= 1995 ? 96 South Pacific cyclone season =

The 1995 ? 96 South Pacific cyclone season was one of the least active South Pacific tropical cyclone season 's on record , with only four tropical cyclones occurring within the South Pacific Ocean to the east of 160 ° E. The season officially ran from November 1 , 1995 until April 30 , 1996 . The first storm developed on January 12 , while the last one dissipated on April 2 . During the season the most intense tropical cyclone was Severe Tropical Cyclone Beti , which reached a minimum pressure of 935 hPa (27 @.@ 61 inHg) as it affected New Caledonia . After the season ended Beti 's name was the only name to be retired from the tropical cyclone naming lists and was replaced with Bune , after it inflicted over 5 @.@ 6 million (USD) worth of damage to Australia , Vanuatu , New Caledonia and New Zealand .

During the season , tropical cyclones were officially monitored by the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center (RSMC) in Nadi , Fiji , and the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centers (TCWC) in Brisbane , Australia and Wellington , New Zealand . Throughout the season the United States Navy also monitored the basin and issued unofficial warnings , through its Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) and Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center (NPMOC) . Tropical cyclones that were located between 160 ° E and 120 ° W as well as the Equator and 25 ° S were monitored by RSMC Nadi while any that were located to the south of 25 ° S between 160 ° E and 120 ° W were monitored by TCWC Wellington . During the season the JTWC issued warnings on any tropical cyclone that was located between 160 ° E and 180 ° while the NPMOC issued warnings for tropical cyclones forming between the 180 ° and the American coast . RSMC Nadi and TCWC Wellington both used the Australian Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale , and measured windspeeds over a 10 @-@ minute period during the season , while the JTWC and the NPMOC measured sustained windspeeds over a 1 @-@ minute period .

= = Seasonal summary = =

Because of a weak ? moderate La Niña episode , most tropical cyclones that developed within the season occurred within the Coral Sea . The weak La Nina also affected the amount of tropical cyclones that occurred during the year with only 4 tropical cyclones occurring the season as a whole became one of the most inactive tropical cyclone seasons since 1969 @-@ 70 . The first tropical cyclone of the season , Yasi , developed on January 12 as a tropical depression before it was named on January 16 . As a tropical cyclone , Yasi brought significant rain to both Fiji and Tonga before it dissipated on January 19 to the south of Papette in French Polynesia . After Yasi dissipated , no tropical cyclones were recorded in the basin until March 9 ; however on February 12 , a tropical low developed to the west of New Caledonia . Over the next 24 hours the low deepened to about 1002 hPa before it crossed 160 ° E and moved into the Australian region where it became known as the Queen Elizabeth II storm . On February 22 and 23 , a shallow tropical depression moved around the Fijian archipelago and caused some flooding of low @-@ lying areas in Vanua Levu . On March 9 and 10 , Tropical Cyclones Zaka and Atu both developed near New Caledonia , about 1 @,@ 000 km (620 mi) apart and took similar tracks towards the southeast before becoming extratropical . On March 21 , the final tropical cyclone of the season developed to the northeast of Vanuatu . Over the next couple of days the depression gradually developed further and was named as Beti , before it passed over Vanuatu and New Caledonia . On March 29 , after it had passed over New Caledonia , Beti degenerated into an extratropical cyclone , before dissipating on April 2 . After the season ended the name Beti was retired from the tropical cyclone naming lists .

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Cyclone Yasi = = =

On January 12 , RSMC Nadi reported that a tropical depression had developed over the Fijian

island of Vanua Levu , about 430 km (270 mi) to the south of Labasa . Over the next few days , the depression moved towards the southeast before it started to affect Tonga on January 15 . During the following day , the depression rapidly developed further as it interacted with the South Pacific Convergence Zone , before the NPMOC initiated warnings on the system and designated it as 08P . At 0000 UTC on January 17 , the NPMOC reported that the depression had reached its peak 1 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 85 km / h (50 mph) while RSMC Nadi reported that the depression had intensified into a tropical cyclone while it was located about 510 km (320 mi) to the southeast of Nukualofa , Tonga . However RSMC Nadi did not name it Yasi for another 12 hours , while the system reached its peak 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 85 km / h (50 mph) . After it was named on January 17 , Yasi accelerated towards the southeast , before it moved out of RSMC Nadi 's area of responsibility . During January 18 , the NPMOC issued their final warning because Yasi had degenerated into an extratropical cyclone . TCWC Wellington monitored Yasi 's remnants for another day , before they dissipated about 1520 km (940 mi) to the south of Papette , French Polynesia . Although no major damage was reported from any of the islands affected some minor damage was reported in Tonga , after Yasi caused heavy rainfall there .

= = = Tropical Cyclone Zaka = = =

On March 9 , RSMC Nadi started to monitor a tropical depression had developed within an active convergence zone , about 150 km (95 mi) to the northwest of Noumea , New Caledonia . During that day an upper level trough moved over New Zealand which brought the jet stream over New Caledonia . As a result , this made the depression hard to locate with satellite imagery . However , later that day despite the system being poorly organized , RSMC Nadi reported that the depression had intensified into a tropical cyclone and named it Zaka . As they named it RSMC Nadi reported that the system had reached its peak 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 65 km / h (40 mph) with further development of the system restricted by strong vertical wind shear . Early on March 10 , the JTWC designated Zaka as Tropical Cyclone 20P , while it had its peak 1 @-@ minute windspeeds of 75 km / h (45 mph) . RSMC Nadi then issued their final advisory at 0600 UTC , as Zaka had weakened into a tropical depression and was moving into TCWC Wellingtons area of responsibility . TCWC Wellington and the JTWC monitored Zaka for another day before it was last noted during March 11 as it became an extratropical cyclone . Zaka dumped 376 mm (14 @.@ 8 in) of rain on Vanuatu in just 24 hours .

= = = Tropical Cyclone Atu = = =

On March 4 , the JTWC started to monitor an area of disturbed weather that had developed within the Australian region about 900 km (560 mi) , to the southeast of Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea . Over the next few days , the system remained weak and gradually moved southeast before it crossed 160 ° E and moved into the basin on March 9 . During the next day , both the JTWC and RSMC Nadi started to monitor the system as a tropical depression as it moved through the Loyalty Islands . On March 11 , the depression intensified into a tropical cyclone as it moved southeastward , prompting RSMC Nadi to name it Atu at 1800 UTC . Early on March 12 , the JTWC reported that Atu had reached its peak 1 @-@ minute windspeeds of 100 km / h (65 mph) . Later that morning RSMC Nadi reported that Atu had reached its peak 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 85 km / h (50 mph) . After it had peaked in intensity , Atu weakened under the influence of strong vertical windshear before the JTWC and RSMC Nadi issued their final advisories during March 13 as Atu had become extratropical . Atu 's remnants were then monitored by RSMC Nadi and TCWC Wellington until they dissipated on March 18 .

= = = Severe Tropical Cyclone Beti = = =

On March 19 , the JTWC started to monitor a tropical disturbance that was located about 1145 km (710 mi) to the northwest of Suva , Fiji . Over the next couple of days the system moved towards the

south and gradually developed further in an area of low vertical windshear , before the system was designated as Tropical Depression 23P by the JTWC and RSMC Nadi on March 21 . Over the next couple of days , 23P moved further towards the south , before the depression started to move towards the southwest as a ridge of high pressure strengthened on March 23 . Later that day , RSMC Nadi reported that the depression had intensified into a category 1 tropical cyclone and named it as Beti . During that day , Beti continued to develop further before the system moved into the Coral Sea on March 24 , after passing over the Vanuatuan islands of Pentecost and Malekula . As Beti moved into the Coral Sea , the system quickly intensified further , with RSMC Nadi reporting on March 25 that Beti had intensified into a category 3 severe tropical cyclone . As Beti intensified into a severe tropical cyclone , the ridge of high pressure weakened as it interacted with an upper level trough of low pressure . As a result , the system started to move towards the south @-@ southeast .

Over the next couple of days Beti continued to intensify as it moved towards New Caledonia , before the JTWC reported at 1800 UTC on March 26 , that Beti had reached its peak 1 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 195 km / h (120 mph) . Six hours later , RSMC Nadi reported that the system had peaked as a category 4 severe tropical cyclone with 10 @-@ minute sustained windspeeds of 165 km / h (105 mph) . Later on March 27 , Severe Tropical Cyclone Beti made landfall on the Grande Terre island of New Caledonia near its peak intensity and quickly weakened into a category 2 tropical cyclone . During the next day , Beti moved towards the southeast under the influence of the trough , reemerging into the Coral Sea as a weakening tropical cyclone that had started to transition into an extratropical cyclone . Later on March 28 , RSMC Nadi passed the primary warning responsibility of the cyclone to TCWC Wellington , before the JTWC issued their final advisory on Beti as it had become extratropical . Over the next few days , TCWC Wellington continued to monitor Beti 's remnants , as they came under the influence of a high pressure area and moved around New Zealand 's East Coast , before they were last noted on April 2 while located about 1400 km (870 mi) to the southeast of Wellington .

While it was active , Cyclone Beti was responsible for 2 deaths and caused damage in Australia , New Caledonia , New Zealand , and Vanuatu . The most significant damage occurred in New Caledonia where wind and flooding destroyed crops , gardens and caused disruption to the electricity network , water supply , road and telephone communications . Many homes and roads were also badly damaged , with over 50 % of lower standard housing on the outskirts of Noumea damaged after rivers and creeks burst their banks . Press reports indicated that Beti inflicted between FF 22 @-@ 27 million (US $ 4 @.@ 3 - 5 @.@ 3 million) in damage to New Caledonia and that only a few injuries had occurred . Within Vanuatu , Beti caused about VUV4.5 million , (US $ 41 thousand) in damage to food gardens and shelters . As an extratropical cyclone , Beti generated a high surf and long period swells that hit both eastern Australia and New Zealand . Within Australia , the high surf left several competitors in the Australian life surfing championships injured , while another competitor was killed after his boat was swamped by large waves . Within New Zealand , Beti 's remnants caused flooding and mud @-@ slips , which led to several roads being closed . A helicopter and its pilot were lost at the height of the storm , while they were travelling from Napier to Gisborne .

= = Seasonal effects = =