

= Tropical Storm Aletta (2006) =

Tropical Storm Aletta was the first tropical cyclone of the 2006 Pacific hurricane season . Aletta developed from an area of disturbed weather located south @-@ southwest of the Mexican port of Acapulco , Guerrero . It gradually gained organized convection and was classified as a tropical depression early on May 27 , and became a tropical storm later that morning , the first of 2006 in the Western Hemisphere . Aletta strengthened to a tropical storm with 45 mph (75 km / h) sustained winds , while moving towards the Guerrero coast in southwestern Mexico . The storm became stationary , though it later turned to the west and weakened on May 29 . Aletta continued to weaken until it dissipated on May 31 . The storm dropped moderate rainfall along the Mexican coast , and generated winds that downed trees and caused minor damage .

= = Meteorological history = =

On May 21 , 2006 , a tropical wave crossed Central America and entered the East Pacific . The wave drifted westward , and after several days began to interact with a low @-@ level trough near the Gulf of Tehuantepec , and as a result deep convection increased . By May 25 , a large area of low pressure formed several hundred miles south of Acapulco , Mexico . Wind shear inhibited development initially , though conditions became slightly more favorable after a number of days , and at 0600 UTC on May 27 , a tropical depression formed about 190 mi (305 km) south of Acapulco .

Moving very little , the depression was disorganized due to continued shear , leaving the center of circulation west of the convective activity . By later in the morning hours of May 27 , the system began to show overall signs of organization , primarily related to a burst of convection in the eastern semicircle . At the same time , the center of circulation either reformed or began to move farther north , possibly north @-@ northeast . Embedded within the steering currents of a ridge , most forecasts anticipated the storm would drift northward for several days , though some computer models predicted the storm would eventually move inland near Acapulco . At 1800 UTC on May 27 , the depression organized into a tropical storm , and as such was named Aletta by the National Hurricane Center .

With continued forecasting difficulty , a burst of new convection formed east of the center early on May 28 , as the storm began meandering southward . At 0600 UTC , Aletta attained peak winds of 45 mph (72 km / h) while nearly stationary in forward movement . Later in the afternoon , the storm 's center was obscured , thus subjecting the exact location to speculation . In addition , the circulation fluctuated in organization with the alternating intensity of the wind shear , and at the time maintained elongated cloud patterns , rather than the typical circulatory shape . As the storm drifted to the west and executed a small cyclonic loop by early on May 29 , increased shear and dry air became entrained in the system , causing it to weaken to a tropical depression at 1800 UTC . Little convection remained afterward , and the storm struggled for several days , becoming a remnant low by May 31 . The low dissipated shortly thereafter .

= = Preparations and impact = =

When the storm began to move towards the coast , the Mexican government issued tropical storm watches between Punta Maldonado and Zihuatanejo . By 1800 UTC on May 29 , the advisory was discontinued after a series of modifications and extensions .

Aletta produced moderate rainfall across Mexico , including a 24 @-@ hour rainfall total of 100 @-@ 2 mm (3 @-@ 94 inches) in Jacatepec , Oaxaca on May 30 , and 96 @-@ 0 mm (3 @-@ 78 inches) in La Calera , Guerrero , the next day . High winds knocked down trees and caused minor structural damage . In Zihuatanejo , a ship with nine people was rescued after being reported as lost , which may have been a result of high seas generated by Aletta . However , there were no reports of fatalities associated with Aletta .