= Cyclone Hollanda =

Cyclone Hollanda was the worst tropical cyclone in Mauritius in 19 years . It formed on February 6 , 1994 , in the central Indian Ocean in the southern hemisphere . The cyclone moved southwestward for much of its duration , striking Mauritius on February 10 at peak intensity with winds of 155 km / h (100 mph) . It later passed just southeast of Réunion before turning to the south and weakening . The cyclone became extratropical on February 14 in the southern Indian Ocean .

On Mauritius , Hollanda destroyed or severely damaged 450 houses , which left at least 1 @,@ 500 people homeless . High winds left half of the island without power , and also caused severe crop damage ; nearly half of the island 's sugar crop was destroyed , which necessitated for the government to assist in replanting efforts . Hollanda killed 2 people and caused $ 135 million in damage on Mauritius . About a week after the cyclone struck , Cyclone Ivy also affected the area , although to a lesser degree . The highest rainfall from the cyclone fell on Réunion , with 741 mm (29 @.@ 2 in) recorded at Grand Coude .

= = Meteorological history = =

Based on analysis from Météo @-@ France (MFR) , a disturbance in the Indian Ocean intertropical convergence zone became evident south of the Chagos Archipelago on February 6 , after Cyclone Geralda struck Madagascar and moved away from the region . The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) assessed it as developing a day prior in the same general area . Later on February 6 , a circulation developed concurrently with an area of organized convection . On February 8 , the system intensified into Tropical Storm Hollanda as it moved southwestward , its motion influenced by a ridge to its south . A trough turned the storm to the south @-@ southwest , and Hollanda intensified into a tropical cyclone ? the equivalence of a hurricane ? on February 9 .

After becoming a tropical cyclone , Hollanda developed a small 20 km (12 mi) eye as it tracked toward the island of Mauritius , located east of Madagascar . Continuing to intensify , the cyclone struck the northern coast of the island at 1800 UTC on February 10 at peak intensity , with winds of 155 km / h (100 mph) (10 minute sustained winds) as assessed by MFR . In addition , the cyclone produced gusts to 230 km / h (140 mph) . At the same time , the JTWC estimated peak winds of 195 km / h (120 mph) (1 minute sustained winds) . While moving over Mauritius , the eye became disrupted , although Hollanda maintained much of its intensity as it passed just southeast of Réunion early on February 11 . The cyclone remained well @-@ defined as it moved more poleward , and an irregular eye remained visible on satellite imagery . On February 13 , Hollanda turned eastward due to a trough , and the next day it became extratropical over the southern Indian Ocean . Its remnants persisted at least two more days .

= = Impact = =

Before Hollanda struck Mauritius , most people were already residing at home , due to the cyclone striking during the Chinese New Year . Officials closed the airport prior to the cyclone 's arrival , and most stores and banks were also closed . Officials also ordered for cars to be off the roads during the storm and for people to remain indoors . Forecasters initially expected the storm would remain slightly offshore .

Ultimately , Cyclone Hollanda made landfall at peak intensity , producing wind gusts of 216 km / h (134 mph) in Mauritius 's capital city of Port Louis . Strong winds affected the northern and western portions of the island , particularly near the coast , and the cyclone was considered the worst to hit there since Cyclone Gervaise in 1975 . In addition to the winds , the storm dropped torrential rainfall that reached 711 mm (28 @.@ 0 in) in Mare aux Vacoas . Across the island , Hollanda destroyed 290 houses and severely damaged another 160 , which left at least 1 @,@ 500 people homeless . Included among the damaged buildings was the Russian embassy , which faced such difficulties making repairs that the ambassadors moved their offices . Damage to schools was estimated at 25 million rupees ($ 1 @.@ 3 million 1994 USD) , causing some to be closed for as long as 12 days .

High winds downed 30 % of the island 's trees . Many fell onto power lines , which left 60 % of Mauritians without power and about half without telephone service . All external communications were cut to the country during the cyclone . In addition , nearly half of the sugar plantations were destroyed , although the primary industry of tourism was not significantly affected . In total , the cyclone killed two people , and left $ 135 million in damage (1994 USD) ; the total included lost productivity , such as decreased sugar output . Less than a week after Hollanda struck , Cyclone Ivy also hit Mauritius , although to a lesser extent than Hollanda . The combined impact caused most roads to be blocked by either fallen trees or mudslides ; all main roads were quickly restored .

Following the storm 's passage , the Mauritius government opened 130 shelters , and also provided 5 @,@ 000 rupees to each homeless family . The crop damage from Hollanda , in addition to a drought , decreased the following year 's output by 22 % . In response , the government provided seeds to farmers so they could replant their crops . Most of the island had their power restored by ten days after the storm . The country 's prime minister issued an appeal to the European Union for 67 million rupees ($ 3 @.@ 6 million 1994 USD) in assistance , although later dropped it to less than half that total . The requested aid was for the restoration of phone and power utilities . The storm 's severe impact on Mauritius caused a sharp drop in the country 's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita , and the overall GDP decreased by 10 % .

Although the cyclone did not strike the island of Réunion , Hollanda produced strong wind gusts that peaked at 234 km / h (145 mph) in Sainte @-@ Rose . Rainfall on the island peaked at 741 mm (29 @.@ 2 in) at Grand Coude . The cyclone left damage to crops , power systems , telephones , and the water network , mostly due to the strong winds .