AWIO20 FMEE 221126
TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

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

DATE: 22/02/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 013/11 issued at 06 UTC on Moderate Tropical Storm HORACIO. Next bulletins issued at 12 UTC.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin is in a hybrid pattern and is heavily influenced by the presence of storm HORACIO in the center of the basin. A short branch of the Monsoon Trough (TM) is present south of the Seychelles archipelago. In the eastern part of the basin, east of 78E and around 11S, a Near-Equatorial Trough branch is forming. Convection is mainly present around HORACIO, moderate to strong. It is weaker around the Seychelles, Comoro Islands, and east of the NET branch.

The combination of an equatorial Rossby wave and an active phase of the MJO is strengthening the monsoon flow and favouring low-level convergence on the northern side of the MT. However, the presence of system HORACIO over the center of the basin is limiting convergence on the southern side of the MT, thus reducing the risk of a new cyclogenesis within the MT in the short term.
During the first part of next week, a Kelvin wave will cross the basin from west to east and eventually intersect with the MJO's westerly thrust and a new Rossby wave at the eastern borders of our basin, generating vorticity outside the basin.

Moderate Tropical Storm HORACIO :
Information at 09 UTC :
Estimated position : 17.2 S / 69.5 E
Movement : WSW 9 kt
Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 45 kt
Estimated central pressure : 996 hPa
For further information, please refer to bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 issued at 06 UTC and following.

Overt the eastern borders of the basin:
An elongated low-pressure system is present at around 92°E/11°S on the eastern edge of the NET. Its polar convergence is good but weak on the equatorial side. While the ondulatory contribution would allow it to strengthen this equatorial convergence towards the middle of next week, its polar convergence will run out of steam on Thursday as a trough passes further south, destroying the anticyclone in the southeast of the basin.
None of the AI ensembles suggest cyclogenesis, and among the classic ensemble models, only a few members develop to the stage of a moderate tropical storm, all of them in the Australian zone.

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

10-day outlook :
The movement of the HORACIO system towards temperate latitudes at the end of next week would allow the trade wind flow to extend more clearly towards the MT and thus improve convergence on the southern side of the low-pressure minimum. This could increase the risk of cyclogenesis in early March off the northeast coast of Madagascar. This signal remains in the minority.

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.