

## Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – February 2021

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### PACIFIC SEAS STATE

February 10, 2021

In early-Feb 2021, the tropical Pacific remained in an ENSO-neutral state, although SSTs in the east-central and central Pacific have cooled to the threshold for La Niña while the atmosphere continues to maintain largely ENSO-neutral patterns. The collection of latest ENSO prediction models indicates ENSO-neutral or weak El Niño as two possible scenarios during Northern Hemisphere spring 2021. The official CPC/IRI outlook slightly favors La Niña development, and carries a La Niña watch.  
**(Text Courtesy IRI)**

### INDIAN OCEAN STATE

February 10, 2021

0.5 °C above average SST was observed around Maldives.

## Highlights

### Monitored:

During January, the entire islands received less rainfall. Over the 365 days, rainfall exceeded climatology by 20% in the Northern islands by 33%.

### Predictions:

With weak La Nina conditions established; dry conditions are set to prevail across Maldives from February-March 2021. The seasonal temperature remains climatological – perhaps the La Nina influence is countervailed by the prevailing anomalously warm ocean surfaces by the Maldives.

## Summary

### CLIMATOLOGY

#### Monthly Climatology:

In March, northern and central islands receive average rainfall up to 50 mm while southern islands receive up to 100 mm of rain. Wind is northeasterly. Usually 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 is northwesterly. Rainfall usually increase up to 200 mm in May in the entire country. The wind direction remains the same but the speed increases.

### MONITORING

#### Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	-
11 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	30mm
12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	-
14 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	10mm
15 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	20mm
16 <sup>th</sup> February	-	60mm	100mm
17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	-
19 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	20mm
20 <sup>th</sup> February	-	-	10mm

**Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring:** In January, the entire islands received up to 10 mm; above average rainfall. The cumulative rainfall during the last 365 days, shows for: Northern islands: Excess of 300 mm from an average of 1450 mm average  
Central islands: Deficit of 400 mm from an average of 1675 mm average  
Southern islands: Excess of 125 mm from an average of 1775 mm average

## Decadal Rainfall Estimates:

1-10 Jan, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 100 mm rainfall  
Central Islands: 100 mm rainfall  
Southern Islands: 80 mm rainfall

11-20 Jan, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 150 mm rainfall  
Central Islands: 60 mm rainfall  
Southern Islands: 5 mm rainfall

## PREDICTIONS

### Daily Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA GFS model predicts up to 10 mm of rainfall in the entire islands on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Feb; up to 40 mm of rainfall in the southern islands, up to 20 mm in central islands and up to 10 mm in northern islands on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb; up to 20 mm of rainfall in the central and southern islands and up to 10 mm in northern islands on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb; up to 10 mm of rainfall in the northern and southern islands on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; and no rainfall on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### Weekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 40% in the central and southern islands; and by 30% in northern islands between 27<sup>th</sup> Feb - 26<sup>th</sup> Mar.

### Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Above-normal temperature tercile is 60% probable in the central islands; 50% probable in northern islands and 40% probable in southern islands and seasonal rainfall forecast is climatological.

### MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phase 6 and 7 and it is strong in the next two weeks (25 Feb - 11 Mar 2021). MJO in phase 6 usually suppresses rainfall over the Maldives.

## Figures in Annexure

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  - Monthly Rainfall derived from Satellite Rainfall Estimate
  - Monthly and Seasonal Monitoring
- **Ocean Surface Monitoring**
- **Rainfall Predictions**
  - Weekly Predictions from NOAA/NCEP
  - Seasonal Predictions from IRI<sup>1</sup>

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