



# Humanitarian Situation in Zimbabwe

Issue Number 16

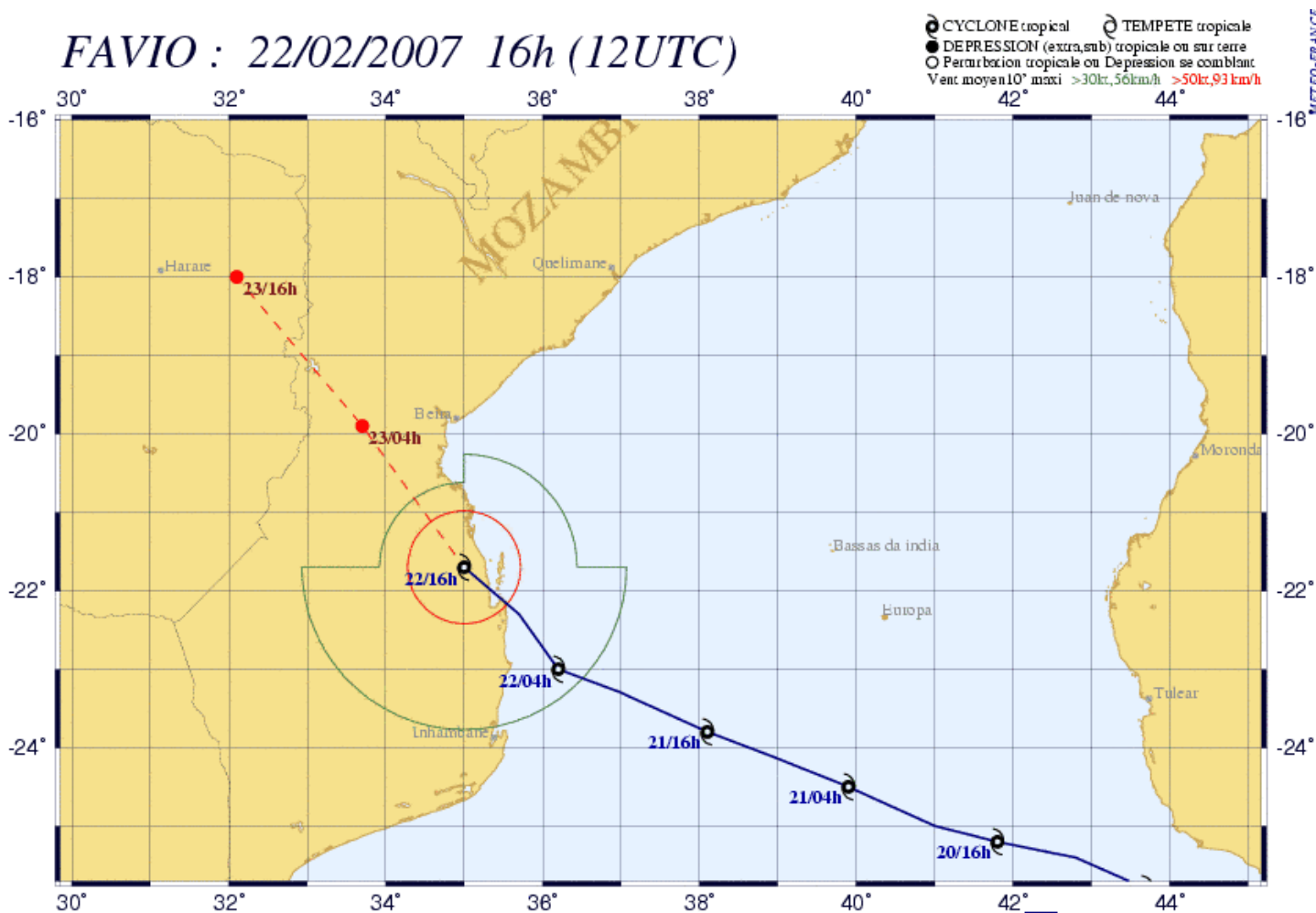
Date of Release – 23 February 2007

## ‘Special Issue on Cyclone Favio’

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Civil Protection Unit (CPU) today issued an alert for Tropical Cyclone Favio approaching from Mozambique that may start affecting Zimbabwe’s eastern border highlands this morning. The south-eastern lowveld area in Masvingo province, Manicaland province and north-eastern parts like Mutoko (Mashonaland East province) and Mt Darwin (Mashonaland Central province) may also be affected. Cyclone Favio hit the coast of Mozambique ahead of estimated time at Inhambane area around mid-day 22 February with violent winds of 230km/h speed according to the Red Cross Society of Mozambique and the Mozambique weather authorities. The cyclone is progressing in a north-westerly direction towards Sofala and Beira in Mozambique and may eventually spread into Zimbabwe and possibly Malawi and Zambia (*see map below*). According to the South African Weather Center, the bulk of the cyclonic phenomenon has already affected Vilanculos in southern Mozambique, tearing roofs off many houses and the hospital.

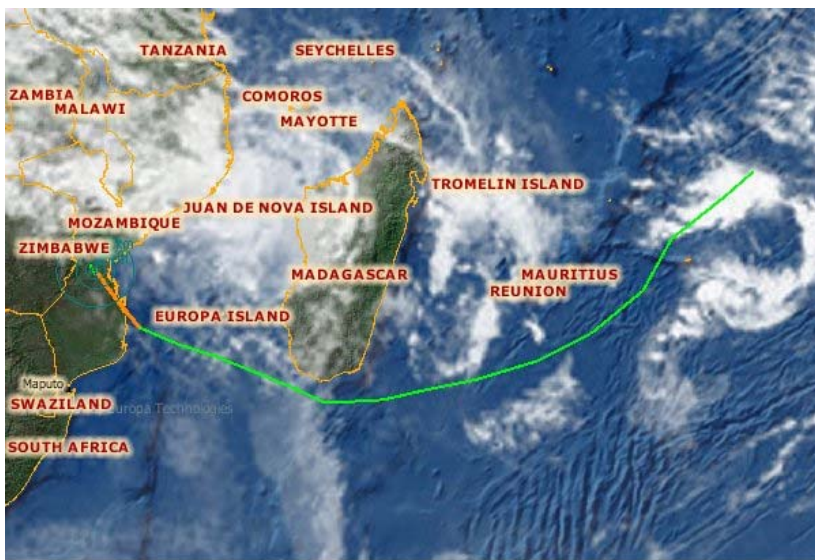
*FAVIO : 22/02/2007 16h (12UTC)*



GMT 2007: Feb 22 12:27:03 METEO-FRANCE / C. M. R. S. DE LA REUNION. ( POINTAGE DE LA DATE : HEURE DE LA REUNION = HEURE UTC + 4 )



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**Satellite map showing the movement of Tropical Cyclone Favio**

**Alert Level:**  
Orange

**Last Observation Date:**  
Friday, February 23, 2007 12:00:00 AM UTC

*[Source: The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - near real-time alerts]*

The Zimbabwe Meteorological Services department reported that the trajectory or direction of the cyclone may shift at any time and is predicted to cause considerable rains in Zimbabwe for the next four to five days.

The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) says that most rivers in the country currently have below normal flows (water levels) except for the Zambezi River. The Zambezi river flow is rising by 20mm per day, which may increase phenomenally due to increased rains in Zambia. The flood prone Muzarabani area is being monitored closely. As of 20<sup>th</sup> February, river flow levels were at 1,5m whereas the benchmark for possible bursts of river banks that cause floods is 4m. Though the area looks safe for now, if Cyclone Favio comes with heavy rains, banks can burst soon and cause flooding in the area. ZINWA has limited equipment to obtain real time data that is essential to closely monitor the behaviour of the river systems.

According to ZINWA, starting Friday 23 February when the Favio phenomenon is expected to have affected most of the country, river flow levels in the Save, Pungwe and Mazowe catchments are expected to significantly increase. Dam levels remain high, largely due to last year's good rains. The levels can as well rise significantly if more rains come thereby increasing the risk of overflows and localized flooding.

**PREPAREDNESS**

- On 22 February the Zimbabwe Civil Protection Unit (CPU) convened a National Civil Protection Committee meeting involving relevant government departments, NGOs, the Red Cross and OCHA. The committee members were sensitized about the approaching Cyclone Favio and the current weather and hydrological situation in the country. An Operational Manual for Flooding Emergencies was reviewed and participants in the meeting reported on their preparedness and capacity to respond in the event of a disaster in 24 hours.
- Civil protection sub-committees as specified in the operational manual have been tasked to meet daily starting 23 February to review the weather situation and their state of preparedness.
- CPU issued alerts to the nation starting on 22 February advising the citizenry to take precautionary measures in the event of rains such as moving to high ground well on time and staying indoors.
- The CPU Director, ZINWA and the Met Department appealed for support from the humanitarian community to procure equipment needed in the collection of real-time data on behaviour of rivers and rainfall patterns, which is essential to minimize humanitarian consequences of weather related natural disasters.
- All District Civil Protection Committees countrywide have been placed on high alert since 21 February.
- The Red Cross Society has issued emergency alerts for Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society district teams are also on alert. The Red Cross is ready to deploy staff in the event of an emergency situation.
- OCHA is gathering more information to update the humanitarian community on a daily basis.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator is encouraging the humanitarian community to put more focus on reviewing and reactivating the April 2006 draft contingency plan. Adhoc emergency meetings shall be convened early next week.

**ENDS**

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