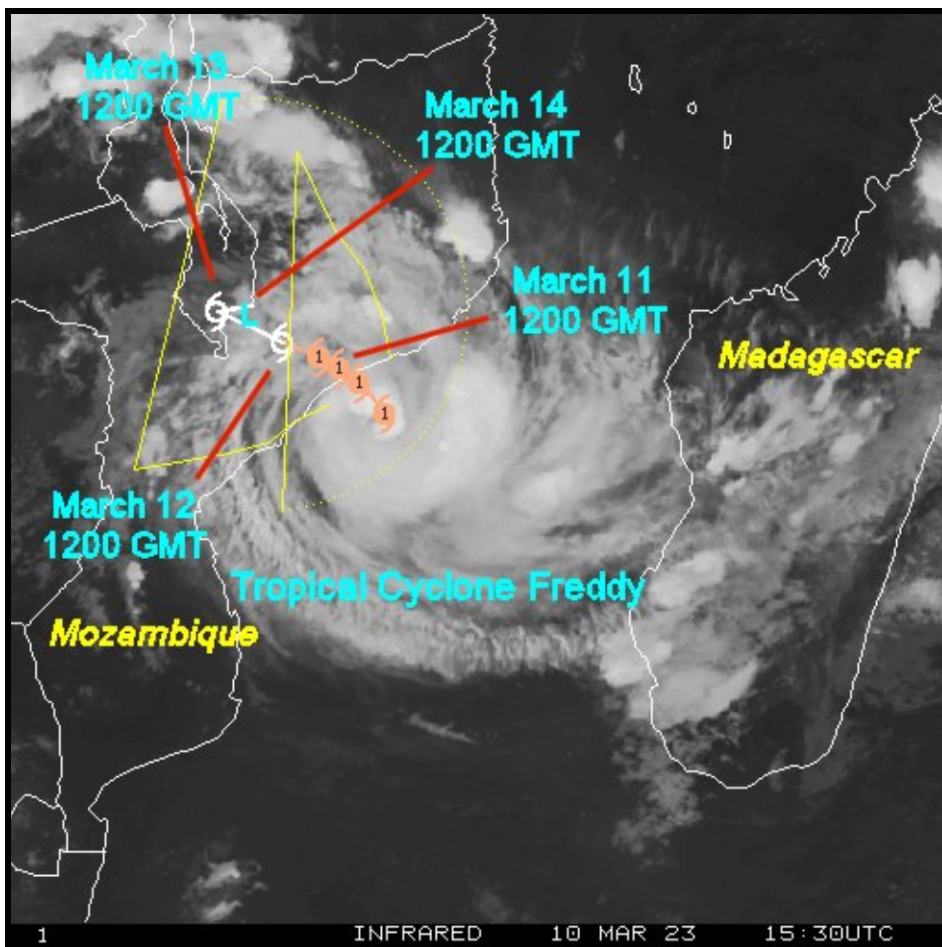


Tropical Cyclone Freddy Continues Its Record-Breaking Trek

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Tropical Cyclone Freddy remains just off the coast of Mozambique and will meander around the region through the end of the weekend. The disturbance has set numerous records for longevity and will extend records in the coming days. There is still not a general consensus between models regarding the track Tropical Cyclone Freddy will take next week. The GFS model continues to bring Tropical Storm Freddy back into the Mozambique Channel and eventually the southwestern Indian Ocean next week while other models, including most recent ECMWF runs, bring the disturbance further into Mozambique and neighboring areas in Africa. Severe flooding is expected along the central Mozambique coastline in the coming days. Rainfall next week will be dependent on whether Tropical Cyclone Freddy advances farther inland over Africa or back into the Mozambique Channel.

As of 1500 GMT, Tropical Cyclone Freddy was located near 18.0 south, 38.3 east, or approximately 300 miles north-northwest of Europe Island. Movement was north-northwesterly at 5 mph during the previous six hours. Maximum sustained surface wind speeds were at 75 mph, gusting upwards of 92 mph. Tropical storm force wind speeds (39 to 73 mph) were occurring upwards of 81 miles away from the center of the disturbance.



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Tropical Cyclone Freddy has just made the record for longest-lasting cyclone in history. The disturbance originated off the northern Australia coast February 6 and slowly traversed the southern Indian Ocean, across Madagascar, and over the Mozambique Channel and the country of Mozambique itself since then. The previous record was Hurricane/Typhoon John, which lasted 31 days in 1994. Freddy has already promoted significant damage in Madagascar and Mozambique due to flooding and strong winds.

The disturbance will reach coastal Mozambique later today and will meander slowly along the coastline through this weekend. Rainfall by Monday morning will range from 6.00 to 12.00 inches with local amounts of 18.00 inches or more in near and along the central Mozambique coastline. These areas have already been impacted by Tropical Cyclone Freddy and additional flooding is expected. Severe damage to infrastructure and any crops that are produced this time of year is expected. Other areas in Mozambique will receive 0.50 to 4.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts.

Confidence is a little low for the exact track Tropical Cyclone Freddy will take next week. The GFS model continues to bring Freddy back into the Mozambique Channel and eventually the southwestern Indian Ocean next week. Most other global forecast models suggest Freddy will continue tracking further into Mozambique and neighboring areas early next week before gradually weakening and dissipating. World Weather Inc. believes Tropical Cyclone Freddy will track further inland over Africa instead of taking the path back into the Mozambique Channel. Additional flooding will be possible in Mozambique, southern Malawi, and neighboring areas as several inches of rain falls Monday into Wednesday. Minor crop and structural damage will be possible for areas that receive the greatest amount of rain.

Although mid-level winds may increase and push Tropical Cyclone Freddy back into the Mozambique Channel early next week, the GFS model is likely overestimating the increase in wind speeds. Sea surface temperatures over the Mozambique Channel have cooled due to rainfall and cloudiness associated with Tropical Storm Freddy, which is likely limiting any additional intensification. Some wind shearing may also help weaken the disturbance in the coming days and may keep the disturbance from returning to the Mozambique Channel.

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