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1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

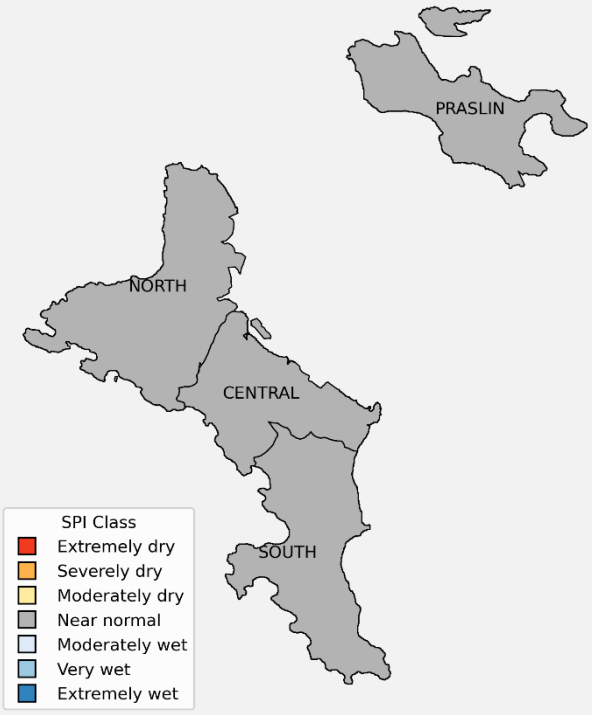

Figure 1: SPI-3 performance map for April to June (AMJ 2026) season

This bulletin presents an assessment of dry and wet conditions across Mahe, and the Inner Islands based on the 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI-3).

Overall, the SPI-3 time series analysis indicates that drought conditions emerged across all regions of Mahe during the April-May-June (AMJ) 2025 season and persisted through the middle and latter part of 2025. As the year progressed, the Central and Southern regions experienced episodes of severe and extreme droughts, whereas the Northern region did not record drought conditions of comparable intensity (Figures 2 - 4). On Praslin Island, dry conditions began during the February - March - April (FMA) 2025 season and gradually intensified, reaching the extremely dry category during September - October - November (SON) 2025 season.

The latest SPI-3 assessment for the April - May - June (AMJ) 2026 season (Figure 1) however, indicates predominantly near-normal rainfall conditions across Mahe and Praslin. Compared with the previous March - April - May (MAM) 2026 season, the analysis suggests a slight reduction in rainfall over Praslin and the Northern region of Mahe. In contrast, the Central and Southern regions of Mahe continued to experience near-normal rainfall conditions.

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

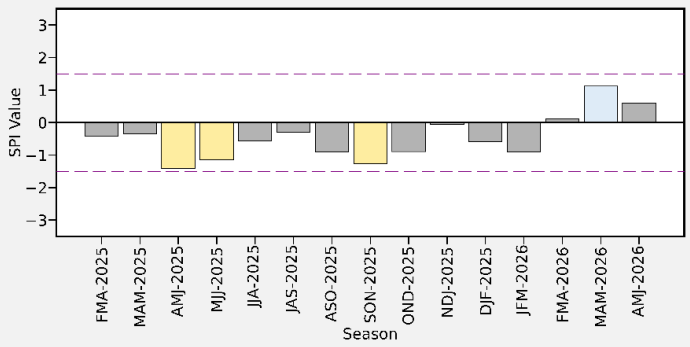

Figure 2: SPI-3 months plot for Northern zone from February 2025 to June 2026

The SPI-3 time series indicates that negative SPI-3 values persisted over the Northern region of Mahe from the FMA 2025 season through JFM 2026. Despite the persistence of negative SPI-3 values, rainfall conditions remained predominantly within the near-normal category during FMA and MAM 2025, JJA to ASO 2025, and OND 2025 to JFM 2026. Moderately dry conditions were recorded during the AMJ, MJJ, and SON 2025 seasons.

Conditions improved during the FMA 2026 season, when the SPI-3 became positive, and further strengthened to the moderately wet category during MAM 2026. However, the latest assessment for the AMJ 2026 season indicates a deterioration in the SPI-3, with conditions returning to the near-normal category.

3. Central Zone - SPI-3 Months

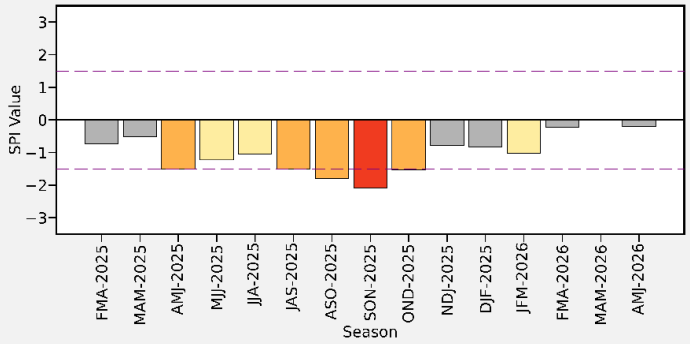

Figure 3: SPI-3 months plot for Central zone from February 2025 to June 2026

In the Central region of Mahe, SPI-3 values became negative during the FMA 2025 season. Although rainfall conditions remained near normal during the FMA and MAM 2025 seasons, drought conditions developed from AMJ season and persist through OND 2025. The drought intensified to the severe and extremely dry categories, with the peak occurring during the SON 2025 season (Figure 3). Following this peak, the dry conditions gradually weakened, with near-normal rainfall conditions persisting through FMA and MAM 2026 and continuing into the latest assessment for the April - May - June (AMJ) 2026 season.

4. Southern Zone - SPI-3 Months

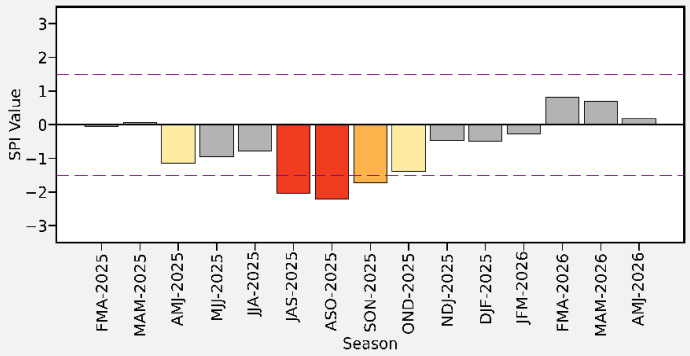

Figure 4: SPI-3 months plot for Southern zone from February 2025 to June 2026

The SPI-3 time series indicates that dry conditions began in the Southern zone of Mahe during AMJ 2025, with conditions classified as moderately dry. Despite a brief return to near-normal conditions during MJJ and JJA 2025, dry conditions re-emerged thereafter, intensifying through the subsequent seasons and peaking in the extremely dry category during JAS and ASO 2025.

Thereafter, drought conditions gradually weakened, transitioning to the severely dry category during SON 2025 and the moderately dry category during OND 2025.Conditions returned to the near-normal category from NDJ 2025 to AMJ 2026.

5. Praslin Island - SPI-3 Months

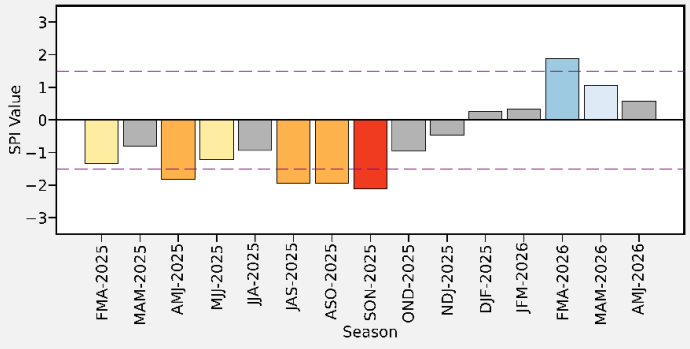

Figure 5: SPI-3 months plot for Praslin Island from February 2025 to June 2026

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 through NDJ 2025, indicating persistent dry conditions despite fluctuations in drought severity.

The SPI-3 reached the severely dry category during AMJ, JAS, and ASO 2025, before peaking in the extremely dry category during SON 2025. Thereafter, conditions gradually improved, with SPI-3 values reaching the very wet category by FMA 2026. A slight weakening of the wet conditions was observed during the subsequent MAM and AMJ 2026 seasons, when SPI-3 values transitioned to the moderately wet and near-normal categories, respectively.

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.