERAGE DIAM): 1010 HPA / 200 KM
8.A VERTICAL EXTENSION OF CYCLONE CIRCULATION: MEDIUM

1.B FORECASTS (WINDS RADII IN KM):
12H: 2026/01/29 00 UTC: 15.7 S / 41.9 E, VENT MAX= 025 KT, ZONE OF DISTURBED WEATHER

24H: 2026/01/29 12 UTC: 15.6 S / 41.9 E, VENT MAX= 030 KT, TROPICAL DEPRESSION
28 KT NE: 185 SE: 205 SW: 165 NW: 110

36H: 2026/01/30 00 UTC: 15.5 S / 42.1 E, VENT MAX= 035 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 195 SE: 220 SW: 205 NW: 155
34 KT NE: 95 SE: 120 SW: 85 NW: 75

48H: 2026/01/30 12 UTC: 15.6 S / 42.7 E, VENT MAX= 045 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 205 SE: 230 SW: 220 NW: 140
34 KT NE: 130 SE: 150 SW: 130 NW: 85

60H: 2026/01/31 00 UTC: 16.0 S / 44.0 E, VENT MAX= 060 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 230 SE: 260 SW: 220 NW: 150
34 KT NE: 155 SE: 155 SW: 140 NW: 85
48 KT NE: 65 SE: 75 SW: 45 NW: 45

72H: 2026/01/31 12 UTC: 16.9 S / 45.6 E, VENT MAX= 050 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM

28 KT NE: 205 SE: 185 SW: 175 NW: 175
34 KT NE: 0 SE: 0 SW: 0 NW: 120
48 KT NE: 0 SE: 0 SW: 0 NW: 65

2.B LONGER-RANGE OUTLOOK:
96H: 2026/02/01 12 UTC: 18.9 S / 49.2 E, VENT MAX= 030 KT, ZONE OF DISTURBED WEATHER
28 KT NE: 220 SE: 325 SW: 220 NW: 185

120H: 2026/02/02 12 UTC: 21.0 S / 53.3 E, VENT MAX= 040 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 250 SE: 370 SW: 220 NW: 215
34 KT NE: 165 SE: 205 SW: 140 NW: 110

2.C ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
OVER THE PAST 12 HOURS, CONVECTIVE CLOUDS HAVE CONTINUED TO APPEAR IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL WITHIN A WELL-ESTABLISHED MONSOON FLOW. A LARGE AND ILL-DEFINED LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM IS VISIBLE ON THE HIGH-RESOLUTION MSG2 SATELLITE IMAGE. AT THIS STAGE, THE AREA OF DISTURBED WEATHER 09-20252026 DOES NOT MEET THE DVORAK ANALYSIS CRITERIA. FOR THE PAST 3 HOURS, AN INCREASE IN CONVECTIVE ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED BETWEEN THE PRESUMED CENTRE OF THE SYSTEM AND THE COASTS OF MOZAMBIQUE. BASED ON THE PARTIAL ASCAT-C AT 0553UTC, THE MAXIMUM WINDS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED AT 25 KT.

IN TERMS OF TRACK, THE AREA OF DISTURBED WEATHER IS CURRENTLY CAUGHT IN CONTRADICTORY STEERING FLOWS INDUCED BY A NEAR-EQUATORIAL RIDGE FURTHER NORTH AND A SUBTROPICAL RIDGE FURTHER SOUTHEAST. THIS SITUATION COULD CONTINUE UNTIL FRIDAY. THE PULLBACK OF THE SUBTROPICAL RIDGE OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE PIVOTING OF THE NEAR-EQUATORIAL RIDGE FROM FRIDAY ONWARDS WILL RESULT IN AN EAST-SOUTHEAST DIRECTION. THE SYSTEM WILL REMAIN ON THIS COURSE UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK WITH GRADUALLY INCREASING UNCERTAINTY.

THE AREA OF DISTURBED WEATHER 09-20252026 IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN STATIONARY REGARDING INTENSITY OVER THE NEXT 24 HOURS DUE TO A LACK OF POLAR CONVERGENCE. A SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST SURGE ALONG THE MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL IS EXPECTED FROM THURSDAY EVENING, CONTRIBUTING TO BETTER VORTICITY. IN FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (WARM WATERS, MOISTURE IN THE MIDDLE TROPOSPHERE, DOUBLE OUTFLOW CHANNELS AND LOW SHEAR), THE CYCLOGENESIS MECHANISM MAY CONTINUE AND AN INTENSIFICATION, POSSIBLY RAPID, WILL OCCUR ON FRIDAY. THE SPEED OF INTENSIFICATION ON FRIDAY IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE SHORT TERM, AND OUR RSMC FORECAST IS BASED ON THE RELATIVELY RESPONSIVE AI ENSEMBLES AND THE AROME MODEL. THE SYSTEM COULD REACH TROPICAL STORM LEVEL BEFORE MAKING LANDFALL ON THE MADAGASCAR COAST. THE SYSTEM WILL WEAKEN CONSIDERABLY AS IT MOVES OVERLAND, AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR RE-INTENSIFICATION BETWEEN MADAGASCAR AND THE MASCAREIGNES REMAINS VERY UNCERTAIN AT THIS STAGE. ALMOST ALL AVAILABLE MODELS PREDICT REINTENSIFICATION AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.

IMPACT ON INHABITED AREAS OVER THE NEXT 72 HOURS
MADAGASCAR (MAHAJANGA PROVINCE):
- LANDING IN THE PROVINCE OF MAHAJANGA ON FRIDAY EVENING OR SATURDAY DURING THE DAY BETWEEN THE CITY OF MAHAJANGA IN THE NORTH AND MAINTIRANO IN THE SOUTH (CAP SAINT-ANDRE REGION IN PARTICULAR)
- GUSTS VERY LIKELY AT THE END OF THE DAY OR ON FRIDAY EVENING. STORM-FORCE WINDS LIKELY NEAR THE LANDING ZONE. HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS POSSIBLE.
- HEAVY RAIN VERY LIKELY FROM THE END OF THE NIGHT FROM THURSDAY TO FRIDAY. 150-200 MM IN 24 HOURS, LOCALLY MORE ALONG THE TRACK.
- SEA BECOMING VERY ROUGH TO HIGH FROM THE END OF FRIDAY OR THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

THE SYSTEM'S CURRENT INTENSITY DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE ISSUANCE OF REGULAR WARNINGS. NEXT WARNING TOMORROW AT 0600Z.