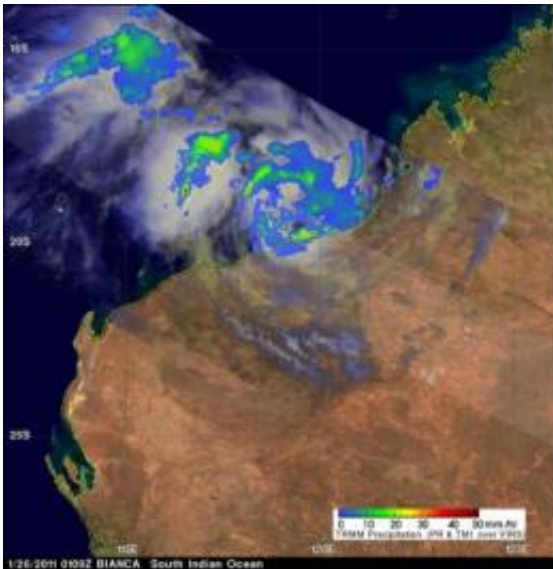


NASA's TRMM Satellite sees TD10S strengthen into Tropical Storm Bianca

January 26 2011



NASA's TRMM satellite captured Tropical Storm Bianca's rainfall on Jan. 26. The yellow and green areas indicate moderate rainfall between .78 to 1.57 inches (20 to 340 mm) per hour. Over open waters, in the northwestern quadrant of the storm, there were some areas of heavy rainfall at almost 2 inches (50 mm) per hour. Credit: NASA/SSAI, Hal Pierce

The life of a cyclone is a complex one, and NASA satellites have kept track of a low that has now become Tropical Storm Bianca just off the northern coast of Western Australia.

What began as a low pressure system designated as System 98S on

January 24, brought rains near Kuri Bay, Australia. On January 25, System 98S strengthened into the tenth [tropical depression](#) of the Southern Pacific Ocean [hurricane](#) season and was designated as "10S." Today, January 26, that low intensified into a tropical storm and was named Bianca.

NASA's [Tropical Rainfall](#) Measuring Mission (TRMM) satellite has been monitoring rainfall in the storm to assist area forecasters. NASA's TRMM satellite captured Tropical Storm Bianca's rainfall on January 26 at 01:09 UTC (Jan. 25 at 8:09 p.m. EST). Most of the rainfall around the storm was moderate, falling at rates between .78 to 1.57 inches (20 to 340 mm) per hour. Over open waters, in the northwestern quadrant of the storm, there were some areas of heavy rainfall at almost 2 inches (50 mm) per hour. The TRMM image also clearly showed the storm's center was located off the coast and over open waters. The TRMM satellite is managed by both NASA and JAXA, and images are created at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

On January 26 at 02:20 UTC (Jan. 25 at 9:20 p.m. EST) NASA's [Terra satellite](#) passed over Bianca and the Moderate Resolution Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument captured an image of Bianca. The image showed a cloud-filled center of circulation just north of the northern coast of Western Australia. Most of the cloud cover associated with Bianca appeared over open waters at that time. The Terra satellite image can be found [here](#). The image was created by NASA's MODIS Rapid Response Team, located at NASA Goddard.

At 1500 UTC (10 a.m. EST) on January 26, Tropical Storm Bianca had [maximum sustained winds](#) near 60 knots (69 mph/111 km/hr). It was centered about 225 nautical miles northeast of Learmonth, Australia near 19.8 South latitude and 116.2 East longitude. It was moving westward near 14 knots (16 mph/25 km/hr) and its center was staying off-shore.

Radar imagery from Port Hedland, Australia showed a well-defined low level circulation center with thunderstorms surrounding it. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center forecast indicates that the center of Bianca will stay over open waters as it continues to intensify over the next 24 hours. It is then expected to curve to the southeast and westerly winds are expected to increase and it will move into cooler waters, two factors that will help weaken the storm.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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