

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

DATE: 09/03/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin is in a monsoon trough (MT) configuration east of 55E with a monsoon flow that remains rather weak for the time being. Convective activity is weak to moderate on both sides of the MT, as well as in the northeast of Madagascar, over the center of the Mozambique Channel, and near the coast of Tanzania.

The dry phase of the MJO is expected to gradually shift toward the maritime continent over the next 10 days, allowing for the return of more favorable conditions in the western part of the basin, with a strengthening of the MT. In the shorter term, a Rossby wave is expected to gradually strengthen the monsoon flow over the central and western parts of the basin at the end of the week and then over the Mozambique Channel at the beginning of next week. The passage of a low-amplitude Kelvin wave could also contribute to the strengthening the monsoon flow over the central and western parts of the basin at the end of the week.

Over the western part of the basin :

The strengthening of the monsoon flow and the arrival of a new subtropical ridge south of Madagascar should gradually reinforce convergence on both sides of the MT over the western part of the basin. These favorable conditions could allow a low-pressure system to form southwest of the Chagos Archipelago starting on Thursday, and a significant number of ensemble and AI models are predicting intensification by Saturday.

The likelihood of the formation of a tropical storm becomes low from Friday 13th, then moderate from Saturday 14th southwest of Chagos archipelago.

Over the far eastern part of the basin :

A weak low-pressure system originating in the Australian area of responsibility could enter the eastern part of our basin starting on Thursday. However, the presence of dry air in the middle troposphere and moderate easterly wind shear make a re-intensification of this system unlikely. Thus, most deterministic and ensemble models agree and do not predict a re-intensification of this system.

The likelihood of the formation of a tropical storm becomes very low from Friday 13th over the far eastern part of the basin.

10-day outlook:

In the longer term, the shift in the Rossby wave toward the western part of the basin could strengthen the monsoon flow along the African coast and promote the formation of a low-pressure system in the Mozambique Channel.

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.