

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – January 2025

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PACIFIC SEAS STATE

January 21, 2025

As of mid-January 2025,

La Niña conditions continue to prevail in the equatorial Pacific. The IRI ENSO prediction plume forecasts slightly higher chances for La Niña for Jan-Mar, 2025, with equal chances for La Niña and ENSO-neutral conditions for Feb-Apr, 2025. For Mar-May, 2025, onwards to the Jul-Sep, ENSO-neutral conditions are favoured. In summary, La Niña conditions are predicted to persist through Jan-Mar, 2025 with 66% chances, and with 50% chances for Feb-Apr, 2025. (Text Courtesy IRI)

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

14–20 January, 2025

0.5°C above average SST was observed around the central islands and near-neutral SST was observed around the northern and southern islands of Maldives.

Highlights

Monitored:

In December, the central islands received up to 12 mm of rainfall; while remaining islands received less. Westerly winds prevailed for Maldives during the month of December.

Predictions:

La Niña conditions are present and are expected to persist through February-April 2025 (59% chance), with a transition to ENSO-neutral likely during March-May 2025 (60% chance).

Summary

CLIMATOLOGY

Monthly Climatology:

In February, northern islands receive average rainfall less than 50 mm while central islands receive up to 50 mm rain and southern islands receive up to 100 mm of rain. Usually in March, northern and central islands receive rainfall up to 50 mm while southern islands receive up to 100 mm of rain. In April, Southern islands usually receive about 150 mm of rainfall. The wind direction in southern and central islands is westerly and in northern islands, it's northwesterly.

MONITORING

Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
17 th January	TR	30 mm	40 mm
18 th January	TR	30 mm	50 mm
19 th January	10 mm	130 mm	TR
20 th January	TR	10 mm	10 mm
21 st January	TR	5 mm	5 mm
22 nd January	10 mm	20 mm	30 mm
23 rd January	40 mm	20 mm	10 mm
24 th January	30 mm	20 mm	TR
25 th January	20 mm	40 mm	TR
26 th January	10 mm	40 mm	50 mm
27 th January	30 mm	80 mm	80 mm
28 th January	40 mm	10 mm	TR
29 th January	TR	-	-
30 th January	TR	TR	-
31 st January	10 mm	10 mm	-

TR - Trace Value

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

Monthly Average: In December, the central islands received up to 12 mm of rainfall, northern and southern islands received up to 10 mm rainfall.

Monthly Temperature Monitoring:

	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
T Max	32.5°C	33.0°C	31.5°C
T Min	24.0°C	22.6°C	22.6°C

Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

11-20 January, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 70 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 200 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 70 mm rainfall

21-31 January, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 100 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 100 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 100 mm rainfall

PREDICTIONS

Daily Rainfall Forecast:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
07th February	20 mm	20 mm	10 mm
08th February	10 mm	20 mm	TR
09th February	TR	40 mm	20 mm
10th February	TR	70 mm	10 mm
11th February	TR	40 mm	10 mm
12th February	TR	10 mm	TR
13th January	TR	10 mm	10 mm

Biweekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 45% for the northern and southern islands, by 50% for the central islands between 8th -21st February.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Above-normal tercile is 50% probable in the northern islands, and 45% probable in the central islands; and below-normal tercile is 40% probable in the southern islands from February-March-April 2025 and seasonal rainfall forecast is higher likelihood of above-normal range for the Maldives.

MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 5 and 6 respectively in the next two weeks (1 – 15 February 2025). MJO in phase 5 and 6 usually suppress the rainfall over the Maldives.

Figures in Annexure

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 - Seasonal Predictions from IRI¹

