

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

DATE: 23/02/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Bulletins WTIO20 and WTIO30 017/11 issued at 06 UTC on Tropical Cyclone 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 the tropical cyclone 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 80E 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.

During the first part of the 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.

Note a Rossby wave crossing with a Kelvin wave on Tuesday and Wednesday over the Seychelles, which could also generate vorticity within an already existing convection system.

Tropical Cyclone HORACIO :

Information at 09 UTC :

Estimated position : 19.3 S / 66.1 E

Movement : SW 10 kt

Maximum wind speed (averaged over 10 minutes) : 80 kt

Estimated central pressure : 964 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 89°E/09°S on the eastern edge of the NET. Its polar convergence is good but weak on the equatorial side. While the undulatory contribution would allow it to strengthen this equatorial convergence towards the middle of the 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.

A convective zone is present northeast of Madagascar, near the Seychelles. Some members of the EPS ensemble model suggest a low risk of cyclogenesis between now and Friday. This scenario is not supported by the GEFS ensemblist and AI models. In addition, environmental conditions appear to be deteriorating in this area, with either deep wind shear increasing or a lack of convergence in the lower layers.

En dehors du système HORACIO, il n'y a pas de risque de formation d'une autre tempête tropicale au cours des 5 prochains jours.

Development of a moderate tropical storm is not expected for the next 5 days.

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.