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1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

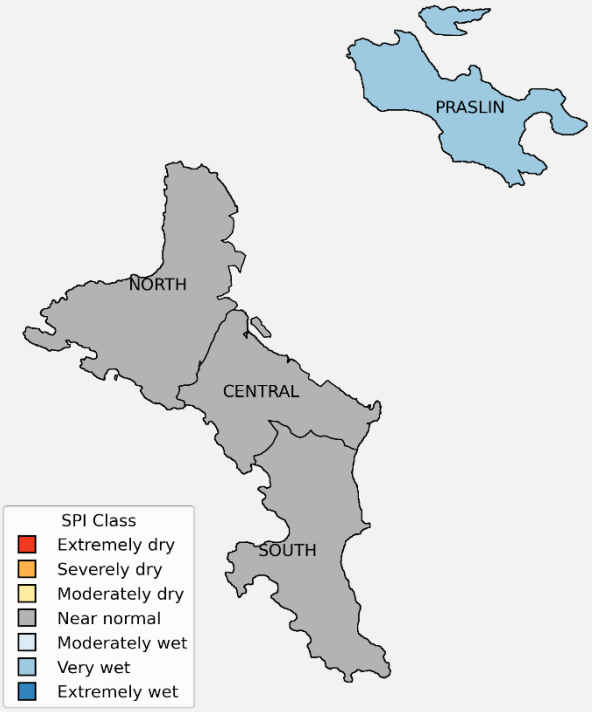

Figure 1: SPI-3 performance map for February to April (FMA-2026) season

This bulletin provides monitoring of dry and wet conditions over Mahe and the inner Island using the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-3).

The SPI-3 time series from December-January-February (DJF) 2024 to February-March-April (FMA) 2026 season shows that the start of dry conditions was first observed during the February-March-April (FMA) 2025 season in Praslin and during April-May-June (AMJ) 2025 across Mahe. The dry conditions intensified during mid to late 2025, with drought severity reaching severely dry to extremely dry category between July-August-September (JAS) and September-October-November (SON) 2025.

The assessment of the recent SPI-3 values for the February-March-April (FMA) 2026 season indicates near-normal conditions across Mahe. However, Praslin shows an improvement in rainfall conditions and experienced very wet conditions reflected by positive SPI-3.

For detailed interpretation of the maps and graphs, grey denotes near-normal SPI-3 values, while orange and blue shades represent dry and wet (moderate to extreme) conditions, respectively.

2. Northern Zone - SPI-3 Months

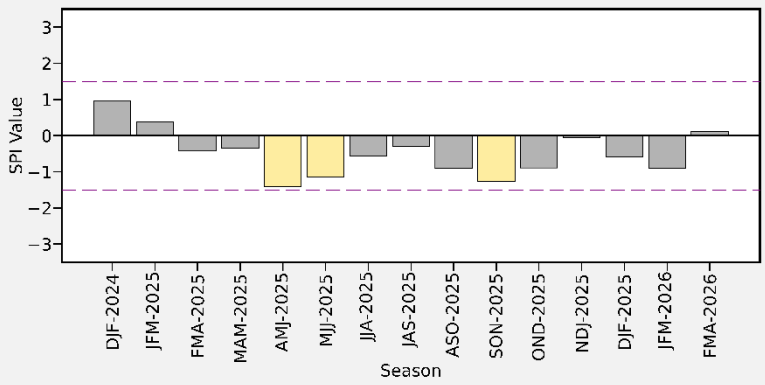

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Northern zone from December 2024 to April 2026

The SPI-3 time series for the northern zone of Mahe indicates that the first negative SPI-3 values were observed during the FMA 2025 season. Negative SPI-3 values subsequently persisted from FMA 2025 through to the JFM 2026 season. Although SPI-3 values were generally negative during this period, most seasons remained within the near-normal category. However, episodes of moderately dry conditions were experienced during the AMJ 2025, JJA 2025, and SON 2025 seasons, reflecting a temporary intensification of dry conditions. The most recent SPI-3 value for the FMA 2026 season became slightly positive, suggesting an improvement in seasonal rainfall conditions across the northern zone of Mahe.

3. Central Zone - SPI-3 Months

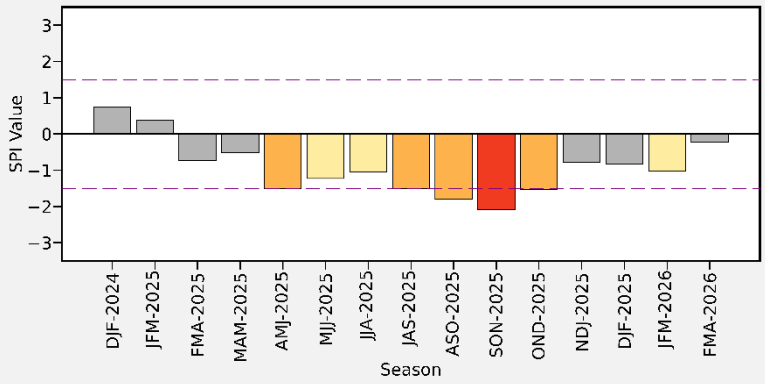

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Central zone from December 2024 to April 2026

In the central zone of Mahe, SPI-3 values became negative during the FMA 2025 season. From FMA 2025 onward, SPI-3 values remained consistently negative. The zone experienced seven consecutive dry seasons between AMJ 2025 and OND 2025, with drought severity ranging from moderately dry to extremely dry conditions. The peak of the drought was recorded during the SON 2025 season, when SPI-3 values reached the extremely dry category. A gradual improvement in rainfall conditions was observed after the peak dry period, with SPI-3 values progressively recovering from extremely dry conditions to near-normal conditions by the FMA 2026 season.

4. Southern Zone - SPI-3 Months

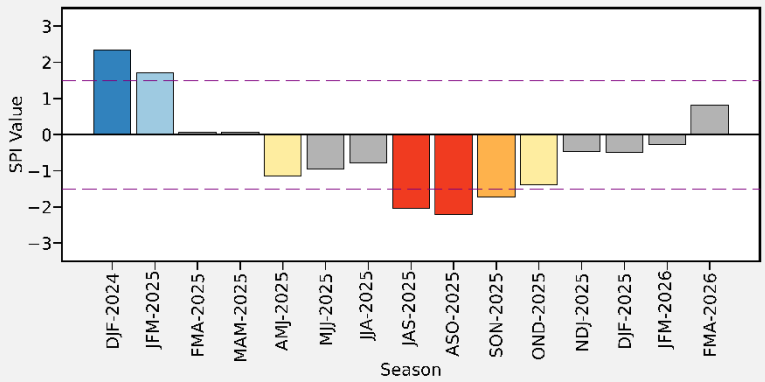

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Southern zone from December 2024 to April 2026

The southern zone of Mahe experienced the onset of dry conditions during the AMJ 2025 season, when SPI-3 values fell within the moderately dry category. Thereafter, SPI-3 values remained generally negative throughout the second half of 2025, indicating the persistence of dry conditions across zone. During AMJ 2025 and OND 2025 seasons were classified as moderately dry while severe drought conditions were observed during the JAS 2025 and ASO 2025 seasons, when SPI-3 values reached the extremely dry category. The SON 2025 season fell within the severely dry category. The peak of the drought was recorded during the ASO 2025 season. Following this peak dry period, a gradual recovery in rainfall conditions was recorded towards early 2026. By the FMA 2026 season, SPI-3 values had returned to positive values, suggesting an improvement in rainfall conditions across the southern zone of Mahe.

5. Praslin Island - SPI-3 Months

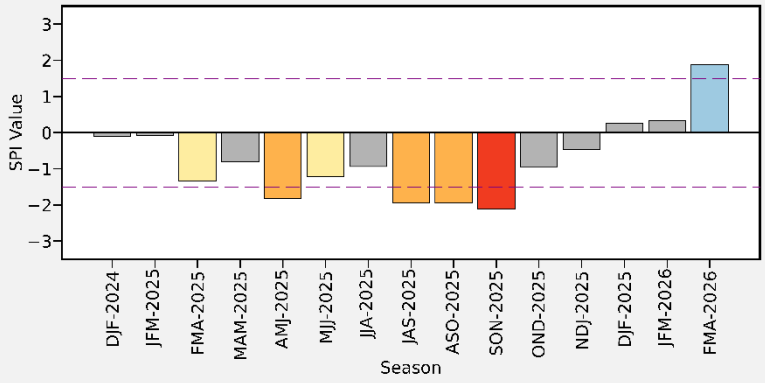

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Praslin Island from December 2024 to April 2026

In Praslin, dry conditions started during the FMA 2025 season, when SPI-3 values fell within the moderately dry category. Thereafter, negative SPI-3 values persisted through to the NDJ 2025 season, indicating a prolonged period of supressed rainfall conditions. The FMA 2025 and MJJ 2025 seasons were classified as moderately dry, while the AMJ 2025, JAS 2025, and ASO 2025 seasons reached the severely dry category.

The peak of the drought over Praslin were recorded during the SON 2025 season, when SPI-3 values fell within the extremely dry

Note: *Above 1.5 (wet) / Below -1.5 (dry) severe to extreme conditions marked by the horizontal purple dashed lines*

category. Rainfall conditions gradually improved following the peak dry period. By FMA 2026 season, SPI-3 values had become positive and reached the very wet category, indicating a significant recovery in rainfall conditions across Praslin.

Table1: SPI values and interpretation

SPI Value Range	Interpretation/Category
≥ 2.0	Extremely wet
1.5 to 1.99	Very wet
1.0 to 1.49	Moderately wet
-0.99 to 0.99	Near normal
-1.0 to -1.49	Moderately dry
-1.5 to -1.99	Severely dry
≤ -2.0	Extremely dry

6. Brief overview of the indicator

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has recommended the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) to be used by all National Meteorological and Hydrological Services around the world to characterize meteorological droughts.

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) is a widely used statistical indicator for quantifying precipitation anomalies and monitoring meteorological drought conditions. The SPI calculation for any location is based on the long-term precipitation record for a desired period. This long-term record is fitted to a probability distribution, which is then transformed into a normal distribution so that the mean SPI for the location and desired period is zero. The SPI can be computed over periods ranging from 1-month to 12-months or longer. Depending on the drought impact in question, SPI values for 3 months or less might be useful for basic drought monitoring, values for 6 months or less for monitoring agricultural impacts and values for 12 months or longer for evaluating hydrological impacts.

Note that the name of the indicator is usually modified to include the accumulation period, usually expressed in months. Thus, SPI-3 and SPI-12, for example, refer to accumulation periods of three and twelve months, respectively.

Positive SPI values indicate greater than median precipitation, and negative values indicate less than median precipitation. Drought, according to the SPI, starts when the SPI value is equal or below -1.0 and ends when the value becomes positive.

Note: *For operational purposes, the WMO guidance baseline of 1991-2020 is used as a reference period for the computation of the SPI.*

7. Acronyms

SPI: Standardized Precipitation Index
WMO: World Meteorological Organization
JFM: January-February-March
FMA: February-March-April
MAM: March-April-May
AMJ: April-May-June
MJJ: May-June-July
JJA: June-July-August
JAS: July-August-September
ASO: August-September-October
SON: September-October-November
OND: October-November-December
NDJ: November-December-January
DJF: December-January-February

8. References

o McKee, T.B., N.J. Doesken and J. Kleist. 1993. The relationship of drought frequency and duration to time scale. In: Proceedings of the Eighth Conference on Applied Climatology, Anaheim, California, 17-22 January 1993. Boston, American Meteorological Society, 179-184.

o World Meteorological Organization. 2012. Standardized Precipitation Index User Guide. (M. Svoboda, M. Hayes and D. Wood). WMO-No. 1090. Geneva. ISBN 978-92-63-11091-6. 16p.