AWIO20 FMEE 211029
TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

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

DATE: 21/02/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 009/10 issued at 06 UTC on Moderate Tropical Storm HORACIO. Next bulletins issued at 12 UTC.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin has a Monsoon Trough (MT) pattern east of 48E between 8 and 12S. Convective activity is strong near tropical storm HORACIO and moderate on the northern side of the MT and near its western tip in the vicinity of a weak low-pressure area located over Seychelles' Outer Islands.

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 favouring low-level convergence on the north side of the MT. However, the presence of system HORACIO over the center of the basin is limiting convergence on the south side of the MT, thus reducing the risk of a new cyclogenesis within the MT in the short term.

Moderate Tropical Storm HORACIO :
Information at 09 UTC :
Estimated position : 16.3 S / 73.0 E
Movement : WSW 14 kt
Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 35 kt
Estimated central pressure : 1000 hPa
For further information, please refer to bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 issued at 06 UTC and following.

South of the Seychelles :
A weak low-pressure area is currently detected over the Seychelles' Outer Islands, centered near 8.7S / 49.3E. Associated convection is moderate, without any particular organisation. Winds are estimated near 20 kt by the 0519Z ASCAT pass over the northern part of the circulation, in the monsoon flow.
Environmental conditions are rather unfavorable for development in the short to medium term, with moderate to high south-easterly wind shear and a lack of convergence on its southern side. The only favorable factors are the persistence of the monsoon flow north of the low and the presence of warm surface waters. In the coming days, the low is expected to move east-southeast, close to Farquhar Islands and then Agalega. Deep-layer shear is expected to decrease, but westerly mid-level shear is expected to increase over the weekend, associated with dry air advection.
Several members of the European ensemble (EPS) suggest development into a tropical storm, as do a few members of the AROME ensemble forecast, but this option seems fairly unlikely. No deterministic model suggests cyclogenesis, and the American and AI ensembles are also unreactive. For the moment, we can consider the risk of development to be near zero over the next five days.

Apart from system HORACIO, development of a new tropical storm is not expected for the next 5 days.

10-day outlook :
- Regarding the aforementioned low-pressure area south of the Seychelles and near Agalega, once system HORACIO moves away towards the mid-latitudes at the end of next week, the trade wind flow should once again extend more efficiently towards the MT, thereby improving convergence on the southern side of the low. This could increase the risk of cyclogenesis for early March off the north-east of Madagascar.

- In the far east of the basin or in the Australian region, convergence between the monsoon flow and the trade winds could strengthen between late February and early March in connection with overlapping Kelvin/Rossby waves in the lee of the active phase of the MJO. Some models suggest the possible formation of a tropical storm between the far east of the basin and the Australian AoR.

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.