



SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER (ASO) 2026

1. Prevailing Global Climate Conditions

1.1. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The positive phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), characterized by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures, developed in May 2026 and persisted in subsequent months. Above-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continue to prevail across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, while atmospheric circulation anomalies over the equatorial Pacific remain consistent with El Niño conditions.

The latest ENSO outlook indicates further strengthening of El Niño, with SST anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region projected to increase steadily during the August-September-October (ASO) 2026 season. The continued warming suggests that El Niño could develop into a very strong event during September to December 2026 period. Further, El Niño conditions are likely to persist through the February-March-April (FMA) 2027 season. *Refer to Figure 1 below for the forecast probabilities of ENSO phases.*

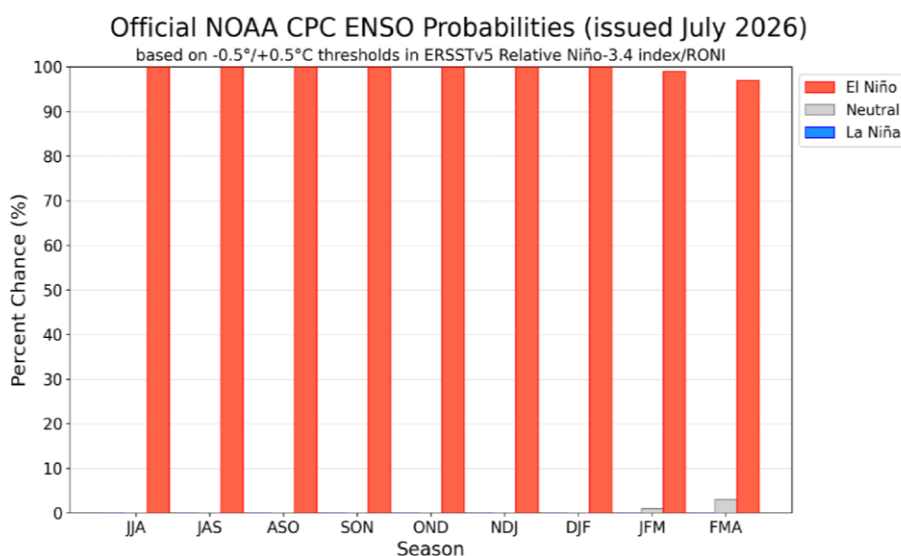


Figure 1: Forecasted Nino 3.4 Index (Source: Official NOAA CPC). The bars indicate the probabilities of El Niño (red), ENSO-neutral conditions (grey), and La Niña (blue) for the next nine overlapping three-month seasons. Each letter represents a month (e.g., A = April)



1.2. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a climate pattern in the Indian Ocean and one of the key climate drivers influencing the climate of Seychelles. The strength and phase of the IOD are measured using the Dipole Mode Index (DMI), which represents the difference in sea surface temperatures (SSTs) between the western tropical Indian Ocean, near the African coast, and the eastern tropical Indian Ocean, near Indonesia.

From March to July 2026, the DMI (shown by the black line in Figure 2) remained between -0.4°C and $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$, indicating predominantly neutral IOD conditions across the tropical Indian Ocean. While neutral IOD conditions have prevailed since March 2026, forecasts indicate an increasing probability of a positive IOD developing during the ASO 2026 season. The probability of positive IOD remains relatively low in August but increases markedly from September through December 2026. Thereafter, the likelihood of neutral IOD conditions increases toward January 2027.

Refer to Figure 2 below for details on the evolution of IOD status, based on the update issued on 25th July 2026 by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

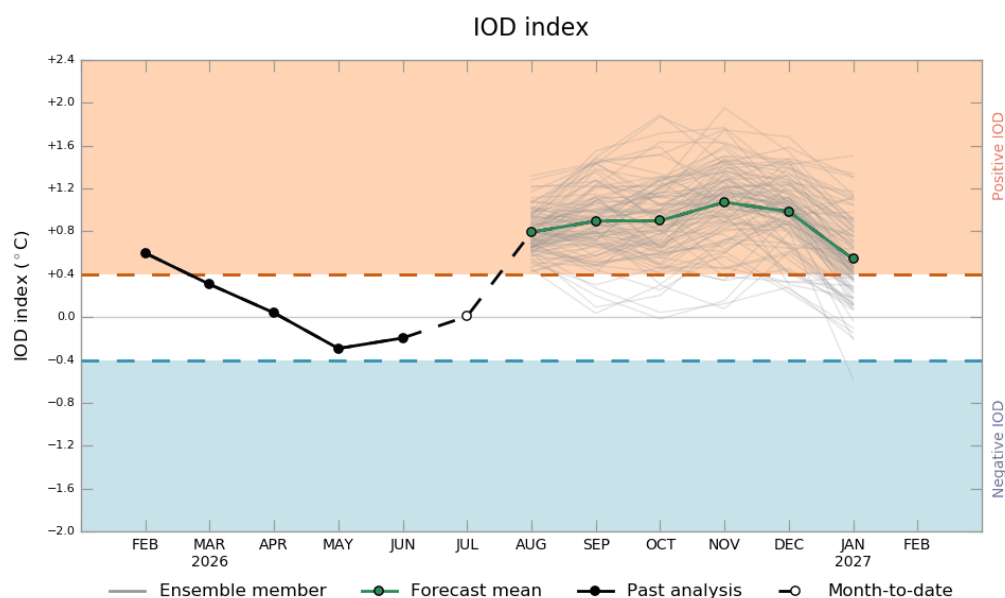


Figure 2: Observed and forecasted IOD Index

(Source: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia)



1.3. Other Climate Drivers - Intraseasonal Drivers

Further to the major climate drivers discussed above, intraseasonal rainfall variability during the August-September-October (ASO) 2026 season is also likely to be influenced by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). The MJO is characterized by alternating phases of enhanced and suppressed tropical convection, which can modulate rainfall patterns over Seychelles on weekly to monthly timescales. During August, the MJO signal is expected to strengthen, with enhanced convection over the Pacific and suppressed convection over the Indian Ocean. The suppressed phase over the Indian Ocean may contribute to reduced convective activity and rainfall over Seychelles, depending on the strength and evolution of the MJO. Others include prevailing wind patterns and local topography which modulate the spatial variations of rainfall across the islands.

2. Seasonal Outlook for August-September-October (ASO) 2026

2.1. Rainfall outlook for ASO 2026 and August 2026

Climatologically, during the August-September-October (ASO) season, the Seychelles archipelago is predominantly influenced by the southeasterly trade winds associated with the subtropical high-pressure system over the southern Indian Ocean. During this period, the region is generally dominated by relatively cool and dry maritime air masses compared with the northwest monsoon season. Rainfall during this period is primarily associated with the advection of moisture by the southeasterly trade winds from the southern and western Indian Ocean towards the Seychelles. When favorable local atmospheric conditions are present, this moisture promotes cloud development and precipitation characterized by passing showers over the islands. Meanwhile, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) typically remains well north of Seychelles, limiting the frequency and intensity of deep tropical convection.

The seasonal rainfall forecast for August-September-October (ASO) 2026 indicates that the northern and central zone of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue are expected to experience above normal rainfall conditions while the southern zone of Mahe is forecast to receive near normal rainfall with an increased chance of above-normal rainfall conditions.



For August 2026, rainfall is expected to be near normal with an increased likelihood of above normal rainfall across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue. Thereafter, September and October are expected to be relatively wet across Mahe and the Inner Islands. An updated rainfall outlook for the latter two months will be issued at the end of August 2026 as new forecast information becomes available.

Refer to Figure 3 and Table 1 for the ASO 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook, and to Figure 4 and Table 2 for the August 2026 monthly rainfall forecast.

2.2. Temperature outlook for ASO 2026

During August-September-October (ASO)2026, the mean temperatures forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of above normal (warmer) mean temperatures across Mahe and Inner Islands. Under these expected conditions, the seasonal mean temperatures are expected to exceed 27.2 °C.

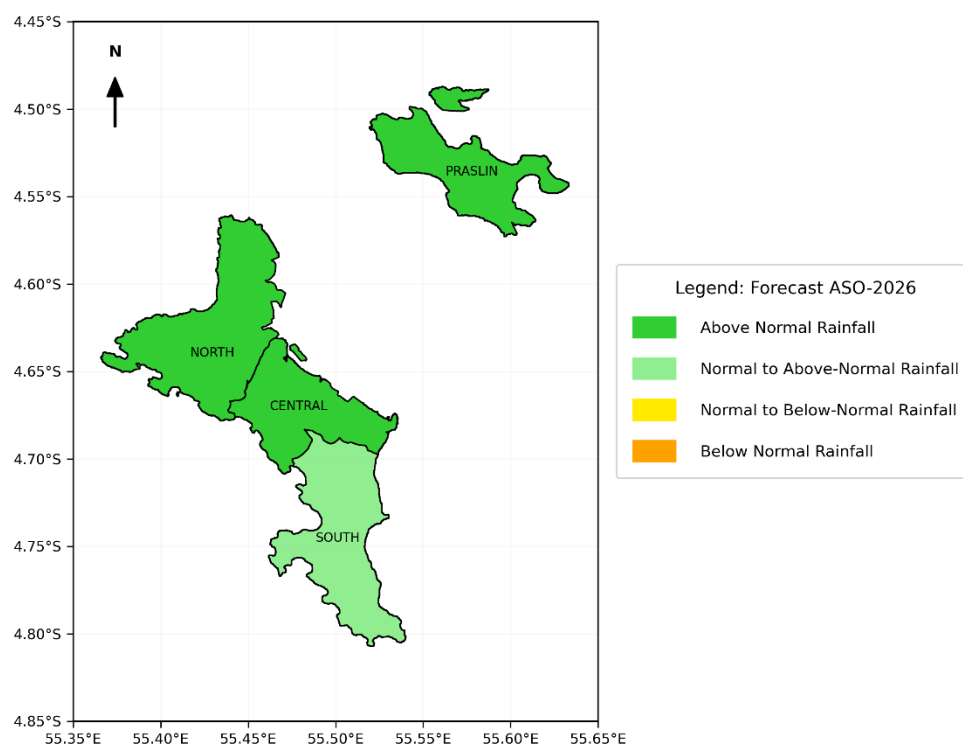


Figure 3: Rainfall outlook for August-September-October (ASO) 2026

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E-mail: info@meteo.sc Web: www.meteo.sc**SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN****SMA/CLI/FM/010****Created by : T. Nomenjanahary****Revision Number : 0(NEW)****Page 5 of 7**

Table 1: Summary of climatological statistics for August-September-October (ASO) season based on the expected conditions

	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (<i>mm</i>) category range	> 633.9	> 619.9	[382.6 - 474.1]	> 456.6
Number of Rainy days (<i>days</i>)	> 50	> 50	[37 - 40]	> 35
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (<i>days</i>)	> 17	> 17	[10 - 12]	> 13

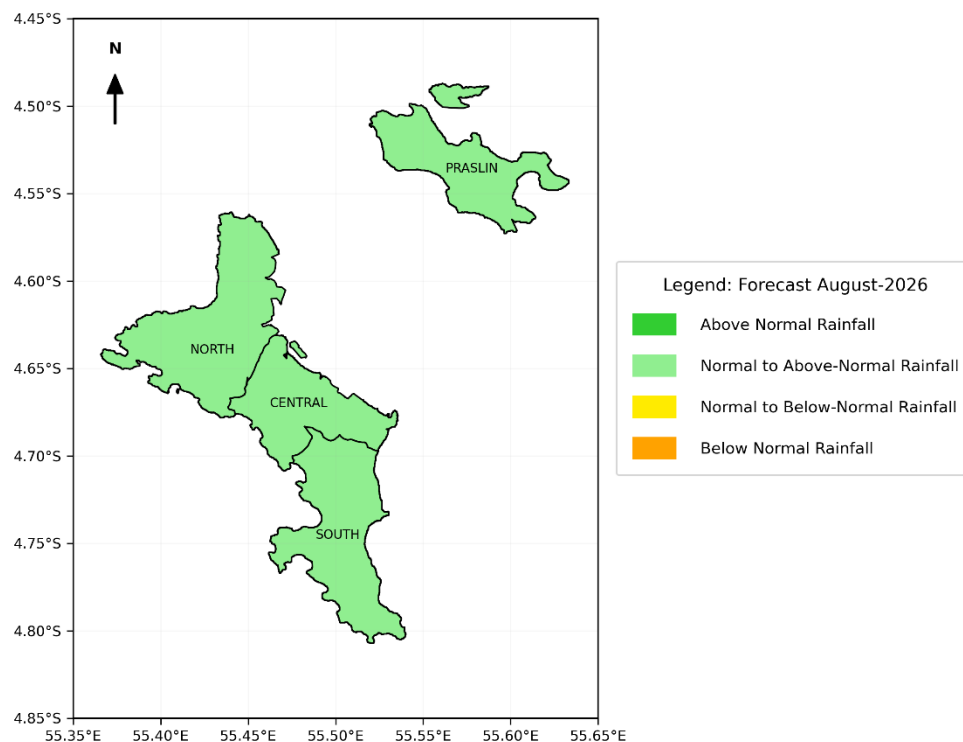


Figure 4: Rainfall outlook for August 2026

Table 2: Summary of climatological statistics for August based on the expected conditions

	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (<i>mm</i>) category range	[100.8 -124.9]	[119.4 -148.5]	[67.5 -103.1]	[59.8 -74.5]
Number of Rainy days (<i>days</i>)	[14 -17]	[16 -18]	[11 -13]	[9 -11]
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (<i>days</i>)	[2 -4]	[3 -4]	[2 -3]	[1 -2]

**Note: From Table 1 and Table 2, a rainy day is defined as a day on which the recorded rainfall exceeds 1 mm.*

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3. Advisory

The ASO 2026 outlook provides guidance for the August-September-October season and may not fully capture intra-seasonal variability, including weather fluctuations occurring on weekly to monthly timescales. Stakeholders are therefore encouraged to use this outlook alongside daily and weekly forecasts, as well as official weather advisories and warnings issued by the Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA), to support planning, informed decision-making, preparedness, and early action. During weather or climate-related events, stakeholders are advised to follow official information and guidance from SMA and other relevant authorities. For further information, forecast updates, and official advisories, visit the SMA website at <https://www.meteo.sc/>, follow SMA on its official social media platforms, email info@meteo.sc, or call (+248) 4670700 /711/714/718.

4. Long-Term Climatology of the August-September-October Season

Figure 5 illustrates the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall climatology over Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during August-September-October (ASO), based on the 1991-2020 climatological period. Rainfall accumulation is expressed in millimetres (mm).

Over Mahe, ASO seasonal rainfall accumulation generally ranges between 500 and 600 mm across the western and central parts of the island, with some areas receiving more than 600 mm. Rainfall decreases toward the northern and southern parts of the island, where accumulations generally fall below 450 mm. This spatial distribution indicates a rainfall gradient from the wetter western and central areas toward the relatively lower northern and southern extremities of the island.

Over Praslin and La Digue, seasonal rainfall accumulation typically ranges between 400 and 450 mm during the ASO season.

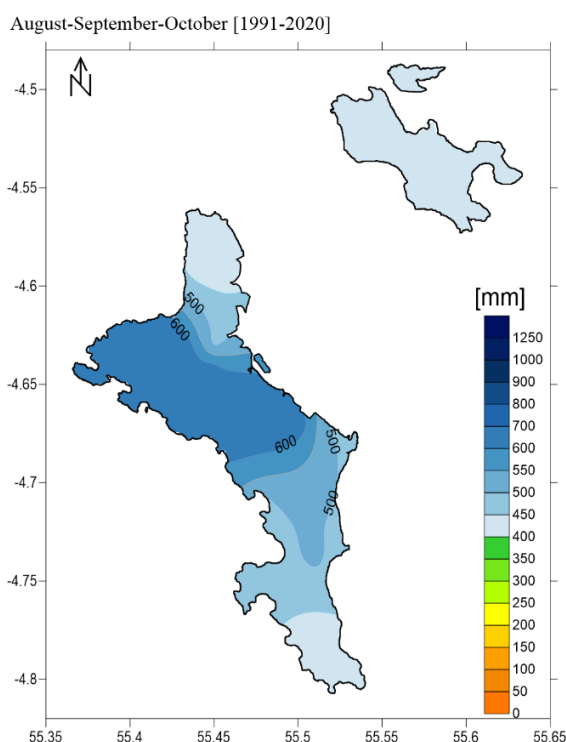


Figure 5: Climatology of August-September-October (ASO) season rainfall (1991-2020)

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E-mail: info@meteo.sc Web: www.meteo.sc**SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN****SMA/CLI/FM/010****Created by : T. Nomenjanahary****Revision Number : 0(NEW)****Page 7 of 7****5. Methodology**

The ASO 2026 seasonal outlook was developed using a combination of statistical and dynamical prediction methods, initialized with climate conditions observed in July 2026. The forecast development process incorporated expert assessment of the current and expected evolution of the global climate system, together with guidance from dynamical prediction models produced by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Producing Centres (GPCs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs).

The expert assessment considered the observed state and anticipated evolution of key oceanic and atmospheric drivers known to influence Seychelles' seasonal climate variability. These included the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD), together with other relevant large-scale ocean-atmosphere circulation patterns. Model guidance, statistical predictions, and expert interpretation were integrated to derive the final seasonal rainfall and temperature outlook for August-September-October (ASO) 2026.