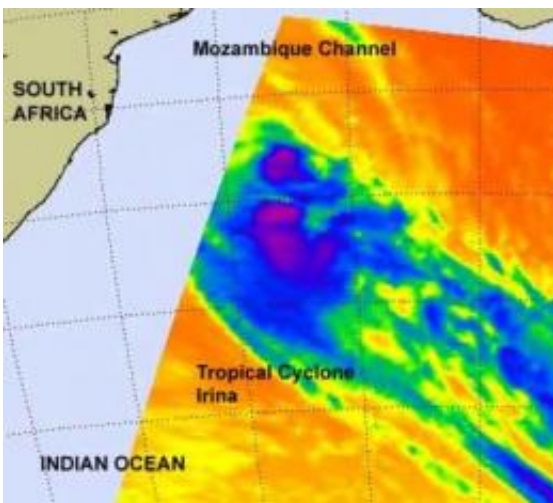


# NASA sees Tropical Cyclone Irina still looping at sea

March 6 2012

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When NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Irina on March 5 at 2211 UTC (5:11 p.m. EST) it captured an infrared image of the storm's cloud top temperatures using the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS) instrument. AIRS data showed that the coldest (purple) cloud top temperatures (colder than  $-63\text{F}/-52.7\text{C}$ ) that included the bulk of the showers and strongest thunderstorms were on the southern side of the storm. Credit: Credit: NASA/JPL, Ed Olsen

NASA's Aqua satellite saw Tropical Cyclone Irina making a slow loop in the southern Mozambique Channel for the third day on March 6, 2012. Because of the different weather systems moving through the region, Irina's track has been hard to forecast.

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On March 6 at 1500 UTC (10 a.m. EST), Tropical Cyclone Irina had [maximum sustained winds](#) near 45 knots (~52 mph/83.3 kph). Irina's strongest winds occurred on March 1, when maximum sustained winds were near 55 knots (~63 mph/~102 kph).

Irina is now about 415 nautical miles (~478 miles/~769 km) southeast of Maputo, Mozambique. The center is near 30.3 South latitude and 39.4 East longitude. It is now moving to the east-northeast. The forecasters at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center noted that Irina is now "slowly weakening within a marginal environment characterized by cool [sea surface temperatures](#) near 25 Celsius/77 Fahrenheit (a tropical cyclone needs temperatures of 22.6C/80F to maintain strength) and moderate, westerly [vertical wind shear](#)." Cool waters and moderate-to-strong wind shear are two factors that weaken [tropical cyclones](#). Forecasters today at the Joint [Typhoon Warning Center](#) are now thinking that those conditions may batter Irina into dissipation in the next day or two, and residents of South Africa and Mozambique are hoping that happens.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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