AWIO20 FMEE 061308
TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / RSMC LA REUNION / METEO-FRANCE

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

DATE: 06/03/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The Monsoon Trough (MT) pattern has spread over a larger part of the basin since yesterday, and can be identified east of 55°E, between 7 and 12°S. It however remains quite poorly defined over its western part. The temporary Trade Wind Equator pattern that was present over the western half of the basin yesterday is now receding towards the African coast, persisting only west of 48°E.
Convective activity is moderate over the extreme east of the basin as well as near the Seychelles and Comoros archipelagos, over southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique.

The currently insufficient convergence within the ITCZ is partly related to the presence of the dry phase of the MJO over our basin. This dry phase should shift to the east of the basin in the coming days, enabling the return of a more favorable background over the extreme west of the basin, with especially a better-defined MT pattern. Adding to the effects of the MJO, a Kelvin wave should move in from the African continent from March 11-12th, thus enhancing the monsoon flow north of the Mozambique Channel. And finally, a Rossby-driven near-equatorial northwesterly flow should increase by mid-March over the center then west of the basin, enhancing low-level convergence within the MT.

In the Mozambique Channel :
Between Tuesday, March 10th and Wednesday, March 11th, the monsoon flow is expected to gradually settle once again over the western part of the basin. At the same time, the strengthening of a high pressure cell southeast of Africa is expected to enhance the trade wind flow south of the Mozambique Channel. These two flows should thus feed a convergence zone and a likely low-pressure area in the north-central part of the Channel or near the coast of Mozambique. The tropospheric environment of this low-pressure area should be well supplied with moisture, and the presence of an upper-level ridge over the area should enable good upper divergence and low vertical shear. Moreover, surface waters near 29-30°C with high TCHP values are expected to provide good oceanic potential. Conditions will therefore gradually become conducive for cyclogenesis from the middle or end of next week. Nevertheless, the proximity of the Mozambique coast could more or less limit the process, and uncertainty remains about how efficient the low-level convergence will be.
GFS and ICON models suggest the formation of a tropical storm from around March 12th. The European ensemble suggests very low probabilities of cyclogenesis by the middle of next week, while GEFS is much more reactive, suggesting a more significant tropical storm risk from March 10-11th. We therefore cannot rule out the development of a tropical storm from around March 11th.

The risk of tropical storm development in the Mozambique Channel becomes very low from Wednesday, March 11th.

10-day outlook:
Later on, by the second half of next week, more favorable equatorial wave activity and the eastward shift of the dry phase of the MJO should improve convergence within the MT between the west and center of the basin.
In addition to the suspect area already described in the Mozambique Channel, another tropical low-pressure system could form off the northern Mascarenes or northeast of Madagascar, for which models suggest that the risk of cyclogenesis could become more significant from the weekend of March 14-15th.

In addition, a low-pressure system currently in the Australian region (number 30U by the BOM or 26S by the JTWC) could enter the far east of our basin from March 12th or 13th. However, most models suggest that it will weaken significantly due to an overly dry and sheared atmospheric environment, so the risk of it being at storm stage as it enters our area seems fairly low.

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.