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1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

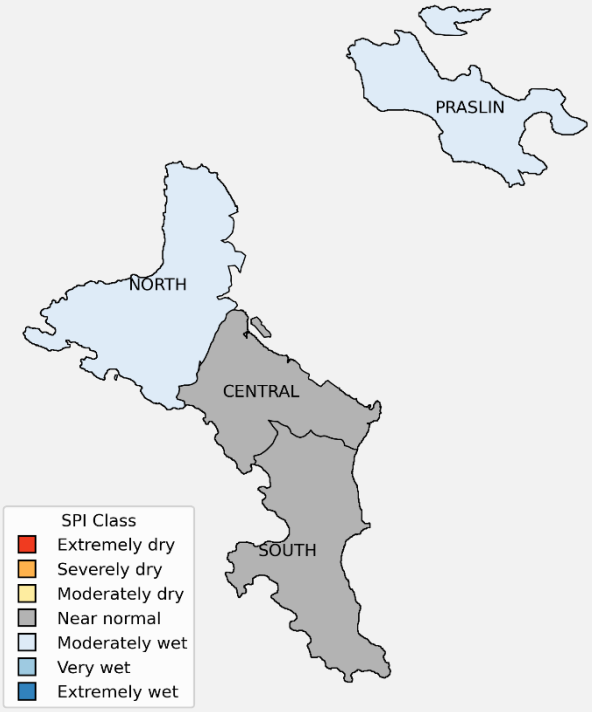

Figure 1: SPI-3 performance map for March to May (MAM 2026) season

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

The SPI-3 time series analysis indicates that dry conditions across Mahe began during the April-May-June (AMJ) 2025 season and persisted through mid and late 2025. As the year progressed, the drought became more severe across the Island. The central zone experienced extremely dry conditions during September-October-November (SON) 2025, while the southern zone reached the extremely dry category earlier, during July-August-September (JAS) and August-September-October (ASO) 2025. In Praslin, dry conditions started during February-March-April (FMA) 2025 and gradually intensified, reaching the extremely dry category during SON 2025.

The latest SPI-3 assessment for the March-April-May (MAM) 2026 season indicates an improvement in rainfall conditions over the northern zone of Mahe and Praslin, where SPI-3 values fall within the moderately wet category. This suggests that these areas have recovered following several consecutive seasons of below-normal rainfall. Meanwhile, the central and southern zones of Mahe have returned to near-normal conditions, indicating that rainfall has recovered to levels close to the long-term mean.

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

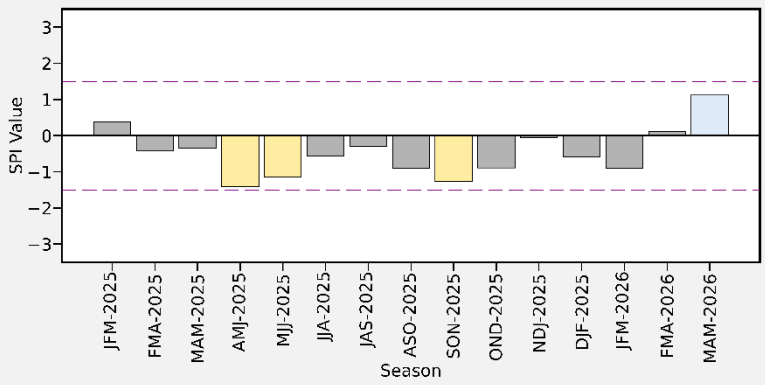

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Northern zone from January 2025 to May 2026

The SPI-3 time series indicates that negative SPI-3 values persisted in the northern zone of Mahe from FMA 2025 to JFM 2026. Despite the persistence of negative SPI-3 values, most seasons were still classified as near normal, including MAM 2025, JJA to ASO 2025, and OND-2025 to JFM-2026. Moderately dry conditions were recorded during AMJ, MJJ and SON 2025. Conditions improved during FMA 2026, when the SPI-3 became positive.

The latest assessment for MAM 2026 shows a further increase in SPI-3. As a result, the northern zone of Mahe falls within the moderately wet conditions, indicating a continued recovery in rainfall conditions.

3. Central Zone - SPI-3 Months

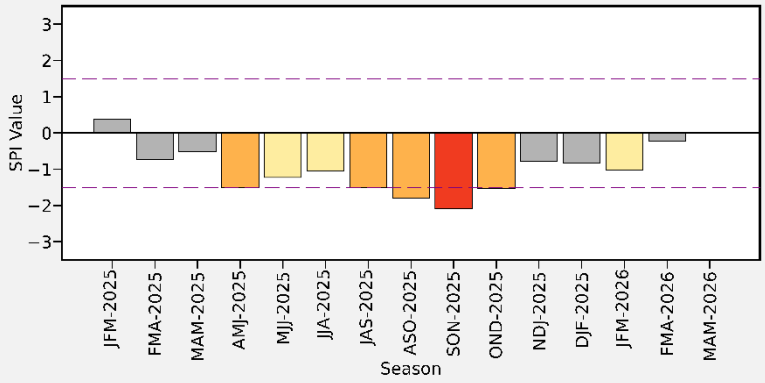

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Central zone from January 2025 to May 2026

In the central zone of Mahe, SPI-3 values turned negative during FMA 2025, although conditions remained near normal. Dry conditions then intensified, reaching the severely dry category during AMJ 2 025. These conditions persisted in the following seasons and peaked as extremely dry during SON 2025. Following this peak, the dry condition gradually weakened, and by MAM 2026 the central zone of Mahe had returned to the near-normal category.

4. Southern Zone - SPI-3 Months

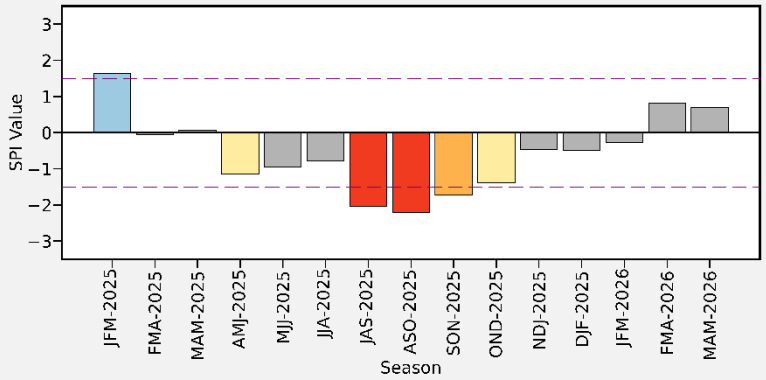

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Southern zone from January 2025 to May 2026

The SPI-3 time series indicates that dry conditions began in the southern zone of Mahe during AMJ 2025, when conditions were classified as moderately dry. Although conditions briefly returned to the near-normal category during MJJ and JJA 2025, the dry conditions intensified again during the seasons that followed. Extremely dry conditions were recorded during JAS 2025 and ASO 2025. Then, rainfall conditions improved gradually, with the southern zone returning to the severely dry category during SON 2025, the moderately dry category during OND 2025, and near normal category for NDJ 2025 onwards.

5. Praslin Island - SPI-3 Months

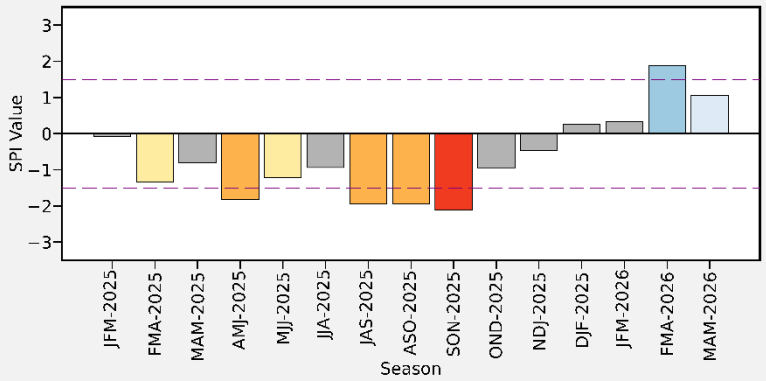

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Praslin Island from January 2025 to May 2026

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

In Praslin, dry conditions began during FMA 2025, when SPI-3 values fell within the moderately dry category. Thereafter, SPI-3 values remained negative until NDJ 2025. Conditions were moderately dry during FMA and MJJ 2025, while severely dry conditions were recorded during AMJ, JAS, and ASO 2025 seasons. The drought reached its peak during SON 2025 season, when SPI-3 values fell within the extremely dry category. Rainfall conditions improved thereafter, with SPI-3 values increasing gradually.

By FMA 2026, SPI-3 values had become positive and reached the very wet category. The latest SPI-3 assessment for MAM 2026 indicates a moderately wet category in 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.