



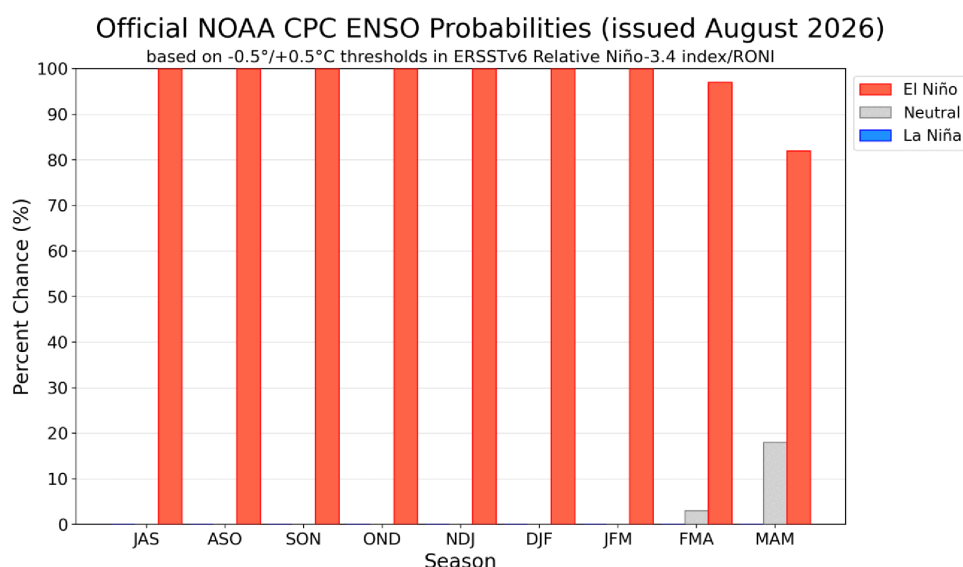
## SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER (SON) 2026

### 1. Prevailing Global Climate Conditions

#### 1.1. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), characterized by variations in sea surface temperatures (SST) and atmospheric circulation across the equatorial Pacific Ocean, is one of the key large-scale climate drivers influencing seasonal rainfall and temperature variability over Seychelles and globally.

The latest ENSO outlook indicates a strong likelihood of the continued persistence of El Niño (warmer SST) conditions over the coming seasons. Atmospheric circulation anomalies across the equatorial Pacific also remain consistent with El Niño conditions, reinforcing confidence in its continued influence on global and regional climate patterns. Furthermore, El Niño is forecast to dominate with an exceptionally high probability of approximately 100% during the SON 2026 season and maintained till JFM 2027, with negligible chances of either ENSO-neutral or La Niña conditions. *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., S = September)*



## 1.2. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a major mode of climate variability in the tropical Indian Ocean and one of the key large-scale climate drivers influencing rainfall and temperature patterns over Seychelles. The strength and phase of the IOD are measured using the Dipole Mode Index (DMI), which represents the difference in sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies between the western tropical Indian Ocean, near the African coast, and the eastern tropical Indian Ocean, near Indonesia.

From March to July 2026, the observed DMI (black line in Figure 2) remained within the neutral threshold of approximately  $-0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , indicating predominantly neutral IOD conditions. The latest forecasts, however, indicate a transition towards positive IOD conditions from September 2026, with the forecast remaining positive throughout the SON season and reaching its peak around November 2026. Thereafter, the positive IOD signal is projected to weaken, with an increasing likelihood of a return towards neutral conditions from January 2027 onwards. Refer to Figure 2 below for details on the evolution of IOD status, based on the update issued on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026 by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

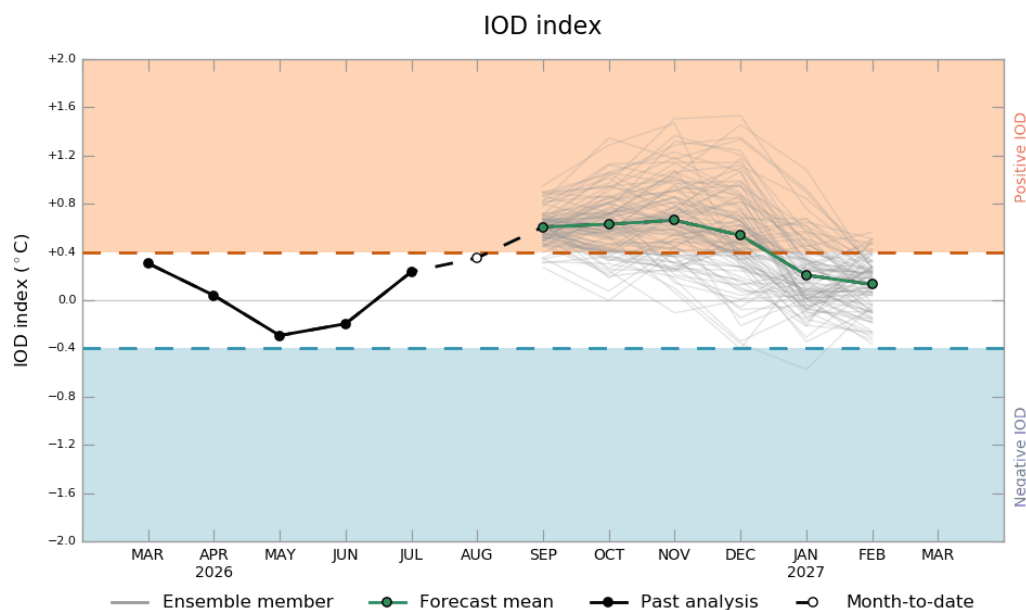


Figure 2: Observed and forecasted IOD Index

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

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E-mail: [info@meteo.sc](mailto:info@meteo.sc) Web: [www.meteo.sc](http://www.meteo.sc)**SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN****SMA/CLI/FM/010****Created by : T. Nomenjanahary****Revision Number : 001****Page 3 of 7****1.3. Other Climate Drivers - Intraseasonal Drivers**

Further to the major climate drivers discussed above, intraseasonal rainfall and temperature variability during the September-October-November (SON) 2026 season may also be influenced by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). The MJO is characterized by alternating periods of enhanced and suppressed tropical convection and can modulate weather patterns over Seychelles on weekly to monthly timescales.

During much of September 2026, MJO forecasts indicate a generally weak signal, with considerable uncertainty and majority of ensemble forecasts remaining within or close to the unit circle. Although some forecasts suggest MJO activity around Phase 7, the weak amplitude implies that its influence on regional weather is likely to be limited. Phase 7 is generally associated with suppressed convection over parts of the Indian Ocean and may therefore contribute to somewhat reduced convective activity and rainfall over Seychelles, depending on the strength and evolution of the MJO.

Other factors, including prevailing wind patterns and local topography, will also play an important role in modulating the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall across the Seychelles islands.

**2. Seasonal Outlook for September-October-November (SON) 2026****2.1. Climatological background of September-October-November season**

Climatologically, during September-October-November (SON), the Seychelles archipelago remains influenced by the southeasterly trade winds associated with the Mascarene High over the southern Indian Ocean. As the season progresses from the winter towards summer, the Mascarene High gradually changes in both its position and intensity. As a result, the southeasterly trade winds generally become less persistent over Seychelles compared with ASO season. During September and October, low-level winds over Seychelles are still predominantly southeasterly, transporting moisture from the Indian Ocean towards the islands and contributing to rainfall. By November, the wind pattern becomes more variable as the region enters its seasonal transition, although southeasterly and westerly winds remain important components of the low-level circulation. During SON, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) tends to shift slightly southward in latitude, accompanied by a branch of Near-Equatorial Trough

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## 2.2. Rainfall outlook for SON 2026 and September 2026

The seasonal rainfall forecast for SON 2026 indicates that the northern and central zones of Mahe, as well as Praslin and La Digue, are expected to experience above-normal rainfall. However, for the southern zone of Mahe near-normal with an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail.

For September 2026, rainfall is forecasted to be near normal across Mahe, with an increased chance of above-normal rainfall conditions while Praslin and La Digue are expected to experience above-normal rainfall conditions.

*Refer to Figure 3 and Table 1 for the SON 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook, and to Figure 4 and Table 2 for the September 2026 monthly rainfall forecast.*

## 2.3. Temperature outlook for SON 2026

During September-October-November (SON) 2026, mean temperatures are expected to be warmer than normal across Mahe and the Inner Islands. Based on this forecast, the seasonal mean temperatures are likely to exceed 27.4°C.

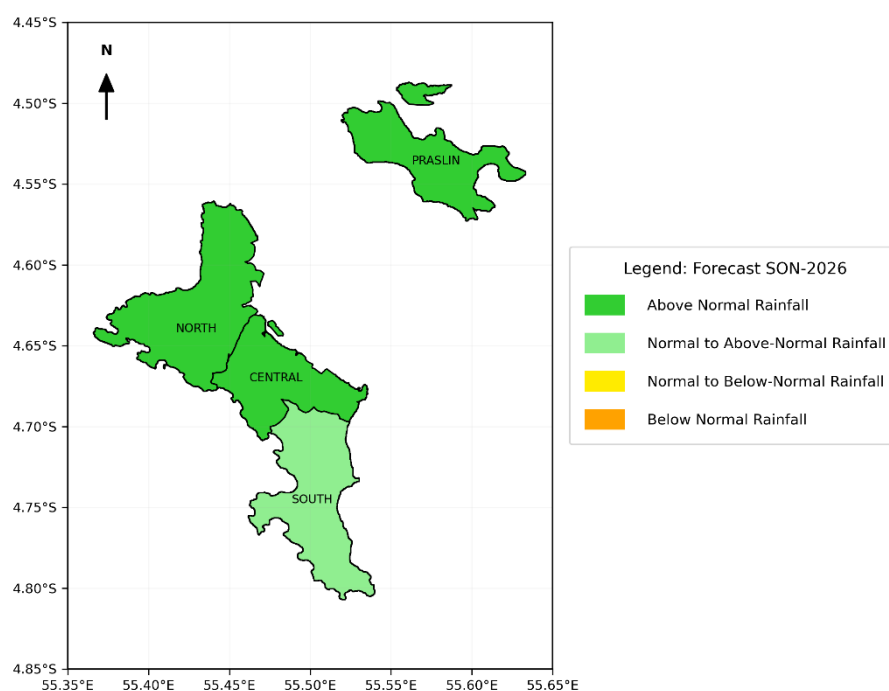


Figure 3: Rainfall outlook for September-October-November (SON) 2026

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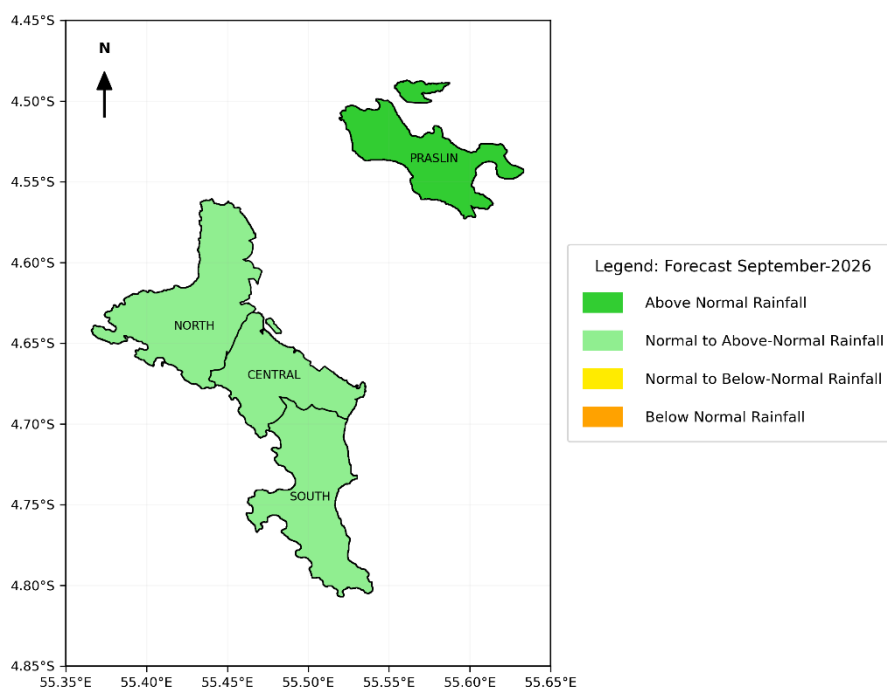
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E-mail: [info@meteo.sc](mailto:info@meteo.sc) Web: [www.meteo.sc](http://www.meteo.sc)**SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN****SMA/CLI/FM/010****Created by : T. Nomenjanahary****Revision Number : 001****Page 5 of 7**

*Table 1: Summary of climatological statistics for September-October-November (SON) season based on the expected conditions*

|                                                     | MAHE-NORTH | MAHE-CENTRAL | MAHE-SOUTH      | PRASLIN |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| Rainfall ( <i>mm</i> ) category range               | > 619.8    | > 633.8      | [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 September 2026*

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

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

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



### 3. Advisory

The SON 2026 outlook provides guidance for the September-October-November season and may not fully capture intra-seasonal variability, including weather fluctuations occurring from 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](mailto:info@meteo.sc), or call (+248) 4670700 /711/714/718.

### 4. Long-Term Climatology of rainfall during September-October-November Season

Figure 5 illustrates the spatial distribution of the September-October-November (SON) seasonal rainfall climatology over Mahe, Praslin and La Digue for the 1991-2020 reference period. Seasonal rainfall totals are expressed in millimetres (mm).

Over Mahe, seasonal rainfall generally ranges from approximately 550 to over 700 mm. The highest accumulations, exceeding 700 mm, are concentrated over the western and central parts of the island, while relatively lower totals of around 550 mm and below occur towards the southern and northern areas. This spatial rainfall pattern across the island reflects the influence of interactions between the prevailing winds and Mahe's complex topography.

Over Praslin and La Digue, seasonal rainfall totals are comparatively lower and more spatially uniform, generally ranging between 450 and 550 mm during the SON season.

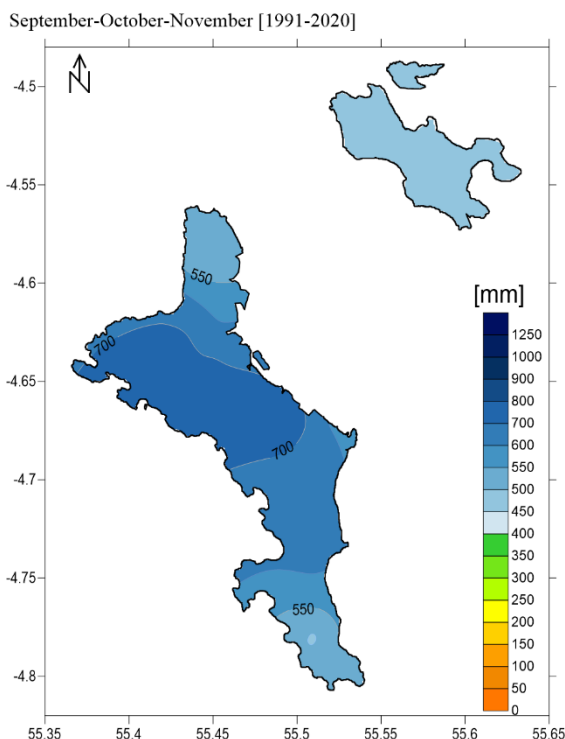


Figure 5: Climatology of September-October-November (SON) season rainfall (1991-2020)

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E-mail: [info@meteo.sc](mailto:info@meteo.sc) Web: [www.meteo.sc](http://www.meteo.sc)**SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN****SMA/CLI/FM/010****Created by : T. Nomenjanahary****Revision Number : 001****Page 7 of 7****5. Methodology**

The September-October-November (SON) 2026 seasonal outlook was developed using a combination of statistical and dynamical prediction methods, initialized with climate conditions observed in August 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 SON 2026.