

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – April 2026

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Highlights

PACIFIC SEA STATE

April 20, 2025

As of mid-April 2026, the equatorial Pacific is and ENSO-neutral state but rapidly transitioning toward El Niño. The latest CCSR/IRI ENSO plume forecast gives a 70% chance of El Niño developing in April-June 2026 versus 30% for continued neutrality, with El Niño remaining dominant through the rest of 2026 at high probabilities of 88-94%. (Text Courtesy IRI)

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

7 – 13 Apr, 2026

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

MJO

MJO in phase 2, will enhance the rainfall over the Maldives from 5th- 19th May.

During 6 - 12 May, central and southern regions are predicted to receive 20-70 mm rainfall, while northern regions are predicted to receive 20-40 mm rainfall. During 16 – 30 April, the highest daily rainfall was in the central regions on 28, 29 April with a peak of 60 mm. Sea surface temperature (SST) around the Maldives and the Arabian Sea remain normal. As of mid-April, Pacific Ocean is at an ENSO-neutral state. Winds are mainly coming from the northeast and northwest across the country.

Monitored: In April, the central islands received 2 - 5 mm of rainfall and the remaining islands received less. North-Easterly winds prevailed for the northern islands; while North-Westerly winds prevailed for the southern and central islands of Maldives during the month of March.

Predictions: ENSO-neutral conditions are present and are favored through April-June 2026 (80% chance). In May-July 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (61% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026.

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.

PREDICTIONS

Daily Rainfall Forecast:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
6 th May	20 mm	20 mm	40 mm
7 th May	40 mm	20 mm	20 mm
8 th May	40 mm	70 mm	40 mm
9 th May	40 mm	70 mm	40 mm
10 th May	20 mm	70 mm	70 mm
11 th May	40 mm	40 mm	40 mm
12 th May	40 mm	40 mm	40 mm

Biweekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 40% in the northern and central islands; above-normal tercile by 45% southern islands between 25th Apr - 8th May.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Above-normal tercile is 40% probable in northern islands; below-normal tercile is 40% probable in the central islands and 45% probable in the southern islands of Maldives from May-June-July 2026 and seasonal rainfall forecast is higher likelihood of below-normal range.

MJO Index:

The MJO is predicted by NOAA CPC to be in phases 2 in the next two weeks (5 – 19 May 2026). MJO in phase 2 will enhance the rainfall over the Maldives from 5th- 19th May.

MONITORING: Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
16 th April	5 mm	50 mm	10 mm
17 th April	0 mm	5 mm	5mm
18 th April	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
19 th April	0mm	5 mm	10 mm
20 th April	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
21 st April	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
22 nd April	0 mm	0 mm	5 mm
23 rd April	0 mm	10 mm	20 mm
24 th April	5 mm	0 mm	0 mm
25 th April	20 mm	20 mm	5 mm
26 th April	5 mm	10 mm	5 mm
27 th April	0 mm	30 mm	0 mm
28 th April	5 mm	60 mm	20 mm
29 th April	30 mm	60 mm	30 mm
30 th April	10 mm	5 mm	50 mm

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

Monthly Average: In April, the central islands received 2 - 5 mm of rainfall; while northern and southern islands received 0 - 2 mm rainfall.

Monthly Temperature Monitoring:

	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
T Max	34.0°C	33.0°C	33.0°C
T Min	25.9°C	27.0°C	25.1°C

Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

11-20 Apr, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 70 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 70 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 30 mm rainfall

21-30 Apr, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 50 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 70 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 70 mm rainfall

Figures in Annexure

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Key Terms:

ENSO – El Niño–Southern Oscillation
IOD – Indian Ocean Dipole
MJO – Madden–Julian Oscillation
GFS – Global Forecast System
NOAA – U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
MMS – Maldives Meteorological Service

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