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MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN MARCH 2026

1. Introduction

This bulletin provides a synthesis of the prevailing climate conditions observed over Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during March 2026. During this period, the Northwest Monsoon typically weaken. In March 2026, an improvement in rainfall conditions was observed over Mahe, particularly across the northeastern and central parts, as well as much of the western and southern regions. Similar improvements were also noted over Praslin and La Digue. Mean air temperatures during the month were slightly above the climatological normal.

Large-scale climate drivers during March 2026 were characterized by La Niña conditions, with the coupled ocean-atmosphere system remaining consistent with this phase. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remained neutral. Meanwhile, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was generally weak for most of the month, although it propagated from Phase 5 to Phase 1 during March.

2. Monthly rainfall performance in March 2026

2.1 Distribution of rainfall for March 2026

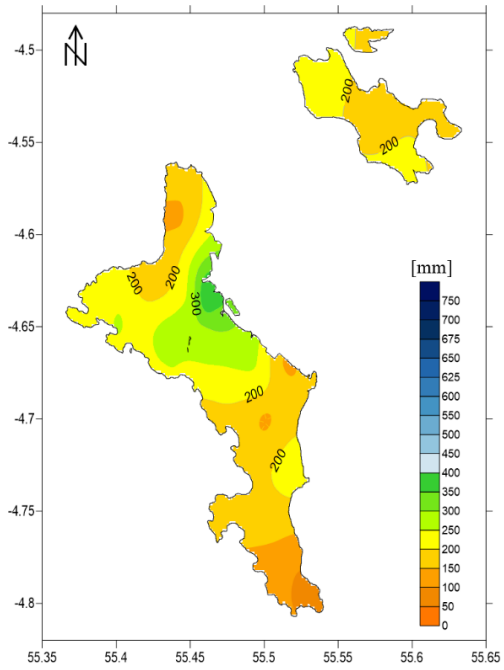

Figure 1: Monthly total rainfall in mm during March 2026

Figure 1 presents the spatial distribution of total rainfall across Mahe and Praslin for March 2026.

Over Mahe, monthly rainfall totals ranged from 89.8 mm to 444.2 mm. The highest accumulation was recorded at Bois de Rose with (444.2 mm), followed by Roche Caiman (377.9 mm). In contrast, the lowest totals were observed at Anse Forbans Station in the southern part of the island (89.8mm). Rainfall amounts exceeding 250 mm were concentrated over the central region of Mahe, while totals below 200 mm were observed mainly across the southern and western parts of the Island, as well as portions of the north and northwest. Overall, the rainfall distribution indicates a gradual decrease from the central highlands toward the northern and southern tip of the Island respectively.

On Praslin, rainfall totals ranged between 101.2 mm and 242.9 mm, with the highest accumulation recorded at Mont Plaisir Station. Meanwhile, La Digue received approximately 191 mm of rainfall during March.

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

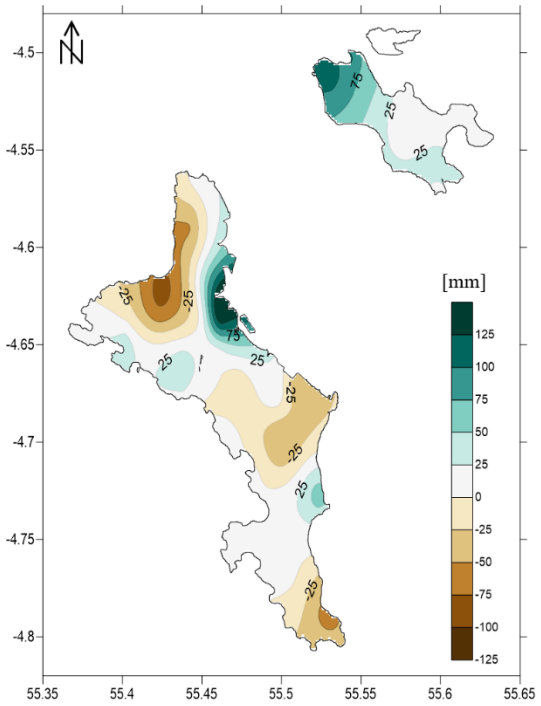

Figure 2: Monthly rainfall anomaly in mm during March 2026

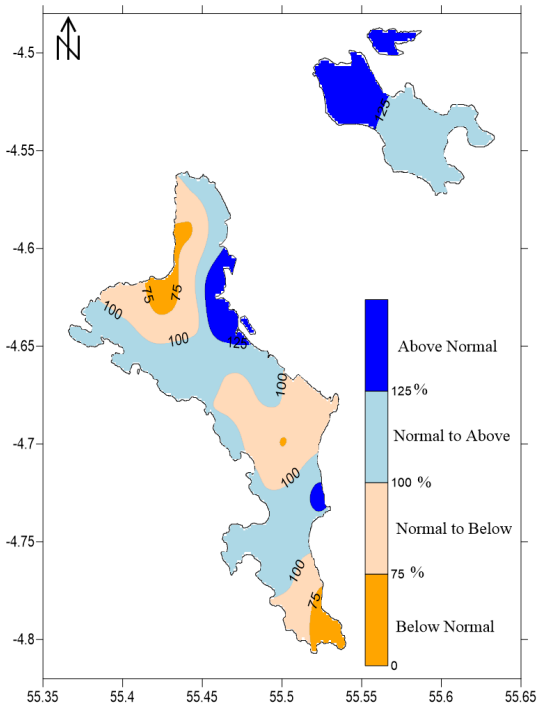

Figure 3: Percent of normal rainfall during March 2026

Figure 2 presents the spatial distribution of rainfall anomalies across Mahe and Praslin for March 2026. Both positive and negative rainfall anomalies were observed over Mahe during the month. Rainfall deficits (shown in brown), ranging from 0 to -98 mm, were mainly concentrated over the northern and northwestern parts of the Island, parts of the eastern side of the Island, as well as the southern extremity of Mahe. Further, positive anomalies (shown in green) were observed, with values ranging from 0 to 235 mm.

On Praslin, positive rainfall anomalies were observed across the island, indicating generally wetter-than-average conditions during the month.

Figure 3 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall conditions across Mahe and Praslin for March 2026. Over Mahe, rainfall conditions were generally near-normal, with areas falling

within the normal to above-normal and normal to below-normal categories. However, localized pockets of below-normal rainfall were observed over the northwestern part and the southern extremity of the Island. In contrast, parts of the central region experienced above-normal rainfall, likely associated with localized rainfall events.

On Praslin, rainfall conditions were predominantly above normal during March. The western part of the island experienced above-normal conditions, with rainfall exceeding 125% of the average, while the eastern side recorded near-normal to above-normal conditions.

Figure 4 shows that rainfall was above the long-term average on La Digue, near average on Curieuse Island, and below the long-term average on Denis Island.

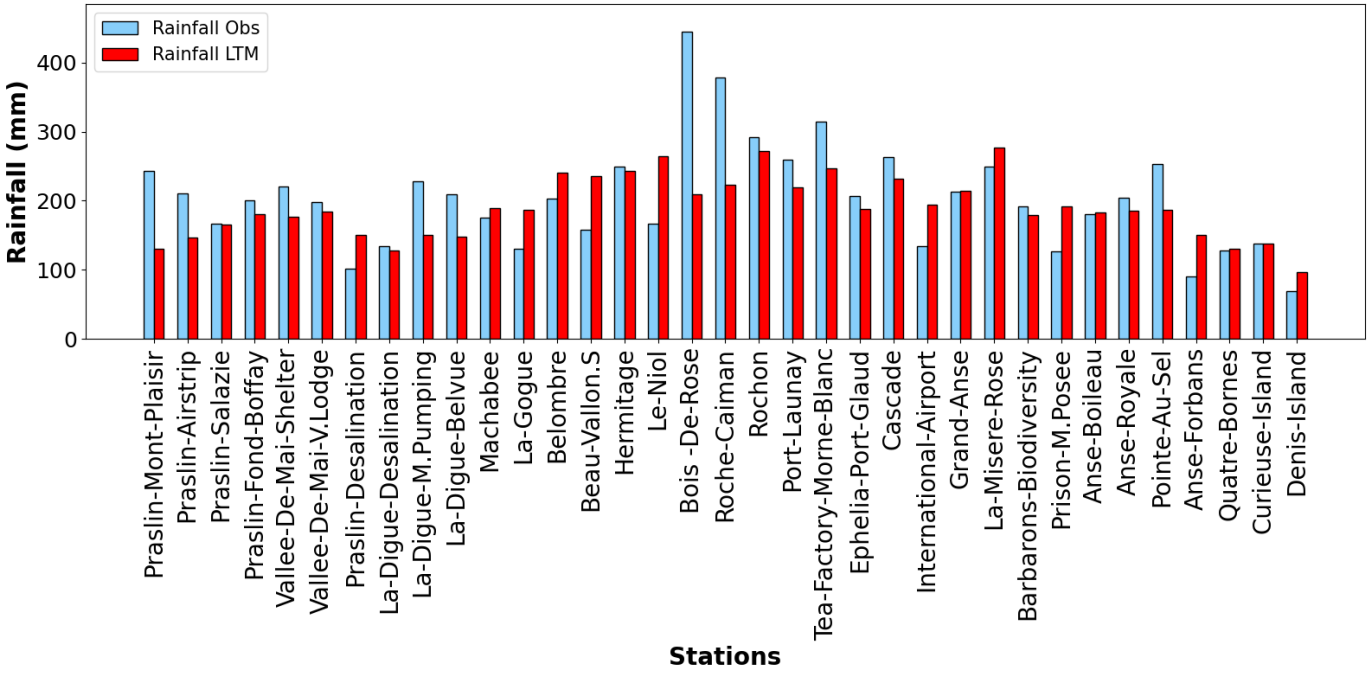

Figure 4: March 2026 rainfall total against March Long Term Mean (LTM)

3. Mean temperature anomaly - March 2026

The mean air temperature recorded in March 2026 was 28.5 °C, representing a positive anomaly of +0.12 °C relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. This indicates that mean temperatures during the month were slightly above the climatological normal. Notably, a sequence of positive mean temperature anomalies (a warner pattern) has been observed for the month of March at Seychelles International Airport from 2018 to 2026. (*Figure 5).*

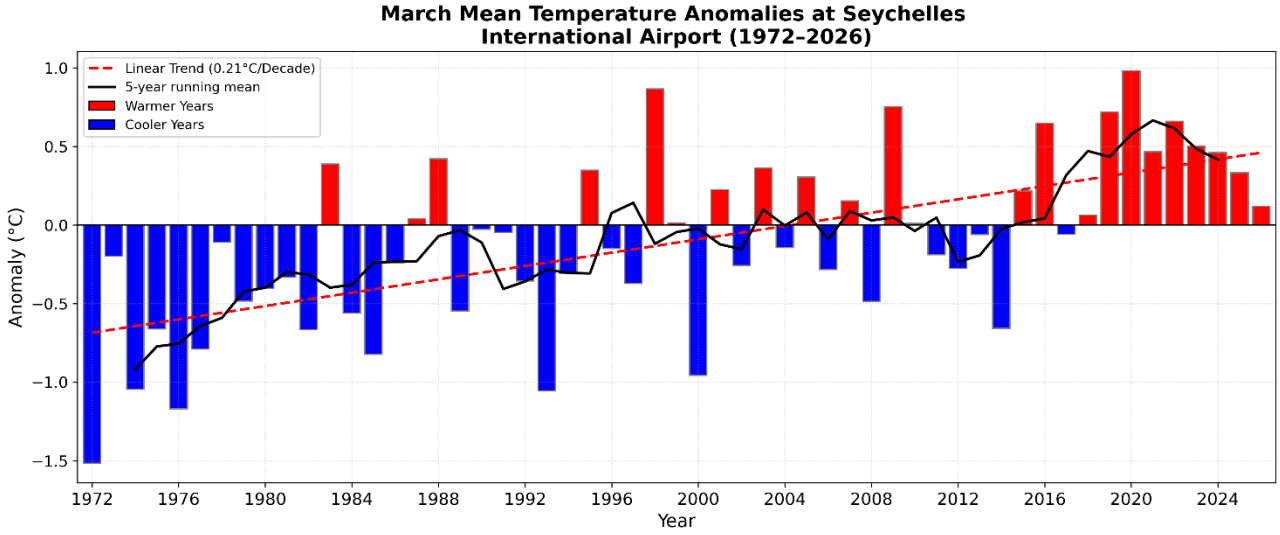

Figure 5: Mean temperature anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. Note: Anomalies refer to deviations from the mean or average temperatures. Positive anomalies (in red bars) imply that temperatures were warmer than average while negative anomalies (in blue bars) imply that temperatures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

4. Daily weather for March 2026 at Seychelles International Airport

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

During March 2026, a total rainfall of 134.1 mm was recorded at Seychelles International Airport. This amount was below the climatological normal of 204.5 mm, indicating that the month experienced below-average rainfall conditions. Rainfall during the month was unevenly distributed, with the bulk of precipitation occurring in the first dekad (1st - 10th March), which recorded 86.4 mm. This was followed by a marked decrease in rainfall, with 30.4 mm recorded

in the second dekad (11th - 20th March) and only 17.3 mm in the third dekad (21st - 31st March). The concentration of rainfall in the early part of the month coincided with the highest daily rainfall total of 47.0 mm, observed on 5th March.

A total of 13 rainy days (≥ 1 mm) were recorded during the month, compared to 18 dry days (< 1 mm), highlighting the predominance of dry conditions. Notable consecutive dry spells occurred between 9th to 12th March, and from 24th to 26th March, further contributing to the overall rainfall deficit. Therefore, March 2026 was characterized by suppressed rainfall activity after the first dekad, with extended dry periods dominating much of the remainder of the month.

During March 2026, relative humidity ranged from 72% to 86% at Seychelles International Airport. The monthly mean relative humidity was 79.4%, which was consistent with the 1991-2020 climatological normal for March (79.4%), indicating near-average atmospheric moisture conditions. The highest relative humidity of 86% was recorded on 2nd March, while the lowest value of 72% occurred on 11th and 12th March. The occurrence of the lowest humidity values coincided with a period of reduced rainfall activity during the month.

Maximum temperatures were generally above 30.0 °C, except on 14th March, when a lower value of 29.5 °C was recorded. Overall, temperatures ranged from 29.5 °C to 32.2 °C. The highest daily maximum temperature of 32.2 °C was recorded on 29th and 30th March, while the lowest maximum temperature occurred on 14th March. The monthly mean maximum temperature was 31.3 °C, consistent with the long-term climatological normal for March (31.3 °C), indicating near-average daytime conditions.

The minimum temperatures ranged from 24.4 °C to 27.5 °C. The highest minimum temperature of 27.5 °C was recorded on 11th and 12th March, while the lowest value of 24.4 °C occurred on 6th and 7th March. The monthly mean minimum temperature was 25.7 °C, which was close to the long-term climatological normal for March (25.4 °C), indicating near-average nighttime conditions.

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

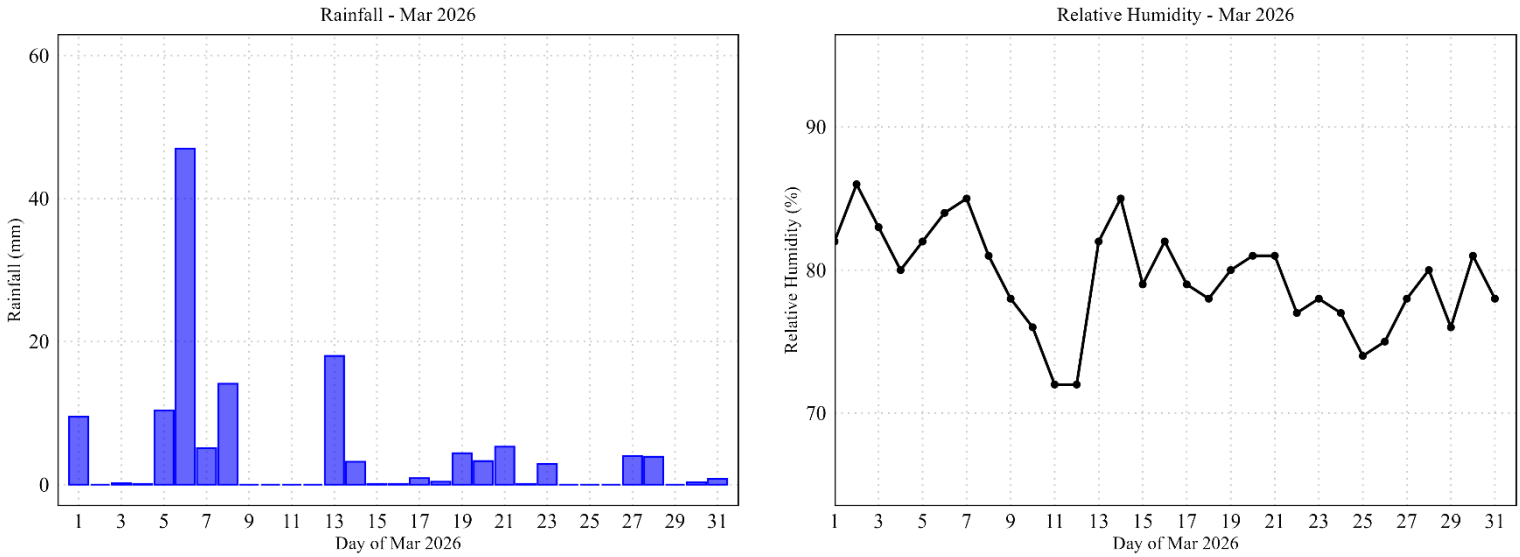

Figure 6: Analytical plots of Daily rainfall and Relative humidity in March 2026

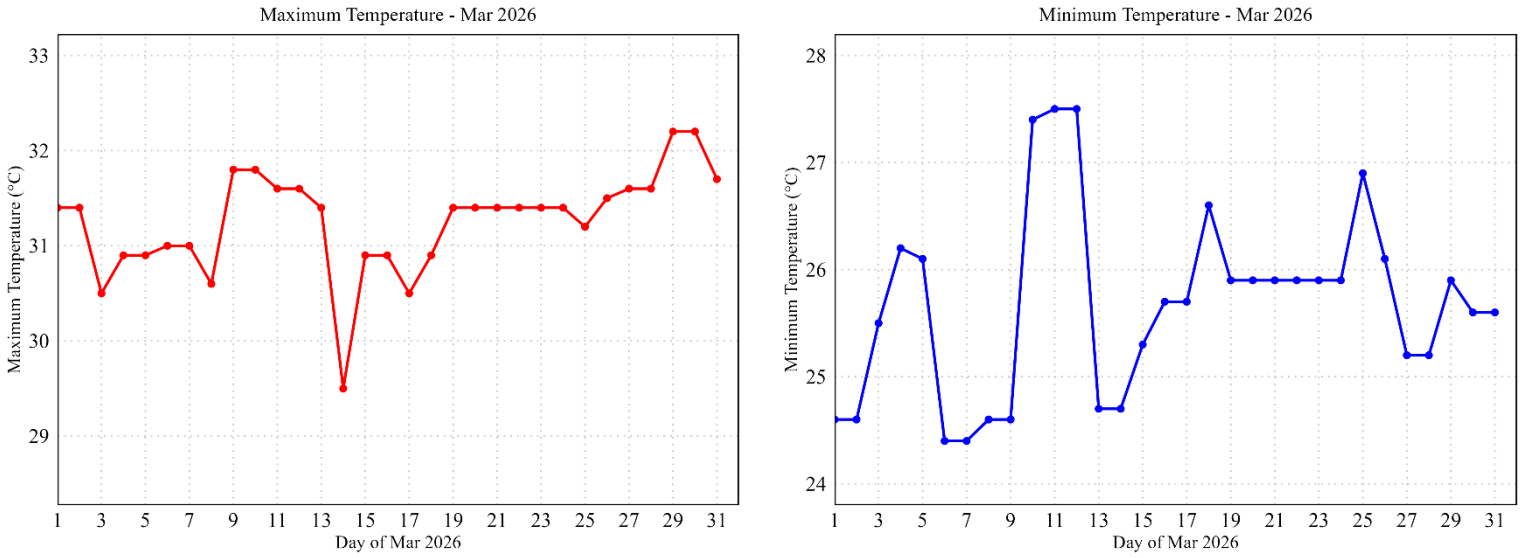

Figure 7: Analytical plots of Maximum and Minimum temperature in March 2026

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

Wind speeds during March 2026 at Seychelles International Airport ranged from 3.1 to 9.2 knots, indicating generally light to moderate conditions throughout the month. The highest daily mean wind speed of 9.2 knots was recorded on 19th March, corresponding to a brief period of enhanced wind activity.

Wind speeds showed notable variability, with relatively stronger conditions during the second dekad, particularly between 9th and 12th March, and again around 18th to 21st March. In contrast, lighter winds were observed at the beginning and towards the end of the month, with speeds dropping to near 3 knots on several days. The monthly mean wind speed was 5.5 kt, which was slightly close to the March climatological normal of 5.4 kt, indicating that overall wind conditions were close to average, with only a marginal positive deviation. However, the analysis of the wind rose indicates that winds were predominantly from the south-easterly sector (SE - SSE), with secondary contributions from the west to west-southwest (W - WSW). Higher wind speeds were more frequently associated with the south-easterly flow, while lighter winds occurred across a wider range of directions.

The Mean Sea level pressure ranged from 1008.5 hPa to 1011.5 hPa during the month. The monthly mean pressure was 1009.9 hPa, which was slightly below the long-term climatological normal for March (1010.5 hPa), indicating near-average pressure conditions with a marginal negative deviation.

The average daily sunshine duration in March 2026 was 6.9 hours, which was slightly close to the climatological normal of 7.0 hours, indicating near-average sunshine conditions. The highest daily sunshine duration of 10.7 hours was recorded on 25th March, while the lowest value of zero hours occurred on 13th March.

Refer to Figure 8 and 9 below for graphical and wind rose presentation of wind Speed and direction, Sea level pressure and Sunshine during the month of March 2026.

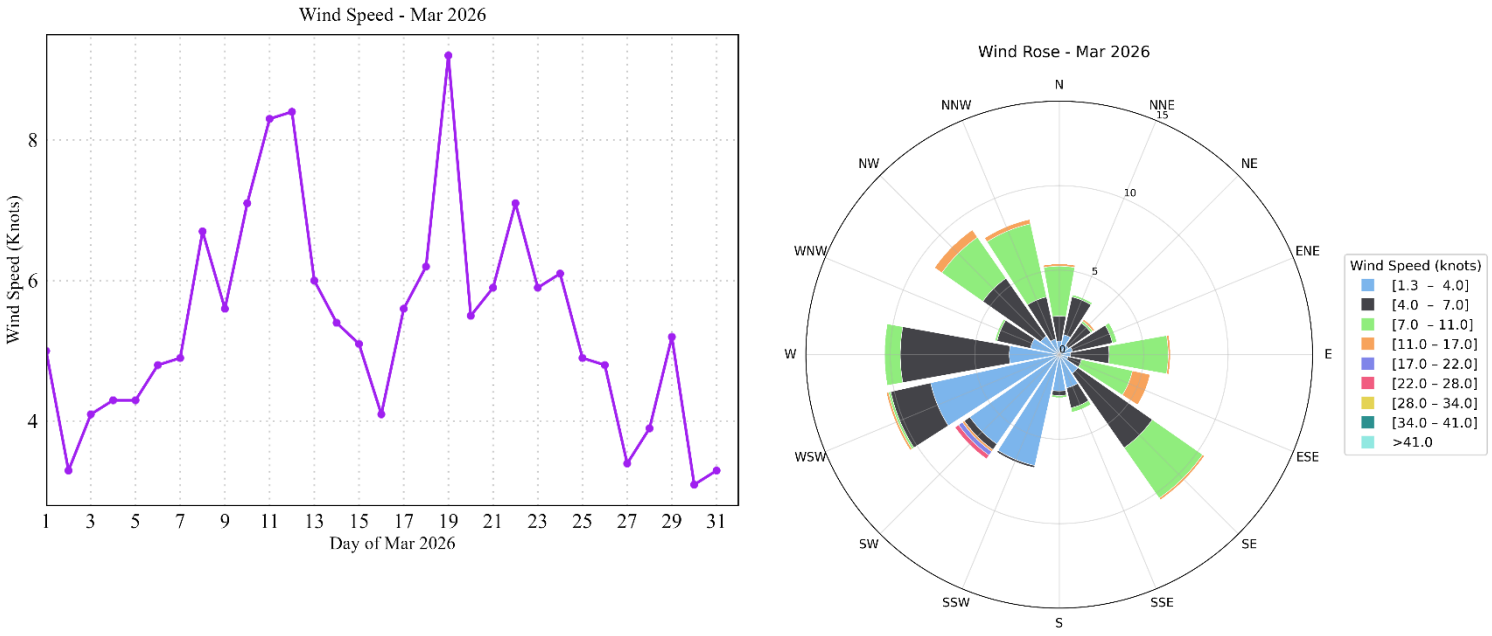

Figure 8: Analytical plots of Daily wind speed, wind direction in March 2026

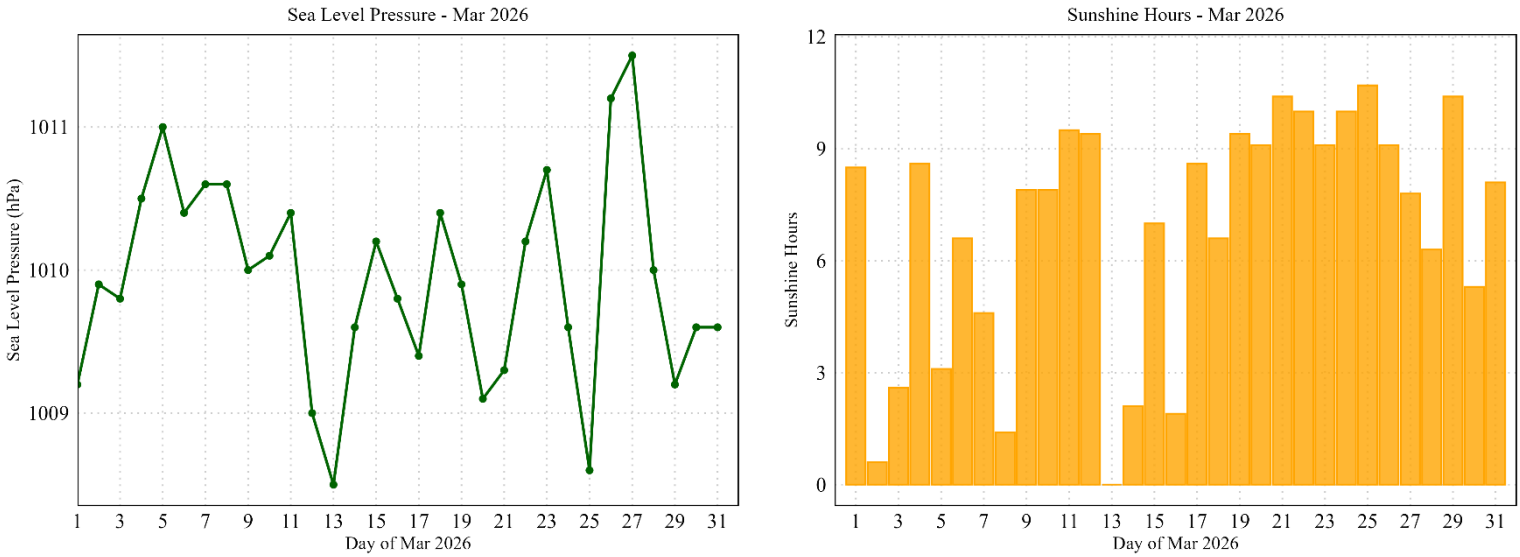

Figure 9: Analytical plots of Sea Level pressure, sunshine hours in March 2026

4.3. Wind Pattern in March 2026

Figure 10 illustrates the 1000 hPa wind field over the western Indian Ocean for March 2026. The region around Seychelles (including Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue) is dominated by easterly to east-southeasterly winds, with speeds generally around 2 - 4m/s. Further, the wind vectors indicate a consistent southwest to westward flow, characteristic of the large-scale circulation associated with the southern Indian Ocean subtropical high-pressure system. A weaker wind band is also evident near the equatorial region (0 -10°S), consistent with a low-level convergence zone (ITCZ) located northeast to east of the Seychelles, while stronger winds occur further south of Madagascar. Therefore, the Seychelles experience week to moderate trade-wind conditions during this period.

At 700 hPa, the region around Seychelles (including Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue) is characterized by weak to moderate winds, generally around 0 - 2 m/s, with a less organized flow compared to the lower levels. The Seychelles lie within a relatively weak wind region, indicating reduced mid-level flow and limited advection. Stronger winds are observed to the north over the Arabian Peninsula and to the south of Madagascar, highlighting enhanced flow in the subtropical regions. Therefore, the 700 hPa wind pattern analysis suggests weaker and more variable mid-level conditions over the Seychelles relative to the trade-wind-dominated flow at 1000 hPa.

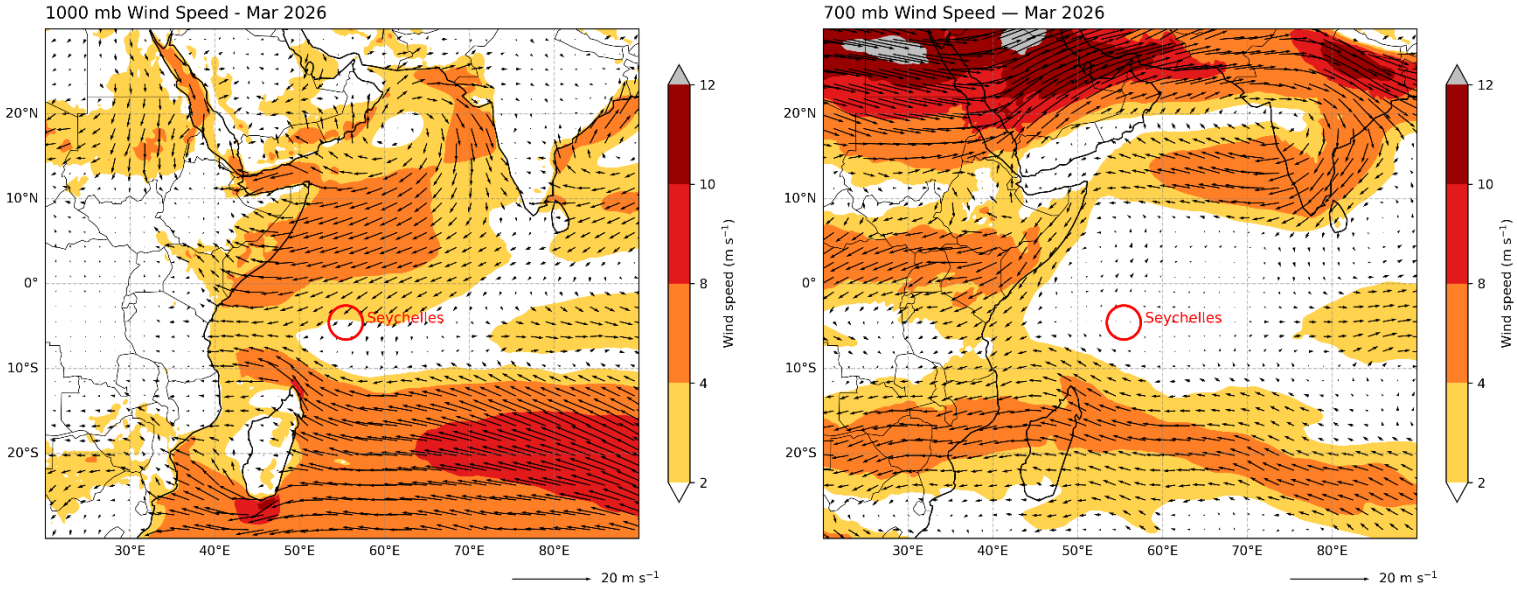

Figure 10: Surface wind flow-1000 mb (left) and wind flow at 700 mb (right) in March 2026