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SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER-JANUARY (NDJ) 2026/27

1. Prevailing Global Climate Conditions

1.1. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a large-scale climatic phenomenon that originates in the tropical Pacific but affects global climate patterns including the rainfall and temperature patterns in Seychelles. The warm phase (*warmer than normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean.*) is known as El Niño, and the cold phase (*cooler than normal SSTs across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean*) is La Niña.

El Niño conditions are currently present and continue to strengthen, with above-average (warmer) SSTs observed across the east-central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. Moreover, atmospheric indicators, including weakened or reversed trade winds, enhanced cloudiness over the central and eastern tropical Pacific, and reduced cloud cover over Indonesia, remain consistent with the development and intensification of El Niño conditions. The latest ENSO outlook indicates that El Niño conditions are expected to persist throughout the NDJ 2026 forecast period and continue into the MAM 2027 season. Its probability is projected to remain at 100% from NDJ 2026 through JFM 2027, before gradually decreasing to 85% by MAM 2027. Further analysis suggests that El Niño is likely to intensify to a very strong event during NDJ 2026 and DJF 2026, before progressively weakening to moderate or weak intensity by MAM 2027. *Refer to Figure 1 below for the forecast probabilities of ENSO phases.*

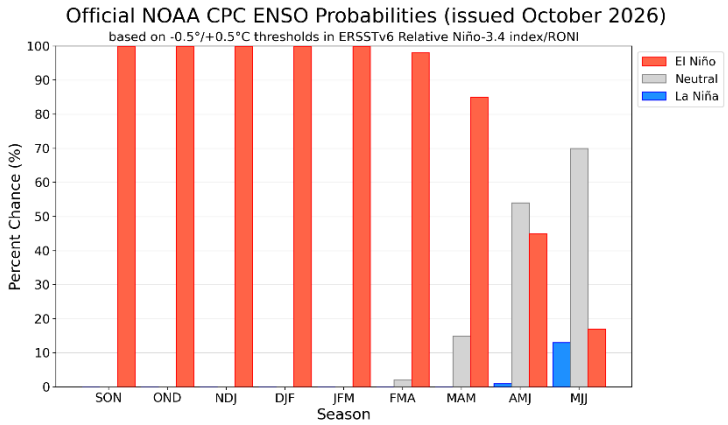

Figure 1: Forecasted Nino 3.4 Index (Source: Official NOAA CPC). The bars indicate the probabilities of El Niño (red), ENSO-neutral conditions (grey), and La Niña (blue) for the next nine overlapping three-month seasons. Each letter represents a month (e.g., O = November)

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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 above +0.4°C threshold from September and October 2026 (*indicated by the black and white dots*). This indicates that positive IOD conditions are underway. The latest IOD outlook shows that positive IOD conditions are expected to persist during NDJ 2026 season, with the event projected to reach its peak in November 2026. Thereafter, the positive IOD is expected to gradually weaken, with neutral conditions likely to return by around February 2027.

Refer to Figure 2 below for details on the evolution of IOD status, based on the update issued on 24th October 2026 by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Australia.

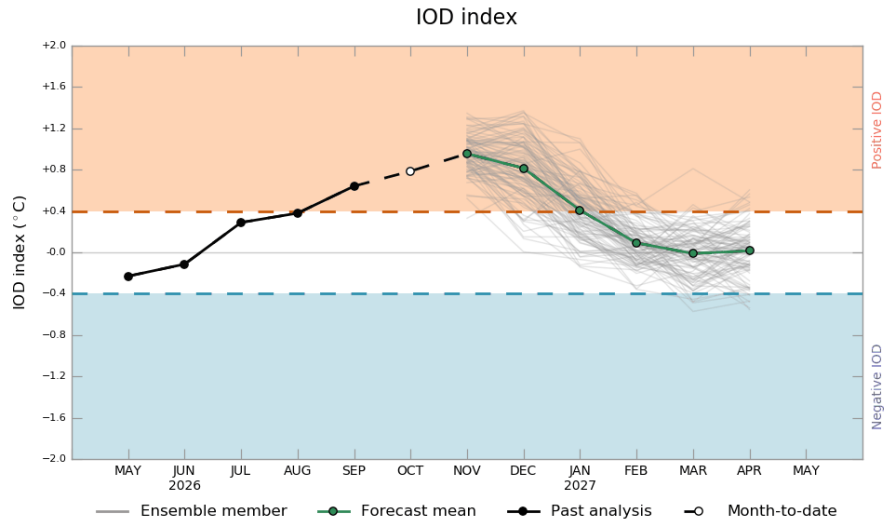

Figure 2: Observed and forecasted IOD Index

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

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1.3. Other Climate Drivers - Intraseasonal Drivers

Besides the climate drivers discussed above, the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) may also play an important role in influencing rainfall and temperature variability during the November-January (NDJ) 2026 season.

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 may propagate eastward into the Indian Ocean (Phases 2 and 3) during the next two weeks of November and might return toward the Pacific or Western Hemisphere during the third week of the month. Phases 1,2 and 3 are generally associated with enhanced convection over Indian Ocean basin. Therefore, if the MJO strengthens and moves into these phases, conditions may become more favorable for increased convective activity and rainfall over Seychelles.

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 November-December-January (NDJ) 2026/27

2.1. Climatological background of November-December-January season

Climatologically, November-December-January (NDJ) marks the transition into the wet season over Seychelles, associated with the gradual establishment of the northwest monsoon. November is a transitional month during which southeasterly trade winds may persist, although wind direction and speed become more variable and light as the monsoon circulation develops. By December and January, periods of westerly to north westerly flow become more frequent, bringing increased moisture from the equatorial and western Indian Ocean. The season is further characterised by 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. These features favour enhanced low-level convergence, moisture transport and convective activity over the islands. Consequently, rainfall generally increases as the season progresses, although substantial variability may occur between months and across the islands.

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2.2. Rainfall outlook for NDJ 2026 and November 2026

The seasonal rainfall outlook for November-December-January (NDJ) 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. Rainfall totals are therefore expected to exceed their respective climatological average during the season.

Similarly, above-normal rainfall is forecast across all zones of Mahe and the Inner Islands of Praslin and La Digue in November 2026.

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

2.3. Temperature outlook for NDJ 2026

During November-December-January (NDJ) 2026, the mean temperature is forecast to be above normal (warmer than average) across Mahe and the Inner Islands, indicating that seasonal mean temperature is likely to exceed the climatological upper tercile normal of 27.6 °C.

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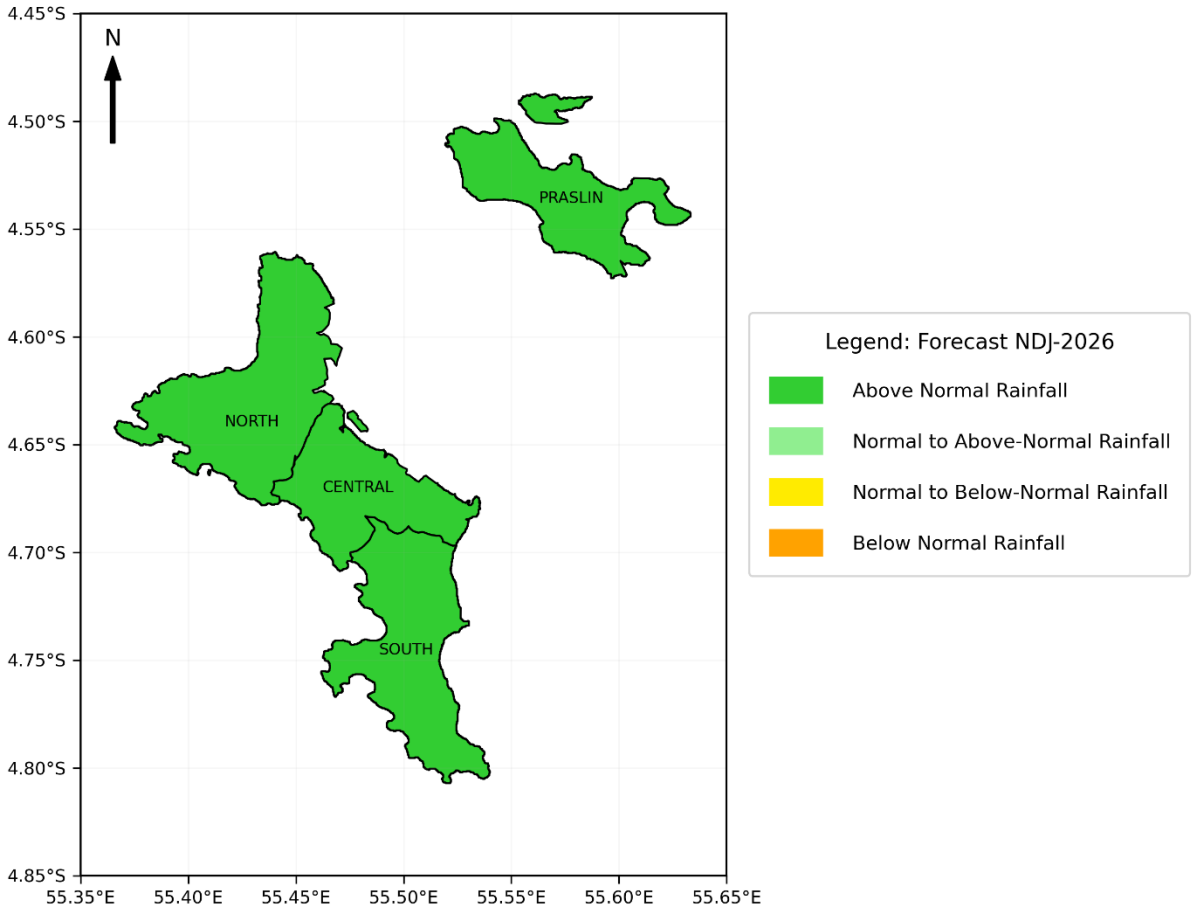

Figure 3: Rainfall outlook for November-December-January (NDJ) 2026

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

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

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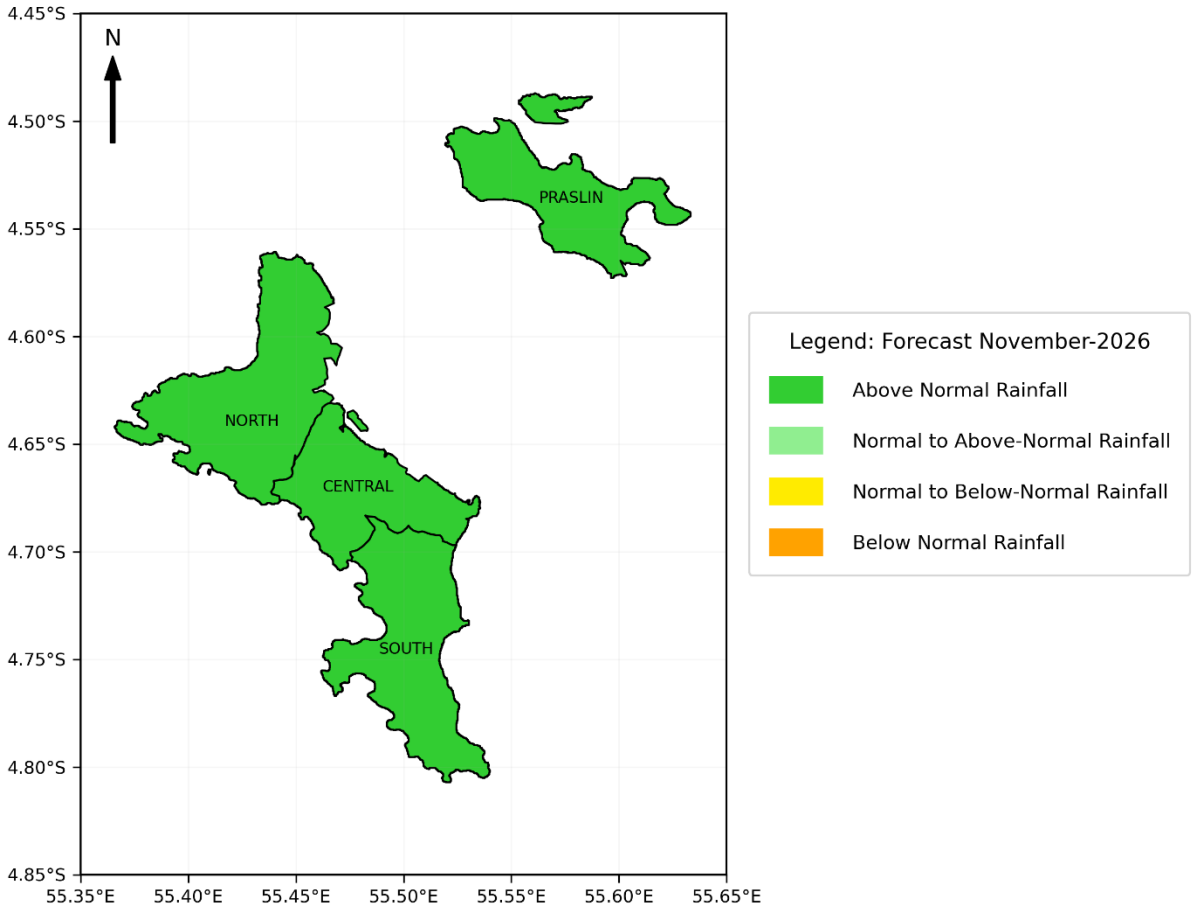

Figure 4: Rainfall outlook for November 2026

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

	MAHE-NORTH	MAHE-CENTRAL	MAHE-SOUTH	PRASLIN
Rainfall (***mm***) category range	> 309.1	> 325.4	> 257.6	> 219.7
Number of Rainy days ***(days)***	> 16	> 17	> 15	> 12
Number of days when Rainfall > 10mm ***(days)***	> 9	> 8	> 6	> 5

**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 NDJ 2026 outlook provides guidance for the November-December-January 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 November-December-January Season

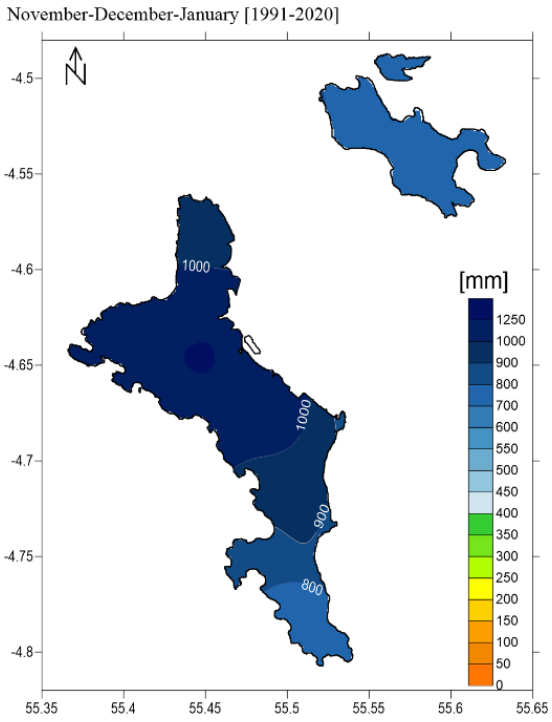

Figure 5: Climatology of November-December-January (NDJ) season rainfall (1991-2020)

Figure 5 illustrates the climatological distribution of cumulative rainfall during November-December-January (NDJ) over Mahe, Praslin and La Digue for the 1991-2020 reference period. Seasonal rainfall totals are expressed in millimetres (mm).

Over Mahe, NDJ rainfall accumulation generally ranges from approximately 800 mm to more than 1,250 mm. The highest totals occur over the central and western interior, where rainfall exceeds 1,000 mm and locally reaches over 1,250 mm. In contrast, lower accumulations of approximately 800 mm -900 mm are observed towards the southern and southeastern parts of the island. The northern and northeastern areas generally receive between 1,000 mm and 1,250 mm.

However, Praslin and La Digue receives comparatively lower NDJ rainfall totals, generally ranging from approximately 700 mm to 800 mm.

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5. Methodology

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

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