



SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2026

1. Prevailing Global Climate Conditions

1.1. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon in the tropical Pacific Ocean, characterized by variations in sea surface temperatures (SSTs) and atmospheric circulation across the equatorial Pacific. The term El Niño refers to warming of the tropical Pacific Ocean, while the opposite cold phase is known as La Niña. ENSO is an important driver of climate variability and can influence rainfall and temperature patterns globally, including over Seychelles.

El Niño conditions are currently present. SSTs are above average (warmer) across the east-central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, while the observed atmospheric circulation anomalies over the tropical Pacific are consistent with El Niño conditions. The latest ENSO outlook indicates that El Niño conditions are expected to persist throughout the forecast period of October-December (OND) 2026 and expected to continue through March-May (MAM) 2027 season. The probability of El Niño is 100% from OND-2026 through JFM-2027 and decrease to 82% by MAM-2027 season. In terms of strength, El Niño is expected to reach very strong category from OND-2026 through DJF-2026/27, before gradually weakening from strong to moderate category during JFM and FMA 2027 season. Refer to Figure 1 below for the forecast probabilities of ENSO phases.

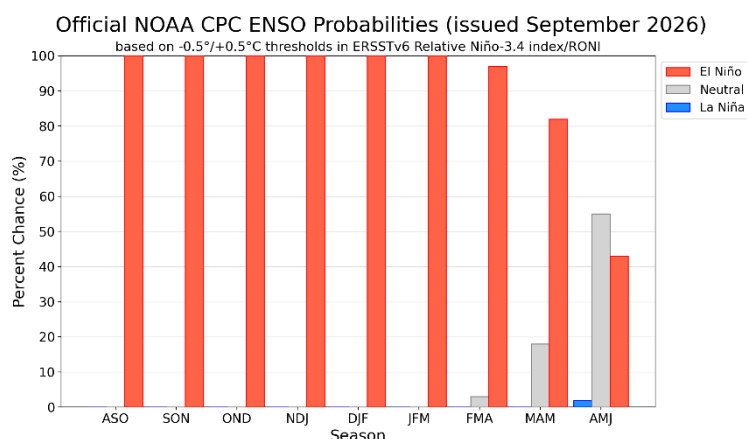


Figure 1: Forecasted Niño 3.4 Index (Source: Official NOAA CPC). The bars indicate the probabilities of El Niño (red), ENSO-neutral conditions (grey), and La Niña (blue) for the next nine overlapping three-month seasons. Each letter represents a month (e.g., O = October)



1.2. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

Rainfall and temperature variability across Seychelles are influenced by a mode of climate variability in the tropical Indian Ocean known as the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). The IOD is commonly measured using the Dipole Mode Index (DMI), which represents the difference in sea surface temperature anomalies between the western equatorial Indian Ocean (50°E-70°E, 10°S-10°N) and the southeastern equatorial Indian Ocean (90°E-110°E, 10°S-0°).

Observations show that the DMI remained between -0.4°C and +0.4°C from April to August 2026 (black line in Figure 2), indicating neutral IOD conditions during this period. By September 2026, the DMI had increased (reached +0.76°C, white dot in Figure 2), showing a transition from neutral conditions towards a positive IOD phase.

However, the latest outlook indicates that positive IOD conditions are expected during the October-December (OND) 2026 season. The positive IOD is then forecast to weaken, with the DMI returning 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 26th September 2026 by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

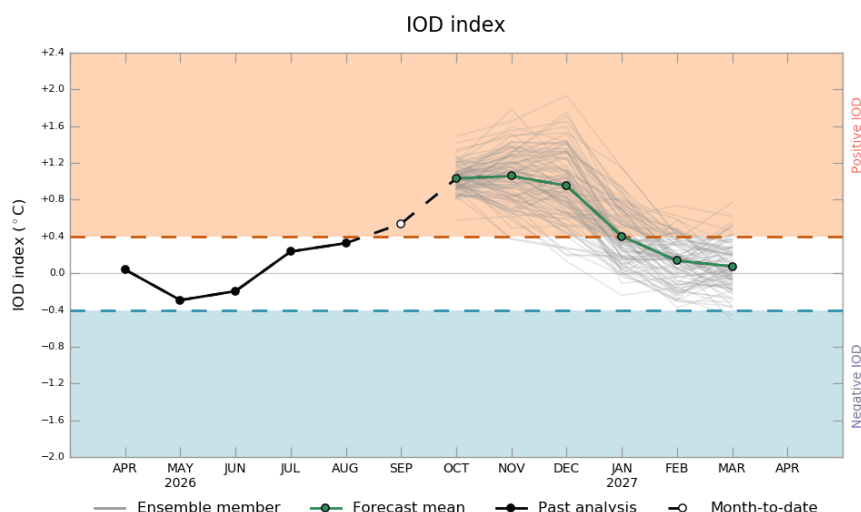


Figure 2: Observed and forecasted IOD Index

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



1.3. Other Climate Drivers - Intraseasonal Drivers

In addition to the climate drivers discussed above, rainfall and temperature variability during the October-November-December (OND) 2026 season may also be influenced by the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO). The MJO is a tropical atmospheric phenomenon characterized by alternating periods of enhanced and suppressed convection that move eastward through the tropics. Its evolution can influence rainfall and weather conditions over Seychelles on weekly to monthly timescales.

The MJO signal is expected to remain relatively weak and uncertain during October 2026, with considerable spread among the model ensemble members. Some forecasts suggest that the MJO may propagate eastward into the Indian Ocean (Phases 2 and 3) during the second and third weeks of October, although confidence in this evolution remains low.

Phases 2 and 3 are generally associated with enhanced convection over parts of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, if the MJO strengthens and moves into these phases, conditions may become more favorable for increased convective activity and rainfall over Seychelles. However, its influence will depend on the strength and evolution of the MJO signal.

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 October-November-December (OND) 2026

2.1. Climatological background of October-November-December season

Climatologically, October-November-December (OND) period marks the transition from the relatively dry southeast trade-wind season to the wetter austral-summer period in Seychelles. During October, the Mascarene High over the southern Indian Ocean continues to influence the regional circulation, while its position and intensity gradually change as the austral summer approaches. During the season, the low-level circulation over Seychelles becomes increasingly variable, with southeasterly winds remaining important in October and periods of westerly and northwesterly flow becoming more frequent towards November and December. This transition favours increased moisture availability and convective activity over the islands. The seasonal progression is also associated with the southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence

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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 : 001****Page 4 of 8**

Zone (ITCZ) and the development or southward extension of the Near-Equatorial Trough (NET) over the western Indian Ocean. These features during the OND season, enhance low-level convergence and moisture availability, contributing to the onset and progression of the wetter season in Seychelles, with rainfall generally increasing as the season advances.

2.2. Rainfall outlook for OND 2026 and October 2026

The seasonal rainfall outlook for October-November-December (OND) 2026 indicates a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall across all zones of Mahe (North, Central and South) and the Inner Islands of Praslin and La Digue. The forecast therefore suggests enhanced rainfall activity during the OND 2026 season, with rainfall totals likely to exceed the climatological normal (average) across the zones.

For October 2026, rainfall is similarly expected to be above normal across all zones of Mahe, as well as the Inner Islands of Praslin and La Digue.

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

2.3. Temperature outlook for OND 2026

During October-November-December (OND) 2026, the mean temperature is forecast to be above normal across Mahe and the Inner Islands. This indicates that seasonal mean temperatures are likely to exceed the climatological normal of 27.7 °C.

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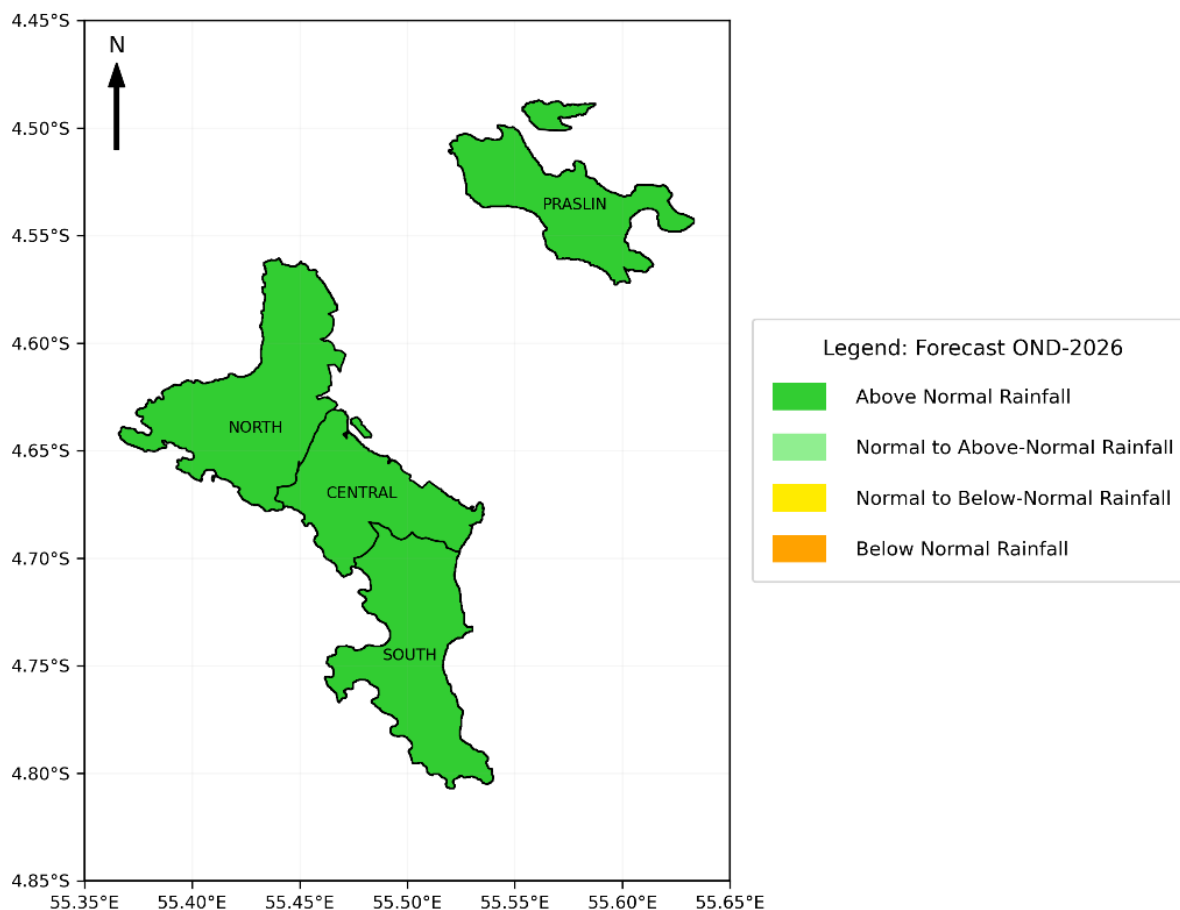
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Figure 3: Rainfall outlook for October-November-December (OND) 2026

Table 1: Summary of climatological statistics for October-November-December (OND) season based on the expected conditions

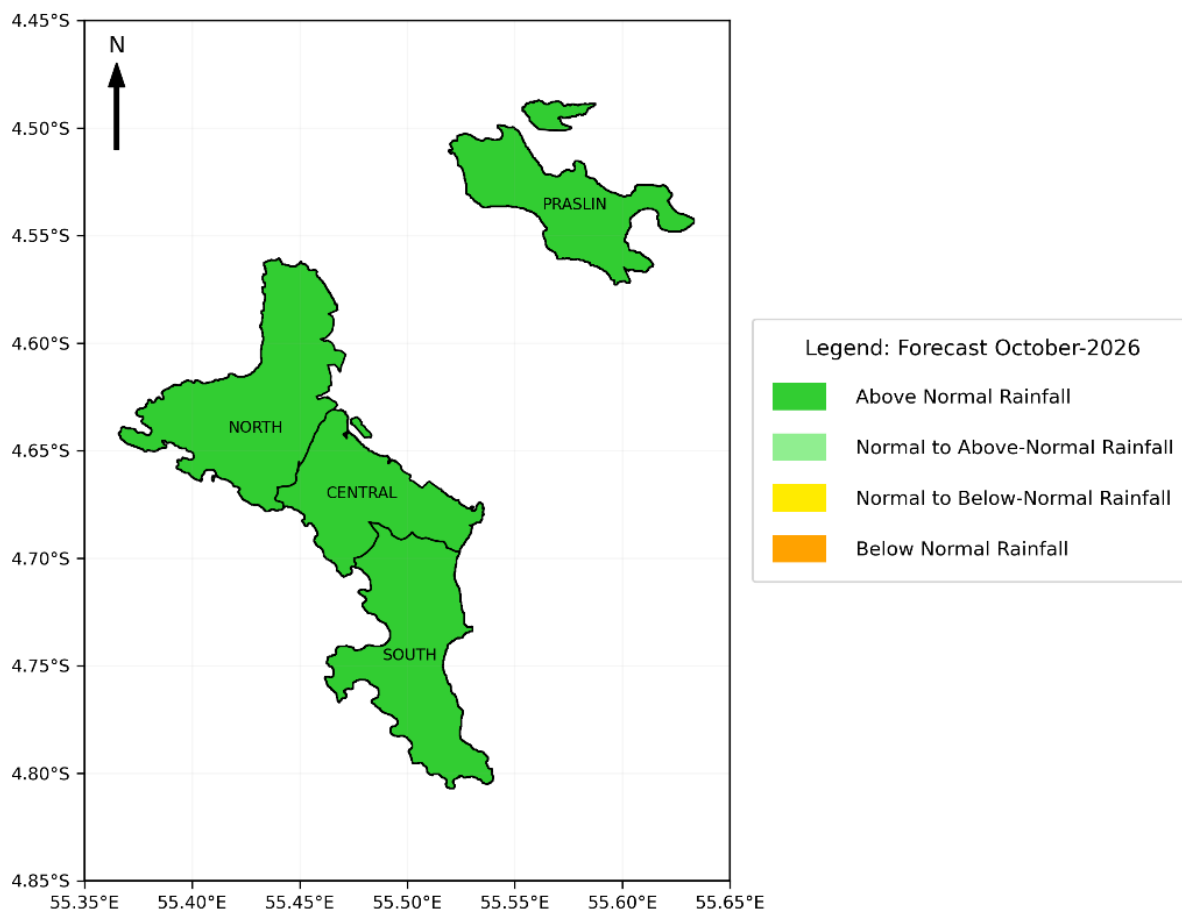
	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (mm) category range	> 1051.5	> 1002.7	> 751.7	> 580.7
Number of Rainy days (days)	> 56	> 54	> 50	> 39
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (days)	> 26	> 26	> 22	> 17

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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 : 001****Page 6 of 8***Figure 4: Rainfall outlook for October 2026**Table 2: Summary of climatological statistics for October based on the expected conditions*

	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (mm) category range	> 220.0	> 270.4	>211.1	> 188.1
Number of Rainy days (days)	> 17	> 16	> 14	> 10
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (days)	> 7	> 7	> 6	> 4

**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 OND 2026 outlook provides guidance for the October-November-December 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, or call (+248) 4670700 /711/714/718.

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

Figure 5 illustrates climatology of the seasonal rainfall during October-November-December (OND) seasonal rainfall over Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue based on 1991-2020 reference period. Seasonal rainfall totals are expressed in millimetres (mm).

Over Mahe, the OND seasonal rainfall accumulation generally ranges from approximately 550 mm to more than 900 mm. The highest rainfall totals are observed over the western part of the island, where seasonal accumulation exceeds 900 mm in some areas. Lower rainfall totals are observed towards the extreme northern and southern parts of Mahe (less than 700mm), while much of the remaining areas generally receive between 700 and 900 mm during the season.

Over Praslin and La Digue, OND seasonal rainfall accumulation range approximately from 450 to 600 mm.

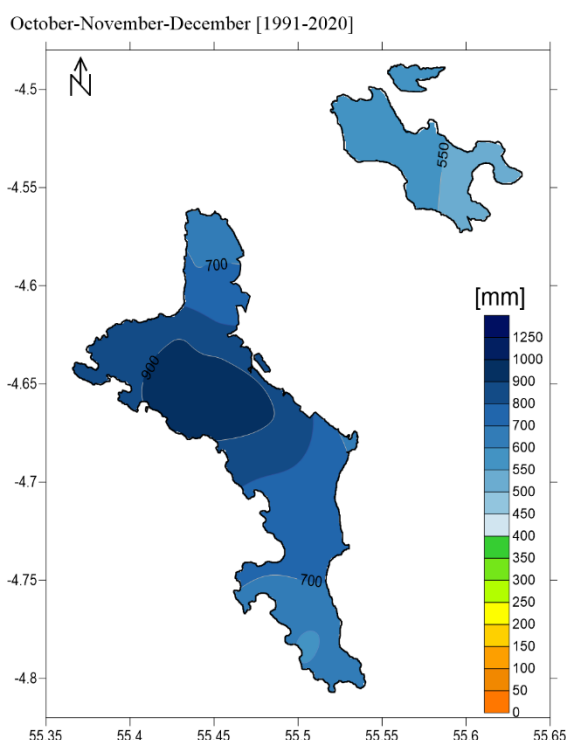


Figure 5: Climatology of October-November-December (OND) season rainfall (1991-2020)

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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 : 001****Page 8 of 8****5. Methodology**

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