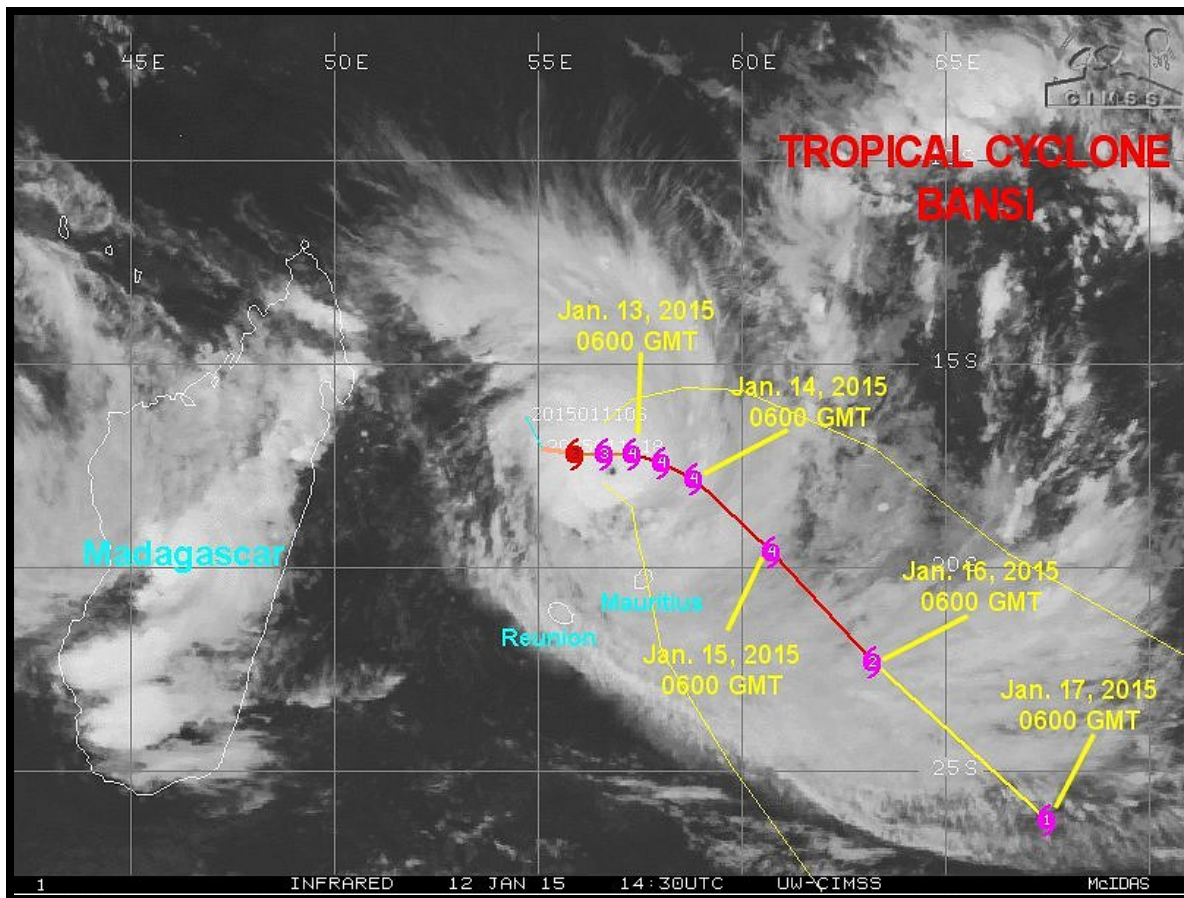


# Tropical Cyclone To Miss Sugar Islands Mauritius, Reunion

By Jared McWilliams

Kansas City, January 12 (World Weather Inc.) – Tropical Cyclone Basin will travel to the north of Mauritius during the next couple of days and will have little impact on sugarcane production areas in Mauritius or Reunion Islands located in the southwestern Indian Ocean. The storm system is expected to curve around the islands first to the north and then to the east sparing them from any adverse weather. Some light rain and rough seas from the storm may impact a part of Mauritius, but the impact will be more beneficial than detrimental.

At 0900 GMT today, the center of Tropical Cyclone Bansi was located near 17.2 south, 56.1 east which was approximately 191 miles north-northwest of Port Louis, Mauritius. Movement was easterly at 8 mph with maximum sustained surface wind speeds reaching 115 mph and gusts up to 144 mph.



Tropical Cyclone Bansi is expected to travel to the east during the next couple of days while gradually strengthening. The storm will move slowly during the next couple of days with forward movement no quicker than 10 mph and the center of the storm system will continue to the north of Mauritius. The cyclone will then shift to the southeast beginning Wednesday morning while beginning to weaken. The system will continue to

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move southeasterly through the end of this week as the storm weakens and eventually diminishes this weekend. This track will take the center of the cyclone to the north and east of both Reunion and Mauritius.

Although Tropical Cyclone Bansi will become quite strong during the next couple of days with wind maximum sustained wind speeds reaching up to near 145 mph, no major wind damage is expected across Reunion or Mauritius. *Wind speeds greater than 74 mph will occur out no more than 30 miles from the storm center and speeds over 40 mph will occur out no more than 105 miles from the center and that should prevent the storm from producing any seriously strong wind in sugarcane areas without turning more to the south first.*

The main impact Bansi will have over Mauritius and Reunion is an increase in rainfall during this week. Rainfall will increase today through Thursday. Most of the precipitation over Reunion will be light to moderate while Mauritius is expected to receive more moderate rainfall with heavy rain at times. Rainfall amounts will range from 1.00 to 4.00 inches over Reunion while 2.00 to 5.00 inches and locally more occur over Mauritius. *Some flooding is possible in Mauritius, but no damage will result.*

There is another disturbance currently near the coast of Mozambique and the Mozambique Channel which may slowly develop into a tropical cyclone this week. Confidence in this event is very low right now, but current weather models are suggesting this storm system will move over Madagascar this weekend and possibly impact Reunion and Mauritius early next week. The potential for flooding should be monitored since Bansi will saturate the region this weekend and the potential for damaging winds are possible if the storm system occurs as presently advertised, but a better idea on the path of this system will evolve as the cyclone evolves late this week. Mostly likely the rough terrain over Madagascar will break up the storm so that its impact over sugarcane areas of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius is minimal.

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