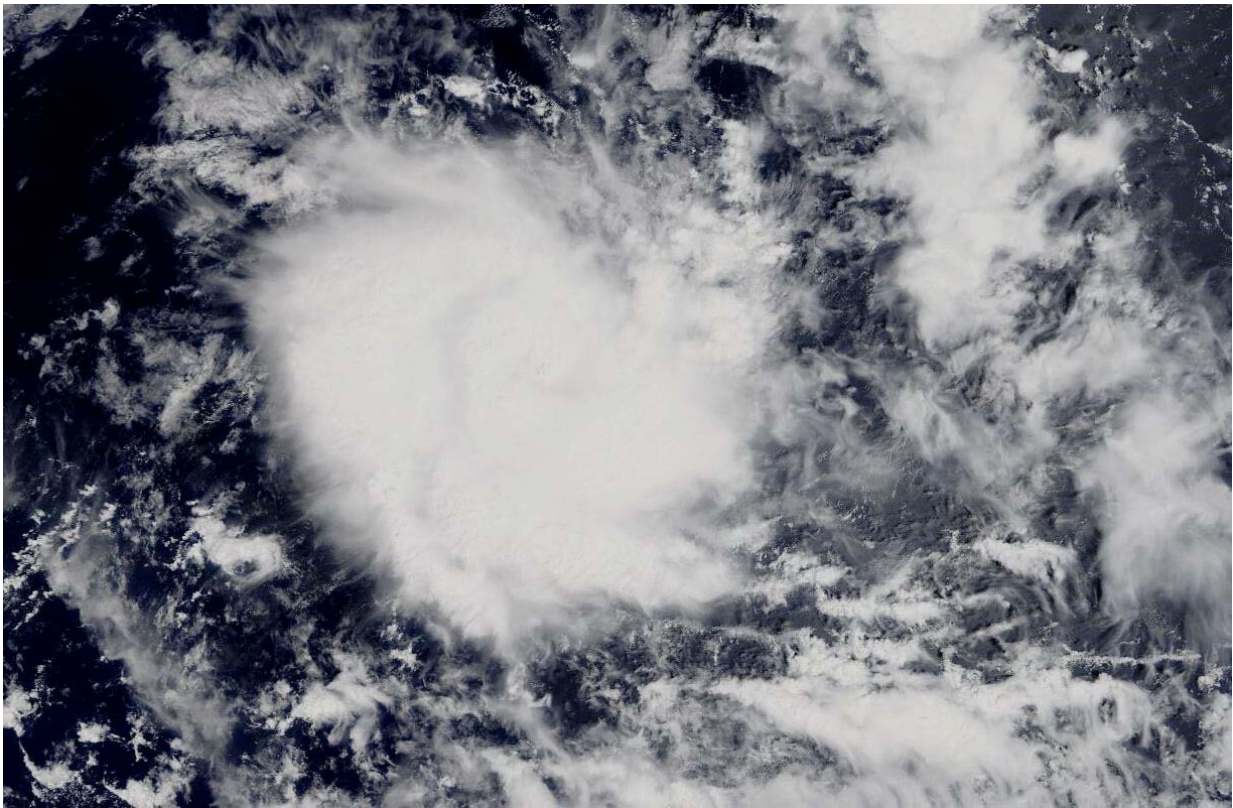


NASA finds Tropical Cyclone Ambali rapidly intensifying

December 5 2019



On Dec. 5 2019, the MODIS instrument that flies aboard NASA's Terra satellite provided a visible image of Tropical cyclone Ambali in the Southern Indian Ocean and showed powerful storms around the center of circulation and a large band of thunderstorms feeding into the center from the west. Credit: NASA Worldview, Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS)

NASA's Terra satellite captured an image of Tropical Cyclone Ambali and the visible image showed that the storm was rapidly intensifying.

Ambali formed as a [tropical depression](#) in the Southern Indian Ocean on Dec. 4 and quickly strengthened into a [tropical storm](#). Today, Dec. 5, it has reached what is considered hurricane status in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific.

On Dec. 5, the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument that flies aboard NASA's Terra satellite provided a [visible image](#) of Ambali. The MODIS image showed powerful thunderstorms circling the center of circulation. Meanwhile microwave satellite imagery shows tight banding of thunderstorms around the center of circulation and the development of an eye.

The shape of the storm is a clue to forecasters that a storm is either strengthening or weakening. If a storm takes on a more rounded shape it is getting more organized and strengthening. Conversely, if it becomes less rounded or elongated, it is a sign the storm is weakening. Ambali appeared more circular than it did 24 hours before, indicating it was strengthening and consolidating.

On Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. EST (1500 UTC), Tropical Cyclone Ambali was located near latitude 9.2 degrees south and longitude 62.7 degrees east, about 595 miles west-southwest of Diego Garcia. Ambali is moving west-southwest and has maximum sustained winds 70 knots (81 mph/130 kph).

Ambali will move south-southwest as it rapidly intensifies. Ambali is expected to peak at 100 knots (115 mph/185 kph) later today before running into hostile atmospheric conditions leading to dissipation in four days.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA finds Tropical Cyclone Ambali rapidly intensifying (2019, December 5)
retrieved 31 January 2023 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-12-nasa-tropical-cyclone-ambali-rapidly.html>

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