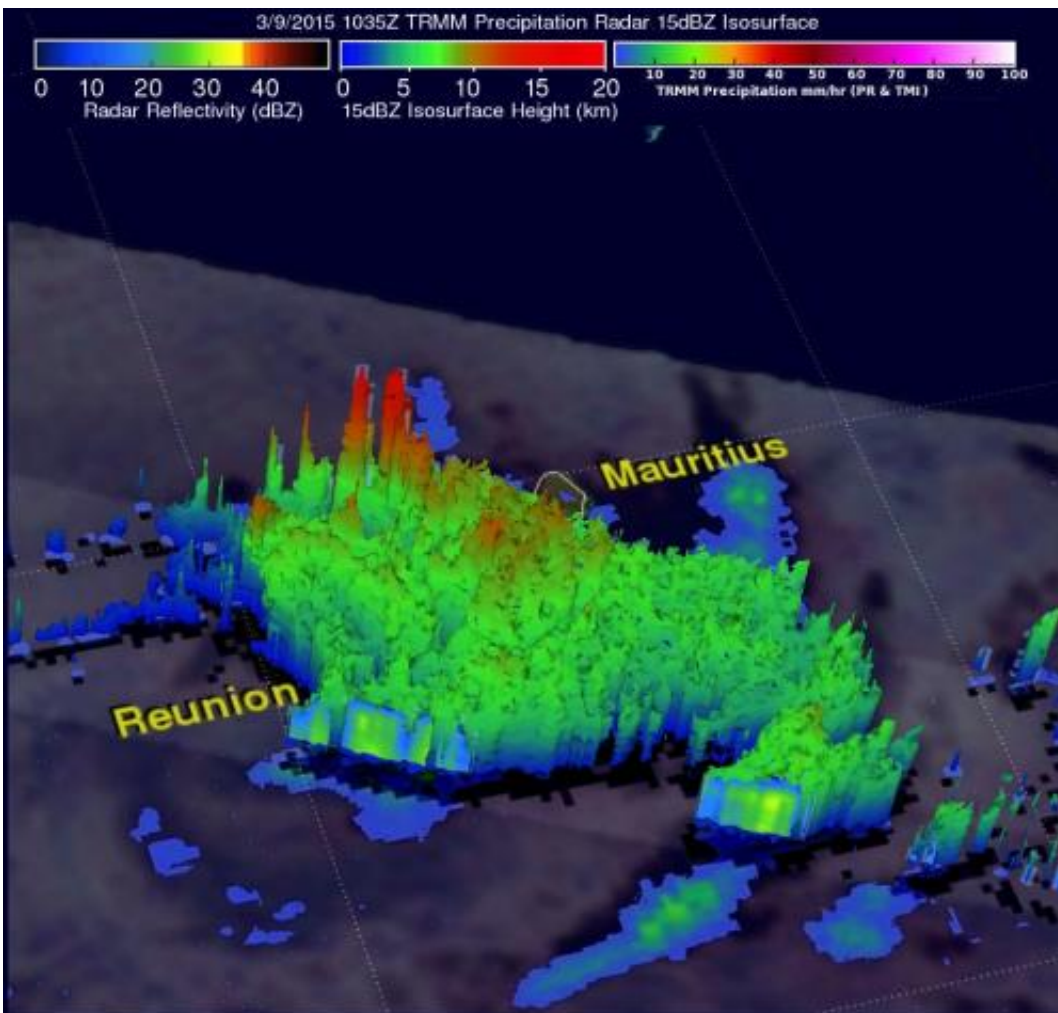


NASA sees a Tropical Storm Haliba 'sandwich'

March 10 2015, by Rob Gutro



The TRMM satellite saw Haliba's bulk of precipitation east of storm center making it appear as if the storm was between Reunion and Mauritius (which is northeast of Reunion). Credit: NASA/SSAI/JAXA, Hal Pierce

Tropical Storm Haliba appeared to be the "filling" in a sandwich between the Southern Indian Ocean islands of La Reunion and Mauritius in NASA satellite imagery because wind shear pushed the bulk of the storm's clouds between the islands.

NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission or TRMM satellite passed above Tropical Storm Haliba on March 9 when its center was just west of La Reunion Island at 1035 UTC (6:25 a.m. EDT). The bulk of precipitation appeared east of the center of Haliba's circulation making it appear as if the storm was between Reunion and Mauritius (which is northeast of Reunion).

Westerly vertical [wind shear](#) was pushing the clouds and showers east of the center.

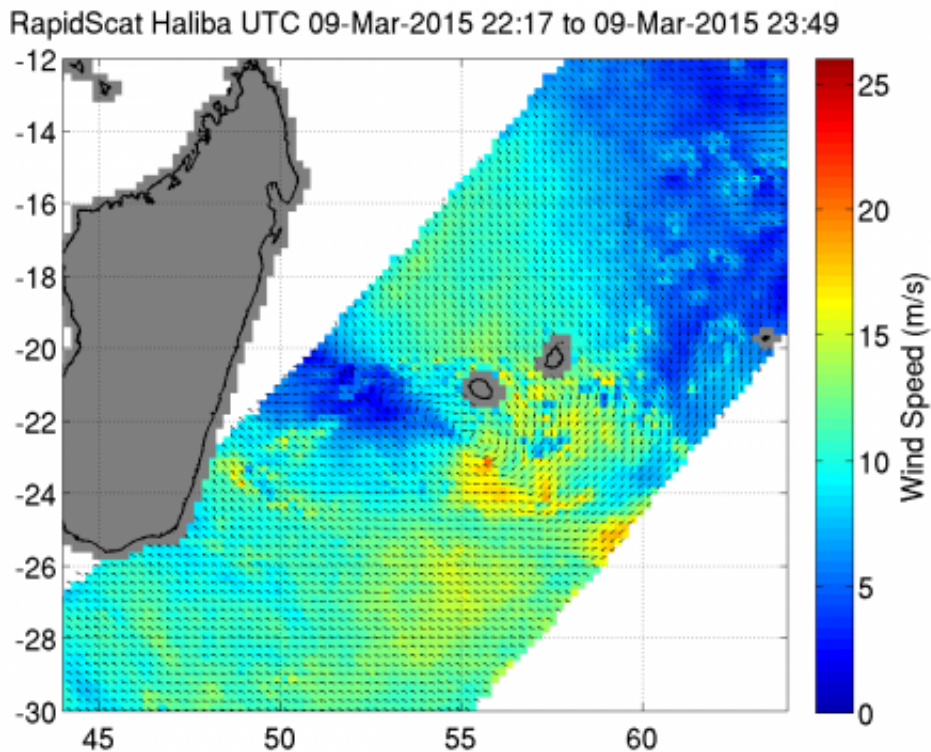
TRMM's Precipitation Radar (PR) instrument indicated that the heaviest rainfall of over 181 mm (7.1 inches) per hour was located in an intense rain band located northeast of Reunion Island. TRMM's Precipitation Radar (PR) data showed the most powerful storms in this band of thunderstorms were reaching heights above 16.8 km (10.4 miles). Radar reflectivity values of 55.5 dBZ returned from heavy rainfall in that area are another proof of rainfall intensity in that area.

The International Space Station's RapidScat instrument captured a look at Tropical Cyclone Haliba's surface winds. RapidScat measured the winds later on March 9 from 22:17 to 23:49 UTC. By that time, Haliba had weakened. Measurements revealed that sustained winds at the surface were as high as 15 meters per second (34 mph/55 kph) near the center and southern quadrant of the storm, indicating that the storm had dropped below tropical storm status and weakened to a depression.

By 0900 UTC on March 10, Tropical Cyclone Haliba's maximum sustained winds remained near 30 knots (34 mph/55 kph). It was centered near 23.7 south latitude and 55.3 east longitude, about 192

nautical miles (221 miles/356 km) south of St. Denis, La Reunion. Tropical Depression Haliba was moving to the south-southwest at 8 knots (9.2 mph/14.8 kph).

The westerly [vertical wind shear](#) that affected Haliba on March 9 continued on March 10 and weakened the storm to a depression. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center expects the [storm](#) to maintain its strength over the next day until it dissipates.



RapidScat measurements between March 9 from 22:17 to 23:49 UTC revealed Haliba's sustained winds dropped to 34 mph/55 kph) near the center and southern quadrant of the storm. Credit: NASA JPL, Doug Tyler

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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