MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN MAY 2026

1. Introduction

This bulletin presents a summary of the prevailing climate conditions across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during May 2026. In general, Mahe, La Digue, Denis, Curieuse, and Silhouette Islands received less rainfall than is typically expected for May. However, some parts of northwestern and central Mahe recorded more rainfall than usual. Mean air temperatures across the islands remained slightly above the 1991-2020 reference period climatological average.

Regarding the climate drivers, the positive phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (El Niño) developed in May 2026, and above average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) prevailed from the central to eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) also remained neutral during May 2026 while the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) began the month in phases 2 and 3, returned to neutral during mid-May, and propagated through phases 6 and 7 at the end of the month.

2. Monthly rainfall performance in May 2026

2.1 Distribution of rainfall for May 2026

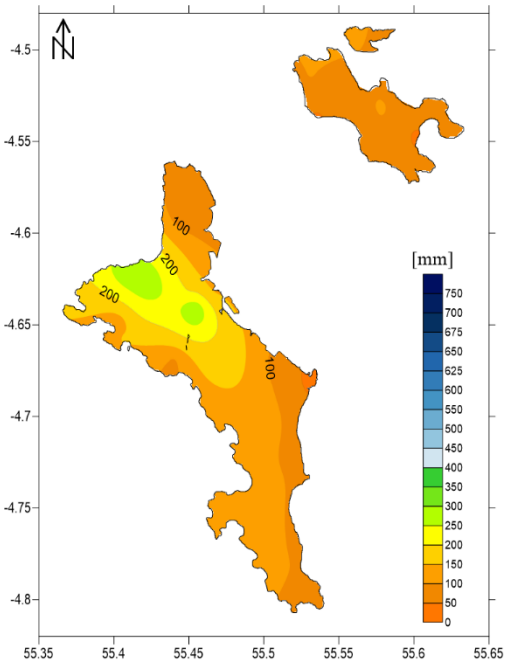

Figure 1: Monthly total rainfall in mm during May 2026

Figure 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of accumulated rainfall across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during May 2026. Over Mahe, monthly rainfall totals ranged from 62.8 mm to 296.4 mm. The lowest accumulation was recorded at Machabee (62.8 mm), while the highest total was observed at La Rochon (296.4 mm), followed closely by Bel Ombre (288.6 mm).

In general, much of the northern, eastern, and southern parts of Mahe, as well as portions of the western region, received less than 150 mm of rainfall during the month. Higher rainfall accumulations were mainly concentrated in the northwestern region of the Island. A decrease in rainfall was observed moving away from this area towards both the northern tip and the southern parts of Mahe.

Over Praslin, monthly rainfall totals varied between 41.9 mm and 103.6 mm. The highest accumulation was recorded at Salazie, while the lowest total was observed at Praslin Airstrip. Meanwhile, La Digue recorded approximately 60.5 mm of rainfall during May 2026.

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

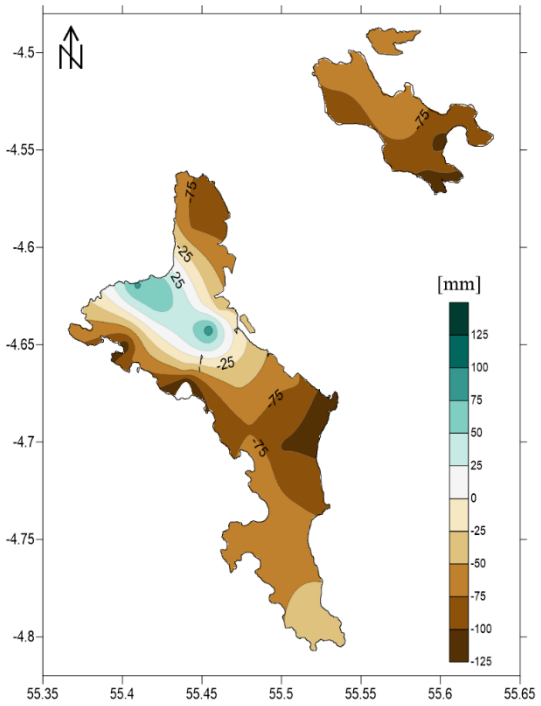

Figure 2: Monthly rainfall anomaly in mm during May 2026

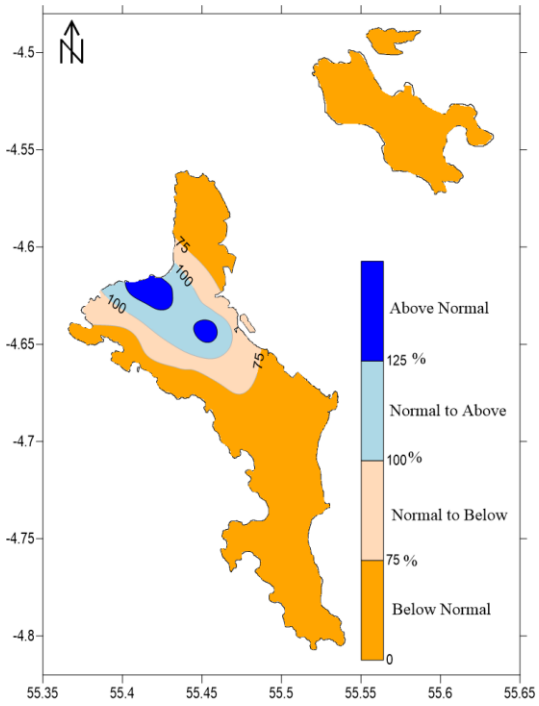

Figure 3: Percent of normal rainfall during May 2026

Figure 2 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall anomalies across Mahe and Praslin during May 2026. Brown shades represent negative rainfall anomalies (rainfall deficits), while green shades indicate positive rainfall anomalies (rainfall surplus). Overall, negative rainfall anomalies dominated much of Mahe during the month. Rainfall anomalies ranged from approximately 21 mm to 138 mm below the long-term mean. In contrast, parts of northwestern Mahe experienced positive rainfall anomalies, ranging from about 4 mm to 92 mm above the long-term mean.

Praslin Island also experienced predominantly negative rainfall anomalies during May 2026, with anomalies ranging from approximately 55 mm to 119 mm below the long-term monthly mean, indicating generally drier-than-average conditions.

Figure 3 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall conditions across Mahe and Praslin during May 2026. Below-normal (rainfall deficit) rainfall conditions prevailed across most parts of both islands. However, portions of northwestern and central Mahe experienced near-normal to above-normal rainfall conditions during the month.

Further analysis in Figure 4 below shows that rainfall totals over La Digue, Curieuse, and Denis Islands were below the long-term average for May 2026, indicating below-normal rainfall conditions across these islands.

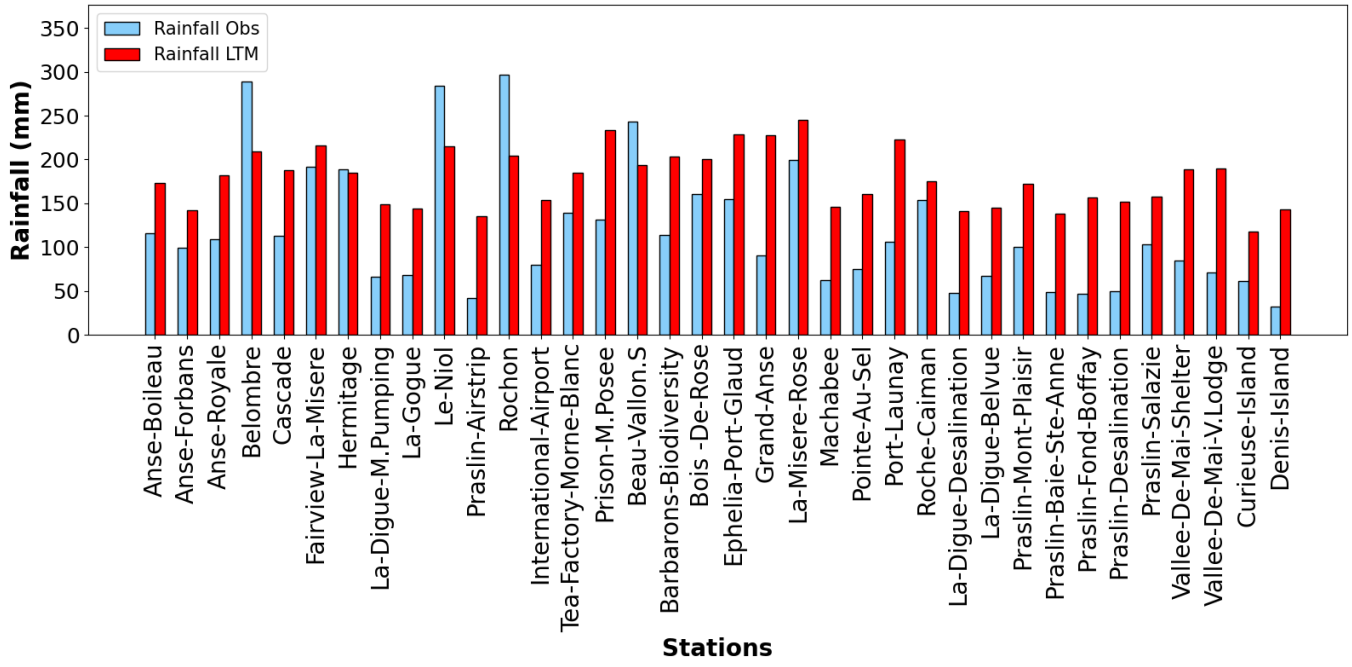

Figure 4: May 2026 rainfall total against May Long Term Mean (LTM)

3. Mean temperature anomaly - May 2026

The mean air temperature observed in May 2026 was 28.7 °C, corresponding to a positive anomaly of +0.27 °C relative to the 1991-2020 Climatological reference period. This indicates that mean temperatures during the month were slightly above the climatological normal. Since 2023, May temperatures at the Seychelles International Airport have remained consistently above the 1991-2020 climatological reference period, as shown in Figure 5.

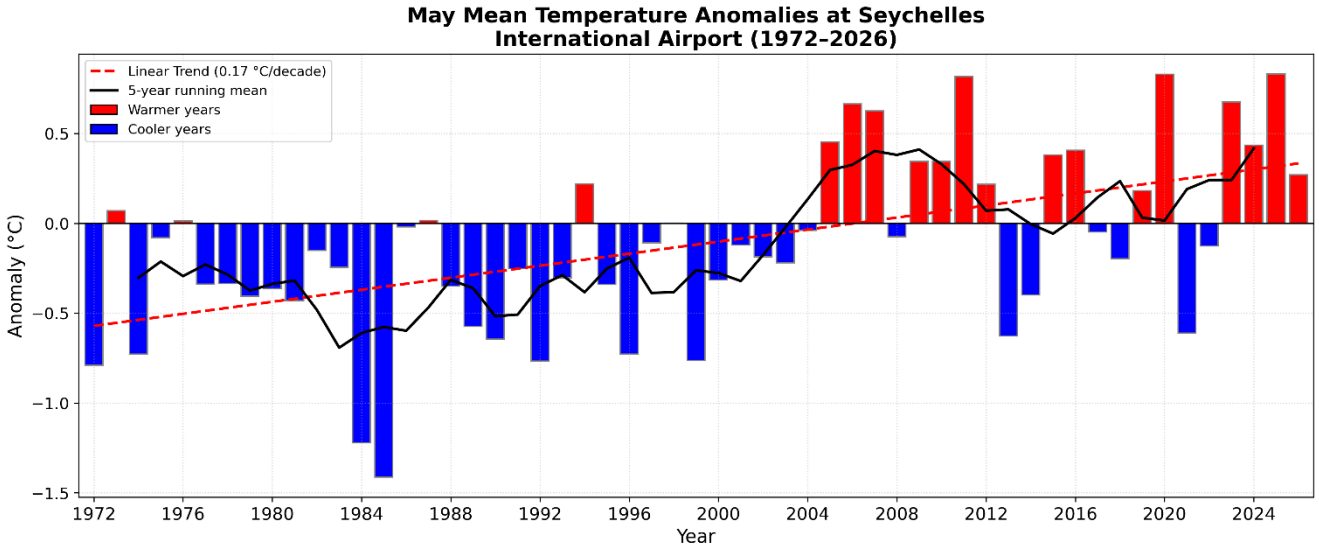

Figure 5: Mean temperature anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. Note: Anomalies refer to deviations from the mean or average temperatures. Positive anomalies (in red bars) imply that temperatures were warmer than average while negative anomalies (in blue bars) imply that temperatures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

4. Daily weather for May 2026 at Seychelles International Airport

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

During May 2026, a total rainfall accumulation of 80.2 mm was recorded at the Seychelles International Airport and was below the climatological normal of 171.4 mm for the month. The first dekad (1-10 May) recorded 58.2 mm, accounting for approximately 73% of the monthly total. The second dekad (11-20 May) was considerably drier, with only 4.6 mm of rainfall, representing about 6% of the monthly accumulation while during the third dekad (21-31 May), 17.4 mm of rainfall was recorded, contributing the remaining 22% of the monthly total. The dekadal distribution indicates that most of the rainfall occurred during the first dekad, when the highest daily rainfall total of the month was also observed and corresponded to the phases of 2 and 3 of MJO. A maximum daily accumulation of 28.2 mm was recorded on 7th May 2026 while a total of 10 rainy days (days with rainfall amounts greater than or equal to 1 mm) and 21 dry days (days with rainfall amounts below 1 mm) were recorded during the month. The second dekad of May was characterized by generally dry conditions, interrupted by two wet spells

lasting four days each, occurring from 12th to 15th and 17th to 20th of May while a prolonged dry spell of five consecutive days was observed during the last dekad, from 23rd to 27th May 2026.

Relative humidity at the Seychelles International Airport ranged from 68% to 85% during May 2026. The lowest relative humidity value (68%) was recorded on 20th May, while the highest value (85%) occurred on 7th May. The monthly mean relative humidity was 77%, which was slightly below the 1991-2020 climatological reference value of 78.6 % for May. The evolution of relative humidity throughout the month showed a general decline from the beginning of May until the end of the second dekad when the lowest humidity value was recorded on 20th May. Thereafter, humidity levels gradually increased during the third dekad.

The daily maximum temperatures at the Seychelles International Airport ranged from 30.0 °C to 33.4 °C. The lowest maximum temperature of 30.0 °C was recorded on 29th May, while the highest maximum temperature of 33.4 °C was observed on 6th and 7th May. Overall, maximum temperatures showed a gradual downward trend throughout the month, with warmer conditions prevailing during the first half of May. The mean monthly maximum temperature was 31.2 °C, which was slightly above the 1991-2020 climatological average value of 30.9 °C for May.

During May 2026, daily minimum temperatures at the Seychelles International Airport ranged from 24 °C to 28 °C. The highest minimum temperature (28 °C) was recorded on 1st May, while the lowest minimum temperature (24 °C) occurred on 17th and 18th May. Minimum temperatures remained relatively warm throughout the month, with a noticeable decrease during the middle of May before gradually increasing towards the end of the month. The mean monthly minimum temperature was 26.1 °C, which was slightly above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 25.9 °C for May.

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

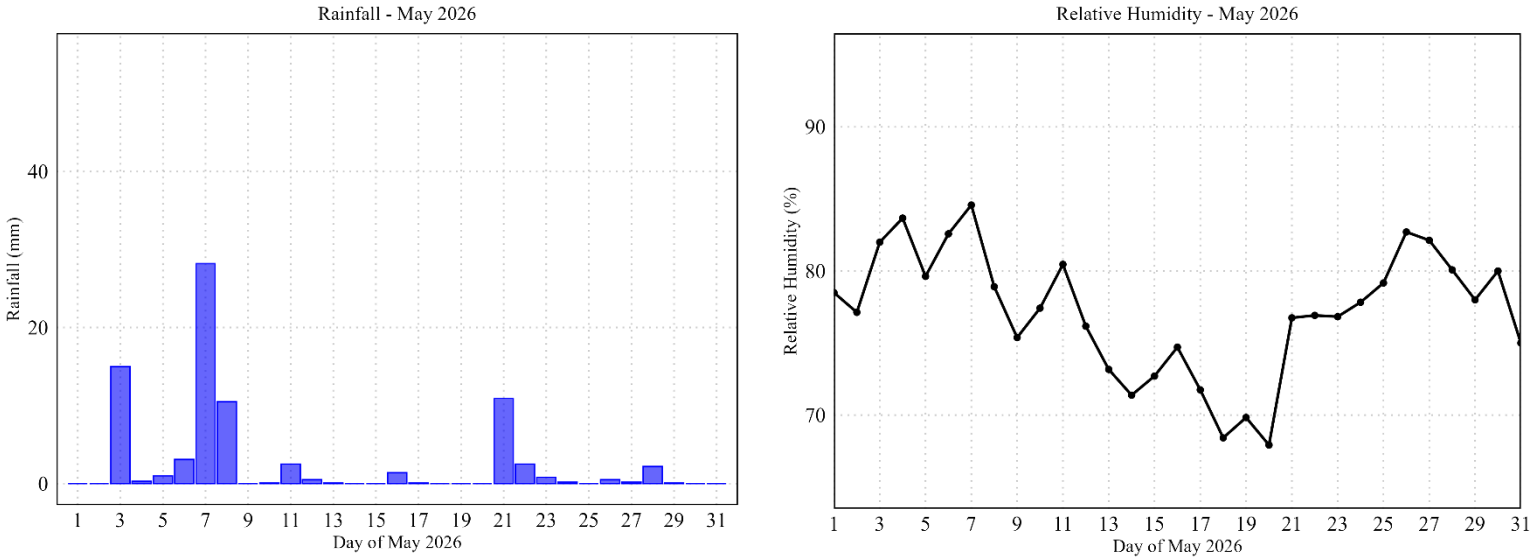

Figure 6: Analytical plots of Daily rainfall and Relative humidity in May 2026

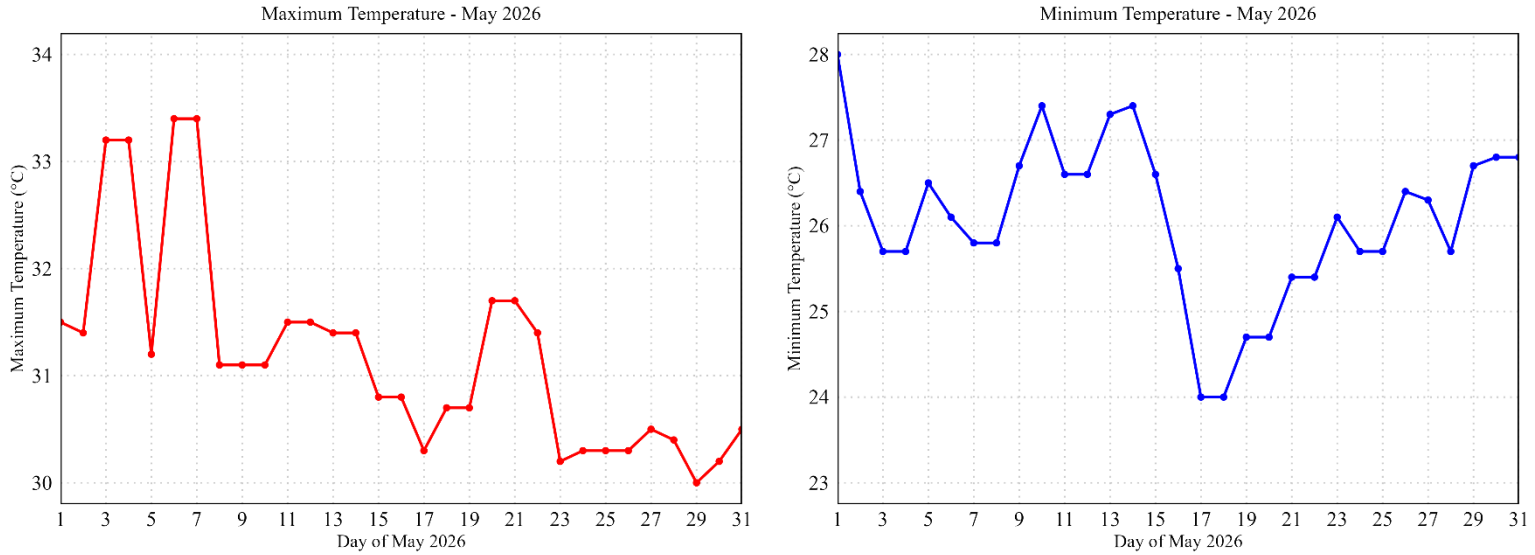

Figure 7: Analytical plots of daily Maximum and Minimum temperature in May 2026

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

The May 2026 daily mean wind speeds at the Seychelles International Airport ranged from 3.7 to 14.8 knots with the highest daily mean wind speed of 14.8 knots recorded on 28th May, followed by 12.8 knots on 13th May respectively. The monthly mean wind speed was 7.7 knots, which was close to the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 7.5 knots for May. Further analysis using wind rose shows that winds predominantly originated from the southeasterly (SE) direction, reflecting the prevailing influence of the southeast trade winds during the month.

Mean sea level pressure at the Seychelles International Airport during May 2026 ranged from 1008.8 hPa to 1013.8 hPa. The lowest pressure (1008.8 hPa) was recorded on 6th May, while the highest pressure (1013.8 hPa) occurred on 28th May. The monthly mean sea level pressure was 1011.2 hPa, which was slightly above the 1991-2020 climatological average for May (1010.9 hPa). Overall, mean sea level pressure showed a gradual increase throughout the month, with relatively lower values during the first week of May and higher values prevailing towards the end of the month.

The average daily sunshine duration during May 2026 was 9.1 hours, which was above the climatological normal of 8.1 hours. The highest daily sunshine duration of 11.2 hours was recorded 31st May, while the lowest value of 4.4 hours occurred on 7th May. Sunshine duration remained above 6 hours per day throughout the month. The reduced sunshine observed on 7th and 8th May was associated with rainfall and increased cloud cover, which limited the duration of sunshine.

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 May 2026.

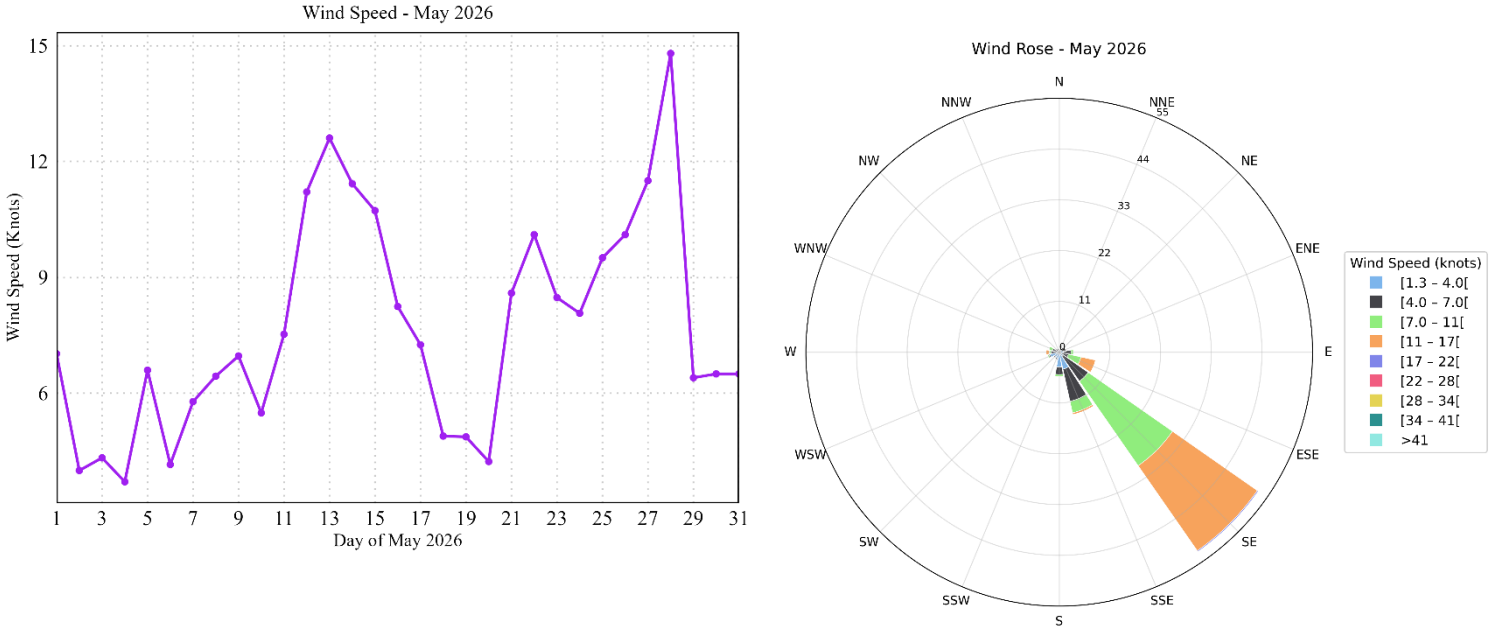

Figure 8: Analytical plots of Daily wind speed, wind direction in May 2026

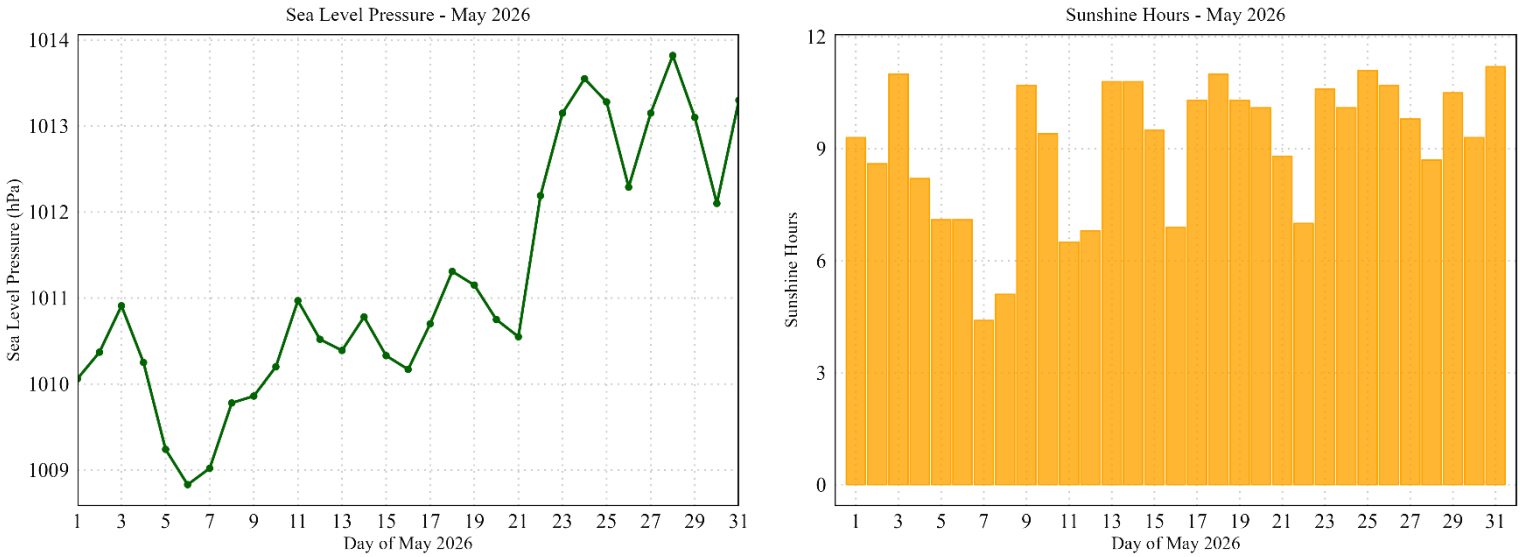

Figure 9: Analytical plots of Sea Level pressure, sunshine hours in May 2026

4.3. Wind Pattern in May 2026

Figure 10 illustrates the mean wind circulation at 1000 hPa over Indian Ocean during May 2026. The circulation pattern indicates the gradual establishment of the winter configuration across the basin, characterized by the strengthening of the southeast trade winds and their cross-equatorial flow into the Northern Hemisphere.

Mahe, Praslin and La Digue (highlighted by the green circle) were predominantly influenced by southeasterly low-level winds, with mean wind speeds generally ranging between 4 m/s and 6 m/s. These winds were associated with the strengthening of southern Indian Ocean subtropical high-pressure system. Moderate to strong low-level winds, ranging from 8 m/s to 12 m/s, were observed over the western Indian Ocean, particularly off the Somali coast and to the northeast of Madagascar.

Further, the 1000 hPa wind analysis indicates the Near-Equatorial Trough (NET) located across the central to eastern Indian Ocean, extending approximately from 60 °E to 85 °E between 2 °S and 6 °S.

At 700 hPa (Figure 11), the wind field over Seychelles was characterized by weak southeasterly to south-westerly winds, with mean wind speeds generally between 0 and 4 m/s. Two cyclonic circulations were evident over the western Indian Ocean. The first was a weak and poorly defined circulation was centred between 55°E and 65°E and extending from 2°S to 15°S. The second was a better-developed circulation located between 75°E and 85°E, also extending from 2°S to 15°S.

The persistence of the southeasterly flow from the lower troposphere up to 700 hPa indicates that the subtropical high-pressure system was relatively deep during May 2026. Combined with the position of the Near-Equatorial Trough, this circulation pattern was generally unfavorable for sustained deep convection over Seychelles, leading to the relatively low rainfall observed across the islands during the month.

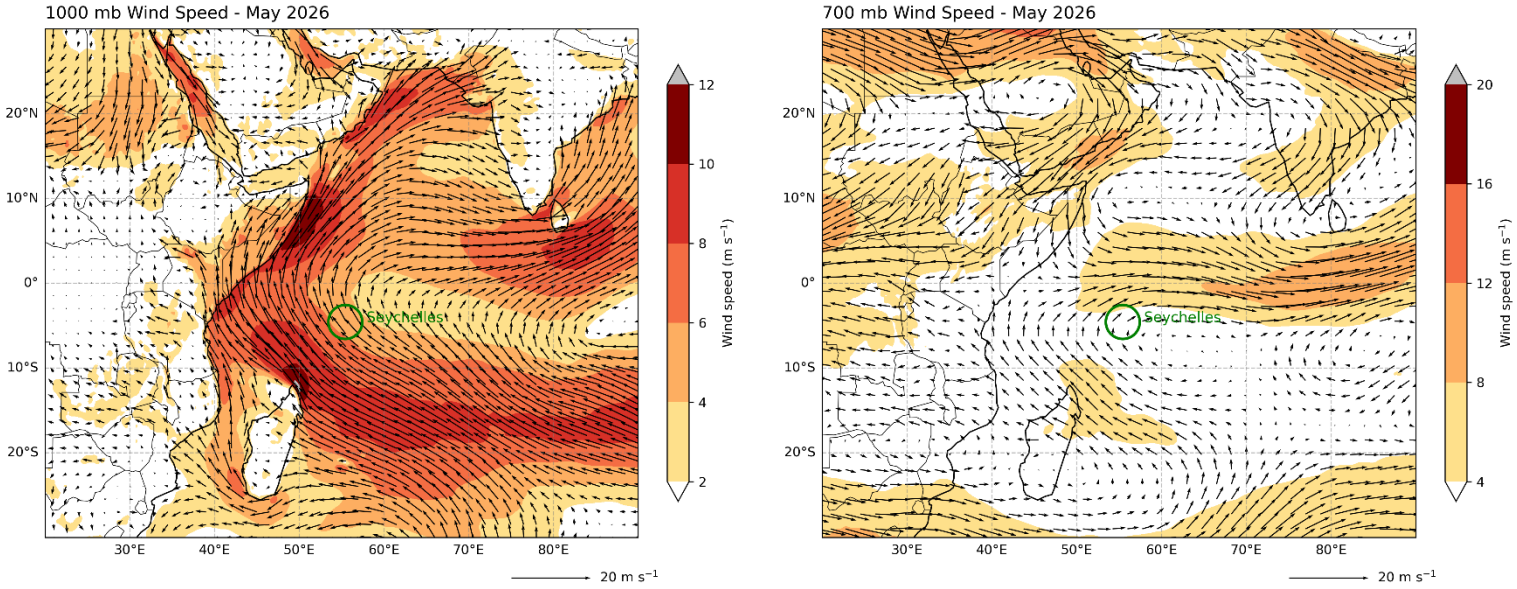

Figure 10: Surface wind flow-1000 mb (left) and wind flow at 700 mb (right) in May 2026