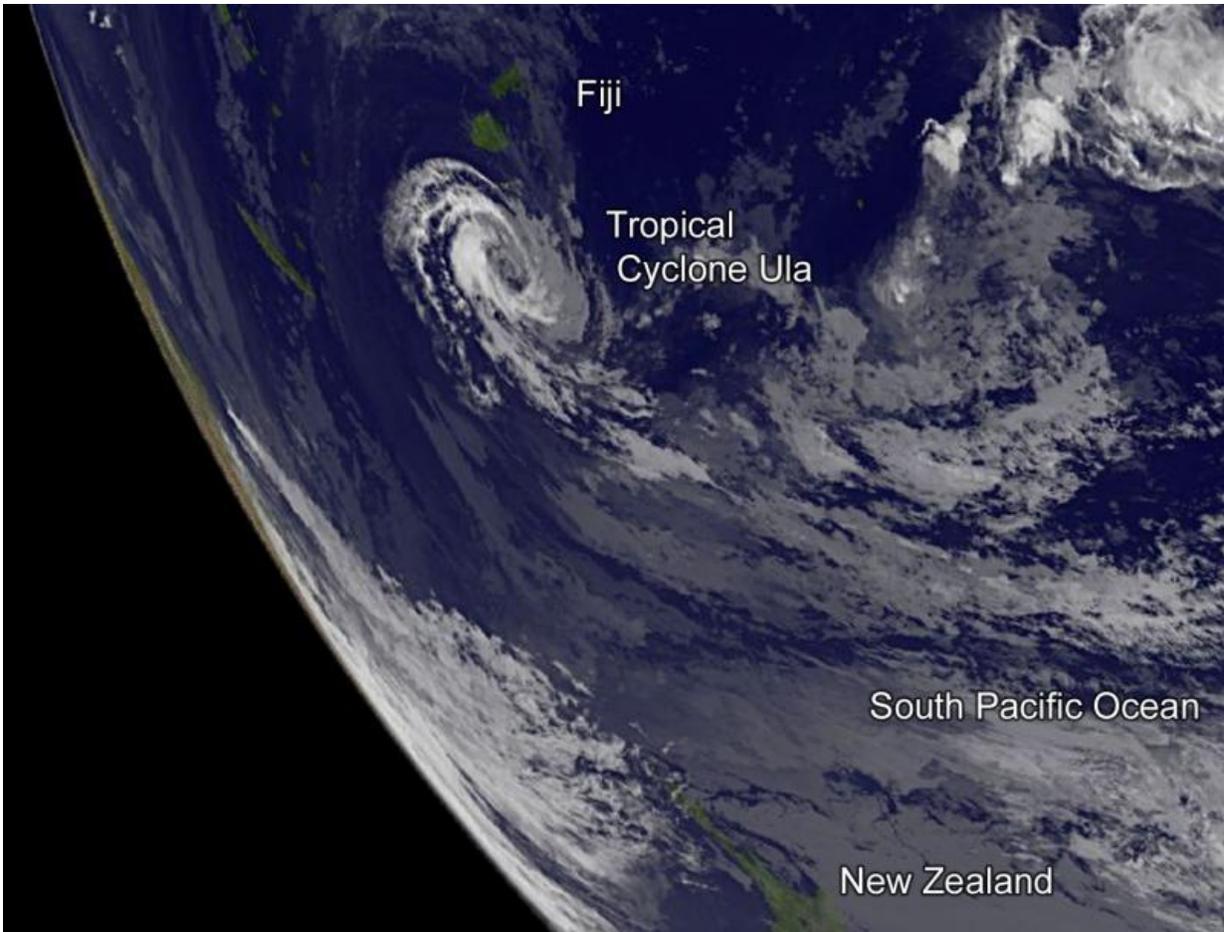


Tropical Storm Ula weakens, moves south

January 5 2016



This image from NOAA's GOES-West satellite on Jan. 5 at 1500 UTC (10 a.m. EST) shows Tropical Storm Ula in the South Pacific Ocean south of Fiji. Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project

Former hurricane Ula has weakened to a tropical storm in the Southern

Pacific Ocean. NOAA's GOES-West satellite captured an infrared image of the storm on Jan. 5 that showed it moved further south of Fiji.

NOAA's GOES-West satellite captured an infrared image of Tropical Storm Ula at 1500 UTC (10 a.m. EST) as it continued moving west in the South Pacific Ocean, while remaining a couple hundred miles south of Fiji. The [infrared image](#) showed stronger thunderstorms on the western side of circulation.

At 0900 UTC (4 a.m. EST) on Jan. 5, Ula's maximum sustained winds had dropped to 55 knots (63.2 mph/101.9 kph). Ula continues to track to the west at 3 knots (3.4 mph/5.5 kph) and into increasing [vertical wind shear](#), which is expected to keep weakening the storm. Ula was centered near 21.8 degrees south latitude and 177.6 degrees east longitude, about 227 nautical miles (261.2 miles/420.4 km) south of Suva, Fiji.

Ula is tracking west under the influence of a low to mid-level subtropical ridge (elongated area) of high pressure to the south of the system.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center forecast calls for Ula to continue moving in a westerly direction and gradually weaken and dissipate within a couple of days.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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