



SADC-CSC TROPICAL CYCLONE ALERT (TCA)

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RAINFALL SEASON: 2018/19

HIGHLIGHTS

Headline: Tropical Cyclone IDAI is strengthening in the Mozambican Channel and is about 100Km from the western coast of Madagascar and 750Km from Sofala Province in coastal Mozambique.

Tropical Cyclone Idai developed on the 5th March 2019 as a tropical depression near Maganja da Costa in Zambezia Province, Mozambique and it moved up into Niassa Province in Mozambique and soon after it veered left into Lake Chilwa in Southern Province Malawi. On the 8th March 2019 it veered back into Zambezia Province in Mozambique and on the 9th it reached the warm Mozambican Channel and attained Tropical Cyclone status and was given the name IDAI by the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre in La Reunion. It is currently situated about 100km from western coast of Madagascar and is projected to move south-westwards back towards the Mozambican coast line and making landfall close to Beira in Sofala Province, Mozambique. Countries on the danger swath of the tropical cyclone include; Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

WARNING ZONE

Parts of north western Madagascar are likely to receive increased rainfall amounts due to Tropical Cyclone IDAI in the next 24 hours, whilst parts of central Mozambique and east to central Zimbabwe are likely to receive increased rainfall amounts due to Tropical Cyclone IDAI around the 15th to 17th March 2019 (Figure 1 below). Chances of rainfall amounts exceeding 60 millimetres in 24 hours are indicated by dark blue colours in the heavy rainfall alert map below (Figure 2) for the next 7 days.

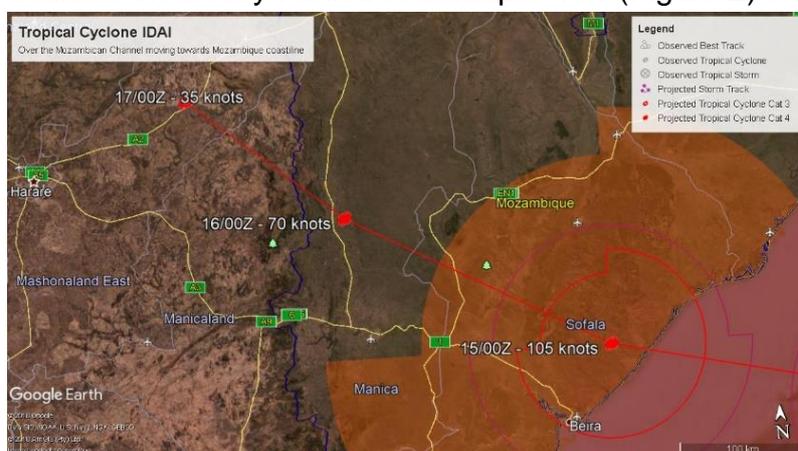


Figure 1: Projected landfall of Tropical Cyclone IDAI

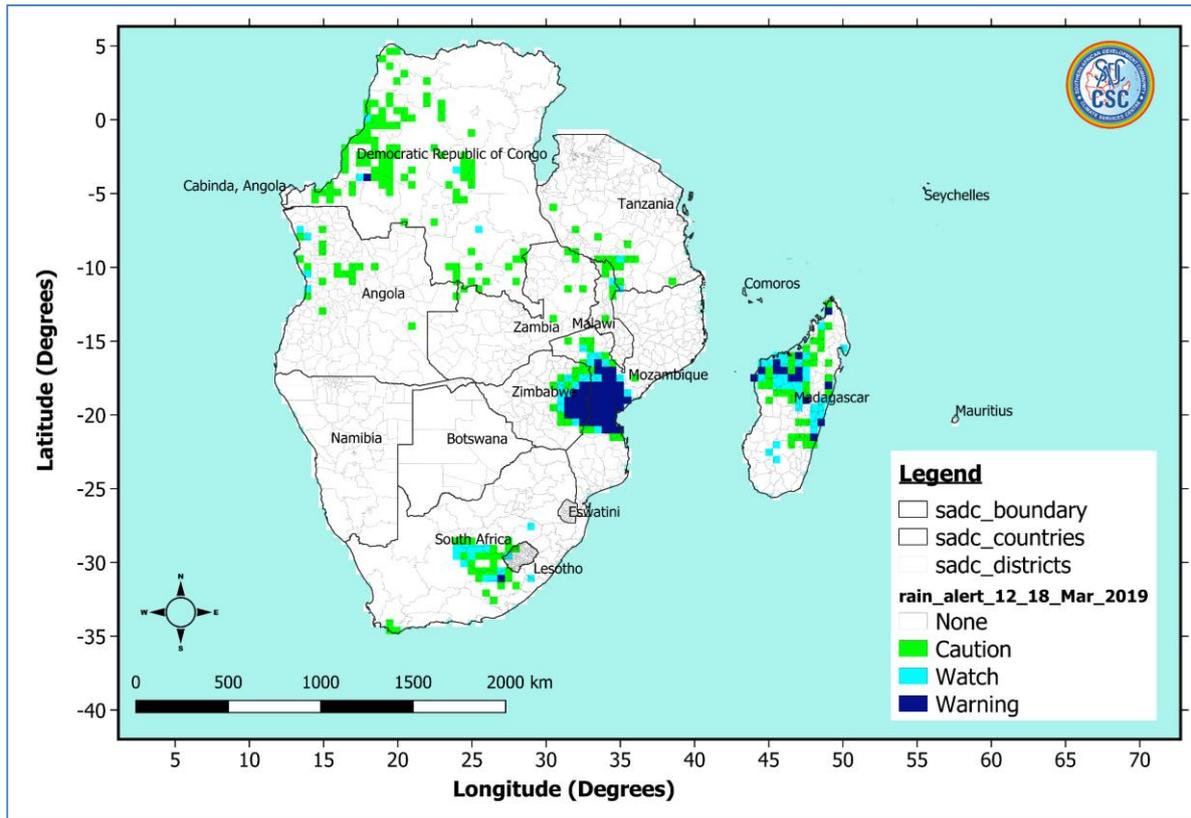


Figure 2: Projected heavy rainfall alert from 12th to 18th March 2019 (*Data Source: ECMWF*)

WATCH ZONE

Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe are expected to be impacted heavily by the tropical cyclone. Mozambique will be directly hit by the tropical cyclone and heavy flooding is expected as it will be returning after the initial tropical depression had already hit some areas of the Zambezia Province in the country (Figures 3, 4 and 5 below).

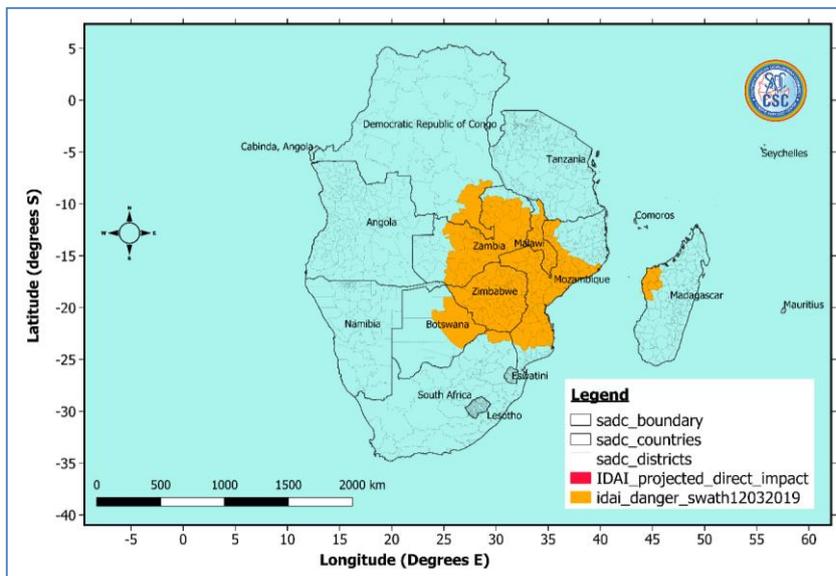


Figure 3: SADC Member States districts in Tropical Cyclone IDAI danger swath

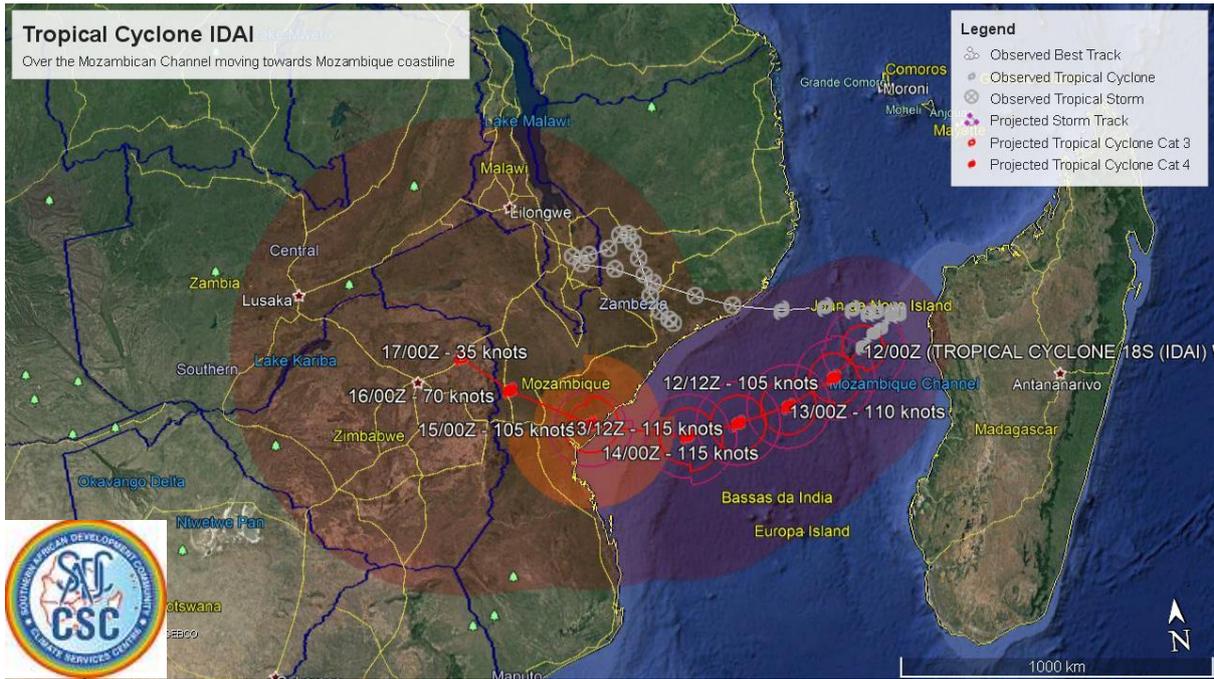


Figure 4: Observed and predicted storm track for Tropical Cyclones IDAI (*Data Source: JTWC*)

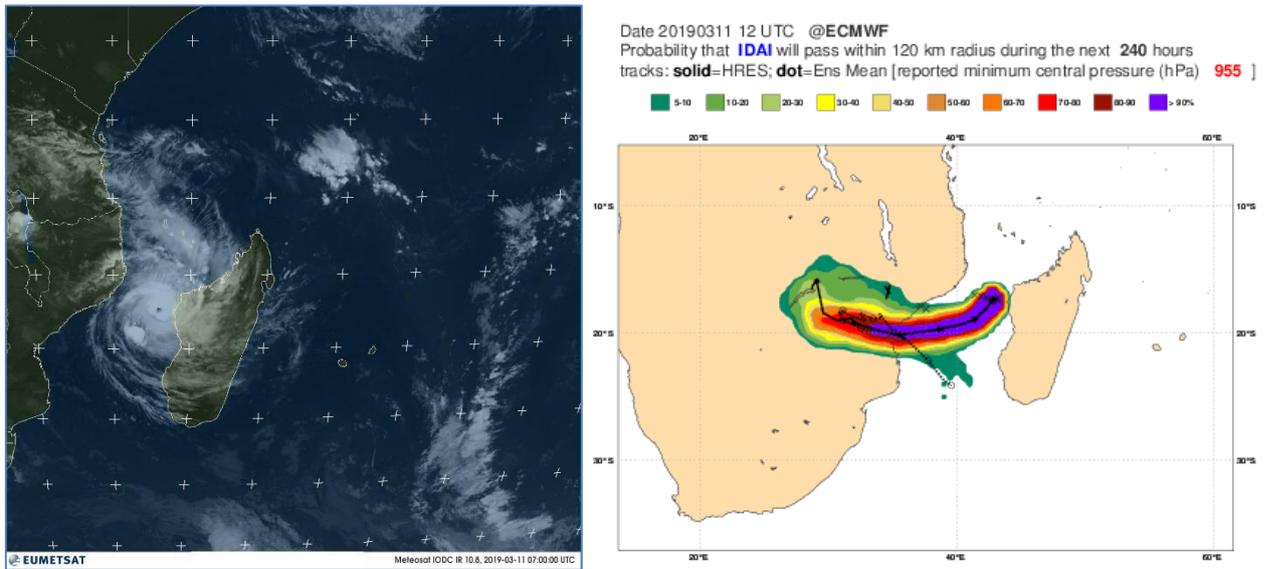


Figure 5: Current positions of Tropical Cyclones IDAI (left) and projected track (right) (*Image Sources: EUMETSAT (left image) and ECMWF (right image)*)

Recommended Action

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of Botswana, DRC, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe should monitor the tropical cyclone's progression during the next 24 to 72 hours. Response agents such as National Disaster Management Agencies operating in southern DRC, eastern Botswana, north-western Madagascar, southern Malawi, central to northern Mozambique, southern Zambia, northern South Africa and most of central Zimbabwe, must be on the alert. The table and map below shows areas within the Cyclone danger swath.

Table 1: Areas to be affected by Tropical Cyclone IDAI

DRC Provinces	Botswana Provinces	Malawi Provinces	Madagascar Provinces	Mozambique Provinces	South Africa Provinces	Zambia Provinces	Zimbabwe Provinces
1. Katanga	1. Central	1. Southern	1. Majanga	1. Sofala *	1. Limpopo	1. Eastern	1. Manicaland
		2. Central	2. Toliara	2. Zambezia		2. Lusaka	2. Mshonaland East
				3. Gaza		3. Central	3. Mashonaland Central
				4. Inhambane		4. Southern	4. Masvingo
				5. Niassa		5. Luapula	5. Matebeland South
				6. Tete		6. Copperbelt	6. Mashonaland West
				7. Manica *		7. Northern	7. Midlands
				8. Nampula			

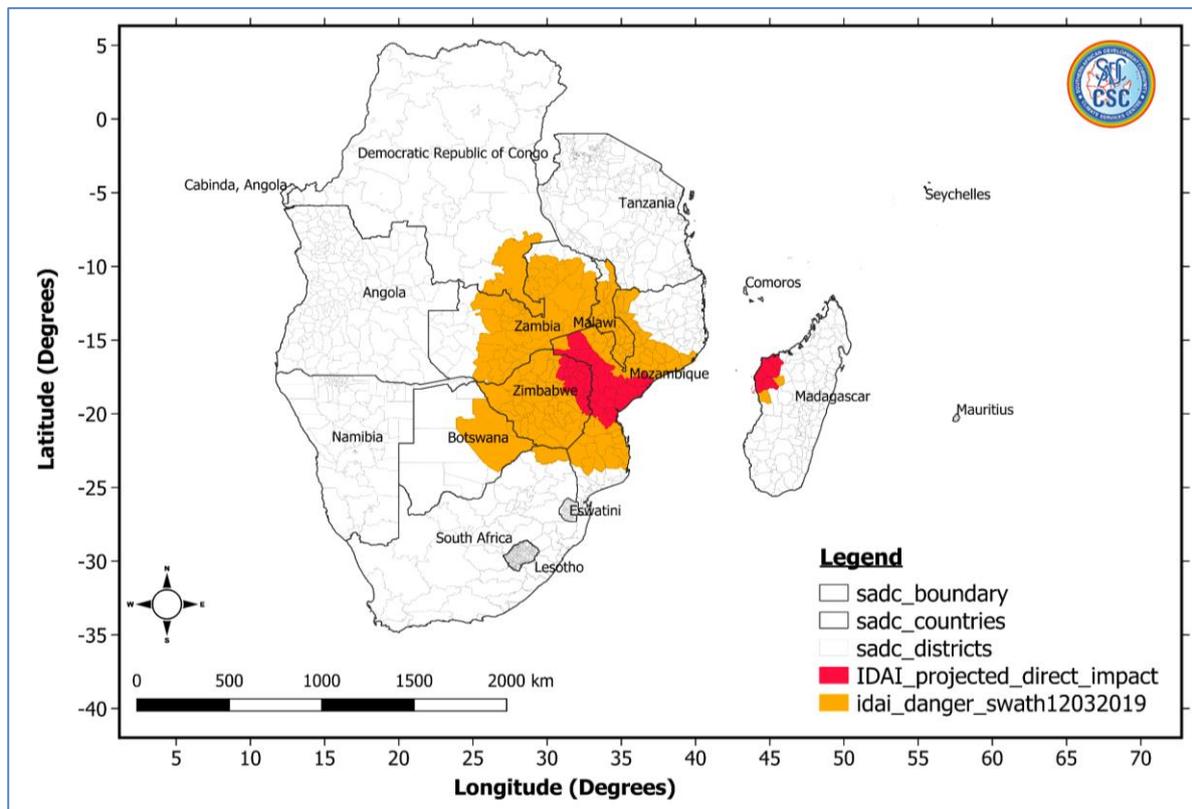


Figure 6: Danger swath for Tropical Cyclone IDAI