= 1995 ? 96 South @-@ West Indian Ocean cyclone season =

The 1995 ? 96 South @-@ West Indian Ocean cyclone season was a moderately active season that included Cyclone Bonita , which was the first known tropical cyclone to cross from the southern Indian Ocean into the southern Atlantic Ocean . Tropical activity lasted for about six months from the middle of November 1995 to early May 1996 . The first storm , Intense Tropical Cyclone Agnielle , formed in the adjacent Australian basin on November 16 and later reached peak winds in the south @-@ west Indian Ocean . The next named storm after Agnielle was Bonita , which formed in early January and killed 42 people . The basin was most active in February , with two tropical cyclones , or the equivalent of a minimal hurricane , as well as a severe tropical storm . The first of these three was Doloresse , which killed 67 people due to a shipwreck in the Comoros . The next storm was Cyclone Edwige , which caused heavy crop damage on Mauritius before looping along the east coast of Madagascar . In March , both Cyclone Flossy and Tropical Storm Guylianne passed near the Mascarene Islands , producing heavy rainfall and gusty winds .

Tropical activity continued through April and May , with two tropical cyclones in the former month . In early April , Tropical Cyclone Hansella moved over the island of Rodrigues , dropping more rainfall in 24 hours than the average monthly total . Later , Itelle became a rare April intense tropical cyclone , but weakened before it approached St. Brandon island . The final storm of the season , Jenna , formed in the Australian region , briefly intensified into a minimal tropical storm in the south @-@ west Indian Ocean , and proceeded to exit the basin on May 4 to end the season . In addition to the named storms , several tropical depressions were tracked , one of which in December dropped heavy rainfall on Réunion .

= = Seasonal summary = =

During the season , the Météo @-@ France office (MFR) on Réunion island issued warnings in tropical cyclones within the basin . The agency estimated intensity through the Dvorak technique , and warned on tropical cyclones in the region from the coast of Africa to 90 ° E , south of the equator . The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) , which is a joint United States Navy ? United States Air Force task force , also issued tropical cyclone warnings for the southwestern Indian Ocean .

The season was fairly active with ten tropical storms , one greater than average , although most storms were short @-@ lived . Six of the storms reached tropical cyclone status , or maximum sustained winds of at least 120 km / h (75 mph) , which is two more than average . Most cyclones dissipated within the tropics , in contrast to the norm of storms accelerating into higher latitudes . Throughout the season there were 82 days in which there was tropical activity . Based on a list contributed by the nation of Seychelles , the storms were named in sequential order , starting with Agnielle . The rest of the names on the list were Jenna , Ketty , Lucia , Molly , Nadege , Odette , Paquerette , Rolina , Sylvianne , Talla , Vivienne , Walya , and Yoline .

In addition to the named storms , the MFR tracked 11 tropical depressions or disturbances that did not intensify into a tropical storm . The agency did not issue any bulletins on eight of them . Of the remaining three , two formed in late December , and the other formed in mid @-@ February . Tropical Depression B2 , the longest @-@ lasting of the depressions , formed after a month of activity . An area of convection developed in the Mozambique Channel , and the MFR believed it to be connected to the depression that formed on December 28 east of Madagascar . With a ridge to the east , the system tracked southward , but failed to intensify due to strong wind shear . While passing west of Réunion , the depression dropped heavy rainfall , totaling 350 mm (14 in) along the northern coast and about twice that amount in the mountainous interior . On December 31 , the depression dissipated to the southwest of Réunion . On February 10 , the JTWC tracked Tropical Cyclone 12S into the basin as a weakening tropical depression , which quickly dissipated . A few days later , the JTWC also tracked Tropical Cyclone 15S from February 14 ? 17 , which briefly intensified into a minimal tropical storm in the eastern portion of the basin .

= = Storms = =

= = = Intense Tropical Cyclone Daryl @-@ Agnielle = = =

In the middle of November 1995 , the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) spawned an area of convection to the southwest of the Indonesian island of Sumatra . Located within the Australian region in an area of low wind shear , a tropical low developed west of Sumatra on November 16 . It gradually intensified while moving southward , before turning sharply westward on November 18 due to a ridge to the south . That day , the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) office in Perth upgraded the low to Tropical Cyclone Daryl , or to minimal tropical storm status . Designated Tropical Cyclone 01S by the JTWC , Daryl continued to intensify , and the BoM upgraded it to winds of 120 km / h (75 mph) . The system crossed into the basin on November 19 , and was renamed Daryl as Agnielle at that time .

On November 20 , the ridge to the south weakened , allowing Agnielle to turn to the southwest . A well @-@ defined eye developed , which persisted for about three days . Late on November 20 , Agnielle attained peak 10 ? minute sustained winds of 175 km / h (110 mph) , making it an intense tropical cyclone , a rarity for November storms . On November 21 , the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 280 km / h (175 mph) , the strongest storm estimated by the agency in the Indian Ocean , tied with Cyclone Fantala . Although the eye briefly became less organized , accompanied by a decrease in winds , Agnielle re @-@ intensified despite moving over colder waters . The ridge to the south rebuilt , forcing the cyclone to slow and turn to the west . Increasing wind shear caused rapid weakening ; within 30 hours , the winds decreased from tropical cyclone to tropical depression status on November 25 . That day , the JTWC discontinued advisories , although the MFR continued tracking the circulation until Agnielle 's dissipation on November 27 .

= = = Intense Tropical Cyclone Bonita = = =

As Tropical Depression B2 was dissipating near Réunion , another tropical depression formed east of the Chagos Archipelago on January 3 . It moved southwestward , initially without development , but conditions gradually became more favorable . On January 5 , the depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Bonita , and three days later reached tropical cyclone status as it developed a well @-@ defined eye . Later that day , Bonita quickly intensified to its 10 ? minute peak intensity of 185 km / h (115 mph) , making it the strongest storm of the season . A ridge to the south turned the cyclone more to the west . On January 9 , the JTWC estimated Bonita attained peak 1 ? minute winds of 250 km / h (155 mph) , and the next day , the cyclone made landfall about 50 km (30 mi) north of Foulpointe in eastern Madagascar . Bonita quickly weakened into a tropical storm while crossing the country , but re @-@ intensified slightly after reaching the Mozambique Channel on January 12 . Late on January 13 , Bonita made a second landfall in eastern Mozambique between Pebane and Quelimane . Although the MFR ceased issuing advisories on January 15 , the remnants of Bonita continued across Africa , and emerging into the southern Atlantic Ocean on January 19 and dissipating the next day . Bonita was considered by the Zambia Meteorological Department to have been the first tropical cyclone known to have traversed southern Africa from the South @-@ West Indian Ocean to the South Atlantic .

In eastern Madagascar , 24 ? hour rainfall totals included 170 mm (6 @.@ 7 in) at Toamasina , while gusts exceeded 230 km / h (140 mph) on the offshore island of Île Sainte @-@ Marie . Bonita caused widespread flooding of rice crops , as well as heavy infrastructure and crop damage along the northeastern coastline . The cyclone killed 25 people in Madagascar and left 5 @,@ 000 people homeless . In Mozambique , Bonita dropped heavy rainfall and produced flooding , killing as many as 17 people . Floodwaters destroyed 2 @,@ 500 ha (6 @,@ 200 acres) of crops and demolished many buildings , including about 12 schools . The remnants of Bonita dropped the heaviest rainfall in 80 years in eastern Zimbabwe , and heavy rainfall also spread into Zambia .

= = = Severe Tropical Storm Hubert @-@ Coryna = = =

In the Australian basin , the monsoon trough spawned a tropical disturbance near Christmas Island on January 3 . With a ridge to the south , the system tracked to the west @-@ southwest , developing into a tropical low on January 6 and being named Hubert the next day by the BoM . It quickly intensified to reach peak 10 ? minutes winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) on January 9 to the north of the Cocos Islands , but later that day began weakening due to increasing wind shear . At around 1800 UTC on January 9 , Hubert crossed into the south @-@ west Indian Ocean with 10 ? minute winds of 100 km / h (65 mph) , and at that time , was renamed the cyclone Coryna . The wind shear quickly tore the convection away from the center , leaving the circulation exposed by January 10 . The next day , Coryna weakened to tropical depression status , and on January 12 the circulation dissipated in the central Indian Ocean .

= = = Severe Tropical Storm Doloresse = = =

After about a month in which there were no named storms in the basin , a tropical disturbance formed within the ITCZ to the southwest of Seychelles on February 12 . It moved slowly to the southwest with a well @-@ defined center and a broad area of convection . For several days , the system remained weak until reaching more favorable conditions on February 16 , and the next day it intensified into Tropical Storm Doloresse . The storm slowed while reaching the western extent of a ridge , drifting for nearly 24 hours about 160 km (99 mi) north @-@ northwest of Grande Comore . On February 17 , an approaching trough turned Doloresse to the south @-@ southeast , bringing the storm about 55 km (35 mi) southwest of Grande Comore ; this made it the first cyclone to directly affect the nation since Cyclone Elinah 13 years prior . On February 17 , the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 140 km / h (85 mph) , and on the next day , the MFR estimated peak 10 ? minute winds of 95 km / h (60 mph) . Increasing shear caused Doloresse to rapidly weaken to tropical depression status on February 19 . Although the JTWC assessed the storm as continuing to the southeast and striking northwestern Madagascar , the MFR estimated the system turned to a southwest drift and dissipated on February 20 .

In the Comoros , Doloresse produced strong wind gusts , damaging crops and houses on Grande Comore . Heavy rainfall caused landslides , and the cyclone caused a shipwreck , killing 67 people on the island of Mohéli . The western periphery of the circulation dropped heavy rainfall in Tanzania .

= = = Tropical Cyclone Edwige = = =

On February 18 , a tropical disturbance began forming about 700 km (430 mi) southwest of Diego Garcia , becoming a tropical depression the next day . A trough steered the new system to the southeast , but also prevented significant strengthening due to wind shear . Late on February 21 , the MFR upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Edwige , and the next day the JTWC began tracking it as Tropical Cyclone 16S . When the trough weakened , Edwige turned to the south and later southwest , reaching an initial peak of 75 km / h (50 mph) on February 23 . That day , increasing wind shear caused the storm to weaken to minimal tropical storm status , and the JTWC briefly discontinued advisories on February 24 . The strengthening ridge caused Edwige to accelerate to the west , bringing it south of Rodrigues without any effects on February 24 . On the next day , the storm passed north of Mauritius and Réunion , where it produced wind gusts of 150 km / h (93 mph) and 120 km / h (75 mph) , respectively , as well as heavy rainfall . Due to crop damage caused by Edwige , as well as a drought later in the year , Mauritius failed to reach its quota for sugar outputs .

After passing north of Réunion , Edwige began reintensifying due to decreasing wind shear , and the JTWC reissued advisories on February 25 . With warm waters , the storm developed increasing outflow as well as an eye . On February 26 , Edwige intensified into a tropical cyclone and reached peak 10 ? minute winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) while approaching eastern Madagascar . On the

same day , the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 175 km / h (110 mph) . For unknown reasons , Edwige executed a counterclockwise loop along the Malagasy coast near Mananjary . Due to land interaction , the cyclone rapidly weakened and turned to the north @-@ northeast off the coast , although the JTWC assessed the storm as turning inland again . On February 29 , Edwige dissipated just off the coast of Toamasina . The storm dropped 369 mm (14 @.@ 5 in) of rainfall in Mananjary , with wind gusts of 200 km / h (120 mph) , but damage was limited .

= = = Tropical Cyclone Flossy = = =

On February 25 , a tropical disturbance developed along a cold front about 500 km (310 mi) south @-@ southeast of Diego Garcia . With a ridge to the south , the system tracked southwestward and intensified into Tropical Storm Flossy on February 27 . That day , the JTWC began issuing advisories on the storm as Tropical Cyclone 17S . The storm quickly developed an eye , intensifying to tropical cyclone status on February 28 . That day , the MFR estimated peak 10 ? minute winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) , while the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 215 km / h (130 mph) . Late on February 29 , Flossy passed about 80 km (50 mi) northwest of Rodrigues , producing wind gusts of 160 km / h (99 mph) there . Increased wind shear weakened Flossy , beginning on March 1 , although the storm restrengthened slightly on March 2 . That day , the cyclone rounded the ridge and turned to the south and southeast , and weakened again due to an approaching cold front . On March 4 , Flossy became extratropical after all of the convection was sheared away from the circulation . Two days later , the front absorbed the remnants of Flossy .

= = = Moderate Tropical Storm Guylianne = = =

The ITCZ spawned a tropical disturbance on March 17 about 500 km (310 mi) south of Diego Garcia . Due to ongoing wind shear , the system initially failed to intensify while moving westward . An approaching cold front turned the disturbance southward on March 20 into an area of low wind shear , allowing the convection to increase and for the system to be upgraded to tropical depression status . While the system was moving toward Mauritius on March 22 , the depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Guylianne . Later that night , the storm passed about 50 km (31 mi) east of Mauritius , bringing beneficial rainfall . Both MFR and JTWC only estimated peak winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) , and Guylianne began weakening on March 23 due to increased wind shear . The storm turned to a southwest drift , dissipating on March 25 .

= = = Tropical Cyclone Hansella = = =

Toward the end of March , the ITCZ was active with several low pressure areas , and an area of convection consolidated south of the Chagos Archipelago in early April . On April 2 , a large tropical disturbance formed , and the next day , it was named Hansella despite only being a tropical depression . The system moved westward initially , but curved southward on April 4 due to a trough , by which time it had intensified into a tropical storm . After developing a 50 km (31 mi) wide eye , Hansella intensified to tropical cyclone status on April 6 and moved over Rodrigues . Gusts on the island reached 180 km / h (110 mph) , which caused heavy damage to crops and houses . Hansella dropped 182 mm (7 @.@ 2 in) of rainfall on Rodrigues in a 24 ? hour period , greater than the island 's monthly average total .

According to the MFR , Hansella failed to intensify beyond 10 ? minute winds of 120 km / h (75 mph) , although the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 175 km / h (110 mph) . The cyclone looped to the west after passing over Rodrigues , influenced by a building ridge to the south . Due to upwelling after moving slowly over the same waters , Hansella weakened quickly and passed about 100 km (62 mi) south of Rodrigues as a minimal tropical storm . On April 9 , the storm passed just south of Mauritius , and the next day spawned a large area of convection over Réunion , dropping heavy rainfall . On April 10 , Hansella dissipated just northwest of Réunion .

= = = Intense Tropical Cyclone Itelle = = =

A low @-@ pressure area persisted east @-@ southeast of Diego Garcia on April 6 , developing into a tropical disturbance that day . With a ridge to the south , the system moved generally westward , slowly intensifying . Convection gradually increased , and the system intensified into Tropical Storm Itelle on April 9 . An eye developed the next day , signaling that the storm had strengthened into a tropical cyclone as it turned more to the west @-@ southwest . Developing a large 90 km (56 mi) wide eye , Itelle intensified further , and the MFR estimated peak 10 ? minute winds of 175 km / h (110 mph) on April 12 . This made it an unusual April intense tropical cyclone . On April 14 , the JTWC estimated peak 1 ? minute winds of 260 km / h (160 mph) , equivalent to a Category 5 on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale . That day , increasing wind shear weakened Itelle , and the cyclone was downgraded to severe tropical storm status by April 15 when it passed about 15 km (9 @.@ 3 mi) south of St. Brandon . Wind gusts on the island reached 150 km / h (93 mph) . Itelle slowed on April 16 while passing about 400 km (250 mi) north of Réunion , which was followed by increased shear and weakening . On April 19 , Itelle dissipated about 100 km (62 mi) east of the eastern Madagascar coastline .

= = = Moderate Tropical Storm Jenna = = =

In early May , a westerly wind burst associated with the Madden ? Julian oscillation produced disturbances on both sides of the equator in the eastern Indian Ocean . The BoM estimated that a tropical low formed west of Sumatra at the low latitude of 4 @.@ 8 ° S , near the boundary between the Australian and the south @-@ west Indian basins ; this caused difficulty with regard to tropical cyclone warnings . On May 3 , the JTWC upgraded the system to tropical storm status . On the next day , the low crossed into the south @-@ west Indian Ocean , intensifying into Tropical Storm Jenna . The MFR estimated peak 10 ? minute winds of 85 km / h (50 mph) on May 5 . Soon after , an approaching trough turned the storm to the southeast , bringing Jenna back into the Australian region , and absorbing the storm on May 6 .