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28 January 2022

Update on Ex-Ana and introduction of tropical storm Batsirai

After wreaking havoc in numerous countries since making landfall on 24 January 2022, ex-Ana continues to negatively impact southern Africa. This low pressure is currently situated over extreme south-eastern Angola and is expected to remain in that area for most of the weekend, shifting slightly south-westwards into northern Namibia by Sunday evening. The bulk of the heavy showers is expected close to the centre of the low pressure (south-eastern Angola and south-western Zambia), where there is a risk of flooding as the low pressure remains semi-stationary.

For South Africa, there is a band of showers extending through Botswana and into the eastern parts of the country (Figure 1). These showers will shift westwards on Sunday as that low pressure moves into northern Namibia. The South African Weather Service has issued a yellow warning (level 2) for severe thunderstorms over the northern and western parts of KwaZulu-Natal, where localised flooding and structural damages are expected.

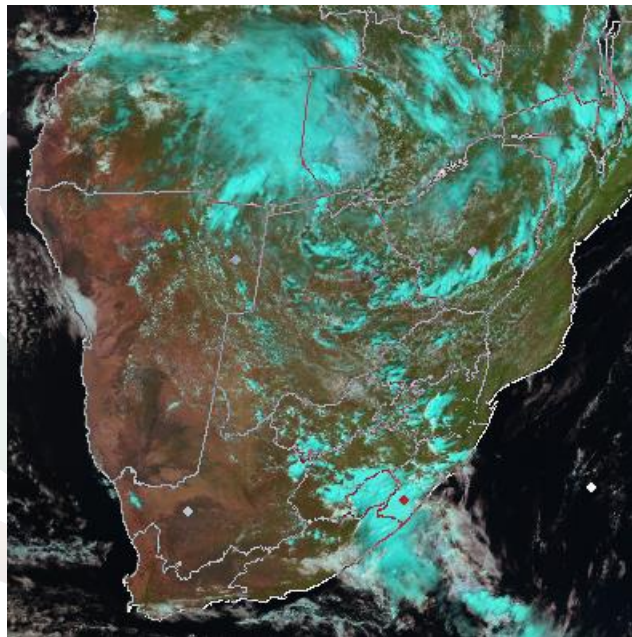


Figure 1: Day natural colour satellite image showing Ex-Ana positioned over south-eastern Angola with a band of showers extending into South Africa on 28 January 2022 at 14h00 SAST. Image courtesy EUMETSAT 2022

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In addition, the second tropical system of the season, moderate tropical storm Batsirai, is currently situated over the far eastern parts of the South-West Indian Ocean Basin. Batsirai is expected to track westwards towards Mauritius and Reunion islands (Figure 2) next week.

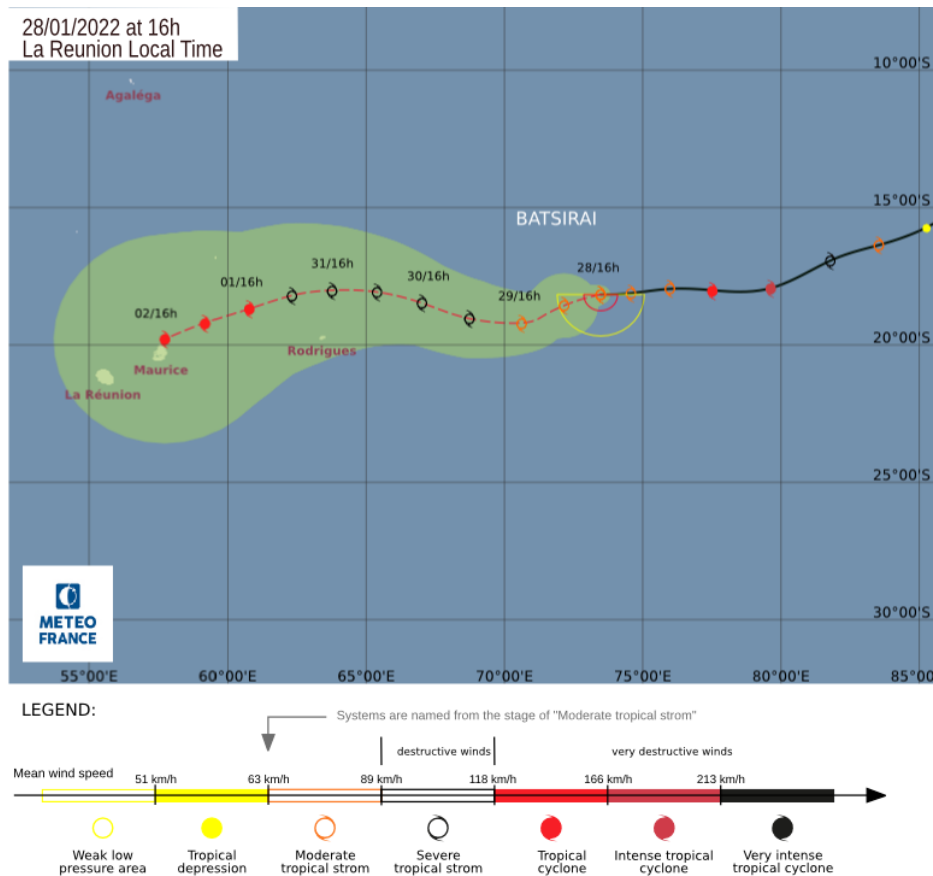


Figure 2: Current position, forecast track and intensity of moderate tropical storm Batsirai as issued by Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) La Reunion. Image courtesy MeteoFrance

It is important to note that tropical weather systems are notorious for their difficulty in predicting the exact track and therefore this forecast will be continually monitored and updated.

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