

NASA satellites see Hurricane Celia strengthen and open an eye

June 23 2010



The GOES-11 satellite captured an image of Celia on June 23 at 8 a.m. EDT that shows the hurricane now has an eye. Located to the east of Celia on the far right of this image is the newly formed Tropical Storm Darby. Credit: NASA GOES Project

Hurricane Celia dropped to a Category One hurricane during the late afternoon hours on June 22, and today, June 23 by 11 a.m. EDT, it had powered back up to a Category Two hurricane in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Satellite imagery confirmed the strengthening visibly with the emergence of an eye in the hurricane.

Celia's maximum sustained winds were up to 100 mph at 11 a.m. EDT on June 23. That's a jump from the 80 mph [maximum sustained winds](#) it had just six hours earlier. Celia's hurricane force winds extend outward

up to 30 miles (45 km) from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 105 miles (165 km). Imagery taken this morning at 8 a.m. EDT from the [Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite](#) known as GOES-11 revealed that Celia has an eye. The image also showed the newly formed Tropical Storm Darby to the east of Celia. The satellite image was created by NASA's GOES Project, located at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. GOES-11 is operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Two days ago on Monday, June 21, NASA's Aqua satellite flew over Celia and the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument captured a true-color image of Celia that did not show an eye.

Currently, Celia is far from Mexico, some 740 miles south of the southern tip of Baja California, near 12.2 North latitude and 109.2 West longitude. Celia is moving west near 12 mph (19 km/hr) and has a minimum central pressure near 974 millibars. Celia is expected to turn toward the west-northwest in the next day or two and possibly strengthen.

Vertical wind shear is decreasing which has enabled Celia to strengthen. The National [Hurricane](#) Center in Miami, Fla. forecasts wind shear near Celia to continue weakening as low or lower than 6 mph (5 knots), which will enable Celia to strengthen a little more over the next 24 to 36 hours. However, Celia will also track into cooler waters, which will limit its ability to power up, and as it continues west-northwest, it will begin weakening.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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