

AWIO20 FMEE 181044

TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

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

DATE: 18/02/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletins WTIO24 048/10 and WTIO30 054/10 issued at 06 UTC on Moderate Tropical Storm GEZANI. Next bulletins issued at 12 UTC.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin has a Monsoon Trough (MT) configuration east of 55E between 9 and 11S. Convective activity is strong on the northern side of the MT, near a large circulation south of the Chagos Islands. Convective activity is now weak near GEZANI, which is moving south of Madagascar.

The combination of an equatorial Rossby wave moving over the center of the basin and an active phase of the MJO is strengthening the monsoon flow and promoting low-level convergence within the TM. Conditions are therefore favorable for cyclogenesis over the center of the basin in the middle and end of the week.

**Moderate Tropical Storm GEZANI :**

Information at 09 UTC :

Estimated position : 34.9 S / 41.5 E

Movement : SE, 15 kt

Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 40 kt

Estimated central pressure : 990 hPa

*For further information, please refer to bulletins WTIO24 and WTIO30 issued at 06 UTC and following.*

**South of the Chagos archipelago :**

Within the MT, a low-pressure system is developing south of the Chagos Islands. The GCOM-W microwave image from 0843 Z shows a more clearly defined center than yesterday, located at approximately 11.93 S / 74.7 E at 09UTC. In addition, convection has intensified significantly since last night near the center. This area can be classified as a tropical disturbance with maximum estimated winds of around 25 kt. It is moving slowly westward at a speed of 5 kt.

The persistence of very good convergence on the equatorial side over the next few days should allow this circulation to develop into a moderate tropical storm by Friday, with good agreement among deterministic ensemble and AI models on this scenario. The minimum should initially move southward and then southwestward, steered by a subtropical ridge in the lower to middle troposphere located southeast of the minimum.

**The risk of tropical storm formation over the center of the basin is expected to become moderate from Thursday 19th then high from Friday 20th February.**

*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.*