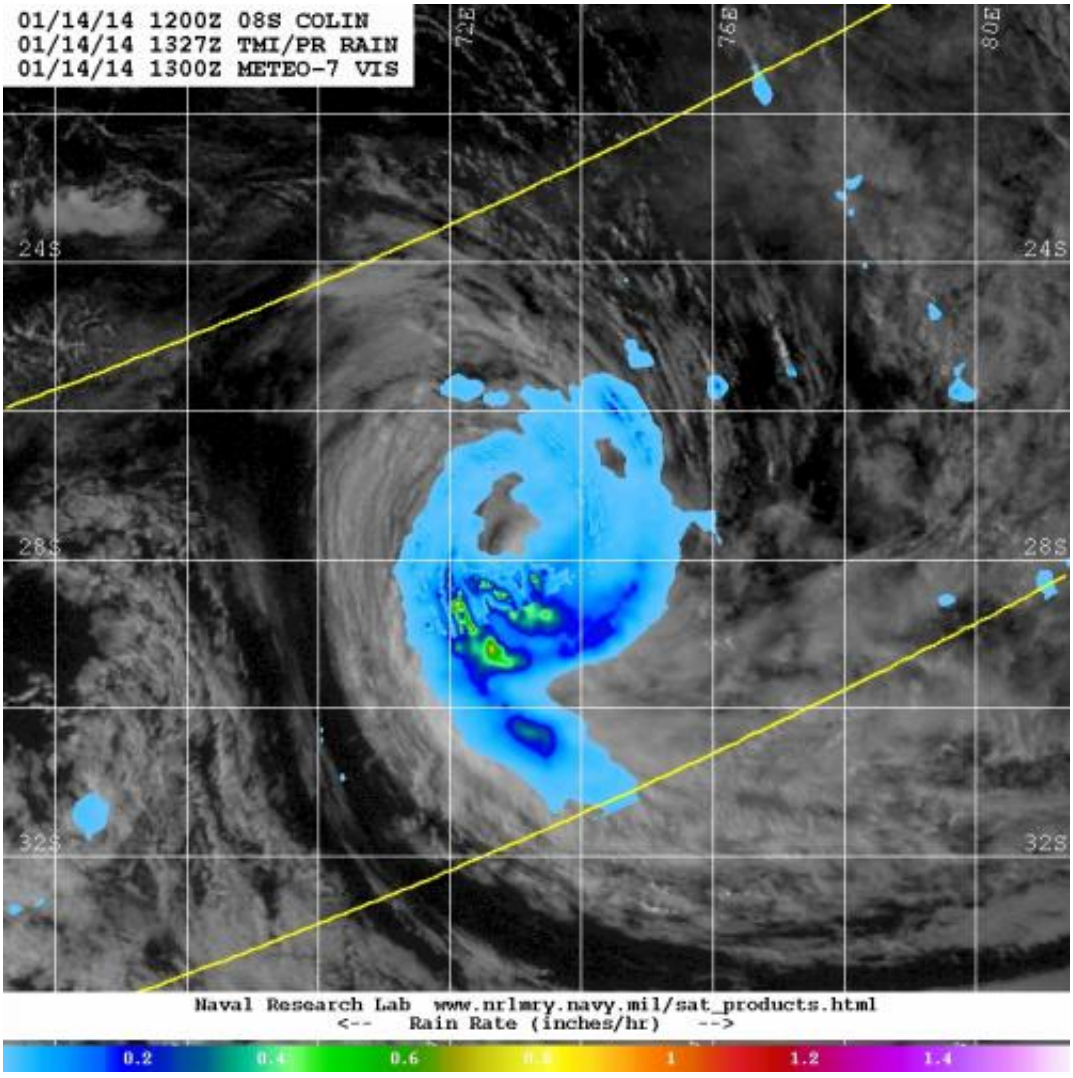
NASA sees Tropical Cyclone Colin coming 'unwound'

January 14 2014, by Rob Gutro



The TRMM satellite flew over Colin on Jan. 14 at 1327 UTC/8:27 a.m. EST and found that light rain surrounded the tropical cyclone with the exception of moderate to heavy rain in the southern quadrant. Credit: NRL/NASA/ESA

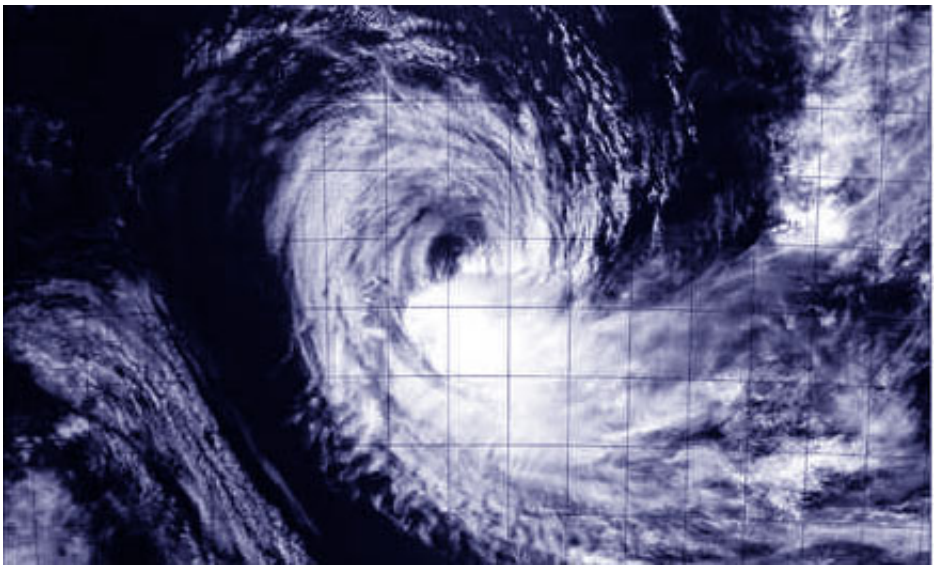
Tropical Cyclone Colin is not as tightly wrapped as it was a day ago. Satellite imagery from NASA's Aqua and TRMM satellites show Colin is not as organized as it was, and most of the strongest precipitation was occurring on the southern side of the storm and waning.

On January 14, 2014 at 0900 UTC, Colin had maximum sustained winds near 40 knots/46.0 mph/74.0 kph. It was far from land, and centered 1,171 nautical miles/1,348 miles/2,169 km from Diego Garcia near 26.7 south and 73.3 east. Colin was moving to the south at 9 knots/10.3 mph/16.67 kph.

NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Colin at 0840 UTC/3:40 a.m. EST on January 14 and obtained a visible look at the clouds and structure of the storm. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer known and MODIS captured the image that showed thinning clouds in all quadrants except the southern quadrant where TRMM confirmed the heaviest rainfall was occurring almost five hours later when it passed overhead.

NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's TRMM satellite or Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission, flew over Colin on January 14 at 1327 UTC/8:27 a.m. EST and measured rainfall in the storm. TRMM found that light rain surrounded the tropical cyclone with the exception of moderate to heavy rain in the southern quadrant.

According to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, animated multispectral satellite imagery showed that the low-level center of circulation was exposed and after the TRMM overpass, convection has waned more, leaving almost no strong convection in the tropical cyclone. Satellite data showed that the overall low-level structure was becoming less tightly wrapped.



NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Colin at 0840 UTC/3:40 a.m. EST on Jan. 14 that showed thinning clouds in all quadrants except the southern quadrant. Credit: NRL/NASA

Colin continues to head into cooler sea surface temperatures which will continue to weaken the storm as it is expected to become a cold-core low pressure area. Vertical wind shear is also increasing, so Colin's end is likely in the next couple of days.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center