

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

454 26 April 2019 Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Unprecedented 2nd intense cyclone hits Mozambique

Cyclone Kenneth, the strongest ever to hit Mozambique, made landfall yesterday (25 April) evening on the coast of Cabo Delgado between Macomia and Mocimboa da Praia, causing serious damage to those districts and to the offshore islands in Ibo district. There was less damage in Palma, on the northern edge of the cyclone and with the main gas projects, and Pemba, on the southern edge.

This is the first time Mozambique has had two such serious cyclones, in a recorded history going back 50 years. Cyclone Idai made landfall at Beira on 15 March with winds up to 180 km/h while Kenneth had winds of up to 210 km/h. On the widely used Saffir-Simpson scale, Cyclone Kenneth is the first ever category 4 cyclone, and Idai was category 3.

The only comparable year was 2000, in which there was massive flooding in the Limpopo River valley and flooding on the Pungue and Buzi rivers similar to this year. In that year there were two cyclones, Eline was category 3 and Huddah was category 1. In addition there were remnants of two other cyclones, Connie and Gloria, which added to the flooding. Copies of the book "Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000" can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

This is the first time a cyclone has hit Cabo Delgado, although it has been hit by tropical storms. In the 2013-14 season five storms reached Mozambique including one which hit Cabo Delgado, but all were categorised as tropical storms or depressions, with wind speed under 119 km/h. Before that, the last previous tropical storms to hit Cabo Delgado were in 1969-70.

Global warming?

Mozambique has had category 3 cyclones before and has also had two cyclones in the same season, but it has never had two such intense cyclones in the same season.

This points to global warming. Predictions are that the number of cyclones will not increase, but that they will become more intense. In part this is because cyclones take their energy from the sea, and as sea temperatures rise with global warming, the cyclones can absorb more energy, increasing the wind speeds.

No one storm can be blamed on climate change. But both of these storms intensified over the Mozambique Channel, which is getting warmer.

Mozambique's cyclone history

Good storm records only go back 30 years. Below is the list of all cyclones (with category when they made landfall or passed closest to land) and tropical storms and depressions which hit or came very close to Mozambique in the past 50 years. The list notes where the cyclone was formed. Cyclone Idai was unusual in that it crossed over Zambézia then did a loop and returned to the Mozambique Channel, and similar examples are noted below.

Categories are by the Saffir-Simpson scale, with maximum sustained winds for 1 minute of:

Category 4: 209-251 km/h

Category 3: 178-208 km/h

Category 2: 154-177 km/h

Category 1: 119-153 km/h

Tropical storm: 63-118 km/h

Tropical depression: < 63 km/h

This list is based on annual track maps of tropical depressions, storms, and cyclones from the WikiProject Tropical Cyclones, posted as "2018–19 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season" on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018–19_South-West_Indian_Ocean_cyclone_season and for each previous year until the 1960s.

2018-19: Cyclone Idai, **category 3**. Formed in Mozambique Channel, crossed Zambézia as a tropical depression, looped and returned to sea, strengthened into a cyclone and hit Sofala and Manica and moved inland to Zimbabwe.

Cyclone Kenneth, **category 4**, from north of Madagascar, hit Cabo Delgado and moved inland.

2017-18: an unnamed tropical depression crossed Zambézia and then returned to the sea (like Idai) but dissipated over the sea

2016-17: Cyclone Dineo, **category 2**. formed in Mozambique Channel, hit Inhambane.

2013-14: 5 tropical storms or depressions (but no cyclones) reached Mozambique, including one which reached Cabo Delgado and one which looped over Zambézia and returned to sea, reaching Madagascar a second time.

2011-12: Cyclone Funso, **category 2**, started off the coast of Cabo Delgado and moved south, causing extensive damage in Zambézia. It becoming category 4 in the southern Mozambique channel but too far away to have any direct effect.

2007-08: Cyclone Jokwe, **category 3**, passed north of Madagascar and came south through the Mozambique Channel, passed along the coast of Zambézia.

2006-07: Cyclone Favio, **category 3**, passed south of Madagascar, hit Inhambane and moved inland.

2004-05: Cyclone Ernest, **category 1** as it passed down the centre of the Mozambique Channel; started north of Madagascar, did not come close to coastal Mozambique.

2002-03: Cyclone Japhet, **category 2**, crossed Madagascar, hit Inhambane and Manica and continued into Zimbabwe and Zambia. Plus two tropical storms, one of which looped over Zambézia and returned to sea.

2000-01: Storm Dera came from north of Madagascar and passed the coast of Nampula as a tropical storm and only intensified into a cyclone when it was moving south and was relatively far from Mozambique.

1999-00: For the great flood of 2000, Mozambique was hit by 4 cyclones. Cyclone Connie hit Reunion and then moved west; by then a mere storm, in early February it hit Maputo and moved into South Africa with heavy rain causing flooding. Cyclone Eline had the longest storm track on record, 11,000 km, starting in Indonesia, crossing Madagascar, hitting southern Sofala, and crossing southern Africa to Namibia. It was **Category 3** when it hit Sofala and caused as extensive flooding in the Pungue and Buzi rivers as Idai this year. Rain from Connie and Eline cause record flooding in the Limpopo river. The remnants of cyclone Gloria crossed Madagascar and hit southern Mozambique with more rain, which exacerbated flooding. The Cyclone Huddah crossed Madagascar and was **category 1**

when it hit Sofala and Zambézia. Finally in April Subtropical Depression 13 dropped heavy rain on Inhambane. In the flood, 700 people died.

1996-97: Cyclone Lisette, **category 1**, started in the Mozambique Channel and hit Beira, moving inland to Zimbabwe.

1995-96: Cyclone Bonita, **category 1**, crossed Madagascar, hit Zambézia, and crossed Zimbabwe and Zambia and became the first recorded Indian Ocean cyclone to reach the Atlantic Ocean.

1994-95: Tropical Storm Fodah started south of Madagascar and made landfall in Zambézia.

1993-94: Cyclone Nadia, **category 1**, started north of Madagascar and crossed Nampula province and moved south through Zambézia and Sofala, killing 240 people.

1990-91: Cyclone Debra, **category 1** off the coast of Maputo.

1987-88: Cyclone Filao, **category 2**, started north of Madagascar and made landfall at Quelimane.

1983-84: Tropical storm Domoina, crossed Madagascar and made landfall at Maputo and crossed in Swaziland and South Africa, causing extensive flooding.

1982-83: Cyclone Elinah, **category 1**, started north of Madagascar and passed along the coast of Zambézia.

1981-82. Three cyclones and tropical storms. Cyclone Benedict, **category 2**, made landfall in Zambézia and moved north into Malawi. Tropical storm Electre crossed Madagascar and made landfall in Zambézia and reached Malawi. Cyclone Justine, **category 1**, started north of Madagascar, passed along the coast of Zambézia, and moved back to Madagascar.

1978-79: Cyclone Angele, **category 3**. Started in the Mozambique Channel and moved north, then south, making landfall in Zambézia and then Inhambane, and then moving east across Madagascar.

1976-77: Severe Tropical Storm Emile, crossed Madagascar and hit Inhambane and Gaza, causing severe Limpopo river flooding; continued on to South Africa

1975-76: Tropical Storm Terry-Danae crossed Madagascar, made landfall in Inhambane, and continued to South Africa. Two other tropical storms.

1971-72. Cyclone Eugenie, **Category 1**, made landfall in Inhambane and continued to Swaziland and South Africa. Tropical storm Caroline, started in Mozambique Channel and made landfall in Inhambane.

1969-70. Tropical storms Blanch and Corrie, both started north of Madagascar and made landfall in Cabo Delgado.

Copies of the book "Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000" can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

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Background reading

Special reports

Mozambique heroin transit trade

English - LSE - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroin>

Portuguese - Pt - CIP - <http://bit.ly/Moz-heroina>

Gas for development?

Gas_for_development_or_just_for_money?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasEng

Gás_para_desenvolvimento_ou_apenas_dinheiro?_2015 bit.ly/MozGasPt

Social protection report - 2017 Mozambique - <http://bit.ly/MozSocPro>

Special report on four poverty surveys: bit.ly/MozPoverty

2018 Constitution - <http://bit.ly/2KF588T>

Minimum wage and exchange rates 1996-2018 -- <http://bit.ly/MinWage18>

\$2bn secret debt - in English

Kroll - Full report on \$2bn debt - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-Moz-full>

Kroll report summary - <http://bit.ly/Kroll-sum>

Key points of Mozambique parliament report - Nov 2016 - <http://bit.ly/MozAR-debt-En>

Following the donor-designed path to Mozambique's \$2.2 bn debt - <http://bit.ly/3WQ-hanlon>

In Portuguese:

Parliamentary Report on the Secret Debt (complete) bit.ly/MozAR-debt

Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

Election newsletters are on <http://bit.ly/2H066Kg>

Eight books by Joseph Hanlon can be downloaded, free: <http://bit.ly/Hanlon-books>

Bangladesh confronts climate change (2016)

Chickens and beer: A recipe for agricultural growth in Mozambique (2014)

Há Mais Bicicletas – mas há desenvolvimento? (2008)

Moçambique e as grandes cheias de 2000 (2001)

Paz Sem Benefício: Como o FMI Bloqueia a Reconstrução (1997)

Peace Without Profit: How the IMF Blocks Rebuilding (1996)

Mozambique: Who Calls the Shots (1991)

Mozambique: The Revolution Under Fire (1984)

Two more will be available shortly to download:

Apartheid's 2nd Front (1986)

Mozambique and the Great Flood of 2000

These are still available for sale:

Galinhas e cerveja: uma receita para o crescimento (2014) (free in English)

Zimbabwe takes back its land (2013)

Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (2010)

Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique? (2008) (free in Portuguese)

Beggar Your Neighbours: Apartheid Power in Southern Africa (1986)

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Mozambique media websites, Portuguese:

Notícias: www.jornalnoticias.co.mz

O País: www.opais.co.mz

@Verdade: <http://www.verdade.co.mz>

Carlos Serra Diário de um sociólogo: <http://oficinadesociologia.blogspot.com>

Mozambique media websites, English:

Club of Mozambique: <http://clubofmozambique.com/>

Zitamar: <http://zitamar.com/>

Macauhub English: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/>

AIM Reports: www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news

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