

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – February 2022

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PACIFIC SEAS STATE

February 18, 2022

In mid-February, SSTs remained below-average in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific. The evolution of key oceanic and atmospheric variables is consistent with weak La Niña conditions, and therefore, a La Niña Advisory remains in place for Feb 2022. A large majority of the models in the plume predict SSTs to stay below-normal at the level of a weak La Niña until Mar-May, and then return to ENSO-neutral levels in Apr-Jun 2022. The official CPC/IRI outlook also anticipates a continuation of the weak La Niña event with high probability during Mar-May. (Text Courtesy IRI)

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

February 16, 2022

0.5 °C above average SST was observed around Maldives.

Highlights

Monitored:

During January, the central and southern islands received above normal rainfall while the northern islands received less. Over the last 365 days, rainfall exceeded climatology by 10% in the Northern islands; by 8% in the Southern islands and was in deficit by 28% in the Central islands.

Predictions:

In the months ahead, a weak La Niña trend is expected. Seasonal climate predictions indicate a wetter tendency in the Northern and Central islands and a drought tendency in the Southern Islands for March to May.

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 th Feb	-	-	-
7 th Feb	5 mm	-	-
8 th Feb	-	-	-
9 th Feb	5 mm	-	-
10 th Feb	10 mm	10 mm	-
11 th Feb	10 mm	5 mm	-
12 th Feb	20 mm	5 mm	-
13 th Feb	5 mm	5 mm	-
14 th Feb	10 mm	5 mm	-
15 th - 20 th Feb	-	-	-

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring: In January, the central and southern islands received up to 5 mm above average rainfall while remaining islands received less. The cumulative rainfall during the last 365 days,

shows for: Northern islands: Excess of 150 mm from an average of 1450 mm average

Central islands: Deficit of 475 mm from an average of 1675 mm average

Southern islands: Excess of 150 mm from an average of 1775 mm average

Deckadal Rainfall Estimates:

1-10 February, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 20 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 10 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 5 mm rainfall

11-20 February, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 20 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 10 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 23rd – 24th Feb; Up to 20 mm of rainfall in the northern islands; up to 10 mm in central and southern islands on 25th Feb; Up to 10 mm of rainfall in the entire islands on 26th Feb; Up to 20 mm of rainfall in the northern and central islands; up to 10 mm in southern islands on 27th Feb; Up to 20 mm of rainfall in the southern islands; up to 10 mm in northern and central islands on 28th Feb; and Up to 40 mm of rainfall in the central islands; up to 20 mm in northern and southern islands on 1st Mar.

Weekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 40% in the central islands and near neutral northern and southern between 1st - 7th March.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Above-normal precipitation tercile is 50% probable in the northern and central islands; and below-normal precipitation tercile is 40% probable in the southern islands from March-April-May 2022 and seasonal rainfall forecast is climatological.

MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 3 & 4 in the next two weeks over the Maldives and it is strong in the next two weeks (21st Feb - 7th Mar 2022). MJO in phase 3 & 4 usually enhances rainfall over the Maldives.

Figures in Annexure

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 - Monthly Rainfall derived from Satellite Rainfall Estimate
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- **Ocean Surface Monitoring**
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 - Seasonal Predictions from IRI¹

