

WTIO30 FMEE 201248

RSMC / TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / LA REUNION

TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST WARNING (SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN)

0.A WARNING NUMBER: 6/11/20252026

1.A MODERATE TROPICAL STORM 11 (HORACIO)

2.A POSITION 2026/02/20 AT 1200 UTC:

WITHIN 30 NM RADIUS OF POINT 15.7 S / 75.8 E

(FIFTEEN DECIMAL SEVEN DEGREES SOUTH AND  
SEVENTY FIVE DECIMAL EIGHT DEGREES EAST)

MOVEMENT: SOUTH-WEST 10 KT

3.A DVORAK ANALYSIS: 3.0/3.0/D 1.0/24 H

4.A CENTRAL PRESSURE: 996 HPA

5.A MAX AVERAGE WIND SPEED (10 MN): 35 KT

RADIUS OF MAXIMUM WINDS (RMW): NIL

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

28 KT NE: 230 SE: 285 SW: 260 NW: 205

34 KT NE: 0 SE: 95 SW: 0 NW: 0

7.A FIRST CLOSED ISOBAR (PRESSURE / AVERAGE DIAM): 1011 HPA / 1000 KM

8.A VERTICAL EXTENSION OF CYCLONE CIRCULATION: DEEP

1.B FORECASTS (WINDS RADII IN KM):

12H: 2026/02/21 00 UTC: 16.1 S / 74.3 E, VENT MAX= 040 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL  
STORM

28 KT NE: 175 SE: 250 SW: 270 NW: 150

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

24H: 2026/02/21 12 UTC: 16.4 S / 72.9 E, VENT MAX= 055 KT, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM

28 KT NE: 175 SE: 250 SW: 270 NW: 150

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

48 KT NE: 45 SE: 65 SW: 65 NW: 35

36H: 2026/02/22 00 UTC: 16.8 S / 71.1 E, VENT MAX= 065 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 185 SE: 280 SW: 285 NW: 155

34 KT NE: 110 SE: 130 SW: 130 NW: 85

48 KT NE: 65 SE: 65 SW: 75 NW: 65

64 KT NE: 55 SE: 55 SW: 55 NW: 35

48H: 2026/02/22 12 UTC: 17.4 S / 69.1 E, VENT MAX= 080 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 205 SE: 280 SW: 295 NW: 155

34 KT NE: 120 SE: 130 SW: 140 NW: 85

48 KT NE: 65 SE: 75 SW: 75 NW: 65

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

60H: 2026/02/23 00 UTC: 18.6 S / 67.4 E, VENT MAX= 095 KT, INTENSE TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 220 SE: 295 SW: 295 NW: 185

34 KT NE: 130 SE: 140 SW: 140 NW: 95

48 KT NE: 65 SE: 75 SW: 85 NW: 75

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

72H: 2026/02/23 12 UTC: 19.9 S / 65.9 E, VENT MAX= 100 KT, INTENSE TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 240 SE: 315 SW: 315 NW: 195

34 KT NE: 150 SE: 150 SW: 155 NW: 100

48 KT NE: 75 SE: 75 SW: 85 NW: 75

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

## 2.B LONGER-RANGE OUTLOOK:

96H: 2026/02/24 12 UTC: 23.6 S / 64.7 E, VENT MAX= 085 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 280 SE: 350 SW: 325 NW: 205

34 KT NE: 165 SE: 165 SW: 165 NW: 100

48 KT NE: 75 SE: 85 SW: 85 NW: 75

64 KT NE: 65 SE: 75 SW: 65 NW: 55

120H: 2026/02/25 12 UTC: 27.6 S / 66.3 E, VENT MAX= 065 KT, TROPICAL CYCLONE

28 KT NE: 305 SE: 360 SW: 370 NW: 250

34 KT NE: 185 SE: 165 SW: 175 NW: 120

48 KT NE: 70 SE: 80 SW: 90 NW: 80

64 KT NE: 60 SE: 70 SW: 60 NW: 60

## 2.C ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PT=CI=3.0

OVER THE LAST 6 HOURS, THE CURVED BAND LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN PART HAS DISAPPEARED, GIVING WAY TO SEVERAL SMALLER ONES IN THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN SEMICIRCLE, BUT STILL WITH COLD TOPS. MICROWAVE PASSES (0655Z GPM AND 0820Z GCOM-W) AND SUPPLEMENTARY ASCAT DATA SHOW THAT THE CORE OF THE SYSTEM REMAINS LARGE AND POORLY DEFINED. GCOM-W PASS WIND ESTIMATES DO NOT CLEARLY SHOW THE PRESENCE OF GALE FORCE WITHIN THE CIRCULATION. PENDING MORE RELIABLE DATA, INTENSITY IS MAINTAINED AT 35KT.

OVER THE NEXT FEW HOURS, UNDER THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE SUBTROPICAL RIDGE TO THE SOUTHEAST, HORACIO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A WEST-SOUTHWESTERLY TRACK. AT LONGER RANGE, THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS EVOLUTION ALONG THE NORTHWESTERN AND LATER WESTERN EDGE OF THIS RIDGE. HORACIO IS THEREFORE EXPECTED TO TURN SOUTHWARD EARLY NEXT WEEK, BEFORE BEING CAUGHT UP BY THE WESTERLY MID LATITUDES FLOW. THE SPREAD AMONG THE GUIDANCES REMAINS FAIRLY SMALL, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE TRACK MOTION AND THE INITIAL POSITION. OUR CURRENT FORECAST IS BASED ON A CONSENSUS CLOSE TO THE AI ENSEMBLES MEANS.

REGARDING THE INTENSITY FORECAST, THE DEVELOPMENT OF HORACIO COULD BE LIMITED AT FIRST BY THE PRESENCE OF A MODERATE EASTERLY SHEAR AND A STILL BROAD INNER CORE. HOWEVER, FROM FRIDAY, ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WILL BECOME VERY FAVORABLE: WITH LOW SHEAR, SIGNIFICANT OCEANIC POTENTIAL, AND GOOD DIVERGENCE IN THE SOUTHWESTERN QUADRANT. A MARKED OR EVEN RAPID INTENSIFICATION IS THEREFORE EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY AS THE SYSTEM COULD ALSO BE RELATIVELY SMALL. THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO REACH THE INTENSE TROPICAL CYCLONE STAGE BY MONDAY AT THE LATEST. FROM TUESDAY ONWARDS, HORACIO WILL BEGIN TO WEAKEN UNDER THE EFFECT OF INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL SHEAR BEFORE BEGINNING TO LOSE ITS TROPICAL CHARACTERISTICS. THE INTENSITY FORECAST IS BASED ON A SCENARIO OF RAPID INTENSIFICATION, AS SUGGESTED BY SEVERAL GUIDANCES. HOWEVER, THE RATE OF INTENSIFICATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN. IT MAY BE FASTER OR SLOWER THAN EXPECTED.

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IS EXPECTED FOR POPULATED AREAS OVER THE NEXT 72 HOURS.