

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

DATE: 12/03/2026 AT 1200 UTC

PART 1: WARNING SUMMARY

Nil.

PART 2 : TROPICAL WEATHER DISCUSSION

The basin is in a monsoon trough (MT) configuration east of 50E. Convective activity is moderate on both sides of the MT and in the Mozambique Channel along a convergence zone wrapping around a low-pressure system located off the Mozambican coast.

The dry phase of the MJO is located over the eastern basin and will continue toward the maritime continent through the end of the week, allowing for the return of conditions more favorable to convective activity over the western basin. Currently, the intersection of a weak Kelvin wave with a Rossby wave boosted by an MRG is slightly strengthening the monsoon flow and vorticity in the western part of the MT. However, the Kelvin wave is too weak to improve vorticity within the MT further east. Over the disturbed area to the west of the MT, equatorial convergence will remain good over the next five days thanks to the slow movement of the equatorial Rossby wave and the westward thrust of the MJO.

Between Agalega and Farquhar :

The strengthening of the monsoon flow and the arrival of a new subtropical ridge south of Madagascar should gradually reinforce convergence on either side of the TM over the western part of the basin, particularly near the Farquhars and Agaléga. In addition, altitude divergence should be good over the area, on the northwestern edge of a trough centered over the eastern Mascarenes. These conditions are conducive to the formation of an elongated and ill-defined low-pressure system. The surrounding convection has no sustained effect and no convincing curvature.

The window of intensification will continue until the end of the week, with symmetrization likely to occur between tomorrow and Saturday. It should be noted that shear conditions could deteriorate from Sunday onwards, making cyclogenesis difficult south of 13°S or, alternatively, during the passage of the Mascarene Islands at the beginning of next week.

The latest runs of the American GFS and European IFS models suggest sluggish cyclogenesis with a lack of convergence on the polar side, preventing the system from symmetrizing. This pattern is consistent across their respective ensembles. The AI ensembles are in line with this. Only the fine scale AROME model and its ensemble suggest clear and rapid cyclogenesis, but this does not appear to be the most relevant to the analysis.

The risk of tropical storm development near Agalega is low from Friday 13th then becomes moderate from Saturday, March 14th.

In the Mozambique Channel :

The tropical low-pressure system over the northern Mozambican coast is struggling to deepen and is moving further inland, making it difficult for it to move out to sea in the next five days. At this stage, only a few outliers of the American ensemble forecast cyclogenesis early next week.

For the next 5 days, there is no longer potential for this suspect area to develop into a moderate tropical storm.

10-day outlook:

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.