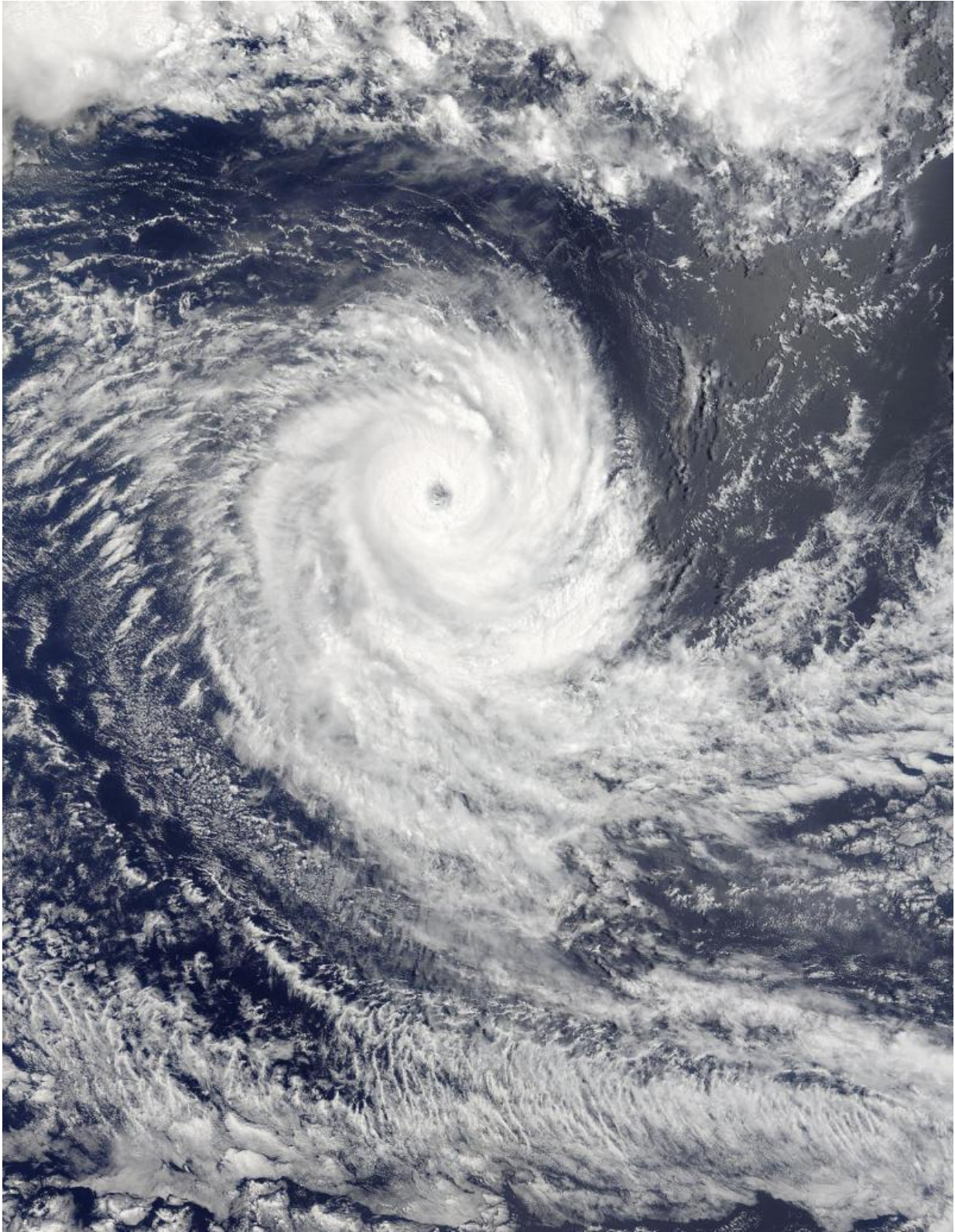


NASA catches Tropical Cyclone Uriah nearing peak

February 17 2016



On Feb 17 at 04:50 UTC NASA's Terra satellite captured this visible image of

Tropical Cyclone Uriah in the South Indian Ocean. Credit: NASA Goddard MODIS Rapid Response/Jeff Schmaltz

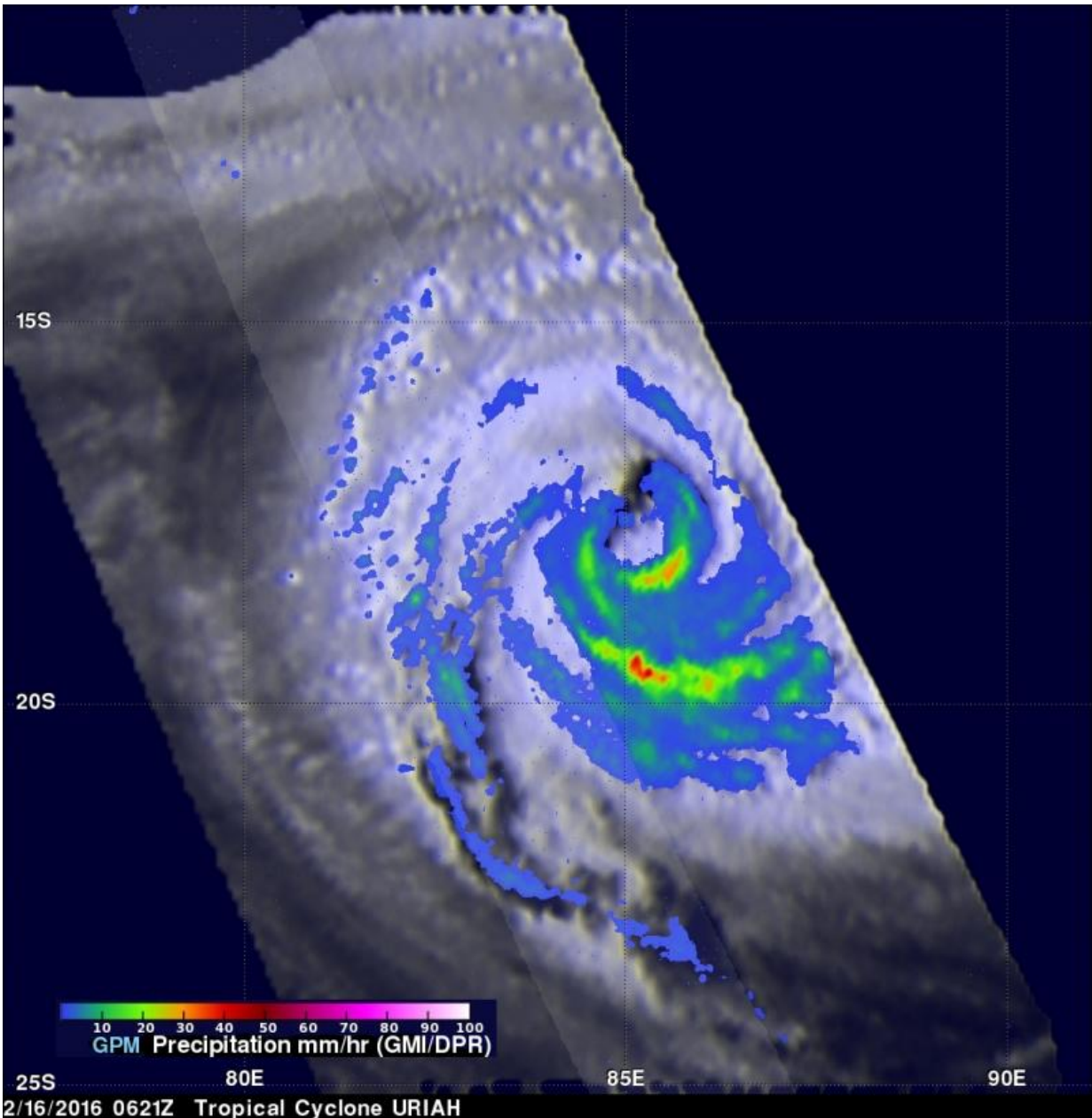
NASA's Terra satellite passed over Tropical Cyclone Uriah early on Feb 17 when the storm was nearing peak intensity and showed a powerful storm with an eye wide open. Earlier, NASA's GPM core satellite found heavy rainfall occurring south of the intensifying storm's center.

On Feb. 15 and 16, the GPM or Global Precipitation Measurement core observatory satellite had good views of Tropical Cyclone Uriah in the South Indian Ocean west of Australia. On February 15, 2016 at 1706 UTC (12:06 EST) GPM flew directly over the center of the tropical cyclone and measured rainfall in a well-defined circulation. GPM's Dual-frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) instrument discovered that rain was falling at a rate of over 127 mm (5 inches) per hour in a band of intense storms south of the cyclone's center.

When GPM's Radar sliced through tropical storm URIAH on February 15, 2016 it also found that the intense convective thunderstorms moving around the southwestern side of the tropical cyclone were reaching heights above 16 km (9.9 miles).

GPM once again flew over the intensifying tropical cyclone On February 16, 2016 at 0621 UTC when sustained winds had increased to about 55 knot (63 mph). Uriah continued to intensify and later in the day had winds estimated at over 75 knots (86mph) making it a category one hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale. At that time GPM saw rain was falling at a rate of over 50 mm (2 inches) per hour in a band of intense storms south of Tropical Cyclone Uriah's center. The Global Precipitation Measurement or GPM core observatory satellite is co-managed by both NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration

Agency.



On Feb. 16, GPM saw rain was falling at a rate of over 50 mm (2 inches) per hour in a band of intense storms south of Tropical Cyclone Uriah's center. Credit: NASA/JAXA/SSAI, Hal Pierce

On Feb 17 at 04:50 UTC (Feb. 16 at 11:50 p.m. EST) the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument aboard NASA's Terra satellite captured a visible image of Tropical Cyclone Uriah as it continued to approach peak. The MODIS image showed a 19 nautical mile-wide eye with powerful, high thunderstorms circling. Bands of thunderstorms wrapped into the low-level center from the eastern and southern quadrants.

By 1500 UTC (10 a.m. EST), Uriah's maximum sustained winds were near 115 knots (132.3 mph/943.6 kph). Uriah is a Category Four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale. It was located near 18.9 degrees south latitude and 79.8 degrees east longitude, about 820 nautical miles (923 miles/1,519 km) south-southeast of Diego Garcia. Uriah has tracked southwestward at 9 knots (10.3 mph/16.6 kph) over the open waters of the Southern Indian Ocean.

Uriah is expected to peak at 125 knots (143.8 mph/231.5 kph) on Feb. 18, then gradually weaken as it heads southward over the open waters of the South Indian Ocean.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA catches Tropical Cyclone Uriah nearing peak (2016, February 17) retrieved 7 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-02-nasa-tropical-cyclone-uriah-nearing.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.