MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN JANUARY 2026

1. Introduction

This bulletin provides a synthesis of the prevailing climate conditions over Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during January 2026. Rainfall deficits have persisted since April 2025 and continued through January 2026. As a result, dry conditions affected most areas of Mahe and Praslin. However, improvements in rainfall conditions were observed over the northern and central regions, as well as in a portion of southern Mahe. La Nina conditions were observed during January 2026, with below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remained neutral during January, a period when the IOD is typically inactive. The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) propagated through phase 6 and 7 during the majority of January.

2. Monthly rainfall performance in January 2026

2.1 Distribution of rainfall for January 2026

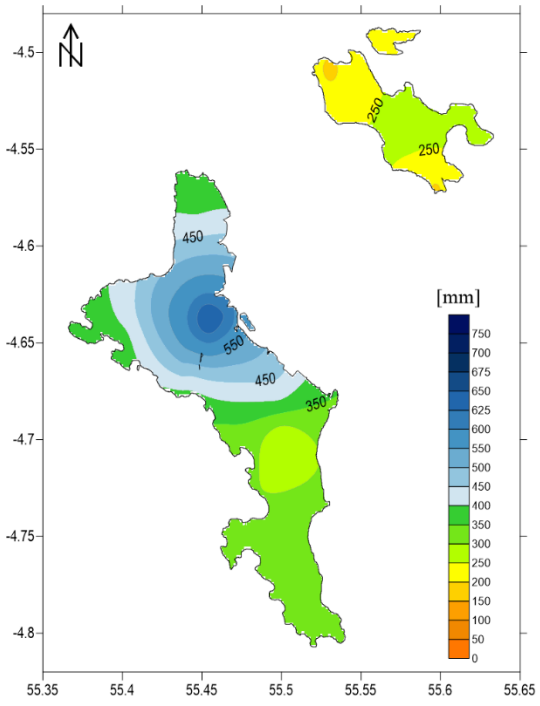


Figure 1: Monthly total rainfall in mm during January 2026

Figure 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of total rainfall across Mahe, Praslin during January 2026.

Over Mahe, total rainfall ranged from 235.3 mm to 656.6 mm. The highest rainfall total was recorded at Rochon Waterworks station, while the lowest accumulation was observed at Prison Montagne Posée station. Rainfall totals below 350 mm were predominantly observed over southern Mahe, as well as within the southern third of the western region of the main Island. Elsewhere rainfall amounts generally exceeded 400 mm. A clear spatial gradient is evident, with rainfall amounts decreasing progressively away from the central region toward both the northern and southern coastal zones.

Across Praslin and La Digue, total rainfall generally ranged from 179.4 mm to 324.6 mm, indicating comparatively lower rainfall totals than those observed over Mahe. On Praslin, the highest rainfall total was recorded at Salazie station, whereas on La Digue, the maximum accumulation was observed at Bellevue station.

2.2 Monthly rainfall performance, anomaly and percentage of normal rainfall during January 2026

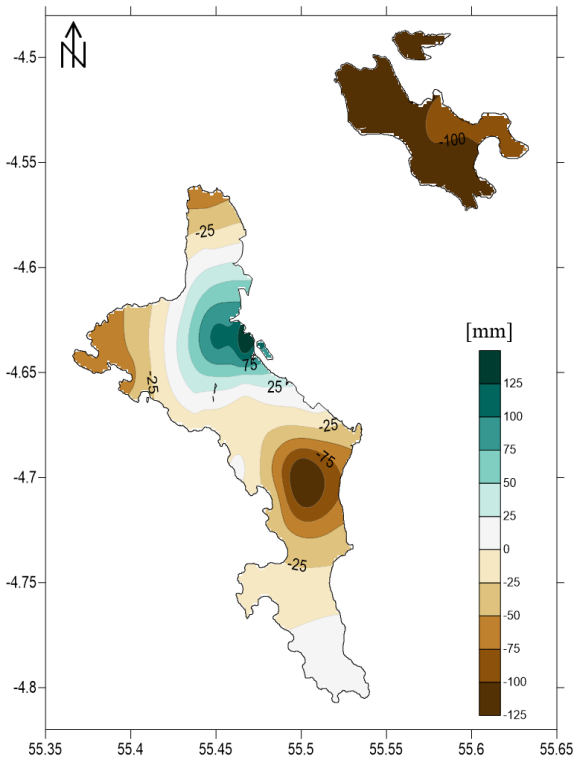


Figure 2: Monthly rainfall anomaly in mm during January 2026

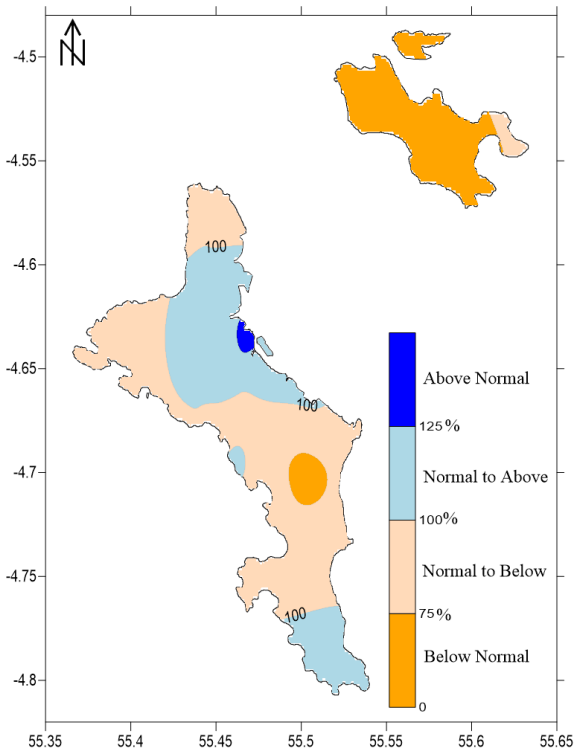


Figure 3: Percent of normal rainfall during January 2026

Figure 2 above presents the spatial distribution of rainfall anomalies across Mahe and Praslin for January 2026. Rainfall deficits were observed over most parts of Mahe as indicated by the negative anomalies. However, areas of positive anomalies were evident over the northern and central regions, as well as in a portion of southern Mahe. A dipole pattern of rainfall anomalies was evident across the main island, with the central interior region exhibited significant positive anomalies while the southern experienced marked deficits. Overall, rainfall deficits ranged from 0 to -156 mm, while rainfall surpluses reached up to +162 mm. Similarly, Praslin experienced predominantly negative rainfall anomalies, indicating rainfall deficits conditions across this island during the month.

Figure 3 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall conditions across Mahe and Praslin for January 2026. Over Mahe, normal to below-normal rainfall conditions predominated across

most parts of the island. Exceptions were observed in localized pockets within the western region of Mahe, as well as in parts of the northern and central regions, and in a localized area along the eastern part of Mahe, where normal to above-normal rainfall conditions were recorded. Praslin experienced predominantly below-normal rainfall conditions during January 2026.

Figure 4 shows that La Digue, Silhouette Island, Curieuse Island, and Denis Island also experienced below-normal rainfall conditions, indicating the occurrence of rainfall deficits across these islands during the month.

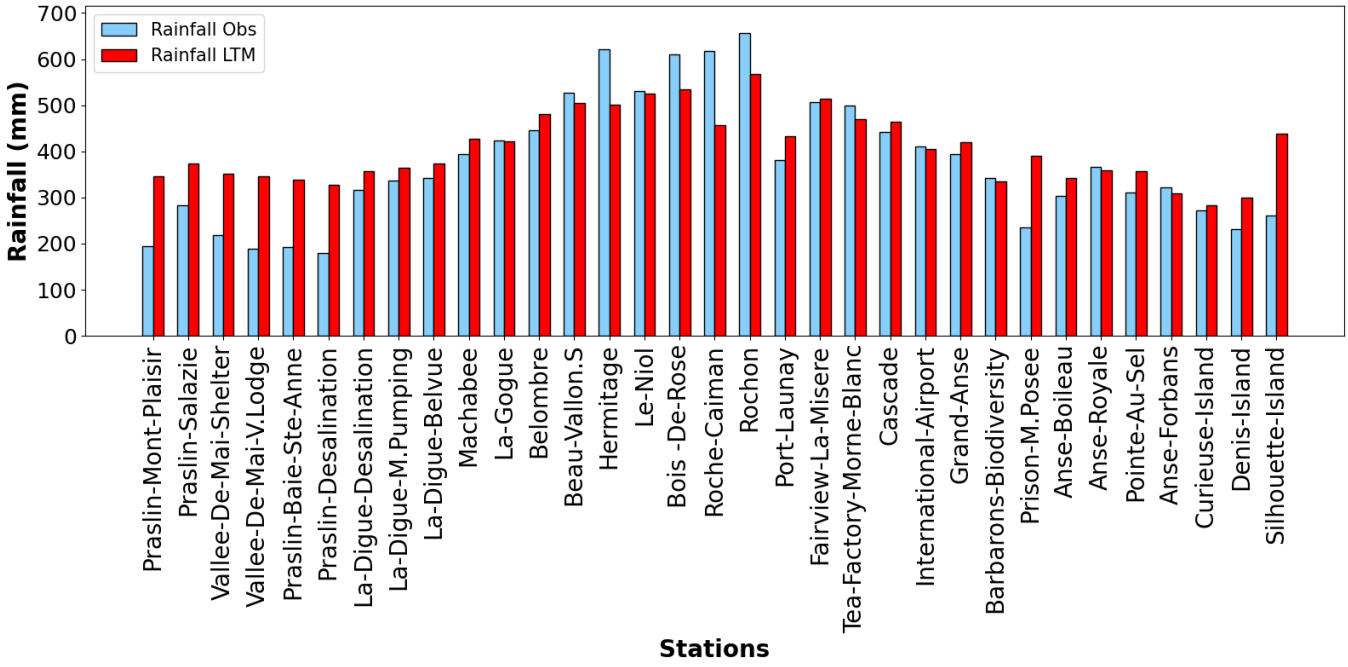


Figure 4: January 2026 rainfall total against January Long Term Mean (LTM)

3. Mean temperature anomaly - January 2026

The mean air temperature recorded in January 2026 was 27.6 °C, representing a positive anomaly of +0.24 °C relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. This indicates that mean temperatures during the month were slightly above the climatological normal (Figure 5).

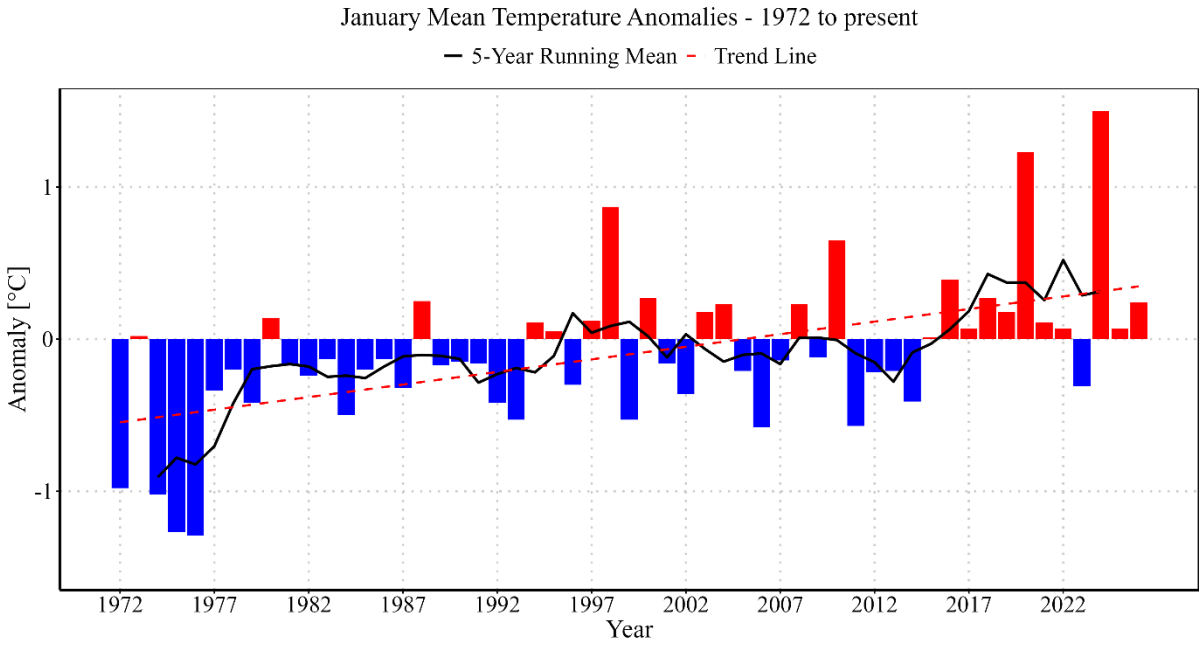


Figure 5: Mean temperature anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. Note: Anomalies refer to deviations from the mean or average temperatures. Positive anomalies (in red bars) imply that temperatures were warmer than average while negative anomalies (in blue bars) imply that temperatures were cooler than average.

4. Daily weather for January 2026 at Seychelles International Airport

4.1. Daily rainfall, relative humidity, maximum and minimum temperature in January 2026

At Seychelles International Airport, a total of 410.8 mm of rainfall was recorded in January 2026, which was close to the long-term climatological normal for the month (426.6 mm). The highest daily rainfall (24-hour rainfall) was 118.3 mm, recorded on 10th January. Rainfall distribution by dekad showed that 280.5 mm was recorded during the first dekad (1st -10th January), 103.6 mm during the second dekad (11th -20th January), and 26.7 mm during the third dekad (21st -31st January) while most of the monthly rainfall (68.3 %) occurred during the first dekad. A total of 18 rainy days (days with rainfall amount greater 1 mm) were observed at Seychelles International. The third dekad was characterized by more dry days of 7 (days with rainfall amount less than 1 mm), compared with the first and second dekad respectively.

Relative humidity during January ranged from 73 % to 90 %. The monthly mean relative humidity was 79.9 %, slightly lower than the 1991-2020 long-term climatological normal of 82.7 %. The lowest relative humidity was recorded on 4th January, while the highest value occurred on 14th January. Further analysis revealed a decreasing trend in the Relative humidity from mid till end of the month.

The Maximum temperatures ranged from 28.2 °C to 31.9 °C. The highest daily maximum temperature was recorded on 25th and 26th January, while the lowest maximum temperature occurred on 15th January. The monthly mean maximum temperature was 30.4 °C, slightly above the January long-term climatological normal of 30.1°C.

The Minimum temperatures ranged from 22.8 °C to 26.4 °C. The highest minimum temperature was recorded on 31st January while the lowest value was observed on 7th and 8th January. The monthly mean minimum temperature was 24.8 °C, which was close to the January long-term climatological normal of 24.6 °C.

Refer to Figures 6 and 7 below for graphical presentation of observed Rainfall, Relative, Maximum and Minimum temperature for January 2026.

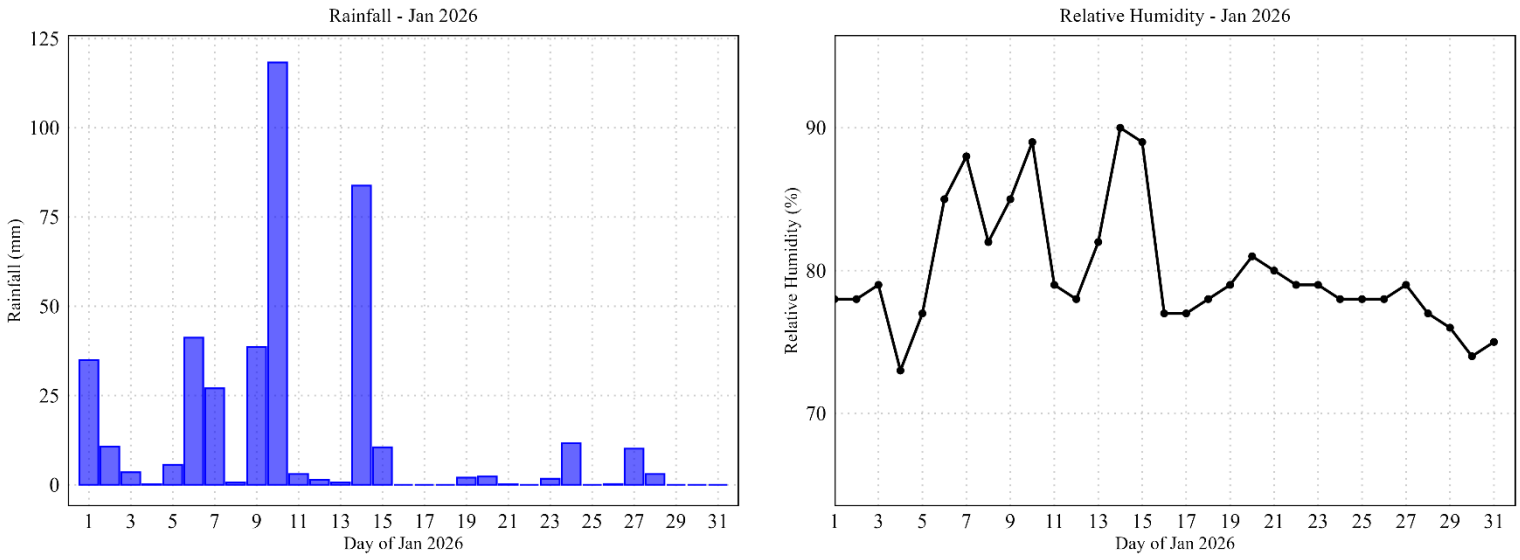


Figure 6: Analytical plots of Daily rainfall and Relative humidity in January 2026

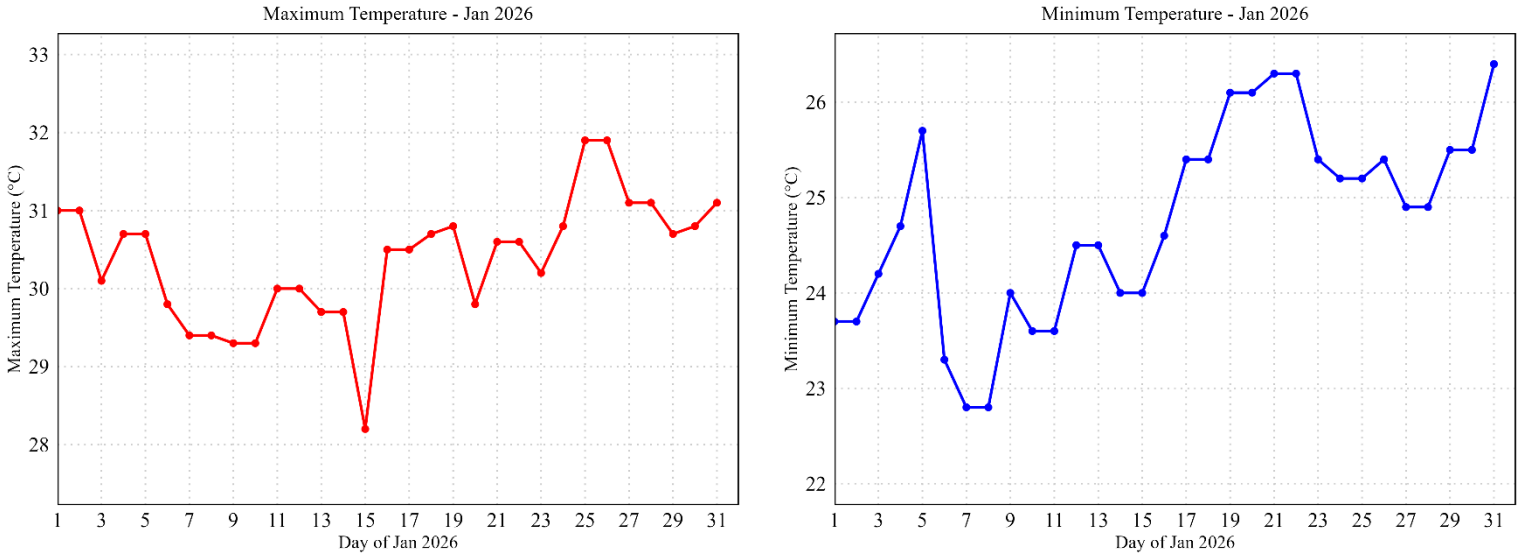


Figure 7: Analytical plots Maximum and Minimum temperature in January 2026

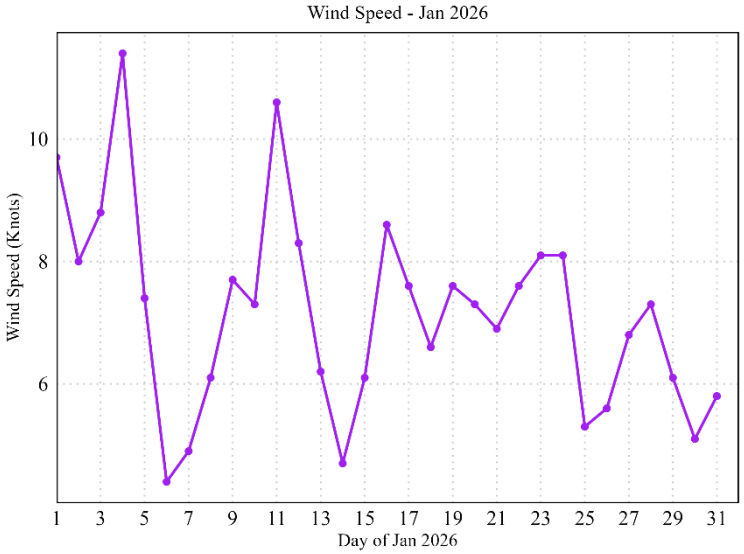
4.2. Daily sunshine hours, Mean Sea level pressure and surface wind in January 2026

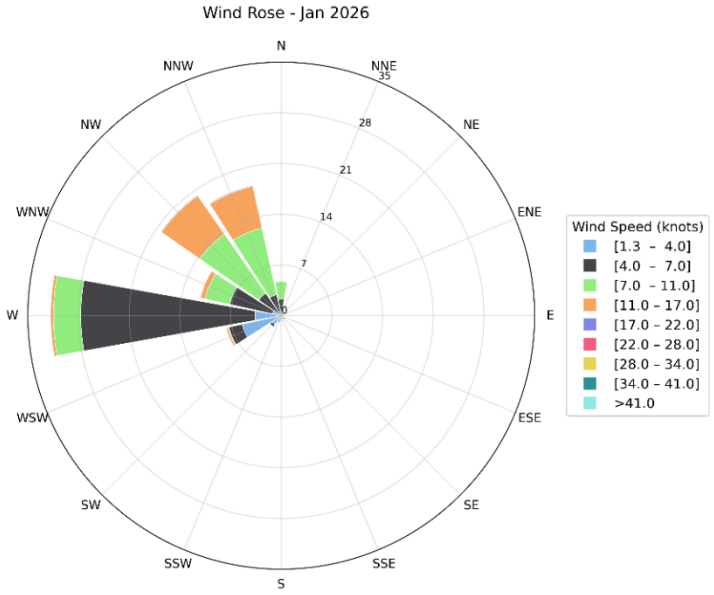
In January 2026, wind speeds at Seychelles International Airport ranged from 4.4 knots - 11.4 knots, approximately (2.3 m/s - 5.9 m/s). The highest daily wind speed was recorded on 4th January while the monthly mean wind speed was 7.2 knots, slightly above the January long term climatological normal (6.0 knots). The strongest wind gust, reaching 25 knots, was recorded on 10th January. Further analysis using the wind rose for wind directions during the month indicated that a predominantly westerly to North-northwesterly wind component was observed.

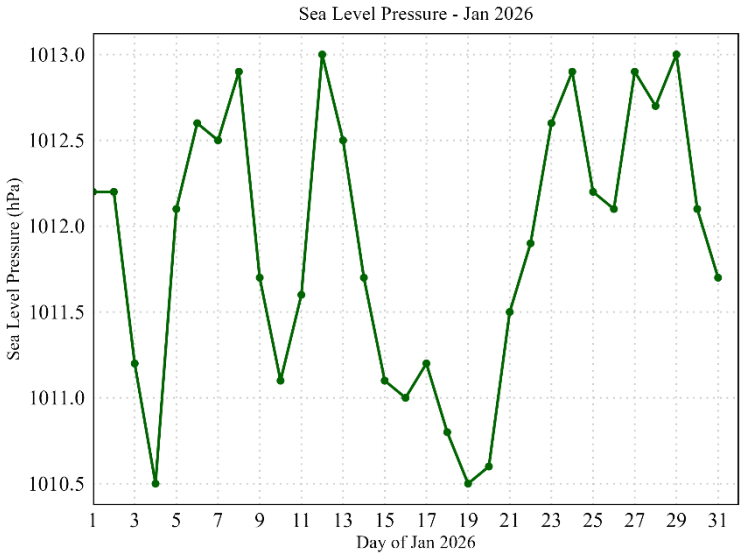
The Mean sea level pressure ranged from 1010.5 hPa to 1013.0 hPa, with a monthly mean of 1011.9 hPa, which was close to the long term climatological normal for January (1011.1 hPa).

The average daily sunshine duration in January 2026 was 4.6 hours, exceeding the climatological normal of 5.0 hours. The highest daily sunshine duration (9.5 hours) was recorded on 31st January while the least sunshine hours of nil was observed on 10th January.

Refer to Figure 8 below for graphical and wind rose presentation of wind Speed and direction, Sea level pressure and Sunshine during the month of January 2026.







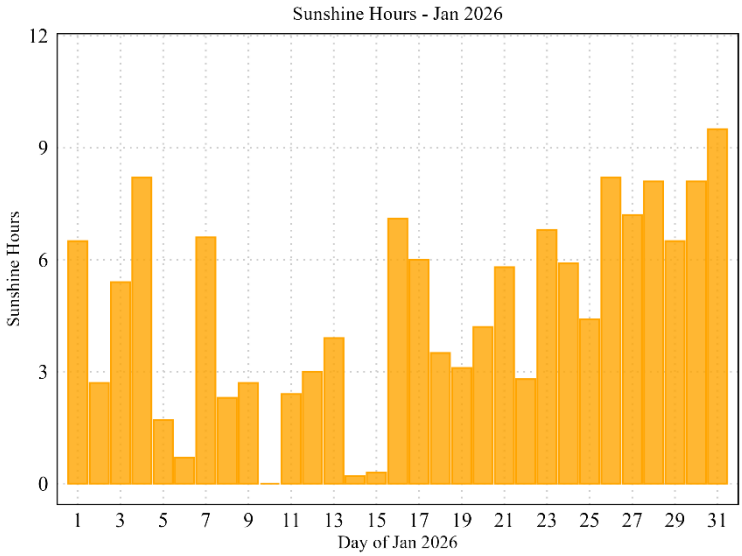


Figure 8: Daily wind speed, wind direction, Sea Level pressure, sunshine hours in January 2026

4.3. Wind Pattern in January 2026

Figure 9 presents the wind vector fields at 1000 hPa and 700 hPa over the western Indian Ocean for January 2026. At 1000 hPa, the Seychelles archipelago (Mahe, Praslin and La Digue) was dominated by northerly flow originating from the Arabian sub-continent, indicating a strengthened Arabian High-pressure system during January 2026. An east to west oriented zone of weak wind speeds (below 2 m s^{-1}) was observed north of Madagascar, representing a low-level convergence zone associated with a displaced monsoon trough/ITCZ segment. This configuration therefore suggested enhanced convection near northern Madagascar while the Seychelles remained under the subsident peripheral influence of the Arabian High. The vertical wind structure implied limited deep convection as observed from mid to end of January, despite the presence of low-level moisture advection.

At 700 hPa, the Seychelles region was dominated by weak south-westerly to westerly winds (4 - 8 m s^{-1}). When combined with the northerly flow at 1000 hPa, this reveals significant vertical wind shear over the archipelago. Such a structure is unfavourable for deep convective development, as rising air parcels are displaced by mid-level flow, resulting in shallow convection and episodic showers rather than organized thunderstorms.

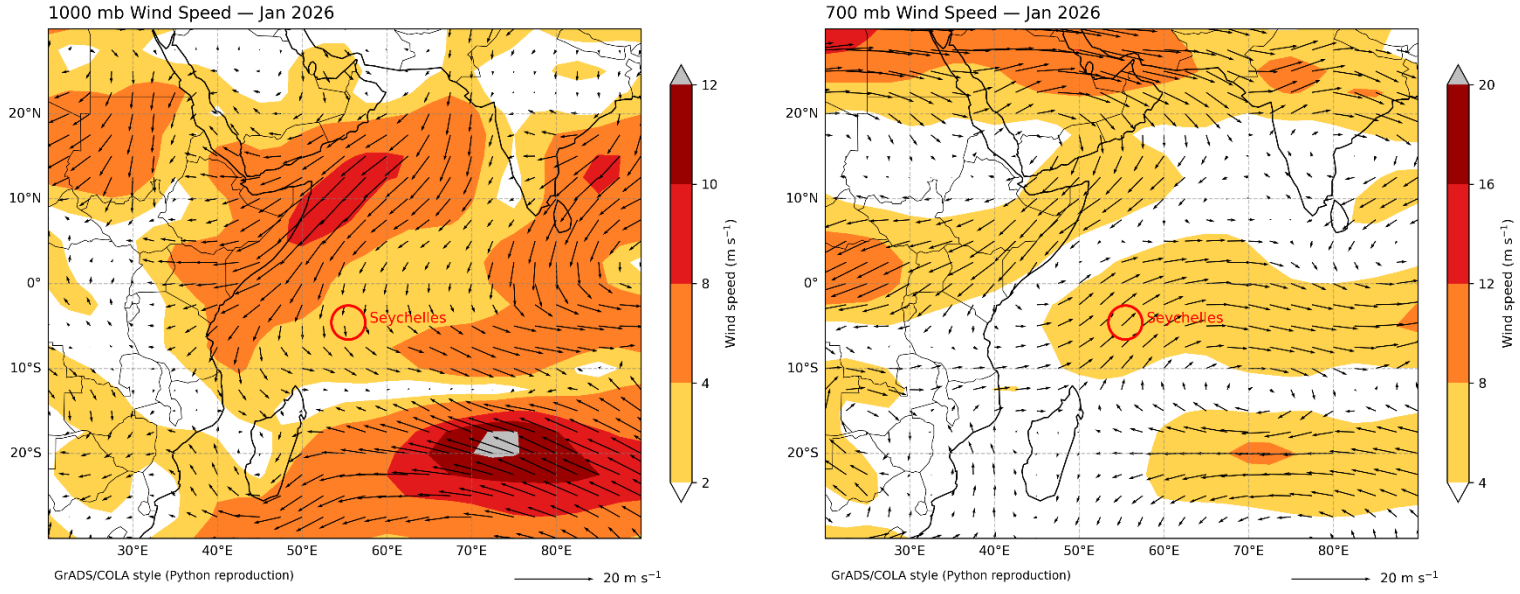


Figure 9: Surface wind flow-1000 mb (left) and wind flow at 700 mb (right) in January 2026