



Tropical Cyclones in the Indian Ocean and the expected rainfall situation across SADC from 18 February to 04 March 2012

Preamble

The Tropical cyclone Giavanna has now recurved southeastward such that the contiguous SADC region is no longer under its direct threat anymore. There still a threat over southernmost Madagascar. Meantime, other developing tropical cyclones are still eastwards of Mauritius.

Tropical Cyclones in the Indian Ocean

Currently in the wake of Giavanna, there are still a series of tropical cyclone evolving in the Indian Ocean farther of SADC Island States, Figs.1 (a) and (b).

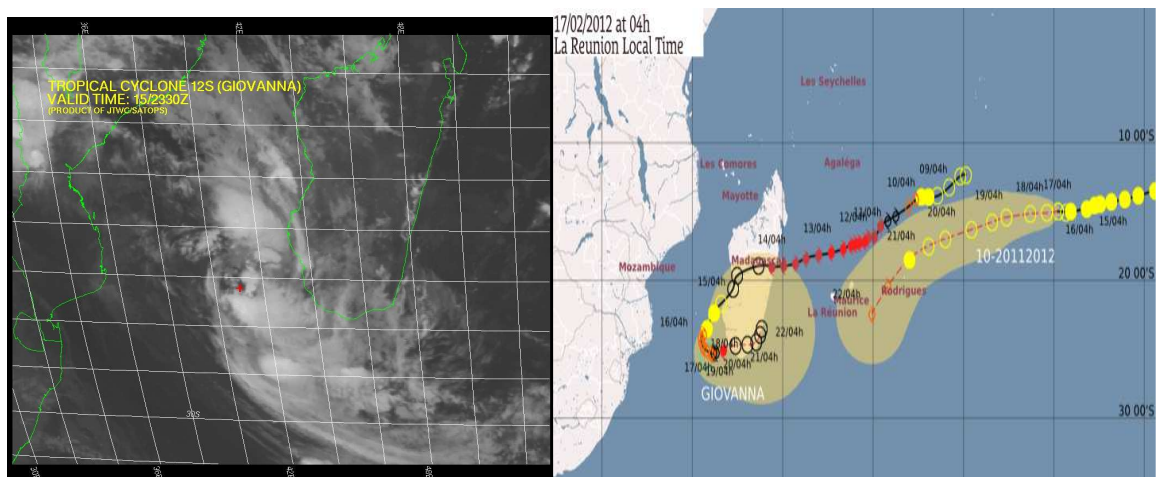


Fig. 1 (a) Satellite picture over southern Africa taken 0600UTC, 17 Feb 2012 (courtesy Eumetsat); 1(b) Projected tracks or tropical cyclones in the southwest Indian Ocean (courtesy Meteo-France)

As tropical cyclone Giovanna has recurved southeastwards off Madagascar, another series of tropical cyclones is evolving over the Indian Ocean well east of Mauritius, and trundling erratically toward the region, Fig 1 (b). There is still uncertainty as to the exact track and intensity of these tropical storms as they approach the region.

At the same time, as the rainfall season is still pretty much in its peak across most of SADC, the rain-producing systems will continue to be largely active for next several days.

Rainfall outlook from 17 February to 4 March 2012

The atmospheric conditions remain increasingly favourable for persistence of rains across central and western sections of conterminous SADC and northern Madagascar in the next 14 days, Fig 2 (a) and (b). This includes intense rainfall activity in those portions of SADC already experiencing heavy rains, in particular across Malawi, northern Mozambique, Zambia and portions of Angola. However, the rainfall activity will be rather diminished along a tongue stretching from central Mozambique, through southern Zimbabwe and central and eastern Botswana. During especially the latter half of period, the active rain belt will shift further northward of contiguous SADC, Fig 2 (b).

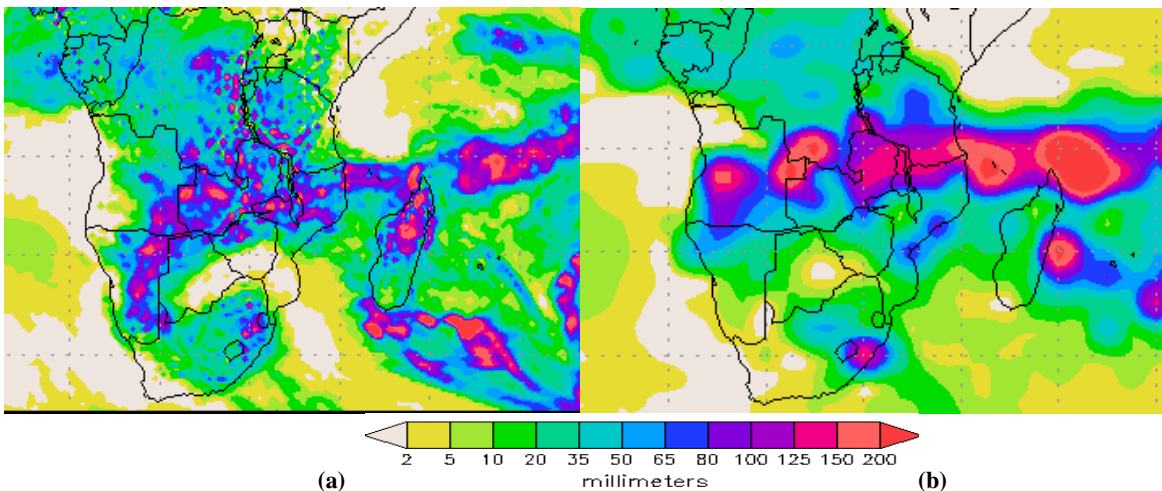


Fig. 2: Precipitation forecast for the period (a) 17 to 24 Feb, (b) 24 Feb. to 04 March 2012 (COLA/IGES)

Outlook February to April 2012

Meantime, the February to April 2012 rainfall projections for most of SADC including the Island States are still for persistent heavy rains. However, portions with greater chances of normal to above-normal are confined more across the eastern portions of the region.