

SEYCHELLES METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

Seychelles International Airport

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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 1 of
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SEYCHELLES NATIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK: OCTOBER 2026 TO MARCH 2027

1. Introduction

The period from October to March constitutes the main rainfall season in Seychelles, coinciding with the transition into and establishment of the Northwest Monsoon, which typically becomes established by mid to late November. This bulletin therefore presents overlapping seasonal outlooks for rainfall and temperature covering October 2026 to March 2027, together with the associated climate drivers. The outlooks are based on the combined initial conditions of August and September 2026.

The overall rainfall outlook indicates a high likelihood of above-normal rainfall conditions across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during October-December (OND) 2026 and November 2026-January 2027 (NDJ). During the peak rainfall season, December 2026-February 2027 (DJF), and the subsequent January-March 2027 (JFM) season, rainfall is forecast to have a high likelihood of being near normal to above normal across the islands.

For temperature, the outlook for the October 2026-March 2027 rainfall season indicates a high likelihood of above-normal mean temperatures across Mahe and the Inner Islands.

2. Prevailing Global Climate Conditions

2.1. 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 and strengthened further last month. The equatorial SSTs are above average (*warmer*) across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, the observed atmospheric circulation anomalies (*low-level westerly wind anomalies, upper-*

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level easterly wind anomalies from the western to the east-central equatorial Pacific, enhanced convection over the central and eastern Pacific, and suppressed convection over Indonesia) over the tropical Pacific are consistent with El Niño conditions.

The latest ENSO outlook indicates that El Niño conditions are expected to persist from October-December (OND) 2026 through March-May (MAM) 2027 season. The probability of El Niño is forecast to remain at 100% from OND 2026 through January-March (JFM) 2027 seasons, before decreasing to 82% by March-May (MAM) 2027. In terms of strength, El Niño attained a very strong category by SON-2026 and expected to maintain the status during OND-2026 through DJF-2026/27, before gradually weakening from strong to moderate category during JFM and FMA 2027 seasons. Refer to Figure 1 below for the forecast probabilities of ENSO phases (left) and ENSO strength (Right).

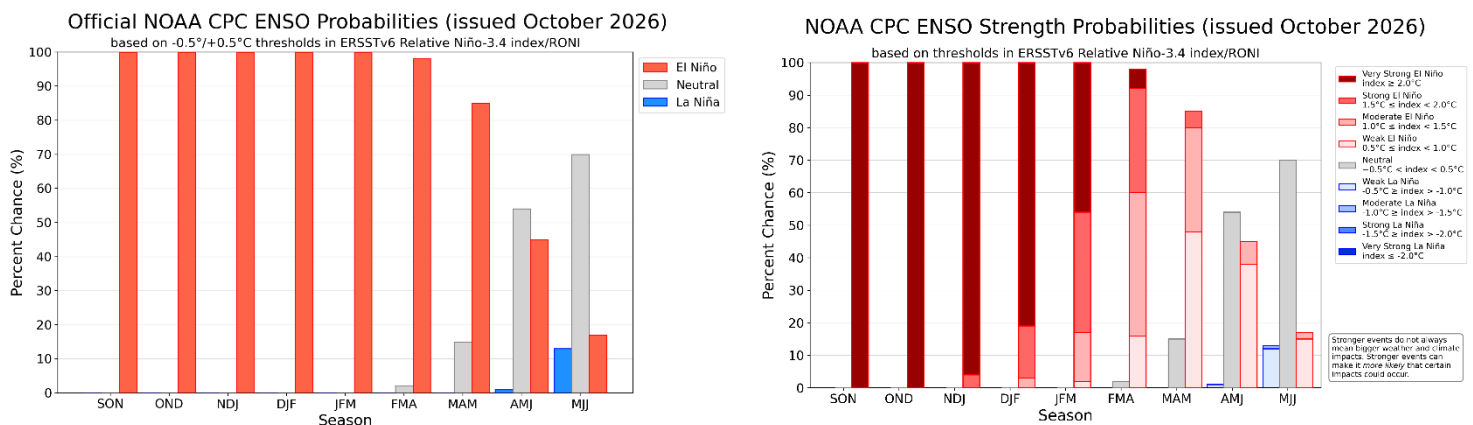


Figure 1: Forecasted Nino 3.4 Index (Source: Official NOAA CPC). The bars indicate the probabilities of El Niño (red), ENSO-neutral conditions (grey), and La Niña (blue) for the next nine overlapping three-month seasons. Each letter represents a month (e.g., O = October)

2.2. 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°).

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Observations show that the DMI remained between -0.4°C and $+0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ from May to August 2026 (*black line in Figure 2*), indicating neutral IOD conditions during this period. By September 2026, the DMI had increased to $+0.76^{\circ}\text{C}$ (*black dot in Figure 2*), indicating a transition from neutral to positive IOD conditions.

The latest outlook indicates that positive IOD conditions are expected during the October-December (OND) 2026 season. The positive IOD is forecast to gradually weaken from December 2026 onwards, with a return to neutral conditions expected by February 2027.

Refer to Figure 2 below for details on the evolution of IOD status, based on the update issued on 3rd October 2026 by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

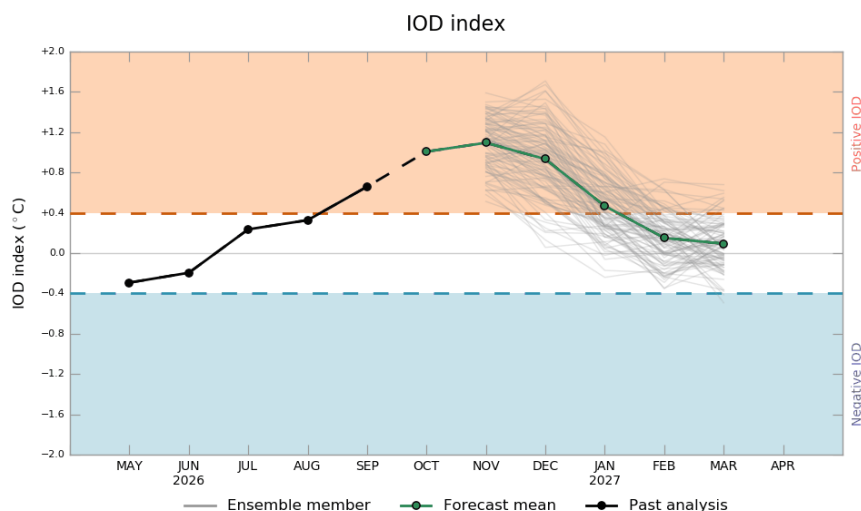


*Figure 2: Observed and forecasted IOD Index
(Source: Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia)*

2.3. Other Climate Drivers - Intraseasonal Drivers

The Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD) is among the monitored climate variability mode that modulates seasonal rainfall and temperature across Seychelles, particularly during the October-November-December (OND) season. A positive phase (negative) of the event is characterized by cold (warm) SST anomalies in the eastern part off Australia and warm (cold) SST anomalies in the southwestern part, south of Madagascar. The ensemble forecast shows that SIOD is forecast to be in its negative phase from October 2026 to January 2027, before



gradually weakening from February 2027 onwards. Negative SIOD is often associated with wetter conditions across Seychelles during OND season. (Refer to Figure 3 below)

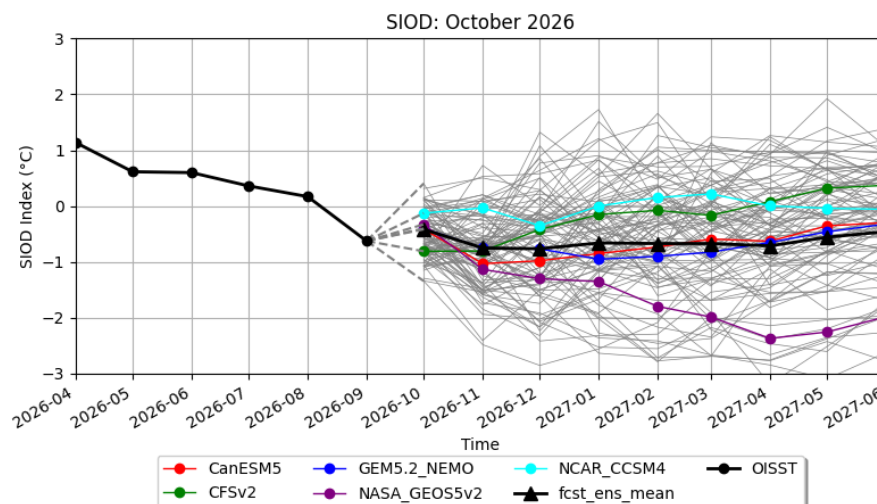


Figure 3: Observed and forecasted SIOD Index.

In addition to the climate drivers discussed above, rainfall and temperature variability during the rainy season, extending from October 2026 to March 2027, 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. MJO phases 2 and 3 are generally associated with enhanced convection (wetter conditions) over parts of the Indian Ocean, while phases 5, 6 and 7 are generally associated with suppressed convection (drier conditions) over the region.

Other factors include prevailing wind patterns and local topography. These often play an important role in modulating the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall across the Seychelles islands.

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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 5 of
14****3. Seasonal Outlook for October 2026 to March 2027 (OND, NDJ, DJF and JFM) seasons****3.1. Climatological background of October to March extended season over Seychelles**

Climatologically, October to March encompasses the main rainfall season in Seychelles, spanning the transition from the relatively dry southeast trade-wind season to the wetter austral-summer period (December-February), followed by the gradual retreat of the rainy season in March. October generally remains relatively dry, with the southeast trade winds still influencing regional circulation, although weakening winds and the northward-to-southward seasonal evolution of the rain belt favour the transition towards wetter conditions. November marks the transition towards the northwest monsoon and the main rainfall season in Seychelles, with conditions increasingly indicating the onset of the wetter period. Rainfall activity generally intensifies in December and reaches its climatological peak in January, before gradually decreasing during February and March. This seasonal evolution is influenced by changes in the position and intensity of the Mascarene High, the southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and the development or southward extension of the Near-Equatorial Trough (NET) over the western Indian Ocean while interacting with the global climate drivers. These features promote moisture transport, low-level convergence and convective activity, contributing to the onset and seasonal rainfall pattern across the Seychelles islands during the period.

3.2. Rainfall outlook for OND-2026, NDJ-2026/27, DJF-2026/27 and JFM-2027

This section presents detailed overlapping seasonal rainfall and temperature outlooks and their corresponding climatological statistics for the period October 2026 to March 2027.

3.2.1. Rainfall outlook for October-November-December (OND) 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. *Refer to Figure 4 and Table 1 for spatial map and climatological statistics of OND 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook.*

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*NB: For interpretation of the categorical forecast map and climatological statistics in the Forecast section, **Category 1 (bright green)** denotes above-normal rainfall amounts, **Category 2 (light green)** represents normal to above normal rainfall amounts, **Category 3 (yellow)** indicates normal to below-normal rainfall amounts and **Category 4 (orange)** implies below-normal rainfall amounts.*

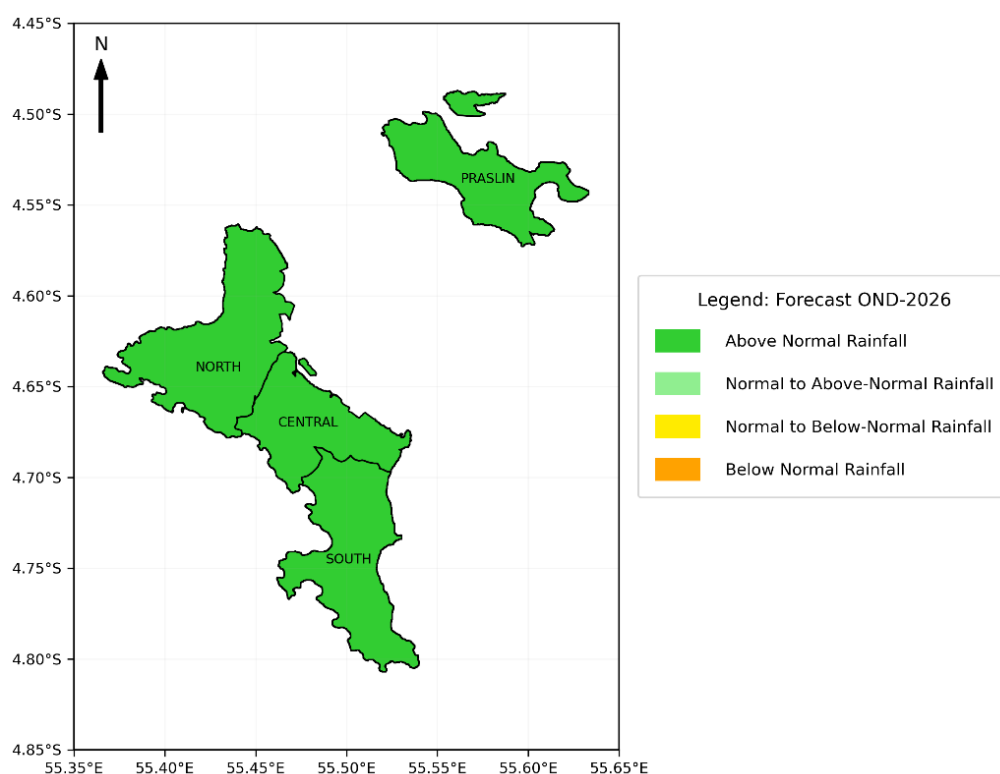


Figure 4: Rainfall outlook for October-November-December 2026; (OND) season

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



3.2.2. Rainfall outlook for November-December-January (NDJ) 2026

Similarly, the rainfall outlook for November-December-January (NDJ) 2026/27 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. This outlook suggests that seasonal rainfall totals are likely to exceed the corresponding climatological averages across these zones. *Refer to Figure 5 and Table 2 for spatial map and climatological statistics of NDJ 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook.*

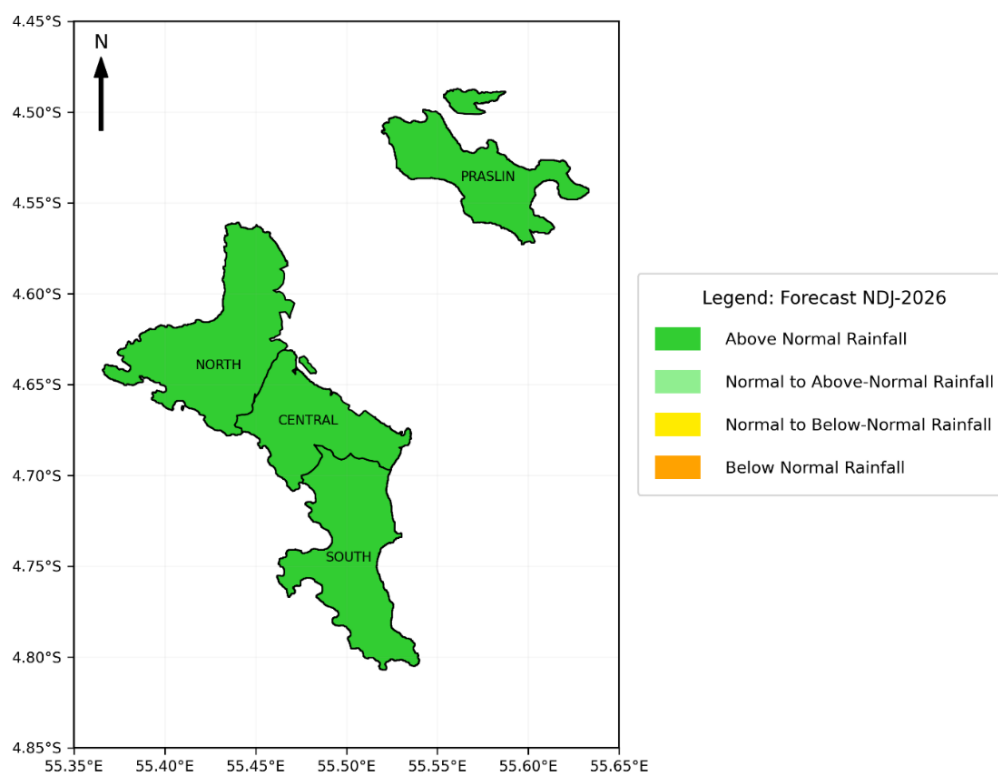


Figure 5: Rainfall outlook for November-December 2026-January 2027; (NDJ) season

Table 2: Summary of climatological statistics for November-December-January (NDJ) season based on the expected conditions

	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (<i>mm</i>) category range	> 1218.5	> 1314.2	> 879.6	> 868.6
Number of Rainy days (<i>days</i>)	> 58	> 61	> 51	> 43
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (<i>days</i>)	> 31	> 33	> 25	> 22



3.2.3. Rainfall outlook for December-January-February (DJF) 2026

The seasonal rainfall outlook for December-January-February (DJF) 2026/27 indicates a high likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall across all zones of Mahe (North, Central and South) and the Inner Islands of Praslin and La Digue. This suggests that seasonal rainfall totals are likely to be within or above the climatological average across these zones. Climatologically, DJF also marks the peak rainfall season in Seychelles, with rainfall peaking in January. *Refer to Figure 6 and Table 3 for spatial map and climatological statistics of DJF 2026 seasonal rainfall outlook.*

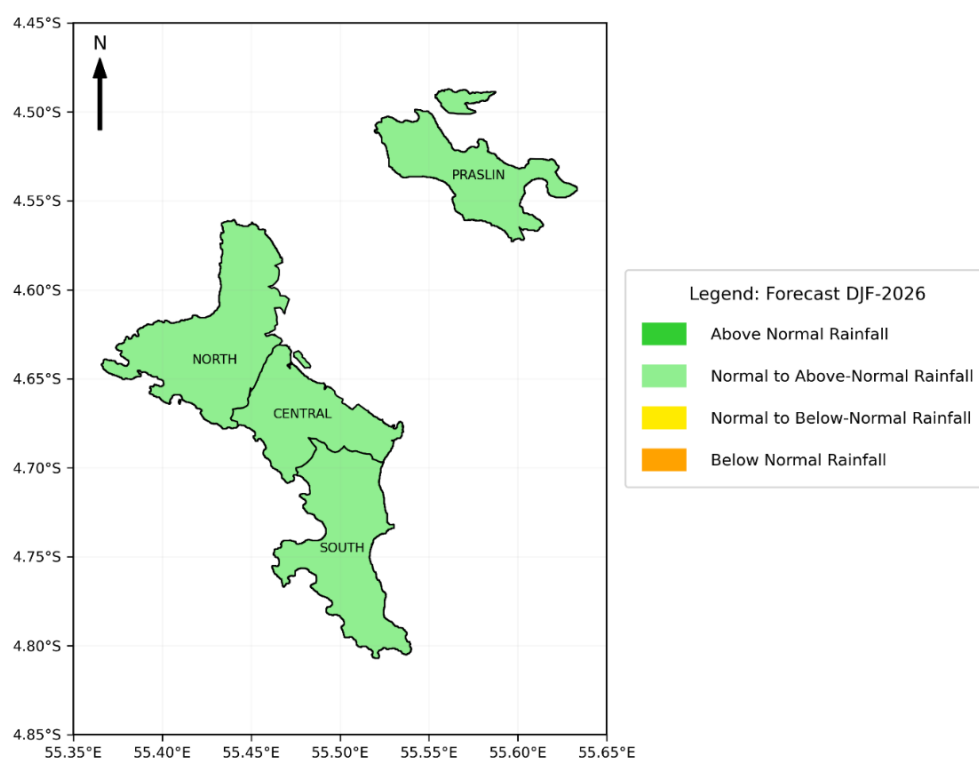


Figure 6: Rainfall outlook for December 2026-January-February 2027; (DJF) season

Table 3: Summary of climatological statistics for December-January-February (DJF) season based on the expected conditions

	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (mm) category range	[1117.0 - 1268.3]	[1233.0 -1358.7]	[732.9 - 802.1]	[750.9 - 860.2]
Number of Rainy days (days)	[54 - 56]	[54 - 58]	[46 - 50]	[38 - 42]
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (days)	[30 - 33]	[30 - 32]	[22 - 24]	[19 - 21]



3.2.4. Rainfall outlook for January-February-March (JFM) 2027

Similarly, the seasonal rainfall outlook for January-February-March (JFM) 2027 indicates a likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall across all zones of Mahe (North, Central and South) and the Inner Islands of Praslin and La Digue. This suggests that seasonal rainfall totals are likely to be within or above the climatological average across these zones during the JFM 2027 season. Refer to Figure 7 and Table 4 for spatial map and climatological statistics of JFM 2027 seasonal rainfall outlook.

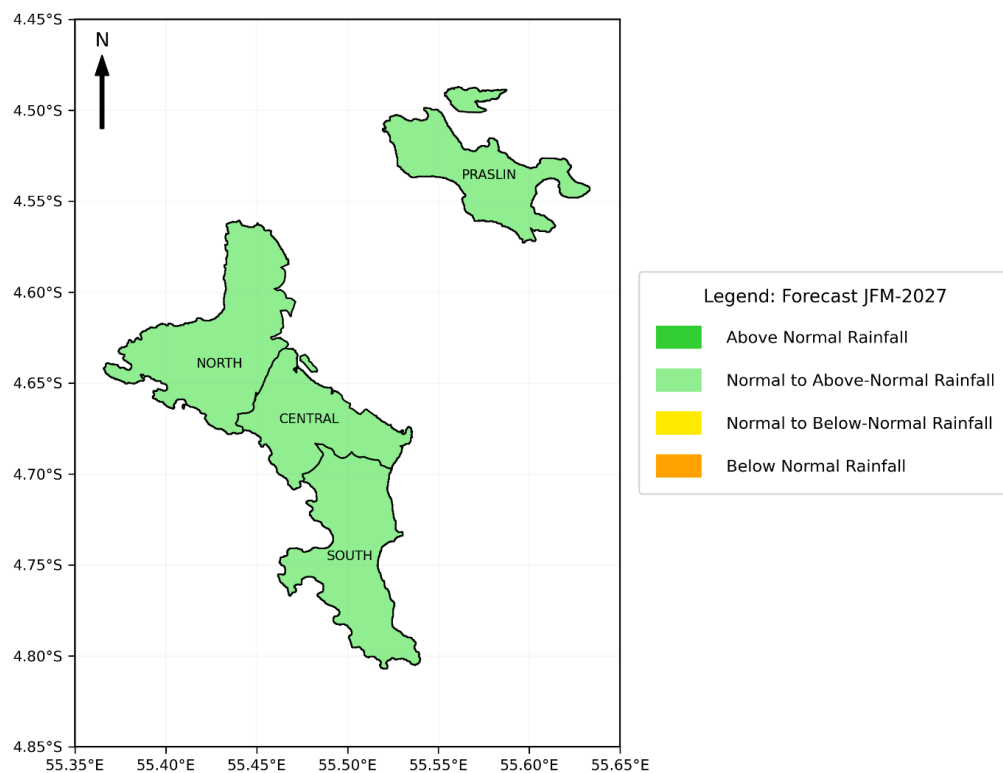


Figure 7: Rainfall outlook for January-February-March 2027; (JFM) season

Table 4: Summary of climatological statistics for January-February-March (JFM) season based on the expected conditions

	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (mm) category range	[939.0 - 1163.0]	[1087.8 - 1202.2]	[628.2 - 677.5]	[650.9 - 756.3]
Number of Rainy days (days)	[46 - 49]	[47 - 50]	[38 - 41]	[31 - 33]
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm (days)	[26 - 28]	[26 - 29]	[17 - 20]	[16 - 18]

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14****3.3. Temperature outlook for OND-2026, NDJ-2026/27, DJF-2026/27 and JFM-2027**

During October-November-December (OND) 2026, mean temperatures are forecast to be above normal (warmer than normal) across Mahe and the Inner Islands, indicating that seasonal mean temperatures are likely to exceed the climatological upper tercile normal of 27.7 °C. Similarly, above-normal mean temperatures are forecast for November-December-January (NDJ) 2026/27, December-January-February (DJF) 2026/27, and January-February-March (JFM) 2027, with seasonal mean temperatures likely to exceed the corresponding climatological upper tercile normals of 27.6 °C, 27.7 °C, and 28.0 °C, respectively.

4. Advisory of the seasonal outlooks

The October 2026 to March 2027 seasonal outlook indicates an increased likelihood of above-normal rainfall and warmer-than-normal temperatures over Seychelles. Under these conditions, the possibility of heavy rainfall, localised flooding, landslides and periods of unusually high temperatures should be taken into consideration. Stakeholders and the general public are therefore encouraged to remain vigilant and consider the potential implications of these conditions in their planning and preparedness activities.

It is important to note that the seasonal outlook provides an indication of the expected climate conditions over the coming seasons and may not fully capture shorter-term weather fluctuations or individual extreme events. 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).

During adverse weather conditions, the public and relevant 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.



5. Long-Term Climatology of rainfall during OND, NDJ, DJF and JFM Seasons

Figure 8 illustrates the climatological distribution of seasonal rainfall over Mahe, Praslin and La Digue for the overlapping seasons of (a) October-November-December (OND), (b) November-December-January (NDJ), (c) December-January-February (DJF) and (d) January-February-March (JFM), based on the 1991-2020 reference period. Seasonal rainfall accumulations are expressed in millimetres (mm).

OND (October-November-December): Over Mahe, seasonal rainfall accumulation ranges approximately from 550 to more than 900 mm. The highest totals occur over the western and central parts of the island, locally exceeding 900 mm. Relatively lower accumulations occur towards the northern and southern extremities, generally below 700 mm, while much of the remaining island receives approximately 700-900 mm. Praslin and La Digue receive comparatively lower seasonal totals, generally around 450-600 mm.

NDJ (November-December-January): Rainfall increases across Mahe during this season, with accumulations ranging approximately from 700 to more than 1000 mm. The highest totals occur over the western and central high-rainfall areas, while lower accumulations are observed towards the southern part of the island. Praslin and La Digue receive approximately 500-700 mm, with rainfall generally higher over Praslin than La Digue.

DJF (December-January-February): This season exhibits the highest climatological rainfall accumulation among the four overlapping periods. Over Mahe, totals range approximately from 800 to more than 1250 mm, with a pronounced maximum over the central-western highlands, where accumulations exceed 1250 mm. Rainfall decreases towards the southern part of the island, where totals are approximately 600-900 mm. Praslin and La Digue receive lower accumulations, generally around 600-800 mm.

JFM (January-February-March): Seasonal rainfall over Mahe ranges approximately from 600 to more than 1000 mm. Totals of around 1000 mm or more occur across the northern and central parts of the island, while rainfall decreases towards the south, reaching approximately 600 mm in the southernmost areas. Praslin and La Digue receive comparatively lower totals, generally around 500-700 mm.

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In summary, rainfall increases from OND to a peak in DJF before decreasing in JFM. Mahe exhibits higher rainfall over its central and western zones, while Praslin and La Digue receive comparatively lower seasonal totals. *Refer to Figure 8 below for spatial distribution.*

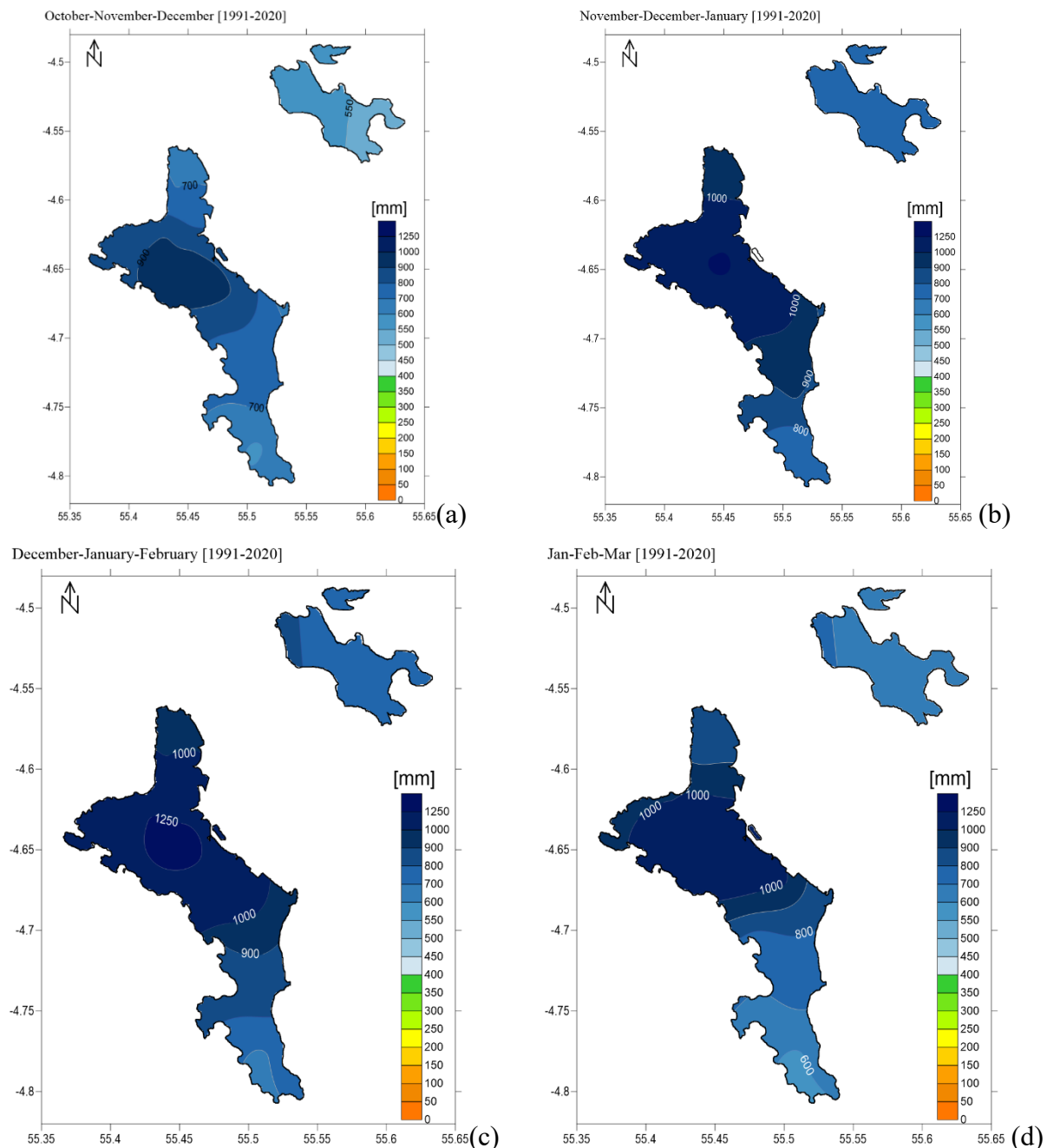


Figure 8: Climatology of (a) October-November-December (OND), (b) November-December-January (NDJ), (c) December-January-February (DJF) and (d) January-February-March (JFM) season rainfall based on WMO reference period of (1991-2020)

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The seasonal outlook for the rainy season, extending from October-December (OND) 2026 to January-March (JFM) 2027, was developed using a combination of statistical and dynamical prediction methods, initialized with climate conditions observed in September 2026. The forecast development process involved an expert assessment of the current state and expected evolution of the global climate system, supported by seasonal forecast guidance from World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Producing Centres (GPCs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and other relevant regional forecasting centres. Regional climate outlooks issued through participation in the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) and the Southwest Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF) were also considered. However, since these outlooks provide a broader regional perspective, their outputs were further downscaled to account for the local climate characteristics of Seychelles and support the development of the national seasonal outlook.

The expert assessment focused on key oceanic and atmospheric drivers known to influence seasonal climate variability over Seychelles, including the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole (SIOD), as well as other relevant large-scale atmospheric circulation patterns. Statistical predictions, dynamical model guidance, and expert interpretation were combined to develop the final seasonal rainfall and temperature outlook for the rainfall of 2026/27 for Seychelles.

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This subsection provides interpretation of the key terminologies used in climate outlook document as follows;

Climate Standard Normal: A 30-year period used to describe the typical climate conditions of a location. WMO updates the standard normal every decade. The current standard normal period is 1991-2020.

Reference/Baseline Period: A specified period of historical climate data against which current observations, forecasts, anomalies, or changes are compared. For seasonal outlooks, the 1991-2020 period is commonly used as the climatological reference period.

Above Normal: Conditions, such as rainfall or temperature, that are expected to fall within the upper tercile (highest 33%) of the historical climate distribution during the reference period. Usually indicating a likelihood of wetter-than-normal or enhanced rainfall conditions.

Near Normal: Conditions expected to fall within the middle tercile (middle 33%) of the historical climate distribution during the reference period and indicating rainfall close to the climatological/normal range.

Below Normal: Conditions expected to fall within the lower tercile (lowest 33%) of the historical climate distribution during the reference period. This is associated with a likely indication of drier-than-normal or reduced rainfall conditions.