

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – April 2021

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PACIFIC SEAS STATE

April 21, 2021

In late-Apr 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

April 21, 2021

0.5 °C above average SST was observed around Maldives.

Highlights

Monitored:

During March, the southern islands received above normal rainfall while the central and northern islands received less. Over the 365 days, rainfall exceeded climatology by 29% in the Northern islands; by 21% in the southern islands; and deficit by 4% in the Central islands.

Predictions:

With weak La Nina conditions established; dry conditions are set to prevail across Maldives from April-June 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 May, average rainfall is about 200 mm in the entire country. The wind direction is westerly and the speed is higher than in April. The rainfall in northern islands usually increases up to 250 mm in June, while it decreases to 150 mm in southern islands. Wind direction in June is usually easterly but with low speeds. In July, the entire country receives up to 200 mm rainfall and the wind speed and direction does not change.

MONITORING

Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
11 th - 12 th April	-	-	-
13 th April	10 mm	-	-
14 th April	-	-	-
15 th April	20 mm	10 mm	-
16 th April	10 mm	10 mm	10 mm
17 th April	-	30 mm	-
18 th April	20 mm	20mm	-
19 th April	-	-	-
20 th April	30 mm	-	-
21 st April	-	5 mm	-
22 nd April	5 mm	-	-
23 rd – 25 th April	-	-	-

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring: *In March, southern islands received up to 20 mm; central islands received up to 15 mm and northern islands received up to 10 mm above average rainfall.*

The cumulative rainfall during the last 365 days,

shows for: Northern islands: Excess of 425 mm from an average of 1450 mm average

Central islands: Deficit of 75 mm from an average of 1675 mm average

Southern islands: Excess of 375 mm from an average of 1800 mm average

Deckadal Rainfall Estimates:

1-10 Apr, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 10 mm rainfall

Central Islands: 20 mm rainfall

Southern Islands: 80 mm rainfall

11-21 Apr, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 40 mm rainfall

Central Islands: 40 mm rainfall

Southern Islands: No rainfall

PREDICTIONS

Daily Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA GFS model predicts up to 20 mm of rainfall in the northern islands; and up to 10 mm in central islands on 28th Apr; up to 10 mm of rainfall in the entire islands on 29th - 30th Apr; up to 40 mm of rainfall in the southern islands; and up to 10 mm in northern and central islands on 1st May; up to 20 mm of rainfall in the southern islands; and up to 10 mm in the northern and central islands on 2nd May; up to 10 mm of rainfall in the entire islands on 3rd May; and up to 20 mm of rainfall in the northern islands; and up to 10 mm in central and southern islands on 4th May.

Weekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 50% in the central and southern islands; and tercile by 45% in northern islands between 24th- 30th April.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Above-normal temperature tercile is 50% probable in the northern islands; and normal temperature tercile is probable in central and southern islands from May- June- July 2021 and seasonal rainfall forecast is climatological.

MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 8 and it is strong in the next week (27– 30 April 2021). MJO shall significantly suppress the rainfall during 26th – 30th April and slightly suppress during 1st – 5th May over the Maldives.

Figures in Annexure

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 - Monthly Rainfall derived from Satellite Rainfall Estimate
 - Monthly and Seasonal Monitoring
- **Ocean Surface Monitoring**
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 - Weekly Predictions from NOAA/NCEP
 - Seasonal Predictions from IRI¹

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