

# Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – March 2022

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## PACIFIC SEAS STATE

March 18, 2022

In mid-March, SSTs remained below-average (strengthening slightly) in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific. The evolution of key oceanic and atmospheric variables is consistent with continued La Niña conditions, and therefore, a La Niña Advisory remains in place for March 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 Apr-Jun, and then return to ENSO-neutral levels in May-Jul 2022. The official CPC/IRI outlook also anticipates a continuation of the La Niña event with high probability during Apr-Jun. (Text Courtesy IRI)

## INDIAN OCEAN STATE

March 16, 2022

0.5 °C above average SST was observed around Maldives.

## Highlights

### Monitored:

During February, the entire Maldives received less rainfall. Over the last 365 days, rainfall exceeded climatology by 6.9% in the Northern islands; and was in deficit by 34% in the Central islands.

### Predictions:

In the months ahead, a La Niña trend is expected. Seasonal climate predictions indicate a neutral condition in the Northern and Central islands and a drought tendency in the Southern Islands for April to June 2022.

## Summary

### CLIMATOLOGY

#### Monthly Climatology:

In April, Southern islands usually receive about 150 mm of average rainfall. The wind direction in southern and central islands is easterly and in northern islands, it's south-easterly. Rainfall usually increases up to 200 mm in May in the entire country. The wind direction remains the same but the speed increases. 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.

### MONITORING

#### Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	-	-
15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	10 mm	40 mm
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	-	10 mm
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	5 mm	-
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	-	-
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	40 mm	-
20 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	-	-	-

**Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring:** In February, the entire Maldives received less rainfall. The cumulative rainfall during the last 365 days,

shows for: Northern islands: Excess of 100 mm from an average of 1450 mm average

Central islands: Deficit of 500 mm from an average of 1725 mm average

Southern islands: Equal to the average; 1775 mm average

## Deckadal Rainfall Estimates:

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

*11-20 March, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 10 mm rainfall  
Central Islands: 60 mm rainfall  
Southern Islands: 40 mm rainfall*

## PREDICTIONS

### Daily Rainfall Forecast:

*NOAA GFS model predicts up to 10 mm of rainfall in the entire islands on 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Mar; Up to 10 mm of rainfall in the northern and central islands; and neutral for southern islands on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar; and up to 10 mm of rainfall in the northern islands; and neutral for central and southern islands on 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Apr.*

### Weekly Rainfall Forecast:

*NOAA/NCEF GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 40% in the central islands and near neutral northern and southern between 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May.*

### Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

*Below-normal precipitation tercile is 40% probable in the southern islands and near neutral for the northern and central islands from April-May-June 2022 and seasonal rainfall forecast is climatological.*

### MJO Index:

*The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phase 1 and shall weaken in the next two weeks (27 Mar - 10 Apr 2022). MJO in phase 1 usually suppresses rainfall over the Maldives.*

## Figures in Annexure

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  - Daily Satellite derived Rainfall Estimates
  - 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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