

NASA eyes Typhoon Prapiroon intensifying

October 9 2012



NASA's Terra satellite captured this visible image of Tropical Storm Prapiroon in the Philippine Sea on Oct. 8 at 0140 UTC. Credit: Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

Typhoon Prapiroon is the twenty-second tropical cyclone of the western North Pacific Ocean, making for a very active season. NASA's Terra satellite passed over the storm as it was intensifying into a typhoon and noticed very tight circulation with bands of thunderstorms wrapping into

the center.

Tropical Depression 22W was born on Oct. 7. On Monday, Oct. 8, the twenty-second tropical cyclone had organized and strengthened into Tropical storm Prapiroon. At that time it was located about 600 miles southeast of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. The storm had [maximum sustained winds](#) near 55 knots (63.2 mph/102 kph) on Oct. 8.

The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument aboard NASA's [Terra satellite](#) captured a visible image of Tropical Storm Prapiroon in the Philippine Sea on Oct. 8 at 0140 UTC. It revealed a large band of strong thunderstorms wrapping into the center from the west and south.

The next day, Oct. 9, Prapiroon had become a typhoon with maximum sustained winds near 65 knots (75 mph/120.4 kph). It is expected to continue intensifying over the next several days. Prapiroon was located near 18.0 North and 131.8 East longitude, about 555 nautical miles (639 miles/1,028 km) south-southeast of Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. It is moving to the west-northwest at 4 knots (4.6 mph/7.4 kph). Because the storm slowed down, it has intensified. NASA's [Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission](#) satellite spotted an eye feature using [microwave imagery](#).

Prapiroon is expected to continue moving west and then make a U-turn toward the northeast over the next day or two, while remaining over open ocean.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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