MONTHLY CLIMATE BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Introduction

This bulletin provides an overview of the prevailing climate conditions observed across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during September 2026. Overall, wetter-than-normal conditions prevailed across Seychelles during the month. Extreme rainfall events were recorded across Mahe and the Inner Islands during the first dekad of September. One of the most notable events occurred on 8th September, when most rain gauges recorded more than 90 mm of rainfall within 24 hours, resulting in flooding and landslides in several areas. The monthly mean air temperature was also above the 1991-2020 climatological average, making September 2026 as the third-warmest September on record since the observations began in 1972. The climate of Seychelles is influenced by local topography, as well as regional and global climate drivers such us, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), etc. El Niño conditions were observed during September, with sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific remaining warmer than average. El Niño is expected to intensify and persist through the March-May (MAM) 2027 season. The IOD remained in a neutral phase, although the index exceeded +0.4 °C during September. Meanwhile, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was active in phases 7 and 8 during the first part of September before weakening around the middle of the month. Towards the end of September, the MJO propagated through phases 8 and 1.

2. Monthly rainfall performance in September 2026

2.1. Distribution of rainfall for September 2026

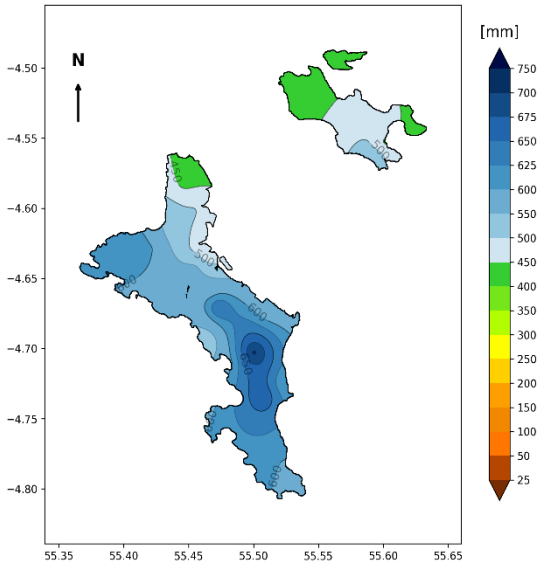


Figure 1: Monthly total rainfall in mm during September 2026

Figure 1 shows the spatial distribution of total rainfall across Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue during September 2026.

Across Mahe, monthly rainfall totals ranged from 435.6 mm to 709.6 mm, with the lowest accumulation recorded at Machabee and the highest at Prison-Montagne Posée rain gauge station. Rainfall totals exceeding 550 mm were observed across much of the island, particularly in the western, central, eastern, and southern regions, with higher accumulations generally concentrated in southern region of Mahe. Further analysis reveals that rainfall totals below 500 mm were mainly recorded in the northern part of the island.

On Praslin, monthly rainfall totals ranged from 407.6 mm to 528.5 mm, with rainfall accumulation generally increasing from west to east across the island. The lowest accumulation was recorded at Praslin Mont Plaisir (407.6 mm), while the highest was observed at Vallée de Mai Shelter (528.5 mm). On La Digue, monthly rainfall totals varied between 478.9 mm and 522.8 mm.

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2.1 Monthly rainfall performance, anomaly and percentage of normal rainfall during September 2026

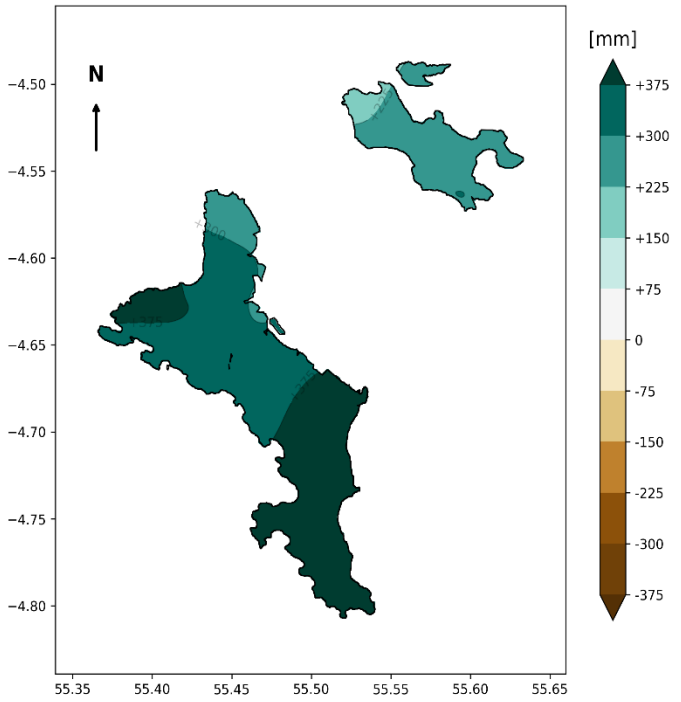


Figure 2: Monthly rainfall anomaly in mm during September 2026

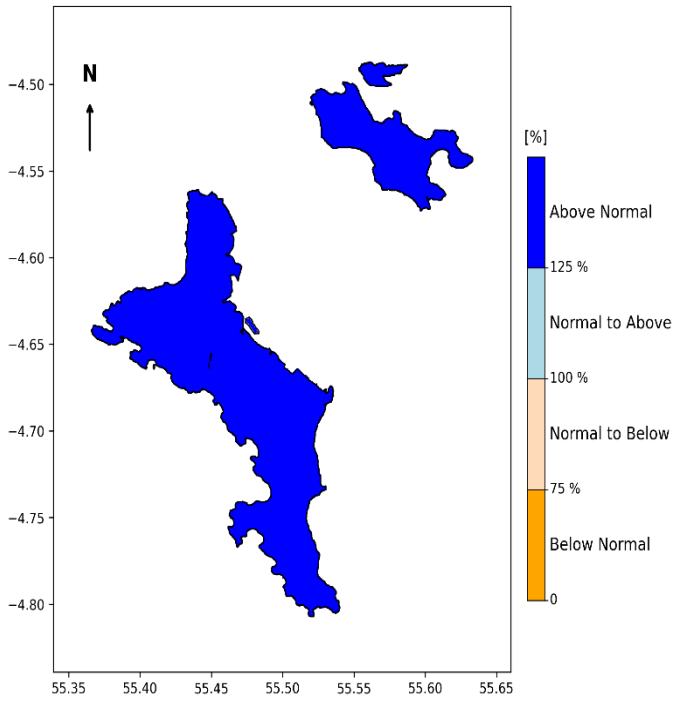


Figure 3: Percent of normal rainfall during September 2026

Figure 2 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall anomalies across Mahe and Praslin during September 2026. Brown shades represent negative rainfall anomalies (rainfall deficits), while green shades indicate positive anomalies (rainfall surpluses).

Rainfall surpluses prevailed across Mahe during September 2026, indicating wetter-than-normal conditions. Rainfall surpluses ranged from approximately +242.3 mm to +488.7 mm, with much of eastern and southern Mahe, along with parts of the northwestern and western regions, recording rainfall surpluses exceeding +375 mm. Further, positive rainfall anomalies below +300 mm were mainly observed in northernmost Mahe. Similarly, positive rainfall anomalies were observed across Praslin during September 2026, with rainfall surpluses ranging from approximately +206.0 mm to +305.3 mm. This shows that Praslin experienced wetter-than-normal rainfall conditions.

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Figure 3 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall anomaly categories across Mahe and Praslin during September 2026. Light orange to orange shades indicates normal to below-normal rainfall conditions, while light blue to dark blue shades represent normal to above-normal conditions. Overall, above-normal rainfall category dominated across Mahe and Praslin during September 2026, indicating that both islands experienced wetter conditions than the normal during the month.

Figure 4 compares the observed rainfall totals with their respective long-term monthly averages across the monitoring stations during September 2026. The graph shows that all stations, including those on La Digue, Curieuse, Denis, and Silhouette Islands, recorded rainfall totals above their long-term monthly averages. These widespread rainfall surpluses highlight the wetter-than-normal conditions experienced across Seychelles during September 2026.

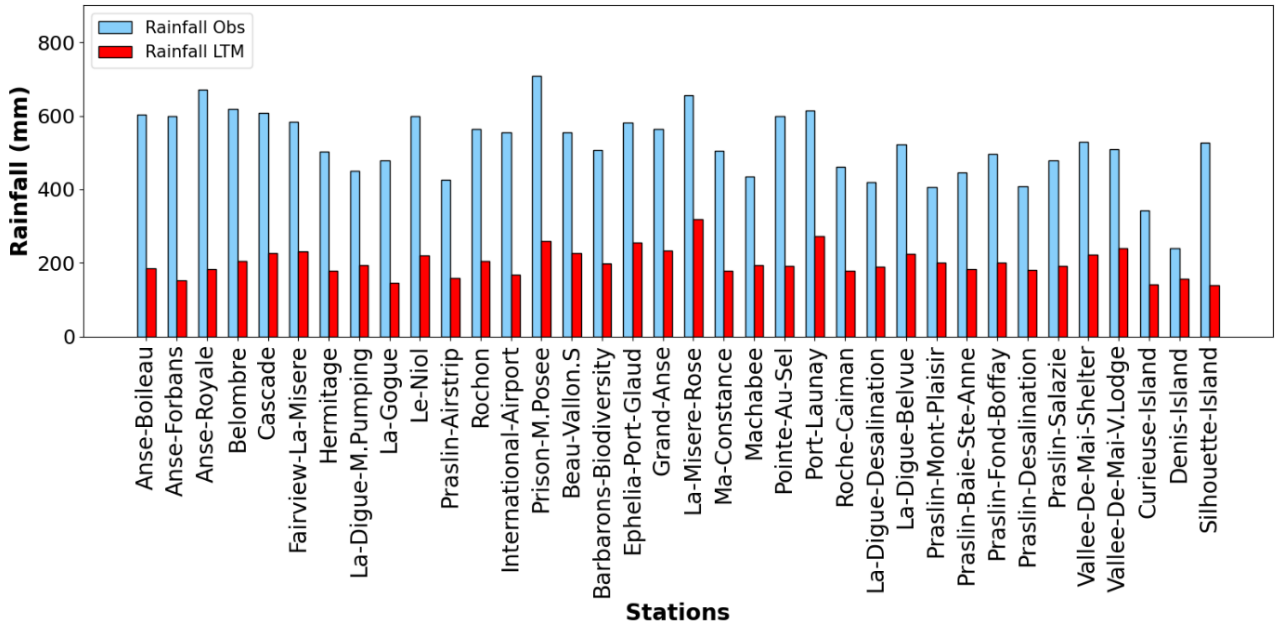


Figure 4: September 2026 rainfall total against September Long Term Mean (LTM)

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3. Mean temperature, Rainfall and Rainy-days anomalies for September at Seychelles International Airport

The monthly mean air temperature recorded in September 2026 was 27.6 °C, representing a positive anomaly of +0.55°C relative to the 1991-2020 climatological reference period. This shows that September 2026 was warmer than the climatological average. Analysis of the mean temperature anomaly time series at Seychelles International Airport shows that September 2026 was the third-warmest September on record since observations began in 1972. *Refer to Figure 5a below.*

The long-term rainfall trend at Seychelles International Airport indicates an increase of 26.43 mm per decade during September (1972-2026). Although below-normal rainfall predominated between 1973 and 1994, a pattern of alternating wet and dry conditions, approximately every three to five years, has been observed since 1995. Notably, September 2026 was the wettest on record since 1972. In terms of rainy days, September 1983 recorded the highest number (24 days), followed by September 2023 (23 days), both exceeding the September climatological average of 13 days. Meanwhile, September 2026 recorded 19 rainy days. *Refer to Figure 5b below.*

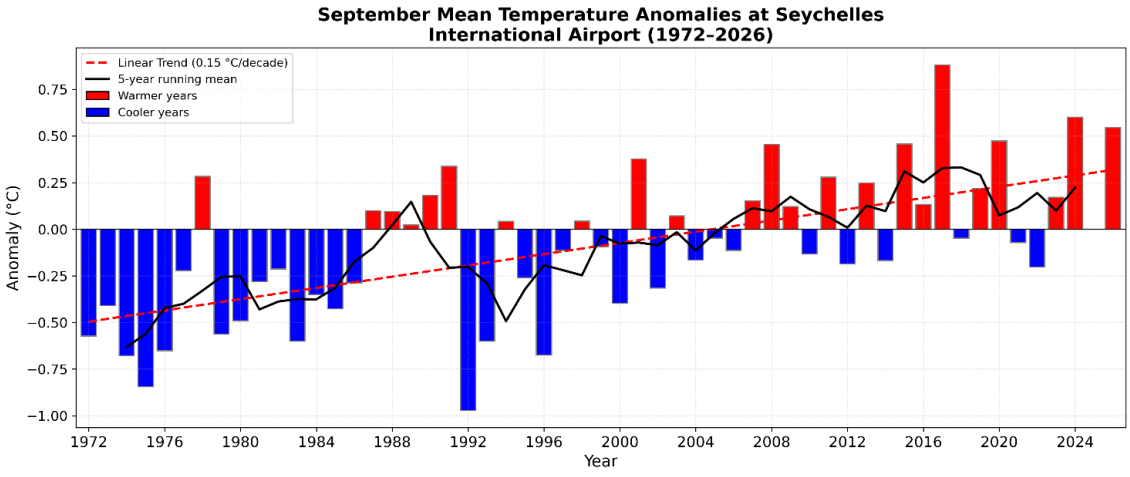


Figure 5a: September Mean temperature anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 reference period. Note: Anomalies refer to deviations from the mean or average temperatures. Positive anomalies (in red bars) imply that temperatures were warmer than average while negative anomalies (in blue bars) imply that temperatures were cooler than average.

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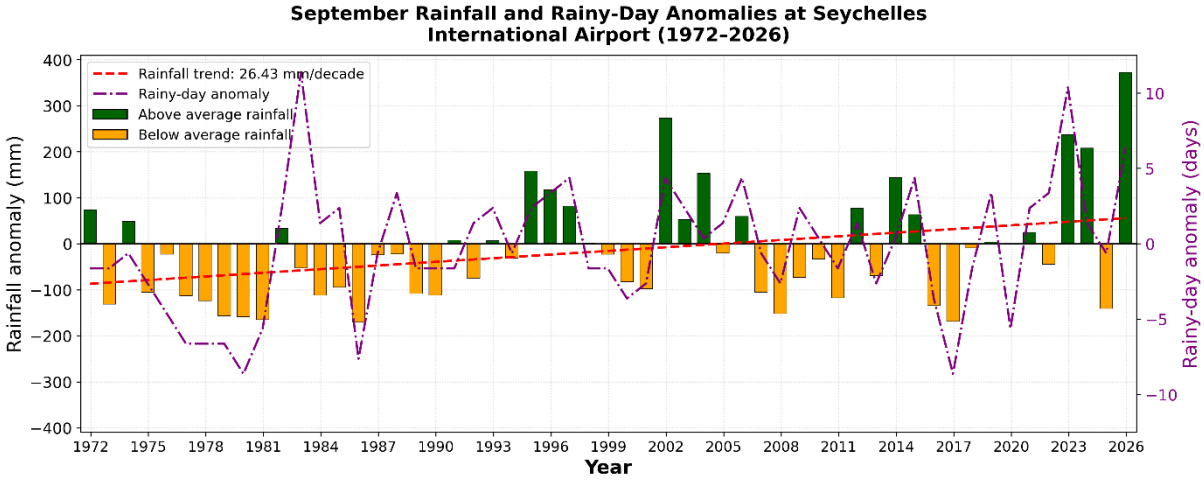


*Figure 5b: September Rainfall and Rainy-day anomalies relative to the 1991-2020 reference period; positive anomalies **(in dark green bars)** imply that rainfall was above normal while negative anomalies **(in orange bars)** imply that rainfall was below normal.*

4. Daily weather for September 2026 at Seychelles International Airport

4.1. Daily rainfall, relative humidity, maximum and minimum temperature in September 2026

At Seychelles International Airport recorded, a total rainfall accumulation of 555.7 mm was observed in September 2026, significantly above the climatological normal of 183.6 mm. The dekadal distribution indicates that rainfall was concentrated in the first two dekads. The first dekad (1-10 September) recorded 333.4 mm, characterised by persistently wet conditions and several heavy rainfall events. During the second dekad (11-20 September), 167.3 mm was recorded, while the third dekad (21-30 September) received 55.0 mm. Collectively, the first and second dekads accounted for approximately 90% of the monthly rainfall total. The highest 24-hour rainfall accumulation was recorded on 8th September, with 92.6 mm, followed by 75.4 mm on 4th September and 67.2 mm on 19th September.

An analysis of daily rainfall distribution (days when observed rainfall >= 1 mm in 24 hours) shows that 19 days recorded rainfall of at least 1 mm, while 11 days received less than 1 mm. The month began with an extended wet spell of 9 (nine) consecutive wet days, from 1st to 9th September, followed by another wet spell lasting 7 (seven) consecutive wet days, from 15th to

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21st September. The remaining days were characterised by light or trace rainfall, with only 5 (five) days recording no rainfall. These observations highlight the dominance of persistent wet conditions during the first two dekads, contributing substantially to the above-normal monthly rainfall accumulation.

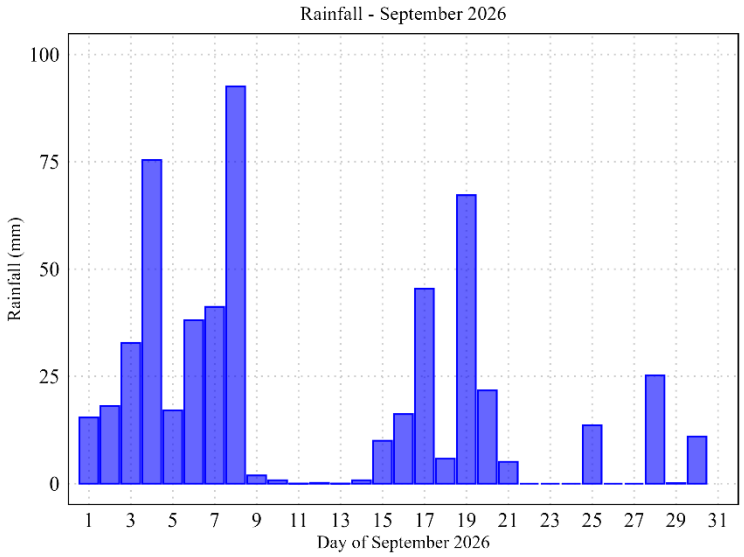
In September 2026, relative humidity ranged from 72% to 90%, with a monthly average of 80.8%, which was 1.5 percentage points above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 79.3%. The highest relative humidity of 90% was recorded on 4th September, while the lowest value of 72% occurred on 23rd September, followed by 73% on 11th September. The results indicate that September 2026 was slightly more humid compared to its climatology.

The daily maximum temperature at Seychelles International Airport ranged from 27.7°C to 31.4°C in September 2026. The lowest maximum temperature of 27.7°C was recorded on 4th September, while the highest value of 31.4°C occurred on 24th and 25th September. The monthly mean daily maximum temperature was 30.3°C, which was 0.9°C above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 29.4°C. Daily maximum temperatures exceeded the climatological normal on most days, with only 4 (four) days recording values at or below the normal. Furthermore, 24 days recorded maximum temperatures of at least 30.0°C, indicating predominantly warm daytime conditions throughout the month.

Analysis of daily minimum temperatures in September 2026 shows that values ranged from 23.4 °C to 27.1 °C. The highest minimum temperature of 27.1°C was recorded on 23rd and 27th September, while the lowest value of 23.4 °C occurred on 8th and 9th September. The monthly mean daily minimum temperature was 24.8 °C, approximately 0.1°C above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 24.7 °C. Daily minimum temperatures exhibited a sinusoidal pattern, characterised by alternating periods of cooling and warming throughout the month. Temperatures were generally below normal from 1st-9th September and 15th-22nd September, while predominantly above-normal values occurred from 10th-14th September and 23rd-30th September.

Refer to Figures 6 and 7 below for graphical presentation of observed Rainfall, Relative humidity, Maximum and Minimum temperature for September 2026.

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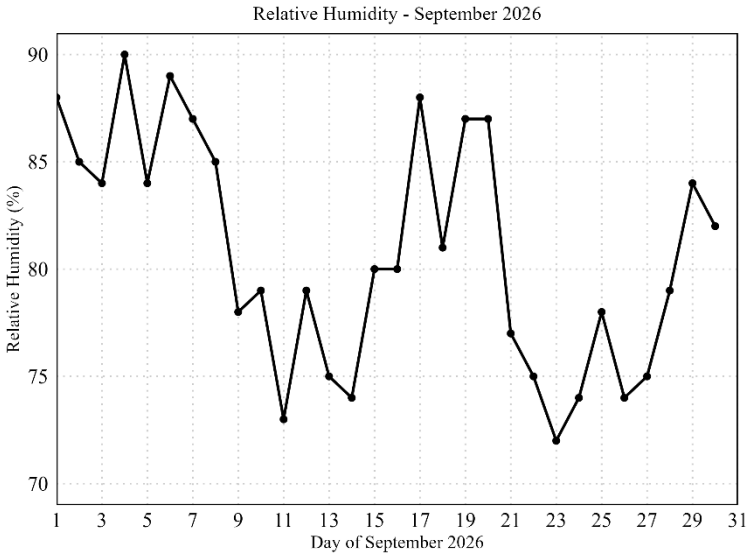
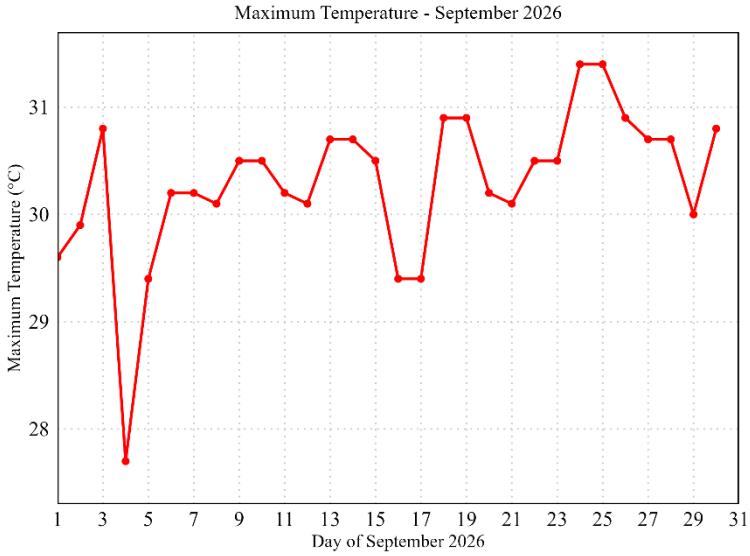


Figure 6: Analytical plots of daily rainfall and relative humidity in September 2026



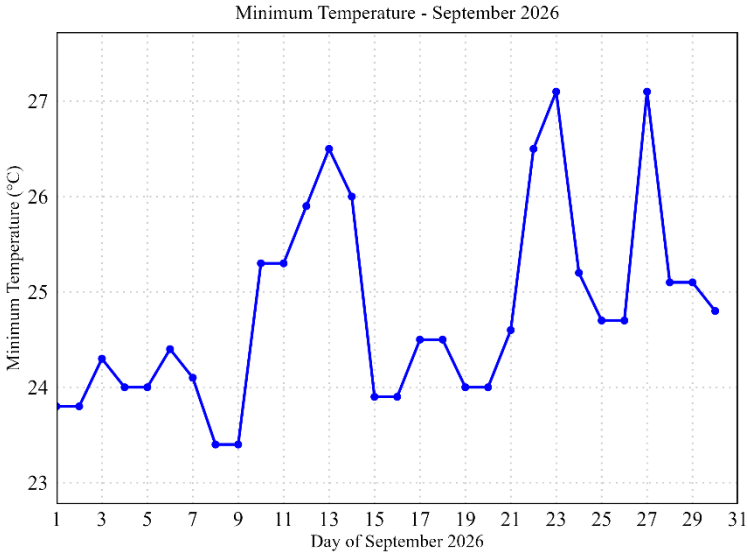


Figure 7: Analytical plots of daily Maximum and Minimum temperature in September 2026

4.2. Daily sunshine hours, Mean Sea level pressure and surface wind in September 2026

At Seychelles International Airport, mean daily wind speeds during September 2026 ranged from 7.6 to 14.9 knots. The highest mean daily wind speed of 14.9 knots was recorded on 26th

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September, followed by 14.7 knots on 9th September. The monthly mean wind speed was 11.2 knots, slightly above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 11.0 knots. The September wind rose indicates that winds predominantly originated from the southeast (SE), reflecting the influence of the southeast trade winds.

Mean sea level pressure at Seychelles International Airport during September 2026 ranged from 1011.1 to 1015.2 hPa. The lowest value of 1011.1 hPa was recorded on 3rd September, while the highest value of 1015.2 hPa occurred on 19th September, followed closely by 1015.1 hPa on 15th September. The monthly mean sea level pressure was 1013.7 hPa, which was 1.3 hPa above the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 1012.4 hPa for September.

The mean daily sunshine duration during September 2026 was 6.1 hours, which was 0.9 hours below the 1991-2020 climatological normal of 7.0 hours. The highest daily sunshine duration of 10.4 hours was recorded on 22nd and 25th September, with at least 6 (six) days recording more than 10 hours of sunshine. In contrast, no sunshine was recorded on 4th September, while up to 13 days recorded less than 5 hours of sunshine.

Refer to Figure 8 and 9 below for graphical and wind rose presentation of wind Speed and direction, Sea level pressure and Sunshine during the month of September 2026.

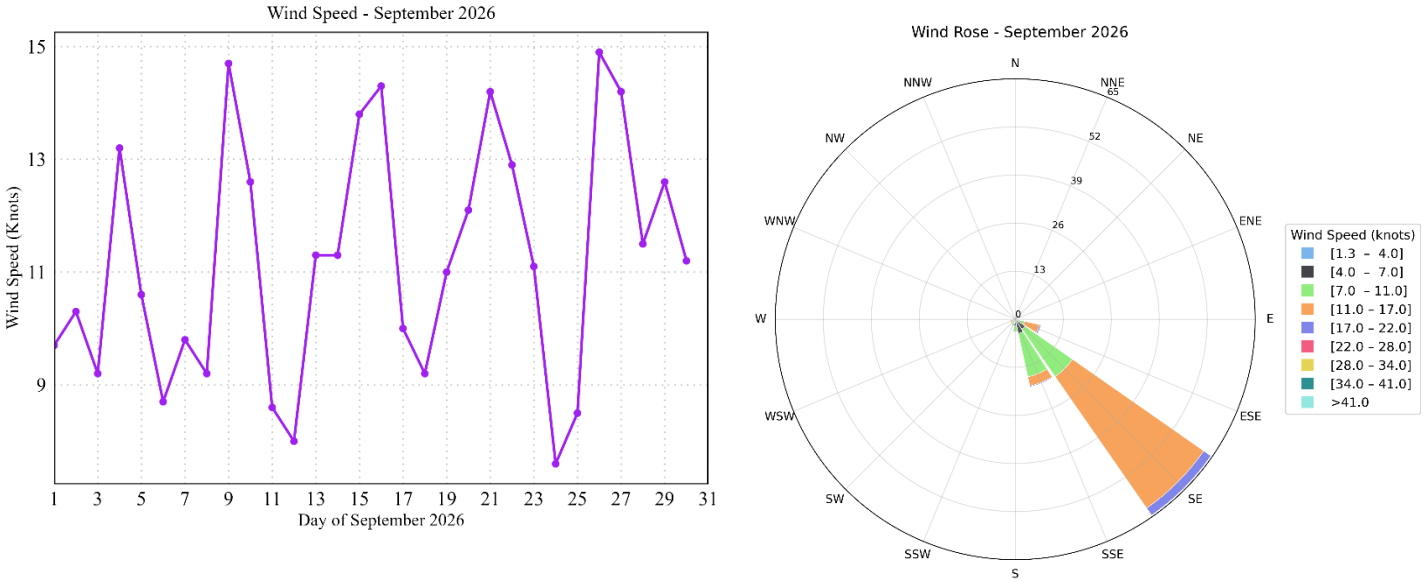


Figure 8: Analytical plots of daily wind speed, wind direction in September 2026

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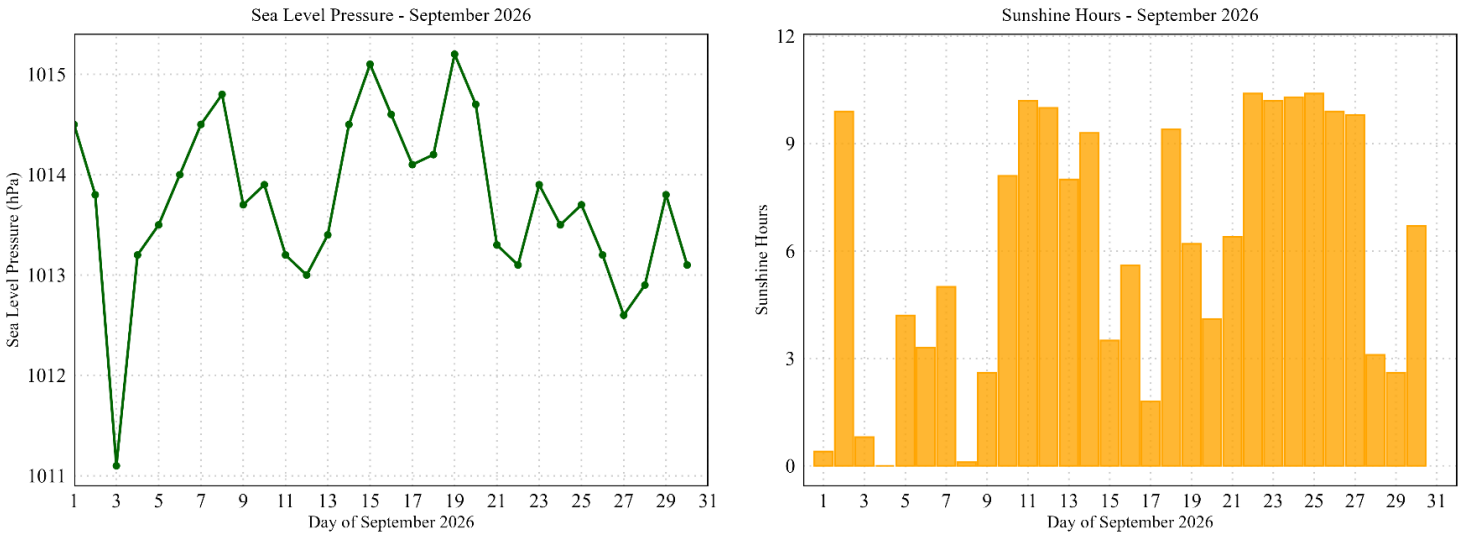


Figure 9: Analytical plots of Sea Level pressure, sunshine hours in September 2026

4.3. Wind Pattern in September 2026

Figure 10 illustrates the mean wind circulation at 1000 hPa and 700 hPa over the Indian Ocean during September 2026. At 1000 hPa, the circulation was dominated by southeasterly trade winds associated with the subtropical high-pressure systems over the southern Indian Ocean, particularly the Mascarene High. These winds crossed the equator into the Northern Hemisphere, with stronger cross-equatorial flow east of the Somali coast and south of the Arabian Peninsula.

Across Mahe and the Inner Islands, southeasterly winds prevailed, with mean speeds generally ranging from 4 to 10 m/s. The low-level circulation also indicated a branch of the Near-Equatorial Trough (NET) northeast of Seychelles, extending approximately between 60°E and 85°E. Its proximity often influences the regional distribution of moisture and convection.

At 700 hPa, predominantly easterly winds prevailed over Seychelles, with mean speeds generally ranging from 2 to 8 m/s. Further analysis also shows evidence westerly wind components flow farther north over parts of the Indian Ocean and the Indian subcontinent, indicating a change in the prevailing circulation across the basin.

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The prevailing easterly to southeasterly flow from the lower troposphere to 700 hPa suggests that moisture was transported from the southern tropical Indian Ocean towards the equatorial region, including Seychelles. Analysis of vertically integrated moisture divergence (VIMD) further indicated moisture convergence over the region, which may have supported convective development. This convergence, combined with the proximity of the Near-Equatorial Trough (NET), moisture transport by maritime winds before and during their cross-equatorial flow, and the topography over Seychelles created conditions favourable for rainfall. These circulation features are consistent with the heavy rainfall episodes observed over Seychelles during the first and second dekads of September 2026.

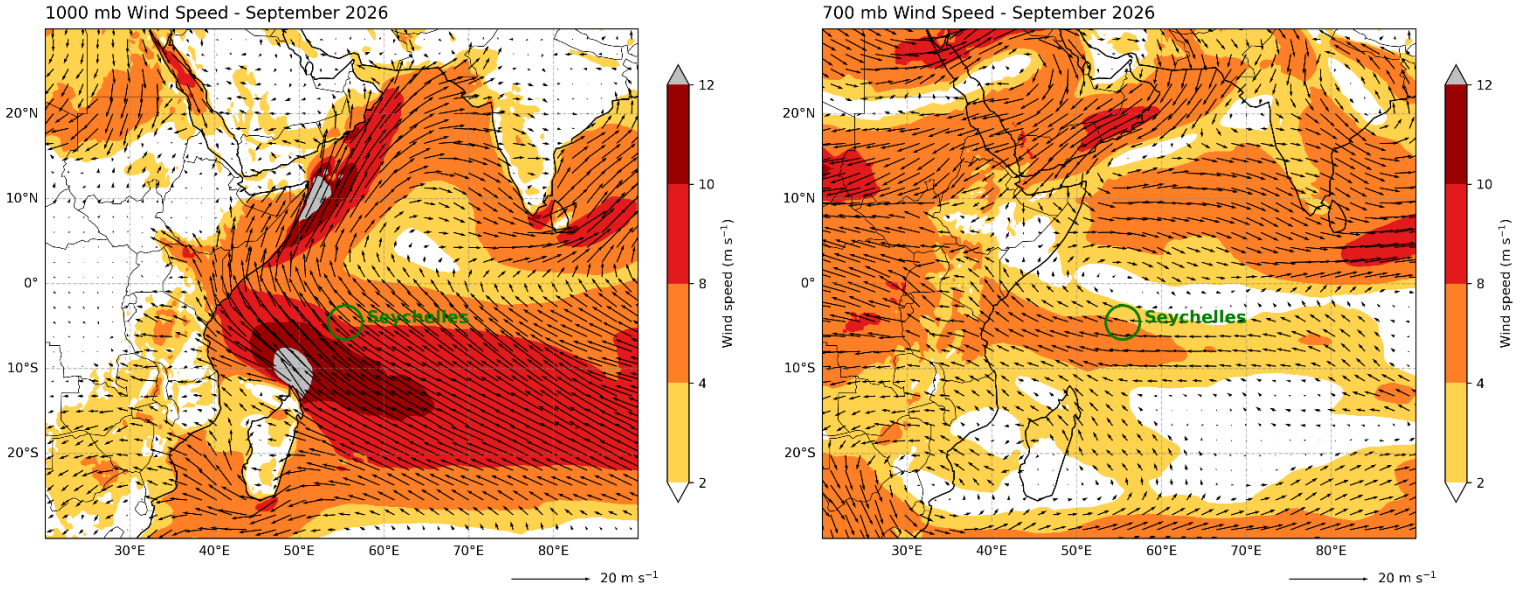


Figure 10: Surface wind flow-1000 mb (left) and wind flow at 700 mb (right) in September 2026

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