

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

DATE: 02/01/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 025/05 issued at 06 UTC on Moderate Tropical Storm GRANT. Next bulletins issued at 12 UTC.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin features a Monsoon Trough (MT) pattern, disrupted by Tropical Cyclone GRANT, between 9S and 15S, and east of 55E. Convective activity is moderate in the area of slow monsoon flow north of the MT or the Mozambique Channel. Convection remains moderate to strong near the GRANT system.

The wave environment remains favorable for cyclogenesis over the next few days, with an active MJO phase over the central part of the basin moving eastward, preceded by a Kelvin wave that is moving toward the Maritime Continent at the end of this week. We are also monitoring the progression of an equatorial Rossby wave toward the west, which continues to bring some vorticity within the TM after crossing the Kelvin wave, until the end of next week.

Tropical Depression GRANT :

Information at 09 UTC :

Estimated position : 15.5S / 66.9E

Movement : WNW, 5 kt

Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 30 kt

Estimated central pressure : 1002 hPa

For further information, please refer to bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 issued at 06 UTC and following.

North-East of the basin:

In the eastern part of the MT, in relation to the current wave crossing, a low could develop by tomorrow. Despite good convergence on the equatorial side, the presence of moderate easterly shear further north and the lack of convergence on the polar side limit the likelihood of cyclogenesis in the very short term. The ASCAT-C pass at 0307UTC reveals an elongated circulation with average winds of up to 29kt on the equatorial side and 23kt on the polar side. With the minimum shifting eastward on Saturday, environmental conditions should improve and allow the minimum to develop over the extreme northeast of our basin or in the Indonesian or Australian zone on Sunday or even Monday.

By the middle of next week, this system could return to our zone of responsibility. Most deterministic models forecast a southward curving and then westward, bringing the system into our area between Wednesday and Friday.

For the next five days, the likelihood of a moderate tropical storm forming is very low between now and Saturday, January 3rd, in the northeast of the basin. The likelihood of this system returning towards the eastern part of our basin will be very low again from Wednesday, January 7th.

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.