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11 March 2022

Update on Tropical Storm Gombe

Earlier this week, tropical storm Gombe moved over the northern parts of Madagascar and into the Mozambique Channel. While in the Channel, Gombe strengthened reaching intense tropical cyclone strength, just before making landfall in northern Mozambique. Gombe is currently situated over the eastern parts of Nampula Province, Mozambique (Figure 1).

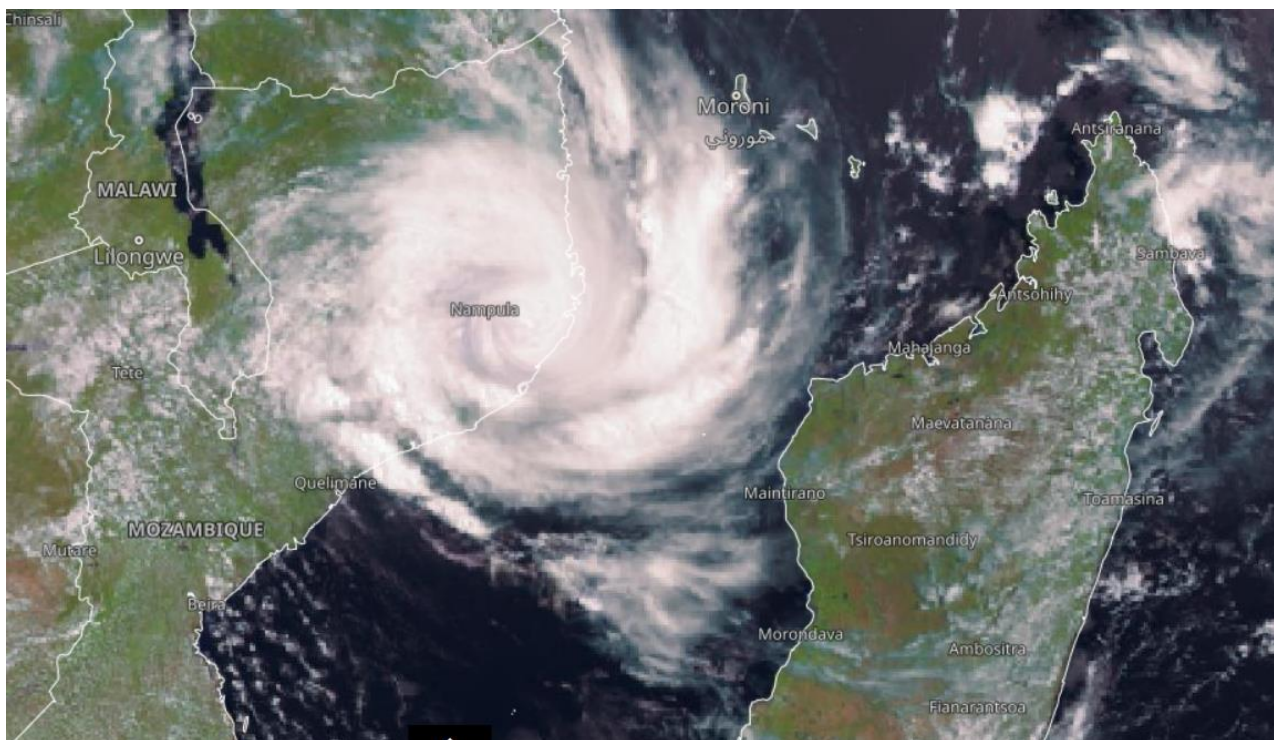


Figure 1: Natural Colour Enhanced RGB Satellite image showing current location of Gombe over north-eastern Mozambique on 11 March 2022 at 09h30 SAST. Image © Eumetsat

During today, 11 March 2022, Gombe is expected to weaken as it tracks further westwards. It is then forecasted to turn south-eastwards before reaching Malawi, and head back into the Channel (Figure 2) on Sunday, 13 March 2022, at which point it will re-intensify.

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At this stage, there still is some uncertainty with the exact track Gombe will take, however, the most likely projection is that it will remain in a south-easterly trajectory. As such, it poses no immediate, direct threat to South Africa.

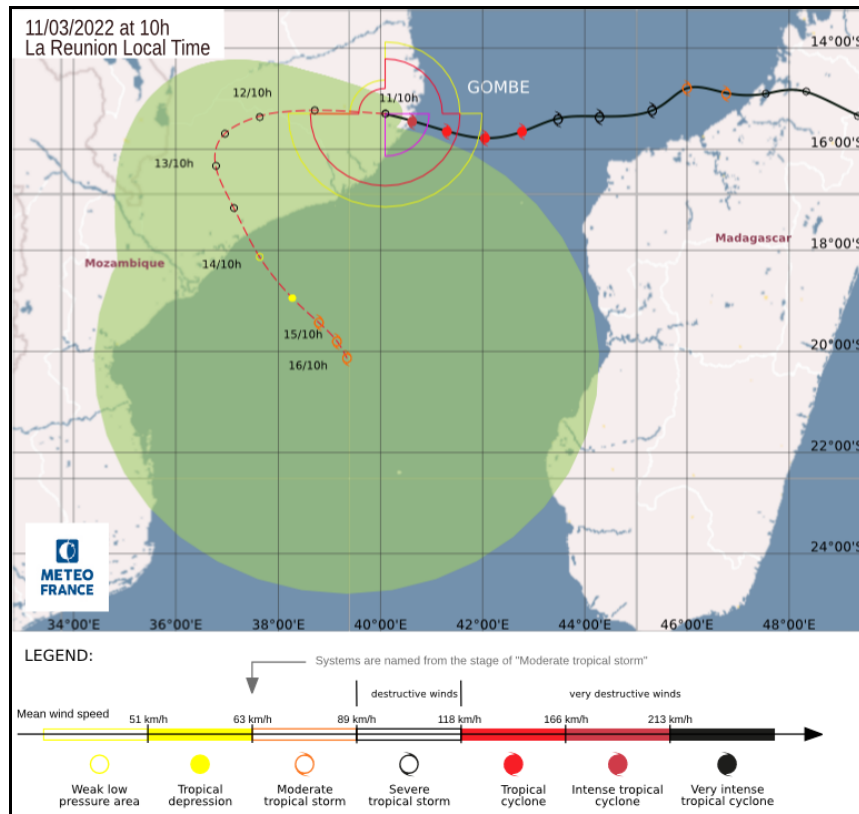


Figure 2: The current forecast track of tropical storm Gombe, as issued by Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) La Reunion at 08h00 SAST on 11 March 2022. Source: MeteoFrance

The South African Weather Service will remain monitoring the situation very closely and provide updates when necessary.

Compiled by Elizabeth Viljoen and Ezekiel Sebegu

For technical and weather enquiries:

National Forecasting Centre: Tel: 012 367 6041

Media enquiries: Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za

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