

WTIO30 FMEE 300037

RSMC / TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / LA REUNION

TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST WARNING (SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN)

0.A WARNING NUMBER: 5/9/20252026

1.A MODERATE TROPICAL STORM 9 (FYTIA)

2.A POSITION 2026/01/30 AT 0000 UTC:

WITHIN 30 NM RADIUS OF POINT 15.6 S / 42.4 E

(FIFTEEN DECIMAL SIX DEGREES SOUTH AND
FORTY TWO DECIMAL FOUR DEGREES EAST)

MOVEMENT: EAST-SOUTH-EAST 3 KT

3.A DVORAK ANALYSIS: 3.0/3.0/D 1.0/12 H

4.A CENTRAL PRESSURE: 996 HPA

5.A MAX AVERAGE WIND SPEED (10 MN): 40 KT

RADIUS OF MAXIMUM WINDS (RMW): 33 KM

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

28 KT NE: 140 SE: 140 SW: 110 NW: 95

34 KT NE: 75 SE: 75 SW: 55 NW: 45

7.A FIRST CLOSED ISOBAR (PRESSURE / AVERAGE DIAM): 1009 HPA / 500 KM

8.A VERTICAL EXTENSION OF CYCLONE CIRCULATION: DEEP

1.B FORECASTS (WINDS RADII IN KM):

12H: 2026/01/30 12 UTC: 15.9 S / 43.1 E, VENT MAX= 060 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM

28 KT NE: 155 SE: 185 SW: 165 NW: 110

34 KT NE: 95 SE: 110 SW: 100 NW: 65

48 KT NE: 55 SE: 65 SW: 55 NW: 45

24H: 2026/01/31 00 UTC: 16.4 S / 44.3 E, VENT MAX= 075 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 165 SE: 205 SW: 175 NW: 120

34 KT NE: 100 SE: 120 SW: 110 NW: 75

48 KT NE: 55 SE: 65 SW: 55 NW: 55

64 KT NE: 45 SE: 45 SW: 35 NW: 45

36H: 2026/01/31 12 UTC: 17.6 S / 45.6 E, VENT MAX= 035 KT, OVERLAND DEPRESSION

28 KT NE: 185 SE: 220 SW: 185 NW: 130

34 KT NE: 110 SE: 130 SW: 110 NW: 75

48H: 2026/02/01 00 UTC: 19.1 S / 47.8 E, VENT MAX= 030 KT, OVERLAND DEPRESSION

28 KT NE: 195 SE: 240 SW: 185 NW: 140

60H: 2026/02/01 12 UTC: 20.4 S / 49.7 E, VENT MAX= 035 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL
STORM

28 KT NE: 205 SE: 260 SW: 195 NW: 150
34 KT NE: 130 SE: 150 SW: 130 NW: 95

72H: 2026/02/02 00 UTC: 21.3 S / 51.3 E, VENT MAX= 050 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 215 SE: 285 SW: 205 NW: 155
34 KT NE: 140 SE: 155 SW: 130 NW: 95
48 KT NE: 65 SE: 75 SW: 75 NW: 55

2.B LONGER-RANGE OUTLOOK:

96H: 2026/02/03 00 UTC: 23.0 S / 53.8 E, VENT MAX= 040 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 240 SE: 325 SW: 215 NW: 165
34 KT NE: 155 SE: 175 SW: 140 NW: 100

120H: 2026/02/04 00 UTC: 24.8 S / 55.7 E, VENT MAX= 035 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM
28 KT NE: 260 SE: 360 SW: 220 NW: 185
34 KT NE: 175 SE: 195 SW: 150 NW: 110

2.C ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

T=CI=3.0-

OVER THE PAST 6 HOURS, CONVECTIVE ACTIVITY HAS CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN NEAR THE CENTRE WITH A CURVED BAND CONFIGURATION THAT HAS FURTHER DEVELOPED, NOTABLY WITH IMPROVED CURVATURE IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR. CONVECTIVE ACTIVITY IS ALSO STRONG IN THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN PERIPHERY OF THE SYSTEM IN THE MONSOON FLOW. NO RECENT MICROWAVE AND DIFFUSIOMETRIC DATA ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN LOCATING AND ESTIMATING INTENSITY. THE DVORAK METHOD IS THEREFORE USED AND COMPARISON WITH THE VARIOUS OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE ANALYSES ALLOWS WIND SPEEDS OF AROUND 40KT TO BE ESTIMATED, WITH A DVORAK ANALYSIS REACHING 3.0-. WITH THE SYSTEM NAMED AT 23UTC ON THURSDAY 29 JANUARY BY THE MADAGASCAR METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES, FYTIA IS THEREFORE CLASSIFIED AS A MODERATE TROPICAL STORM.

NO CHANGE IN TERMS OF TRACK: CONTRADICTORY FLOWS ARE FADING WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SUBTROPICAL BACKBONE OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS SITUATION ALLOWS THE SYSTEM TO BEGIN MOVING EAST-SOUTHEAST, GUIDED SLIGHTLY MORE BY THE NEAR-EQUATORIAL RIDGE FURTHER NORTH. THIS THEREFORE LEADS TO A MOVEMENT TOWARDS MADAGASCAR THIS FRIDAY FOR A LANDFALL EXPECTED ON FRIDAY NIGHT/SATURDAY MORNING IN THE PROVINCE OF MAHAJANGA. THIS TIMELINE REMAINS QUITE UNCERTAIN DUE TO THE DIFFERENCE IN MOVEMENT SPEED BETWEEN THE MODELS. THE PREVIOUS RSMC FORECAST DISMISSES CERTAIN MODELS THAT ARE TOO RAPID AND CURRENTLY LOCATE THE SYSTEM INCORRECTLY, SUCH AS GFS AND OTHER AMERICAN MODELS. THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO EMERGE OFF THE EAST COAST OF MADAGASCAR, MAINTAINING ITS COURSE UNTIL SUNDAY IN THE SOUTH OF THE PROVINCE OF TOAMASINA. AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, THE SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE IN A SOUTHEASTERN DIRECTION AND PASS CLOSE TO THE MASCARENE ISLANDS IN THE SOUTHWEST. HOWEVER, CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM'S TRACK REMAINS MODERATE AT THE END OF THE FORECAST PERIOD, GIVEN THE DISPERSION OF THE AVAILABLE MODELS.

IN TERMS OF INTENSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN FAVOURABLE THROUGHOUT THE TRANSIT OVER THE SEA, WITH WARM WATERS, MOISTURE IN THE MIDDLE TROPOSPHERE, DOUBLE EVACUATION CHANNELS AND LOW SHEAR. THIS LEADS TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN LOW-LEVEL VORTICITY, THUS MORE CLEARLY TRIGGERING THE CYCLOGENESIS MECHANISM WITH A WINDOW OF INTENSIFICATION, WHICH COULD BE RAPID ON FRIDAY. THE INTENSIFICATION FORECAST IS CERTAIN, BUT THE SPEED OF INTENSIFICATION REMAINS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF UNCERTAINTY IN THE SHORT TERM, AND OUR RSMC FORECAST IS BASED ON AI ENSEMBLES AND THE RELATIVELY RESPONSIVE AROME MODEL. THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO REACH TROPICAL CYCLONE STATUS 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 TO THE STAGE OF A STRONG TROPICAL STORM, FOLLOWED BY A GRADUAL WEAKENING IMPACTED BY INCREASED SHEAR AND DRY AIR INTRUSIONS.

IMPACT ON INHABITED AREAS OVER THE NEXT 72 HOURS

MADAGASCAR (MAHAJANGA PROVINCE):

- LANDFALL ON THE PROVINCE OF MAHAJANGA DURING THE NIGHT FROM FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, OR EVEN ON SATURDAY MORNING IN THE CAP SAINT-ANDRE REGION.
- VERY LIKELY GUSTS OF WIND AT THE END OF THE DAY OR IN THE EVENING ON FRIDAY. VIOLENT STORM-FORCE WINDS LIKELY NEAR THE LANDFALL ZONE DURING THE NIGHT FROM FRIDAY TO SATURDAY. HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS LIKELY AT THE TIME OF LANDFALL.
- HEAVY RAIN VERY LIKELY FROM FRIDAY MORNING, INTENSIFYING THEREAFTER WITH 150-200 MM IN 24 HOURS, LOCALLY MORE, ALONG THE TRACK. MAXIMUM RAINFALL OF 200-300 MM IN 24 HOURS ON SATURDAY MORNING AT LANDFALL. CUMULATIVE RAINFALL OF 100 MM IN 24 HOURS ALONG THE TRACK AS THE SYSTEM MOVES OVERLAND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
- SEA CONDITIONS BECOMING VERY ROUGH TO ROUGH FROM THE END OF FRIDAY.

MADAGASCAR (PROVINCES OF ANTANANARIVO AND TOAMASINA):

- HEAVY RAIN POSSIBLE ALONG THE TRACK. TOTAL ACCUMULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 100MM IN 24 HOURS AS THE SYSTEM PASSES OVERLAND ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

MOZAMBIQUE (NAMPULA PROVINCE):

- HEAVY RAIN EASING OFF WITH AN IMPROVEMENT ON FRIDAY.