

Tropical Cyclone 08A

TC 08A developed slowly but attained a maximum intensity of 65 kt as it tracked across the Arabian Sea over a 6 day period before making landfall and dissipating over Oman.

TC 08A formed in the Laccadive Islands off the southwest tip of India in December. A TCFA was issued on 11 December and the first warning was issued at 130300Z December as the system drifted west-northwest at 3 kt.

On 131800Z December, TC 08A turned northward and accelerated as it continued to intensify. TC 08A reached its maximum intensity of 65 kt on 150600Z December, while tracking north-northwestward at 7 kt.

Dry air entrainment from the Arabian Peninsula and increased vertical wind shear weakened the cyclone. Subsequently, the convection was pushed to the northeast as the low-level circulation turned west on 160000Z December.

Although partially exposed, the low-level circulation remained tightly wound as TC 08A tracked westward. The cyclone made landfall in Oman at 170600Z December with maximum winds of 35 kt. After landfall, the cyclone rapidly weakened and the final warning was issued at 171500Z December.

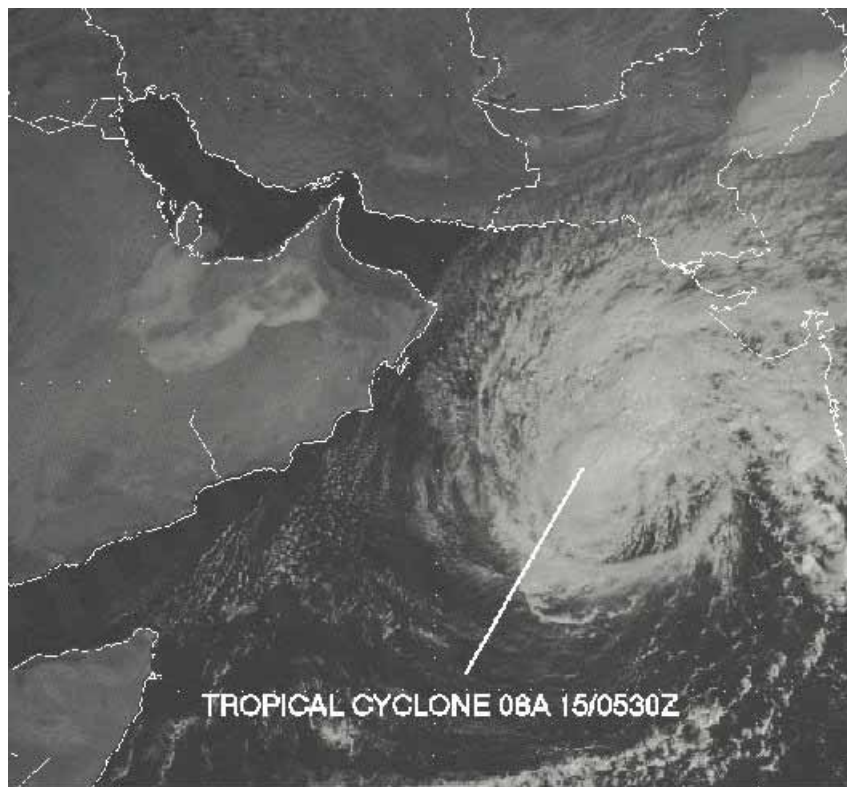


Figure 3-08A-1. Meteosat-5 visible imagery during TC 08A's peak intensity (65 kt).

