AWIO20 FMEE 271103
TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

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

DATE: 27/01/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil, but system 08-20252026 will be monitored by RSMC La Réunion from 12 UTC.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin has a Monsoon Trough (MT) pattern east of 70E, between 08S and 10S. Convection is strong north of the Mozambique Channel in the monsoon flow slowdown area and around the zone of disturbed weather 08-20252026. Weak to moderate convection is also observed in the monsoon flow slowdown area to the northwest of the TM.

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.

Zone of Disturbed Weather 08-20252026 :
Information at 09 UTC :
Estimated position: 16.0S / 51.9E
Movement : SSW 4kt
Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes): 20 kt
Estimated central pressure: 1009 hPa
For further information, please refer to bulletin WTIO30 to be issued at 12 UTC.

In the Mozambique Channel :
A low-pressure system could form in the central part of the Mozambique Channel from Wednesday 28th. Its potential for development is likely to be limited initially due to dry air in the mid-troposphere and weak low-level convergence on the southern side. However, if a low-pressure system does develop, it could benefit from a favorable environment with good upper divergence, low wind shear, and very warm surface waters (above 29°C). A southerly wind surge in the Channel is expected on Thursday and will strengthen on Friday, which will promote vorticity within the system. Most models react within the next five days, with the AROME model and its ensemble being particularly responsive from Thursday 29th onwards. Conversely, the American GFS model and its ensemble struggle to model a low in the Canal and slowly manage to deepen the depression at the end of the week east of Madagascar. The AI models and the European model are intermediate and reach the stage of a moderate tropical storm on Friday or Saturday.
Regardless of whether cyclogenesis occurs, very heavy rainfall is likely throughout the coming week over the Comoros archipelago, northwestern Madagascar, and northern Mozambique in the powerful and persistent monsoon flow established on the margins of this system.

The likelihood for the formation of a tropical storm in the centre of the Mozambique Channel is expected to become low from Wednesday 28th, moderate Thursday and finally, high 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.