

West African Weather Systems in the development of Tropical Cyclones

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Tropical Cyclones have their origins from areas of low atmospheric pressure over warm waters in the tropics or subtropics. We have carefully studied the interconnection between the West African Weather Systems (WAWS) and their subsequent development into Tropical Cyclones. Between 2004 and 2005, we studied the interconnection and the teleconnection between the WAWS and the various occurrences of Tropical Cyclones and their eventual development into Hurricanes. We noted the synoptic characteristics and the environmental properties of the Systems; the thermodynamic conditions, the storms trajectory and the conditions of the ocean are all closely linked. It is therefore believed that a better understanding and monitoring of these systems will play a very vital role in early detection of potential systems that may develop into Tropical Cyclones and even Hurricanes. More practical issues will be presented in the future. It was recorded that over the period 1992-2001, weather and climate-related disasters especially those of Tropical Cyclones origin killed about 622000 people, affected more than two billion, left millions more homeless, devastated arable land and spread diseases.