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1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

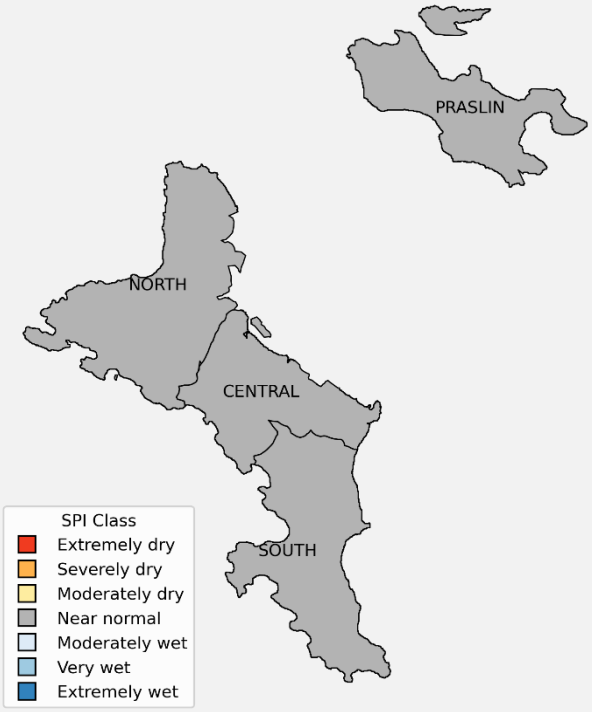

Figure 1: SPI-3 performance map for December to February (DJF-2025) season

Overall, the analysis of the drought condition over Mahe and Inner islands indicates that the onset of dry conditions can be traced to the February-March-April (FMA) 2025 season, when rainfall became suppressed. Further, spatial assessment indicates that near-normal conditions prevailed across Mahe and Praslin during the December 2025 to February 2026 (DJF) period, with Praslin exhibiting a slight improvement, as reflected by a positive SPI value.

The incidence of extended dry conditions experienced in most months of 2025 resulted to rationing of domestic water by the service provider and resulted from reduction in water storage from the water reservoirs.

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

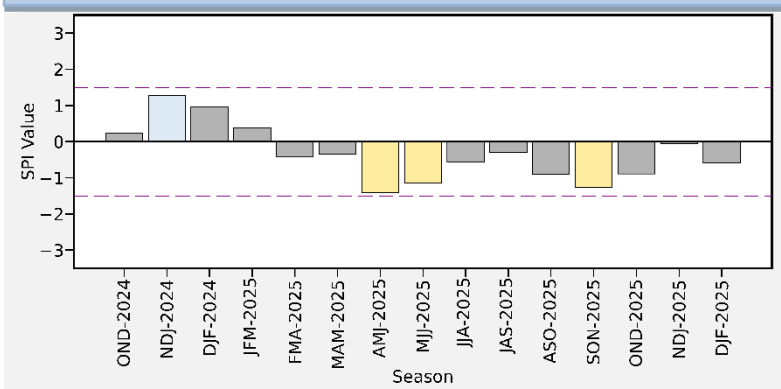

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Northern zone from October 2024 to February 2026

At the regional scale, SPI-3 values for the northern region became negative during the February - March - April (FMA) 2025 period, marking the onset of drier conditions. However, conditions largely remained within the near-normal range throughout the period. Moderately dry conditions were limited to the seasons of April to June (AMJ), May to July (MJJ) and September to November (SON).

3. Central Zone - SPI-3 Months

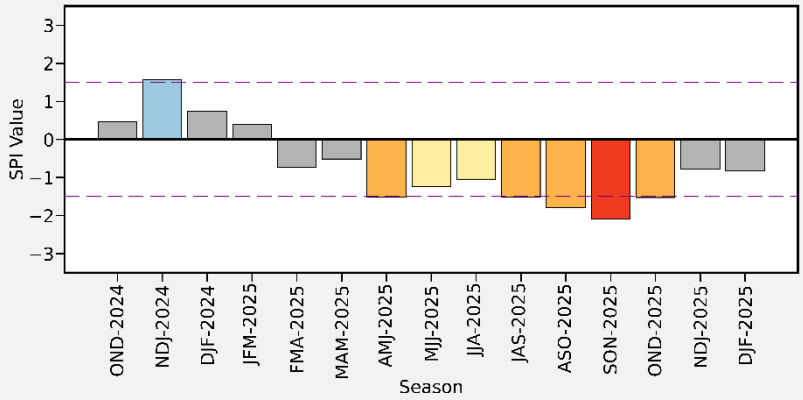

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Central zone from October 2024 to February 2026

Similar to the Northern region at the onset of the drought, the central region experienced seven consecutive seasons ranging from moderately dry to extremely dry conditions, with peak severity during September - November (SON), when SPI-3 values reached the extremely dry category. However, a slight improvement in conditions prevailed during November - January (NDJ) and December - February (DJF) 2025, with SPI-3 values increasing toward the near-normal range, indicating a recovery from earlier dry conditions.

4. Southern Zone - SPI-3 Months

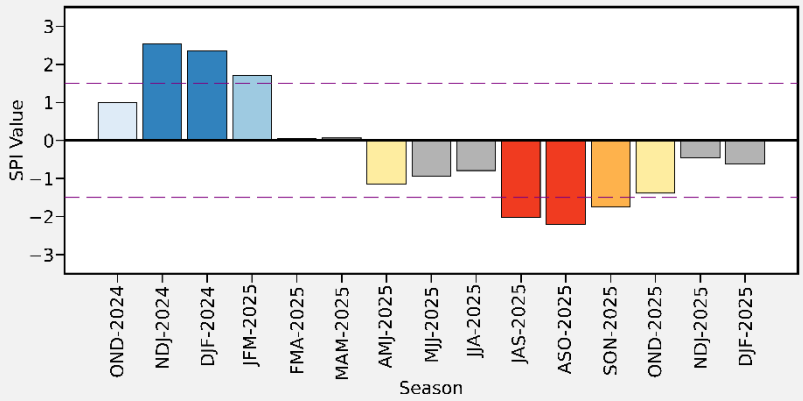

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Southern zone from October 2024 to February 2026

In the southern region, SPI-3 values turned negative during the April - June (AMJ) season and remained below normal throughout the period. Two consecutive extremely dry seasons were recorded during July-September (JAS) and August-October (ASO) 2025, with peak dryness occurring in August - October (ASO). However, conditions transitioned from severely dry during September -November (SON) to near-normal in November - January (NDJ) and December - February (DJF) 2025.

5. Praslin Island - SPI-3 Months

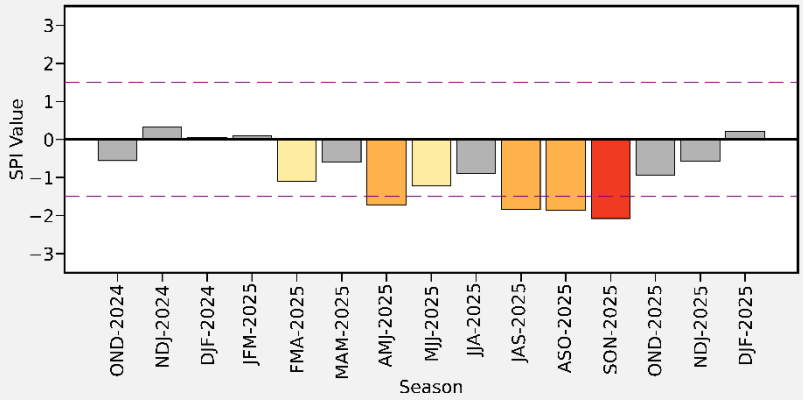

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Praslin Island from October 2024 to February 2026

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

In Praslin Island, SPI-3 values became negative during the February-March-April (FMA) 2025 period, marking the onset of drier conditions, and remained below normal throughout the year. Four seasons of April-June (AMJ), July - September (JAS), August - October (ASO), and September - November (SON) 2025 experienced severely to extremely dry conditions, with peak dryness occurring during September - November (SON) 2025. Conditions then gradually improved, transitioning from the extremely dry phase to near-normal conditions in November - January (NDJ) and December - February (DJF) 2025

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

- *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.*
- *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.*