

BULLETIN FOR CYCLONIC ACTIVITY AND SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL WEATHER
IN THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

DATE: 25/12/2025 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

There are two branches of the Monsoon Trough (MT) in the southwestern Indian Ocean basin : the first east of 72°E and the second between 50° and 60°E, both around 9°S. Convective activity is weak to moderate north of these MTs. A convective cluster is fairly active over the Mozambique Channel.

Despite the anomaly still present at low frequency over the center of the basin, the wave conditions are gradually becoming favorable for cyclogenesis over the next five days with the resurgence of an active MJO phase over the western part of the basin. This is associated by a Kelvin wave at the beginning of the week, promoting convergence and cyclogenesis in the Mozambique Channel. We should also note the westward progression of an equatorial Rossby wave from the east of the basin.

Risk of tropical low-pressure system GRANT entering from the Australian area of responsibility :

The GRANT system, tracked by the BOM (latest bulletin AXAU02 / IDW27700), was located at 06UTC around 12.1°S and 95.8°E. GRANT is expected to continue westward, and most ensemble and deterministic models suggest it will enter the far east of our basin by December 27.

Over the next five days, there is a high risk that tropical low-pressure system GRANT will enter the far east of our basin from the Australian area of responsibility from Saturday, December 27th.

Suspect area off the coast of Mozambique :

The monsoon flow runs along the African coast and takes a cyclonic curve in the middle of the Mozambique Channel under the effect of the trade winds passing south of Madagascar. At the same time, a wide low-pressure area is forming over Mozambique. The deep shear over this area of the Canal seems to prevent rapid cyclogenesis. It will also be obstructed by the proximity of the Madagascan and/or Mozambican coasts. But this shear is expected to decrease, which could make conditions more favorable.

Deterministic and ensemble models suggest the formation of a low-pressure system in the central part of the Mozambique Channel at the end of the week. The latest forecasts now indicate an initial baroclinic cyclogenesis under the influence of an upper-level trough over southeastern Madagascar, which will eventually cross the island towards the southeast, followed by a second cyclogenesis in phase with the undulatory context in the north-central part of the basin, which is more likely to intensify.

For the next 5 days, there is a very low risk of a tropical storm forming in the middle of the Mozambique Channel starting on Saturday, December 27th, which will become low starting on December 28th.

10-day outlook :

The wet phase of the MJO will extend eastward over the course of next week, with a Kelvin wave at the front that will intersect with the equatorial Rossby wave around New Year's Day. This will maintain good vorticity within GRANT.

NOTA BENE: The likelihood is an estimate of the chance of genesis of a moderate tropical storm over the basin within the next five days:

Very low: less than 10% Moderate: 30% to 60% Very high: over 90%
Low: 10% to 30% High: 60% to 90%

The Southwestern Indian ocean basin extends from the Equator to 40S and from the african coastlines to 90E.