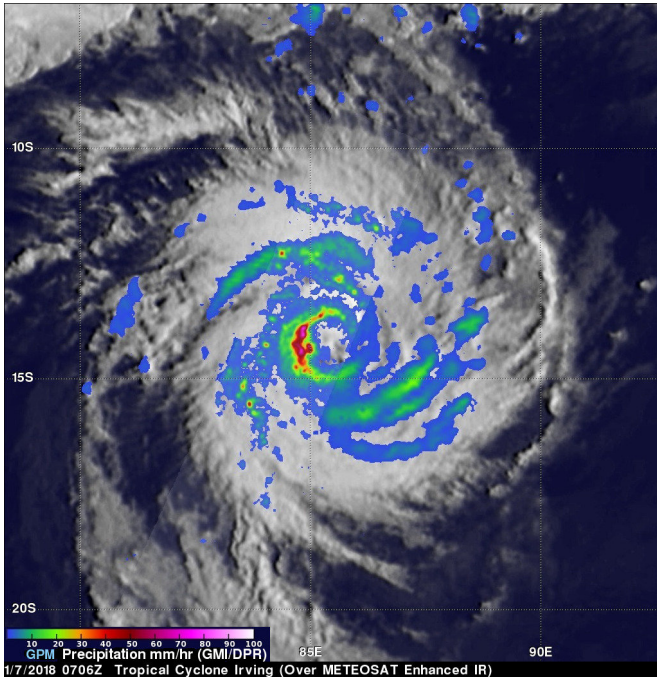


Powerful tropical cyclone irving examined with GPM

8 January 2018



On Jan. 7, GPM found very heavy rainfall in the western side of Irving's eye wall at a rate of over 93 mm (3.7 inches) per hour. Credit: NASA/JAXA, Hal Pierce

On Jan. 8, Tropical Cyclone Irving was hurricane-force in the Southern Indian Ocean. The Global Precipitation Measurement Mission or GPM core satellite passed overhead and measured cloud heights and rainfall rates in the powerful storm.

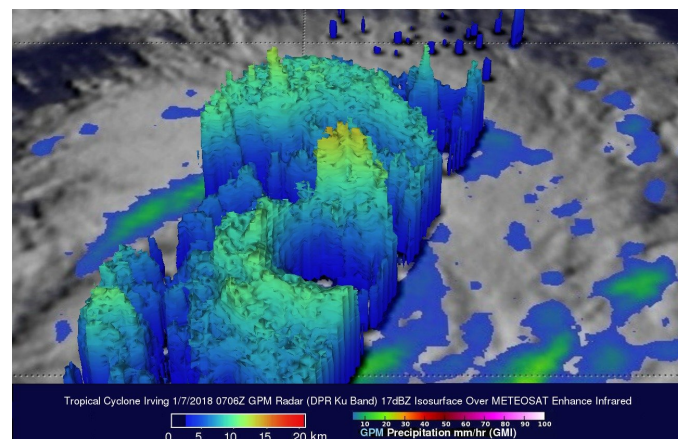
Tropical Cyclone Irving formed in the South Indian Ocean on January 6, 2018. Irving posed no threat to land because it developed over the open ocean far to the west of Australia. GPM's core observatory satellite had an excellent view of Irving's eye on January 2018 at 2:06 a.m. EST (0706 UTC). The well-defined rainfall patterns within Irving were clearly shown by GPM's Microwave Imager (GMI) and Dual Frequency Precipitation Radar (DPR) data. Very heavy rainfall

was shown in the western side of Irving's eye wall. GPM's Radar (DPR Ku Band) found rain in that side of the tropical cyclone falling at a rate of over 93 mm (3.7 inches) per hour.

Tropical cyclone Irving's 3-D precipitation structure was examined by GPM's radar (DPR Ku Band). GPM's radar slice through the center of tropical cyclone Irving showed that the powerful storms in the western side of Irving's eye wall were reaching altitudes of about 17 km (10.5 miles). GPM is a joint mission between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA.

On Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. EST (1500 UTC), Tropical Cyclone Irving had maximum sustained winds near 90 knots (103.6 mph/166.7 kph). It was located near 18.5 degrees north latitude and 78.3 degrees east longitude, about 763 nautical miles south-southeast of Diego Garcia. Irving was moving to the southwest at 15 knots (17.2 mph/27.7 kph).

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) predicts that Irving will weaken while heading toward the southwest. Irving is expected to pass well to the east of La Reunion Island then recurve to the southeast and weaken to tropical storm intensity. Tropical Cyclone Irving is expected to transition to an extra-tropical low within three days.



On Jan. 7, GPM powerful storms in the western side of Irving's eye wall were reaching altitudes of about 17 km (10.5 miles). Credit: NASA/JAXA, Hal Pierce

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center
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