

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

DATE: 25/01/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin displays a monsoon trough (MT) configuration across its whole width, between 08S and 15S. Convection is moderate in convergence areas along the northern side of the MT and near Madagascar.

Our basin is currently under the influence of a dry phase of the MJO, which is not conducive to cyclogenesis. However, as an equatorial Rossby wave crosses a Kelvin wave over the western part of the basin in the coming days, the northwesterly monsoon flow should strengthen and make conditions more favorable for cyclogenesis on both sides of Madagascar from the middle of the week.

**North of the Mascarene archipelago :**

As the monsoon flow strengthens in the coming days, a low-pressure area is expected to form near Tromelin starting Monday or Tuesday. Some deterministic models such as GFS, as well as ensemble models and AI models suggest a possible development into a tropical storm starting Wednesday or Thursday. However, the lack of low-level convergence to the south of the system and the presence of northwesterly wind shear at the edge of an upper-level cut-off could more or less limit the potential for development. Most scenarios forecast that this low could track over or to the near-east of Mauritius.

**The risk of tropical storm formation north of the Mascarene archipelago is expected to become low from Wednesday 28th then moderate from Thursday 29th.**

**In the Mozambique Channel :**

A low-pressure area is expected to form in the central part of the Mozambique Channel starting on Tuesday 27th or Wednesday 28th. Its potential for development could be limited at first due to dry air in the mid-levels to its south and inefficient low-level convergence. However, conditions could improve at the end of the week with better convergence, a more moist environment, and good upper-level divergence. In addition, sea surface temperatures are near 29C in this area, with high TCHP values. The probability of cyclogenesis increases on the EPS from Friday 30th, and AI models are particularly reactive from Thursday or Friday. Regardless of whether cyclogenesis occurs, very heavy rainfall is likely throughout the coming week in northwestern Madagascar in the powerful and sustained monsoon flow established at the edge of this low.

**The risk of tropical storm formation in the centre of the Mozambique Channel is expected to become low from Wednesday 28th then moderate from Friday 30th.**

10-day outlook : The arrival of a new Rossby wave from the east of the basin early February could improve low-level convergence within the MT and enhance cyclogenesis potential over the central and eastern part of the basin.

*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.*