

Climate Monitoring and Prediction for the Maldives – May-June 2026

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Highlights

PACIFIC SEA STATE

May 19, 2026

As of mid-May 2026, the equatorial Pacific is rapidly transitioning into El Niño conditions. While monthly SST anomalies remain near the borderline El Niño threshold. This sharp warming strongly indicates that the currently near neutral seasonal averages will rise substantially in the coming months, marking a clear shift from ENSO neutral to El Niño conditions. The latest CCSR/ IRI ENSO plume forecast further supports this evolution, assigning a 98% probability to El Niño during May-July compared to only 2% for continued neutrality. (Text Courtesy IRI)

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

5 – 11 May, 2026

0.5°C above average SST was observed around Maldives.

MJO

MJO in phase 7 & 8 will suppress the rainfall over the Maldives from 1st- 14th June.

During 3 - 9 June, southern regions are predicted to receive 70-130 mm rainfall, while northern and central regions are predicted to receive 20-40 mm rainfall. During 17 – 31 May, the highest daily rainfall was in the northern regions on 20 May with a peak of 100 mm and in the southern regions on 30 May with a peak of 80 mm. Sea surface temperature (SST) around the Maldives and the Arabian Sea remain normal. As of mid-May, Pacific Ocean is rapidly transitioning into El Niño conditions. They are likely to emerge soon and continue through December 2026 - February 2027.

Monitored: In May, 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 April.

Predictions: El Niño is likely to emerge soon (82% chance in May-July) and continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27 (96% chance in December 2026 - February 2027).

Summary

CLIMATOLOGY: Monthly Climatology:

In June, average rainfall usually is about 250 mm in the northern islands and 150 mm in the southern islands. Wind direction in June is usually westerly but with low speeds. In July, the entire country receives up to 200 mm average rainfall and the wind speed and direction does not change. In August, the rainfall in southern and central islands increases to 250 mm while in northern islands it remains about 200 mm. The wind direction and speed are similar to previous months.

PREDICTIONS

Daily Rainfall Forecast:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
3 th June	20 mm	40 mm	70 mm
4 th June	10 mm	40 mm	130 mm
5 th June	40 mm	40 mm	40 mm
6 th June	20 mm	40 mm	20 mm
7 th June	40 mm	40 mm	40 mm
8 th June	10 mm	40 mm	40 mm
9 th June	20 mm	20 mm	10 mm

Biweekly Rainfall Forecast:

NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of below-normal tercile by 45% in the northern and 40% in the central islands; near-neutral tercile in southern islands between 30th May - 12th June.

Seasonal Rainfall and Temperature Forecast:

Below-normal tercile is 40% probable in northern islands and 45% probable in central islands; above-normal tercile is 40% probable in the southern islands of Maldives from June-July-August 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 7 & 8 in the next two weeks (1 – 14 June 2026). MJO in phase 7 & 8 will enhance the rainfall over the Maldives from 1st- 14th June.

MONITORING: Fortnightly Rainfall Monitoring:

Date	Rainfall		
	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
17 th May	5 mm	10 mm	10 mm
18 th May	10 mm	30 mm	5 mm
19 th May	10 mm	5 mm	0 mm
20 th May	100 mm	50 mm	0 mm
21 st May	50 mm	50 mm	10 mm
22 nd May	10 mm	30 mm	0 mm
23 rd May	10 mm	5 mm	0 mm
24 th May	30 mm	5 mm	0 mm
25 th May	40 mm	30 mm	10 mm
26 th May	30 mm	10 mm	0 mm
27 th May	10 mm	5 mm	0 mm
28 th May	10 mm	0 mm	10 mm
29 th May	50 mm	5 mm	5 mm
30 th May	40 mm	40 mm	80 mm
31 st May	50 mm	20 mm	20 mm

Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

Monthly Average: In May, the central and southern islands received 2 - 7 mm of rainfall; while northern islands received 0 - 2 mm rainfall.

Monthly Temperature Monitoring:

	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
T Max	33.0°C	33.0°C	29.8°C
T Min	25.8°C	26.0°C	25.9°C

Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

11-20 May, Dekadal rainfall estimated as; Northern Islands: 150 mm rainfall
Central Islands: 100 mm rainfall
Southern Islands: 200 mm rainfall

21-31 May, 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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