

Maldives Monthly Climate Outlook

May 2026



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Summary

Rainfall likely to be above-normal over northern atolls and some parts of central atolls, while normal rainfall likely over rest of the country. Both, maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be slightly above normal across the country.

Introduction

This consensus outlook on rainfall and temperature for the Maldives has been prepared through assessments of the prevailing and prediction of global climate conditions, and seasonal forecasts from different climate models including WMO Lead Centre for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-LRFMME), North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME), multi-model ensemble climate prediction of RIMES, Rainfall and temperature outlook for south Asia, monthly climate anomalies and monthly forecasts of European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). Apart from seasonal climate models, prevailing condition and predicted condition of climate drivers are also analyzed.

Current status and expected condition of major climate drivers.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO). According to most global models, currently ENSO-neutral conditions present with equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) near-to-above-average in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, and El Niño is expected to emerge between May-July 2026.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is in neutral status. Most global models indicate the condition remain in neutral until May with possibility to become positive IOD from June.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is in weak condition over the Indian Ocean. It is predicted to propagate eastwards and strengthen during the 2nd week over Western Pacific, reaching Western Hemisphere and Africa towards end of the month.



Rainfall and temperature climatology over the Maldives during the month of May

- Temperature

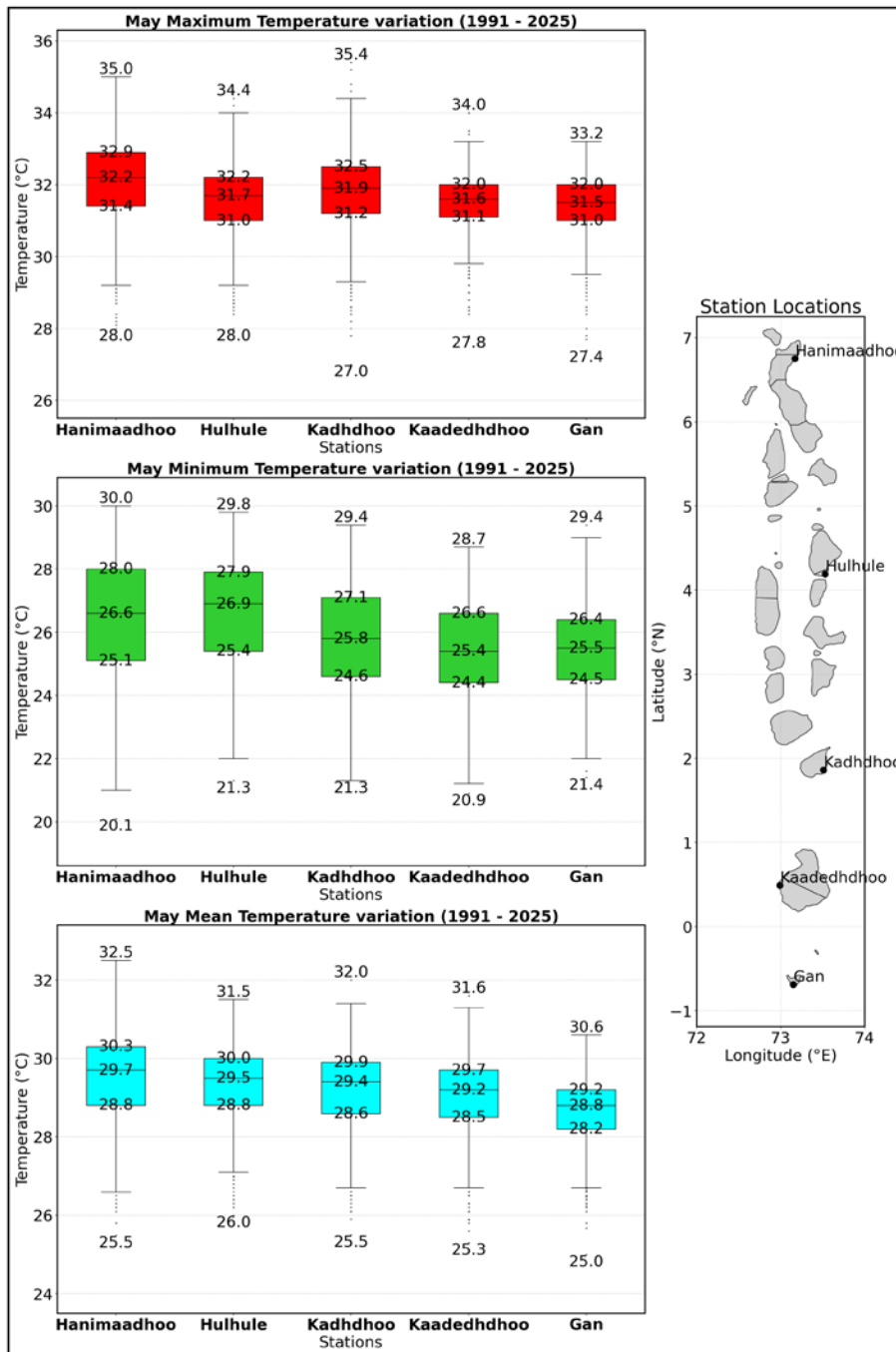


Figure 1 Comparison of total rainfall of five stations of Maldives from 1991 – 2020 with observed rainfall of May 2025

From figure 2, the image presents the distribution of daily maximum, minimum and mean temperatures recorded at five meteorological stations for the period 1991 – 2025. The small map on the right highlights the geographical location of these stations. The distribution of temperature shows maximum temperatures between 32.2°C and 31.5°C, minimum temperatures between 25.4°C and 26.9°C and mean temperatures between 29.7°C and 28.8°C.



- **Rainfall**

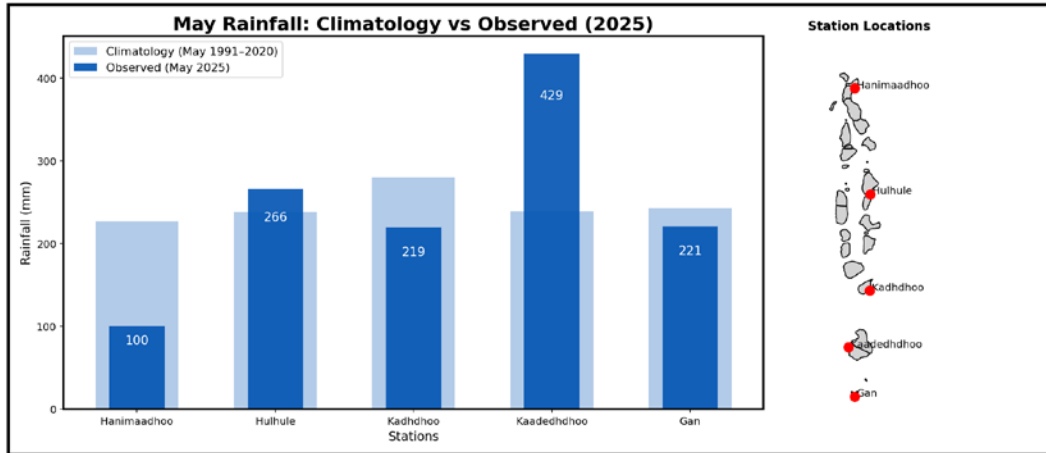


Figure 1- Comparison of total rainfall of five stations of Maldives from 1991 – 2020 with observed rainfall of May 2025.

From figure 2, It can be observed that the northern region represented by Hanimaadhoo, experienced below normal rainfall, and the central region, represented by Hulhule, experienced above-normal rainfall in May 2025 compared to the climatological average (1991–2020). The southern region, which includes Kadhdhoo, Kaadedhdhoo, and Gan, shows varying conditions. Kadhdhoo recorded below rainfall than average, Kaadedhdhoo experienced significantly higher rainfall, while Gan recorded slightly below-normal rainfall for the month.

The average rainfall for the month are 227 mm, 238 mm, 279 mm, 239 mm and 243 mm in Hanimaadhoo, Hulhule, Kadhdhoo, Kaadedhdhoo and Gan respectively, while rainfall in May 2025 are 100 mm, 266 mm, 219 mm, 429 mm and 221 mm

Rainfall outlook

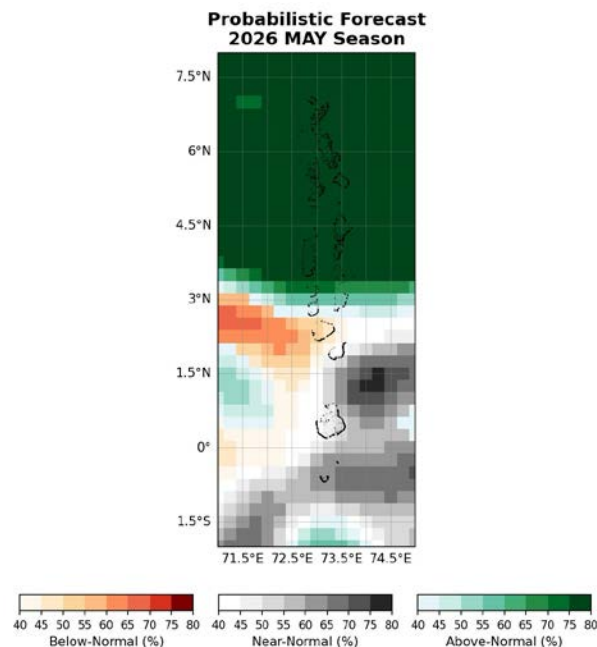


Figure 3- Rainfall outlook for May 2026, indicating high probability of above-normal rainfall over northern atolls and part of central atolls, and low probability of below-normal to normal rainfall over rest of the country.



Conclusion

Considering the expected conditions of major climate drivers, monthly climate prediction from global and regional centers, and local climate data, the northern atolls and some atolls in the central part of Maldives are expected to receive more rain than the climate average rainfall for the month, while rest of the country has the possibility for receiving near-normal rainfall. Temperatures are expected to be slightly above normal throughout the country during this month.

Note:

Normal: Amount of rainfall between 90% - 110% of the average for the period.

Above normal: Amount of rainfall more than 110% of the average for the period.

Below Normal: Amount of rainfall less than 90% of the average for the period