MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN MAY 2025

1. Introduction

This bulletin provides a synthesis of the prevailing climate conditions over Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during May 2025. Dry conditions began in the preceding month. These conditions persisted and continued to dominate across the islands throughout May. El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions continued during May 2025. Near-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) dominated across much of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remained in a neutral phase. Meanwhile, the MJO index was weak throughout the majority of May.

2. Monthly Rainfall Performance in May 2025

2.1 Distribution of Rainfall for May 2025

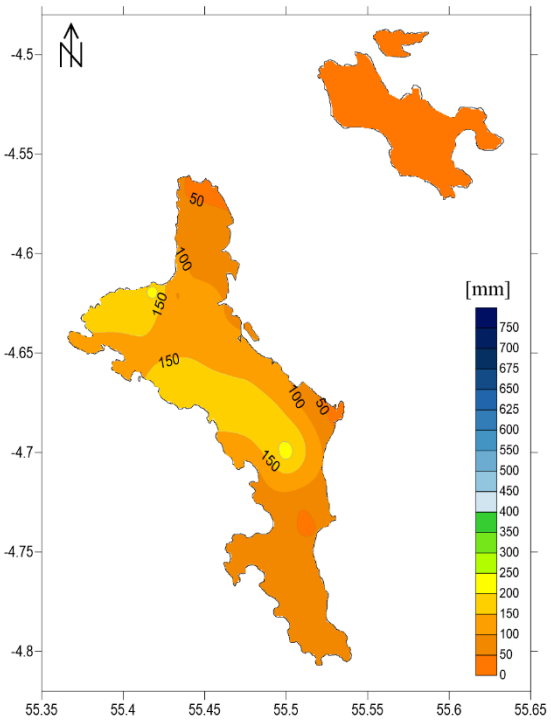


Figure 1: Monthly total rainfall in mm during May 2025

Figure 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of accumulated rainfall over Mahe and Praslin for May 2025. The average rainfall over Mahe was approximately 110.3 mm, with the highest total (226 mm) recorded at the Prison–Montagne Posée station. Rainfall totals below 100 mm were observed in the northern and southern areas of Mahe, as well as in areas surrounding the International airport. The central and western areas generally received between 100 mm and 226 mm. A gradual decline in rainfall totals is evident, decreasing from around 150 mm in the western parts of Mahe to approximately 50 mm at the northern tip. A similar pattern is also observed from the west toward the southeastern direction.

Over Praslin and La Digue, rainfall totals remained below 50 mm, with the highest value recorded at the Praslin Salazie station.

2.2 Monthly Rainfall Anomaly and Percentage of Mean Rainfall during May 2025

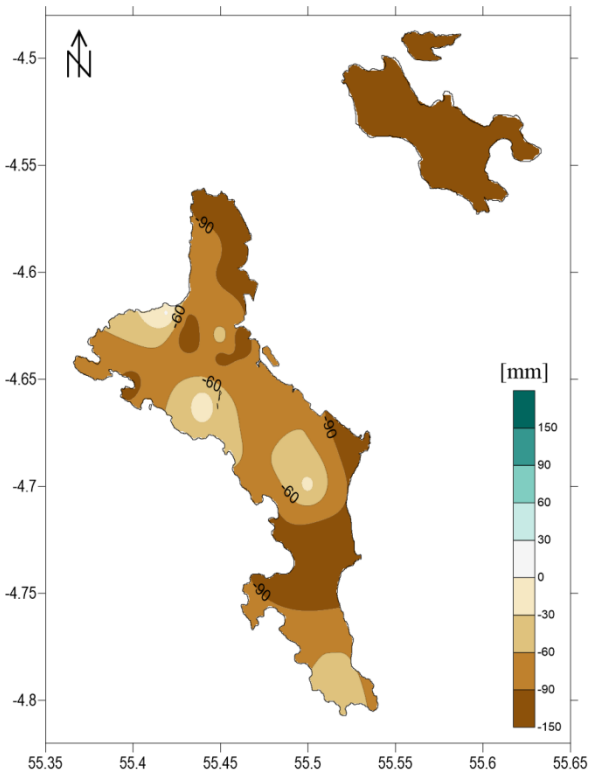


Figure 2: Monthly rainfall anomaly in mm during May 2025

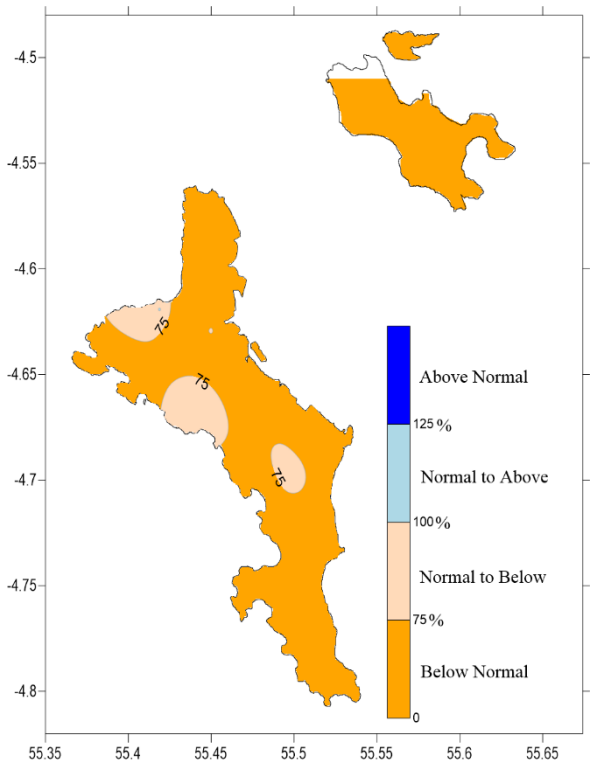


Figure 3: Percent of mean rainfall during May 2025

Figure 2 presents rainfall anomalies over Mahe and Praslin for May 2025. Overall, negative anomalies were observed across both islands, indicating a general rainfall deficit during the period. Anomalies ranging from −90 mm to −150 mm were recorded over Praslin, northern and northeastern portions of Mahe, the northern half of the southern region of Mahe, and broader areas surrounding the international airport. Elsewhere, anomalies ranged from 0 mm to −90 mm.

Figures 3 and 4 confirm that Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue experienced predominantly below-normal rainfall in May 2025. Only a few small pockets in western Mahe recorded near-normal rainfall, with a tendency toward slightly below-normal conditions. An excess of rainfall was observed over Silhouette Island.

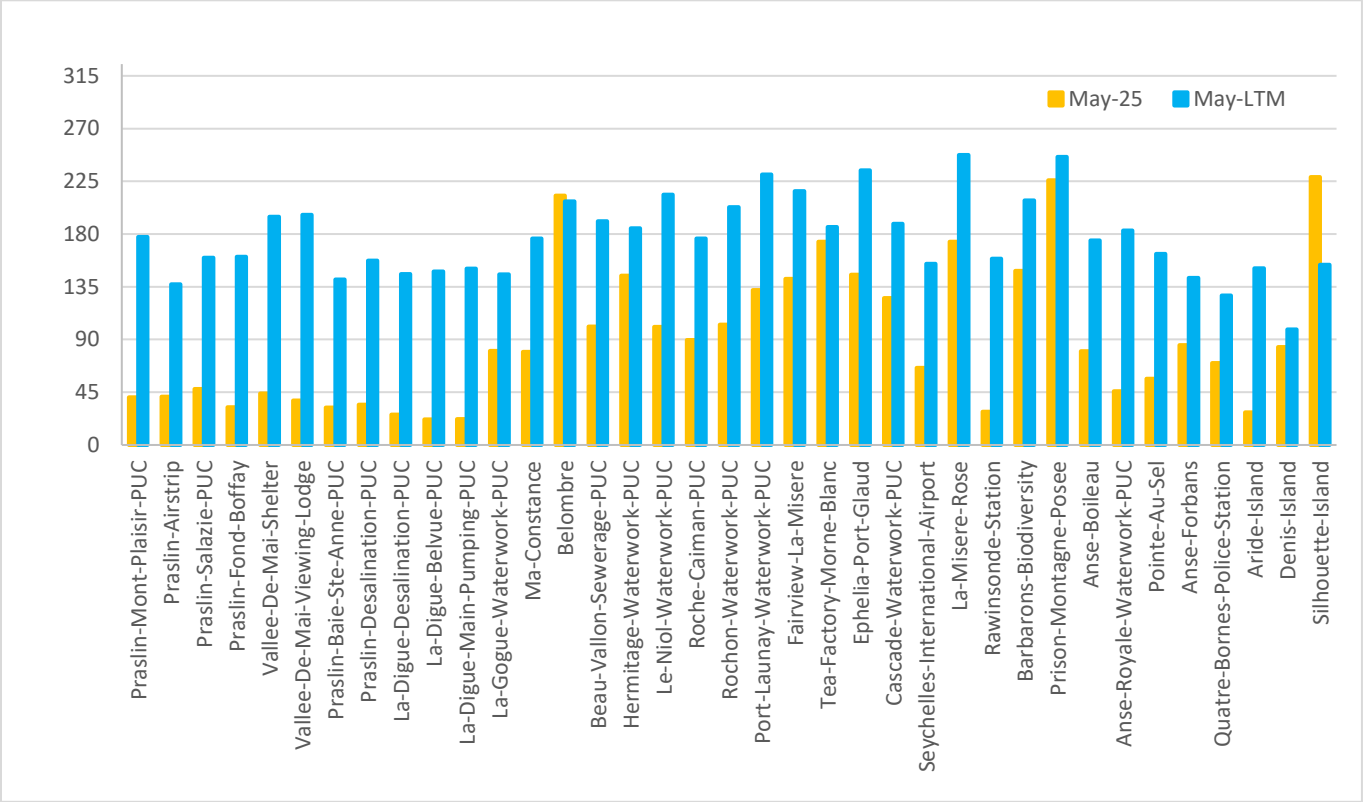


Figure 4: May 2025 rainfall total against May Long Term Mean (LTM)

3. Mean temperature anomaly - May 2025

The mean air temperature recorded at Seychelles International Airport in May 2025 was 29.2°C. This represents a positive anomaly of +0.83°C relative to the 1991–2020 climatological period. It indicates slightly warmer-than-normal conditions during the month (Figure 5).

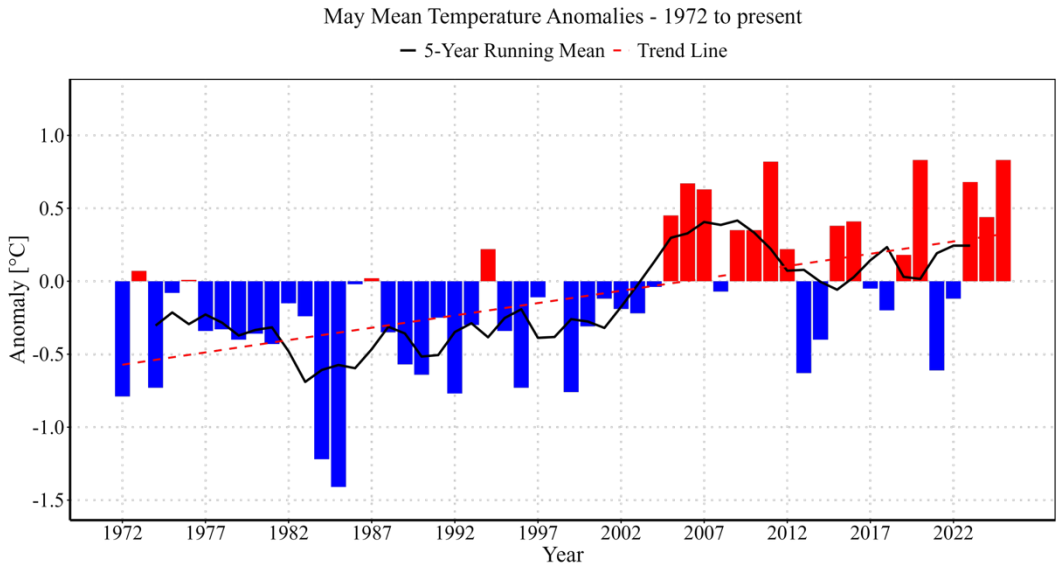


Figure 5: Mean temperature anomalies

4. Daily Weather for May 2025 at Seychelles International Airport

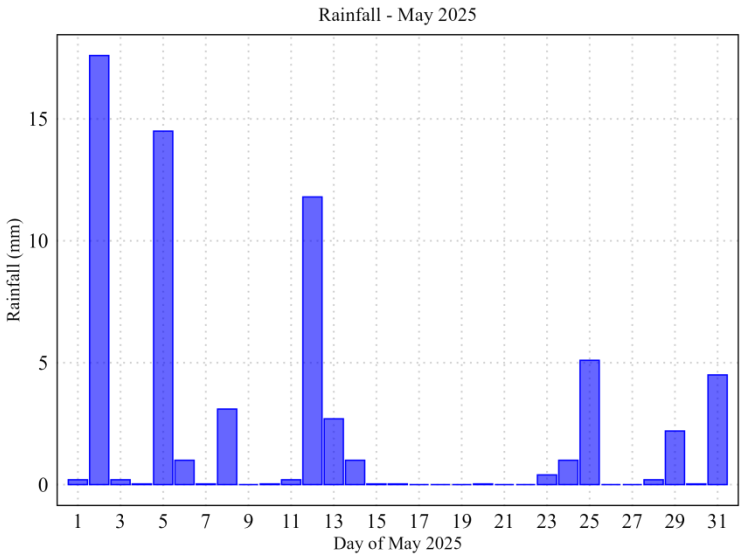
4.1. Daily rainfall, relative humidity, maximum and minimum temperature in May 2025

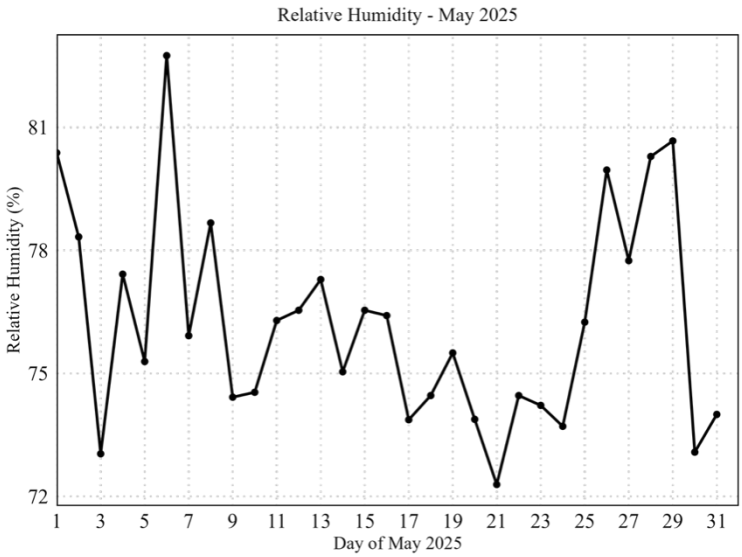
In May 2025, total rainfall at Seychelles International Airport was 65.9 mm. This represents a notable deficit compared to the long-term mean of 156.4 mm for the same month. The highest daily total was recorded on 2 May, with 17.6 mm. Rainfall distribution across the month was uneven, with 36.6 mm recorded during the first dekad (1–10 May), 15.8 mm during the second dekad (11–20 May), and 13.4 mm during the last dekad (21–31 May). Rainfall was predominantly concentrated in the first ten days of the month, followed by a short dry spell lasting two consecutive days. A dry period of eight consecutive days was observed from mid-second dekad through the early part of the third dekad.

Relative humidity during the month ranged from 72.3% to 82.8%, with a monthly mean of 76.2%, which is slightly below the 1991–2020 climatological average. A gradual decline in relative humidity was noted from the beginning of the month through the end of the second dekad.

Maximum temperatures showed a general decreasing trend from the beginning to the end of May 2025. The highest maximum temperature (33.3°C) was recorded at the start of the month. The lowest maximum temperature (30.4°C) occurred one day before the end of the month. The monthly average maximum temperature was 31.9°C. This is 1°C above the climatological mean of 30.9°C for May.

Minimum temperatures ranged from 25°C to 28.1°C. The lowest minimum temperature (25.0°C) was observed on two consecutive days, on the 12th and 13th of May. The highest minimum temperature was recorded on 10 May. The monthly average minimum temperature was 26.5°C, slightly above the long-term mean for the month.





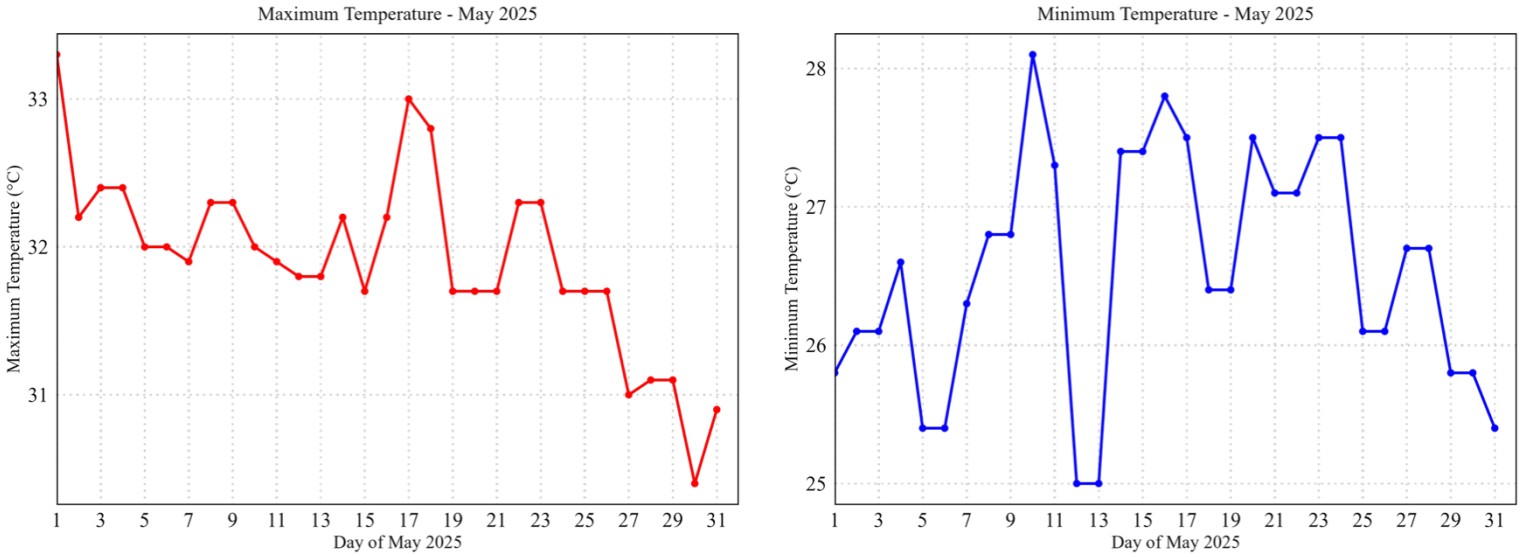


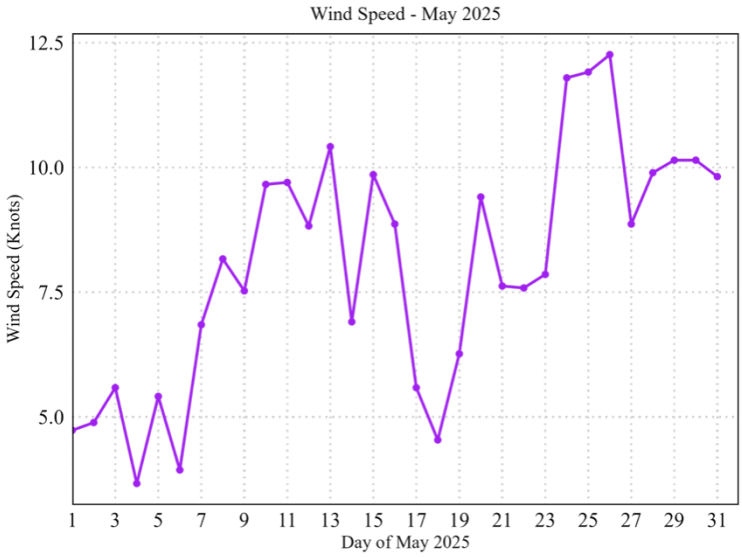
Figure 6: Daily Rainfall, Relative humidity, Maximum temperature, Minimum temperature in May 2025

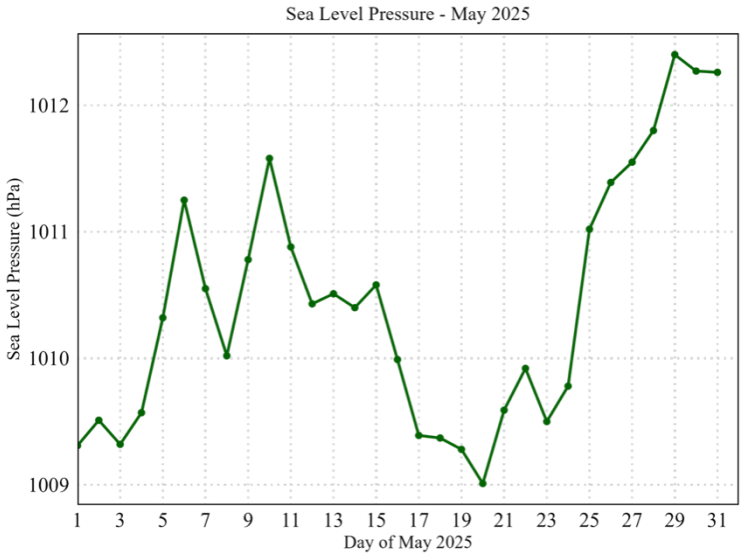
4.2. Daily Sunshine hours, Mean Sea level pressure and surface wind in May 2025

In May 2025, wind speeds at the airport station ranged from 3.6 to 12 knots. A gradual increase in wind speed was noted throughout the month. The monthly mean wind speed was 8 knots, slightly above the climatological average of 7.5 knots.

The mean sea-level pressure for the month was 1010.4 hPa.

The average daily sunshine duration in May 2025 was 9.3 hours. The shortest duration occurred on 4 May, with only 1 hour of sunshine recorded. The peak duration was observed on 16 May, reaching 11.3 hours. From the 5th to the 25th of May, daily sunshine durations consistently remained above 9 hours.





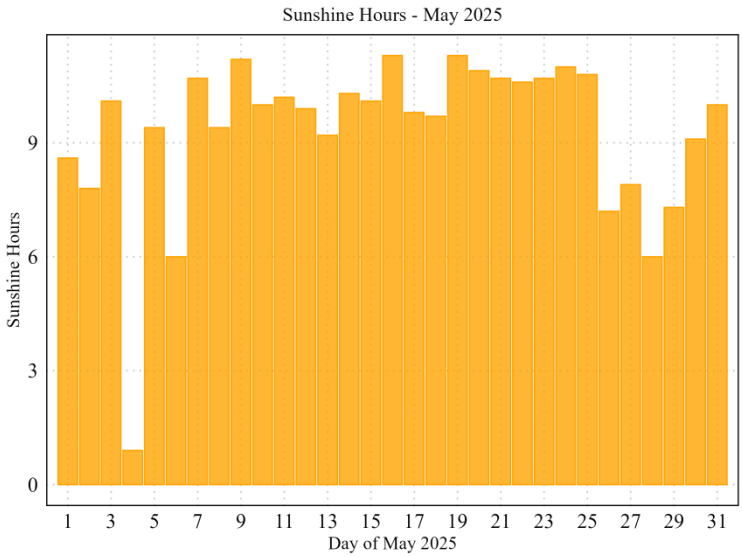


Figure 7: Daily Wind speed, Sea Level pressure, sunshine hours in May 2025

4.3.Wind Pattern in May 2025

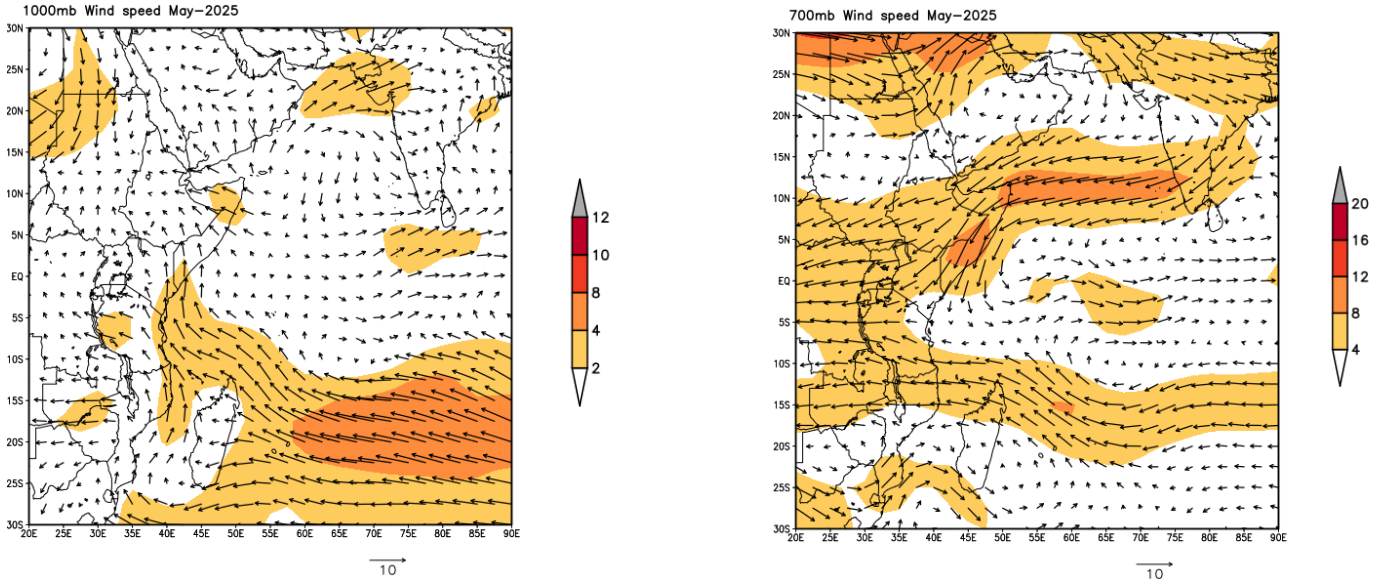


Figure 8: Surface wind flow (left) and wind flow at 700mb (right)

Figure 8 displays 1000 hPa wind vectors across Indian Ocean for May 2025. During this period, the basin depicts a Near Equatorial Trough (NET) pattern east of 60E, undulating slightly between 2°S and 10°S. Low-level flow across Mahe, Praslin and La Digue was south-easterly, with speeds typical of a light breeze. At 700 hPa, winds over the Mahe were westerly, with a wind speed of 2–4 m s^{-1}.

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