

Climate Monitoring & Prediction for the Maldives

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July 31, 2026

July – August 2026 Issue

PACIFIC SEA STATE

July 20, 2026

+2.10°C

El Niño conditions are strengthening across the tropical Pacific, with SST anomalies in the El Niño 3.4 region showing a steady upward trend. The observed SST anomaly averaged +0.98°C during April-June and increased +1.55°C in June. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centered on July 15, climbed further +2.1°C. Together, these Pacific Ocean SST observations indicate that El Niño conditions continue to intensify, suggesting that the event is evolving toward a very strong El Niño. (Text courtesy IRI)

INDIAN OCEAN STATE

21–27 July, 2026

0.5°C above average SST was around the southern islands while 1.0°C SST was around the northern & central islands of Maldives.

MJO

15–27 July

From 15 - 27 Aug, MJO will be in phase 5 & 6 and will suppress the rainfall over the Maldives.



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HIGHLIGHTS

Monitored — In July, the northern and central islands received 10 - 12 mm of average rainfall and the remaining islands received less. The highest daily rainfall was in the central and southern regions on 30 July with a peak of 80 mm. Sea surface temperature (SST) around the Maldives remains seasonable and 1.5°C above-normal around the Arabian Sea.

Predictions — El Niño conditions have developed into a strong condition by July and will continue to intensify into a very strong El Niño by December 2026 - February 2027. From September-November, the central and southern islands are expected to receive above normal rainfall with 70% and 50% likelihood respectively due to the El Niño influence. However, southern islands are expected to receive below normal rainfall with 50% likelihood.

SUMMARY

Climatology—Monthly Climatology

In July, the entire country usually receives up to 200 mm average rainfall and the wind direction in July is usually westerly but with low speeds wind speed. In August and September, 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 do not change.

Predictions

Daily Rainfall Forecast

FORECAST

Date	Northern Islands	Central Islands	Southern Islands
15 Aug	10 mm	40 mm	0 mm
16 Aug	10 mm	40 mm	0 mm
17 Aug	10 mm	10 mm	0 mm
18 Aug	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
19 Aug	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
20 Aug	0 mm	0 mm	0 mm
21 Aug	10 mm	0 mm	10 mm

Biweekly Rainfall Forecast

FORECAST

Between 22 Aug - 4 Sep, NOAA/NCEP GFS model predicts higher probability of near-neutral tercile in the northern islands; below-normal tercile by 45% in the central and southern islands.

Seasonal Rainfall & Temperature Forecast

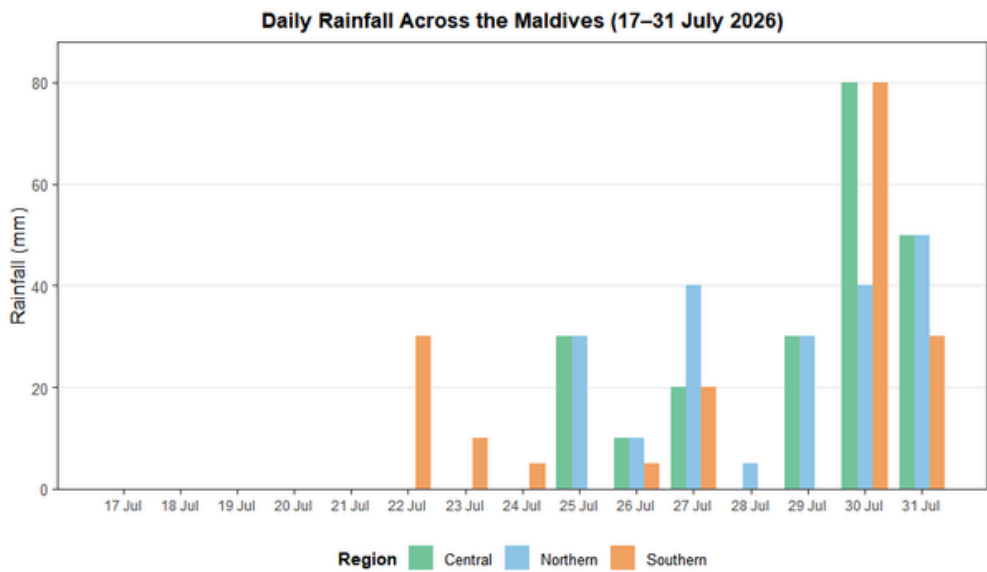
FORECAST

From August-September-October 2026, above-normal tercile is 40% probable in northern & central islands and 45% probable in southern islands, of Maldives and seasonal rainfall forecast is higher likelihood of above-normal range.

MJO Index

From 15- 27 Aug, The MJO will be in phase 5 & 6. MJO in phase 5 & 6 will suppress the rainfall over the Maldives.

MONITORING — FORTNIGHTLY RAINFALL
 FORECAST



Monthly & Seasonal Rainfall Monitoring

Monthly average: In July, the northern and central islands received 10 - 12 mm of rainfall; while southern islands received 5 - 7 mm rainfall.

Monthly Temperature Monitoring

NORTHERN ISLANDS 33.0°C T MAX 26.0°C T MIN	CENTRAL ISLANDS 34.0°C T MAX 27.0°C T MIN	SOUTHERN ISLANDS 31.5°C T MAX 25.6°C T MIN
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Dekadal Rainfall Estimates

11–20 July Northern Islands10 mm Central Islands30 mm Southern Islands10 mm	21–31 July Northern Islands150 mm Central Islands100 mm Southern Islands150 mm
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FiguresinAnnexure

Inside This Issue Rainfall Monitoring - Dailysatellite-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	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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