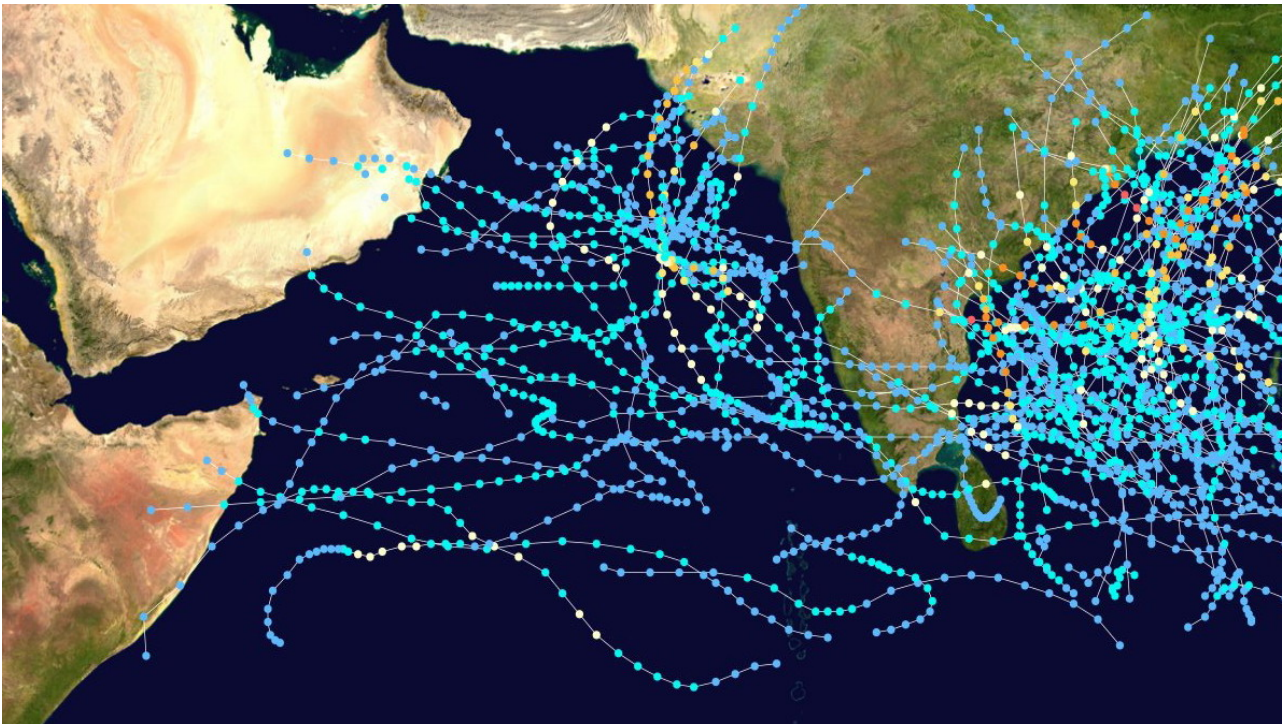


Tropical Cyclones History



The above track chart is from [Wikipedia](#)--`Global Tropical Cyclone Tracks by Nilfanion on WikiPedia (2005)` . It shows the paths of tropical cyclones over the northern Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, 1985-2005. During these 20 years for those cyclones that developed over the Arabian Sea, some cyclones entered Oman (e.g., 2002 cyclone that affected Salalah and surroundings).

Tropical Storms and cyclones are almost entirely confined to two cyclone seasons namely the pre-monsoonal period (May-June) and post-monsoonal period (October-November) (Membery 1985). Most storms originate over the south-eastern Arabian Sea in the vicinity of the Laccadive Islands, but some late season storms start over the southeastern Bay of Bengal and move westwards across southern India re-generating as they cross over the warm waters of the Arabian Sea.

Once a storm/cyclone has formed over the south-eastern Arabian Sea, it moves north-westerly towards the Arabian Peninsula, sometimes curving north-westwards towards Gujarat and Pakistan and sometimes curving westwards towards the Gulf of Aden (see figure 1 in Pedgley 1969). Pedgley (1969) has discussed the characteristics of these coastal storms in detail.

Table 1.1 shows the frequency of tropical storms and cyclones (wind speeds of Beaufort force 10 or more) affecting the Arabian Sea, 1801-2000 (as given by Membery 2001). One additional cyclone that affected Salalah coast on 10 May 2002 has been added to the table.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	1	9	27	29	1	2	4	19	31	4

Table: tropical storms and cyclones (wind speeds of Beaufort force 10 or more) affecting the Arabian Sea, 1801-2002 (Membery, 2001).

Cyclones have been known to enter the Gulf of Aden and more rarely the Gulf of Oman. According to unpublished notes by the Department of Meteorology in Oman (see also Membery 2001, 2002), on 4th June 1980, a tropical cyclone brought 24 hours of torrential rain to Batinah and Muscat regions, with severe flooding and widespread damage to property. Close to 300 mm of rain fell on Muscat city and the destruction that followed led directly to the deaths of at least 700 people. More recently, severe cyclones have occurred in the Salalah area in May 1959, May 1963, and November 1966. In June 1977, a severe cyclone crossed Masirah Island with a central pressure of about 976 hPa; maximum sustained winds were in the region of 90 knots with gusts to 120 knots. The 24 hour rainfall was 430.6 mm. In June 1996 a tropical storm crossed the Omani coast near Ras Madraka (south of Masirah Island) and brought more than 200 mm of rain to the eastern Hajar Mountains with more than 150 mm to the mountain of Dhofar in the south. In June 2002, a tropical storm affected Salalah city. 58.6 mm of rain was reported at Salalah plain and 250.6 mm over the adjoining mountains. According to Membery (2001), the Hajar Mountains received up to 300 mm of rainfall in July 1995 due to a monsoon depression.

Source: http://www.met.gov.om/juma/GONU_web_17june2007/cyclones_history.htm