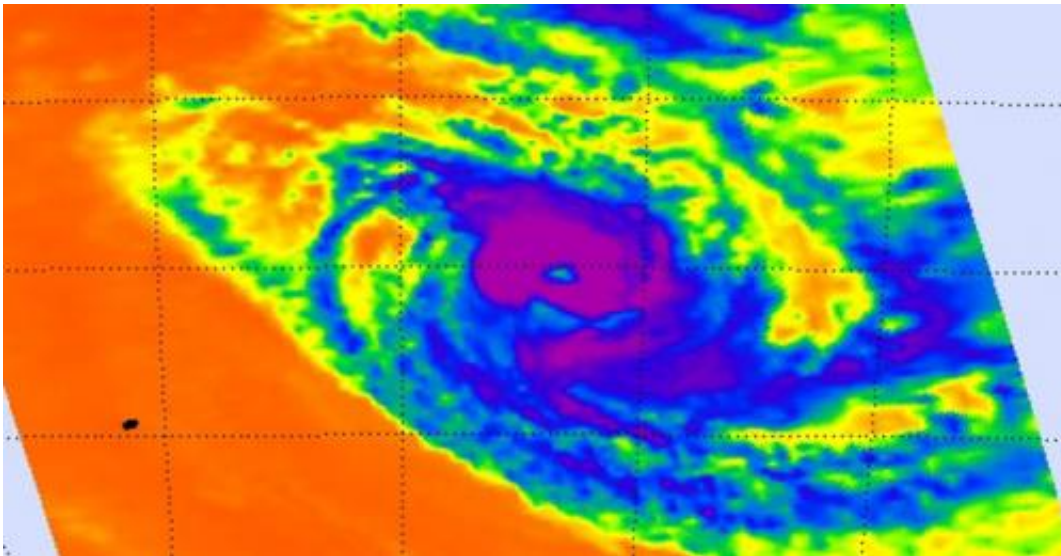


NASA catches Tropical Cyclone Amara's stretched out eye

December 18 2013



NASA's Aqua satellite captured this image of Tropical Cyclone Amara in the South Indian Ocean on Dec. 18 at 09:05 UTC/4:05 a.m. EST and showed powerful thunderstorms (purple) around the storm's eye. Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

Tropical Cyclone Amara's eye appeared elongated on satellite imagery from NASA on December 18.

Tropical Cyclone Amara is spinning in the Southern Indian Ocean along with Tropical Cyclone Bruce, and both share elongated shapes. Even Amara's 10 nautical-mile-wide eye appeared stretched out. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument

took a visible picture of the storm on December 18 at 09:05 UTC/4:05 a.m. EST that showed that the eye was also cloud-filled. The MODIS image also showed bands of thunderstorms were wrapping into the center of circulation from the northeast and southwest.

At 0900 UTC/4 a.m. EST on December 18, Amara's maximum sustained winds had increased to 80 knots/92.0 mph/148.2 kph. Amara was centered near 16.0 south latitude and 70.5 east longitude, about 543 nautical miles/624.9 miles/1,006 km south of Diego Garcia. Amara has tracked to the west at 3 knots/3.4 mph/5.5 kph.



NASA's Aqua satellite captured this image of Tropical Cyclone Amara in the South Indian Ocean on Dec. 18 at 09:05 UTC/4:05 a.m. EST and revealed the storm's cloud-filled, elongated eye. Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response Team

Amara is in an environment of low [wind shear](#) and warm [sea surface temperatures](#) that will allow it to continue to intensify, even rapidly. Amara is moving between two subtropical ridges (elongated areas) of [high pressure](#). In three days Amara is forecast to encounter increasing wind shear which will weaken the system. High pressure is also expected to build south of Amara, which should slow it down and bring in cooler, drier air, which will also weaken the tropical cyclone.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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