

= Tropical Storm Clotilda =

Cyclone Clotilda was a destructive tropical cyclone that inundated Réunion in February 1987 . A tropical disturbance first formed between Madagascar and Réunion on February 9 and slowly intensified thereafter . While meandering , the storm fluctuated in intensity before it reached its peak intensity on February 13 , with winds of 110 km / h (70 mph) . After passing near Réunion , it began to weaken . On February 16 , however , Clotilda began to regain strength , and reached its secondary peak on February 17 . Two days later , Clotilda became an extratropical cyclone . By February 22 , Clotilda was no longer being tracked by meteorologists . While active , it brought torrential rains to the island of Réunion during a span of 72 hours . A total of 1 @, @ 855 mm (73 @. @ 0 in) of rain was recorded in La Plaine @- @ des @- @ Palmistes ; rainfall totals occasionally exceeded the totals measured during Cyclone Hyacinthe , the last major storm to affect Réunion . However , the peak total measured in Hyacinthe was lower than the total measured during Clotilda . Furthermore , about 250 homes were damaged and roughly 120 homes were destroyed . Eighty @- @ nine trees were also brought down during the storm . Throughout the island , damage totaled \$ 2 million (1987 USD) and 10 people were killed . In addition to the destruction on Réunion , 5 % of crops on Mauritius were impacted by the storm . During the aftermath of the cyclone , 1 @, @ 000 people on Réunion were evacuated to shelters .

= Meteorological history =

The tropical disturbance that would later become Clotilda was first warned on by Météo @- @ France 's (MFR) meteorological office at Réunion at 0600 UTC on February 9 . At this time , it was located about 500 km (310 mi) from Réunion . Initially moving south , the storm maintained its intensity for 24 hours before it was upgraded into a moderate tropical storm , with winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) . However , the strengthening trend was short lived , and several hours later , MFR downgraded Clotilda into a tropical depression as it began to meander . At 0600 UTC on February 11 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued its first warning on the system . That day , Clotilda began to re @- @ intensify and MFR upgraded Clotilda into a moderate tropical storm for the second time . At 1200 UTC that day , the JTWC reported that Clotilda developed gale @- @ force winds . Data from both agencies suggest that the storm held on to its intensity for about a day before gradually intensifying while turning east , passing within 80 km (50 mi) Réunion . At 1800 UTC on February 12 , the JTWC reported that Clotilda had reached its peak intensity of 85 km / h (55 mph) while MFR upgraded Clotilda into a severe tropical storm . The following day , MFR noted that Severe Tropical Storm Clotilda had reached its peak 10 @- @ minute sustained wind speed of 110 km / h (70 mph) while undergoing a small clockwise loop , passing about 155 km (95 mi) east of Mauritius .

After peaking in intensity , Severe Tropical Storm Clotilda began to weaken ; by February 13 , the JTWC had reassessed the intensity of the system to 70 km / h (45 mph) . Moreover , MFR reduced to intensity of Clotilda to 155 km / h (95 mph) the next day . Now moving west and away from the island of Réunion , the storm continued to deteriorate , and early on February 15 , the JTWC downgraded the system into a tropical depression while centered 560 km (350 mi) west @- @ southwest of Mauritius . Very early on February 16 , the JTWC dropped advisories on the system even though MFR was still reporting winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) . Thereafter , Clotilda turned west and began to reintensify . Late on February 17 , the cyclone reached its secondary peak of 95 km / h (60 mph) while located 1 @, @ 210 km (750 mi) south @- @ southeast of Réunion . Accelerating , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone on February 19 while turning south and later southeast . At 0000 UTC on February 22 , MFR at last stopped monitoring the system .

= Impact and aftermath =

Clotilda affected Mauritius on February 13 and 14 , with winds of up to 145 km / h (90 mph) , heavy rain and high seas . This resulted in several homes being flooded and about 5 % of the island

's sugar crop being damaged .

Due to the storm 's slow motion , Cyclone Clotilda brought torrential rains to the island of Réunion during a span of three days . 1 @, @ 855 mm (75 in) of rain was recorded in La Plaine @- @ des @- @ Palmistes , compared to the 1 @, @ 716 mm (67 @. @ 6 in) of rain measured at that same location during Cyclone Hyacinthe , the last major storm to affect the region . However , this total was significantly less than the peak total of 6 @, @ 083 mm (239 @. @ 5 in) recorded at Commerson during Hyacinthe . Throughout the island , rainfall totals usually exceeded the totals measured during Hyacinthe . Major flooding was reported , damaging many roads , and 89 trees fell during the storm . A total 250 dwellings were damaged and nearly 120 others were completely destroyed , with several completely destroyed . This left around 4 @, @ 000 people homeless . The north side of the island as well as the capital city of Saint Denis took the brunt of the cyclone ; wind gusts of 170 km / h (105 mph) were measured there . In all , damage from the storm totaled \$ 2 million (1987 USD) . A total of 40 @, @ 000 people were affected by the storm . Clotilda killed 10 people on the island .

Following the storm on Réunion , " tens of millions of francs " were needed to repair damaged roads . Furthermore , 1 @, @ 000 people moved to emergency shelters . On February 18 , 250 @, @ 000 Euros were granted to nation to cope with the aftermath of Clotilda . According to one account , it took five days for most food items to be restored to the island .