

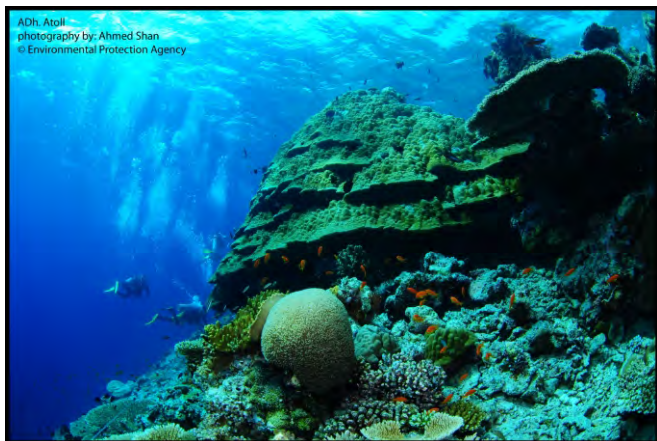
**CABINET APPROVES THE  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
TO DECLARE MALDIVES  
A BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

**MALDIVES FIRST GEF  
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# CABINET APPROVES THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO DECLARE MALDIVES A BIOSPHERE RESERVE



The implementation plan to declare Maldives a biosphere reserve was approved by the Cabinet on 23 January 2013. This implementation plan was compiled in response to President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed announcing the whole country of Maldives to become biosphere reserve by 2017, at the 1st Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20 meeting held in Rio De Jenairo, Brazil on 20th June 2012.

The Cabinet made this decision after discussing a paper submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The plan focuses on a Zonation Plan, Governance, Sustainable financing, Capacity building, Public Awareness and Outreach with advantages and disadvantages of becoming a biosphere Reserve. The implementation plan was compiled mainly based on the nationwide discussions during First National Stakeholder Conference on Declaring Maldives a Biosphere Reserve held at Bandos Island Resort on 8th November 2012.

If the whole Maldives is declared a biosphere reserve, Maldives would be the first country to become a biosphere reserve.

## MALDIVES FIRST GEF NATIONAL DIALOGUE

Maldives' First GEF National Dialogue was held on January 16-17 with over 70 participants from several government agencies, CSOs, private sector, academia as well as GEF Agencies.

The objectives of the Dialogue were to (i) inform the stakeholders of GEF policies and strategies, (ii) support Maldives to take stock of their GEF portfolio and further define priorities, and (iii) to strengthen national coordination.



A special website was launched today to ease the access to information about projects and programs carried out by the GEF.

Maldives has been a member of GEF since 21st September 1994. Since then, the GEF has provided over 15 million dollars of free aid to address environment issues.

Being the largest organization which provides free aid to address environmental issues, the GEF has provided a total of 10.5 billion US dollars in different areas of environmental aspects. Under the "small grants program", the GEF has provided more than 14000 organizations with a total of 634 million US dollars of free aid. The Global Environment Facility was established in October 1991 and today 182 countries participate in this organization.



# AN MOU HAS BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES AND CLINTON FOUNDATION



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Diesel Replacement Project of the Clinton Climate Initiative's Clean Energy Initiative, a program of the William J. Clinton Foundation (the "Clinton Foundation"), and the Government of Maldives on 10 January 2013. The MOU was signed by the Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Mariyam Shakeela on behalf of the Maldivian government. Mr. Ira C. Magaziner, the Chairman signed from the Clinton Climate Initiative's Clean Energy.

The main aim of this project is to aid governments and assist in the design and implementation of the government's demonstration projects and policies that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the decreased use of diesel fuel and create replicable and scalable implementation models for others to follow. According to the MOU, options were explored to reduce dependency on diesel fuel to generate energy and reduce energy importation by initiating renewable energy projects which will be implemented by Maldives. It also addresses the additional issue of the production of clean water and undertake a resource assessment for waste, solar and biomass, in order to identify possible contributions for electricity from these resources.

## BEACH AND REEF CLEANUP EVENT 2013

Save the beach Villingili is organizing a beach and reef clean up event in Villimale'. This cleanup day is scheduled to commence on 2 March 2013 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m. A number of dustbins and signboards will be placed on the beaches under this programme. As darkness

falls, aesthetic lights will be revealed around the beach and near the bins and signboards.

Save the beach is organizing this event in collaboration with dive schools, environment clubs, schools, colleges, NGOs, private and government offices, Maldives Police Service and Maldives National Defense Force.



The event will be inaugurated in the morning by relevant heads of state and council members.

After the opening ceremony, attendees will be sent in groups to the beaches, boat yard and other areas around the island. Dive teams will also be sent in groups to the reefs around Villingili and in the harbours and jetty area.

The cleaning is estimated to be completed by noon accompanied by lunch and entertainment.

The whole event will be covered on the media.

## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT HELD



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A Capacity building workshop on project management was held on 11 February 2013. This one-day workshop was held with the assistance of Ministry of Environment and Energy, UNOPS and Office of Programmes and Projects (OPP). Director level staffs and other staffs whom involved in projects and interested in project management participated in this workshop.

The main purpose of this workshop is to improve the projects organized and carried out by the ministry. The workshop also focused on making the staffs who are involved in projects more familiar to project management skills and techniques.



The workshop was inaugurated by the Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Mariyam Shakeela. Welcome remarks were given by Mr. Alejandro Rviz Acevedo, UNOPS MPVC Manager. The session on project management was carried out by Mr. Eddy from UNOPS.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN HELD AT N.KENDHIKULHUDHOO

A workshop to increase awareness on climate change and environment protection was held among secondary school children of N. Kendhikulhudhoo from 21 – 22 February 2013. The title of the workshop was “Climate Change Advocacy Camps for School Children – Rethinking our Future”. The two day workshop was held in association with Kendhikulhudhoo school and island council.

The resource persons of the workshop who are from Ministry and its Departments delivered informative presentations and held interactive sessions on different topics related to climate change and environmental

protection such as climate change science, energy efficiency and renewable energy, water resources and coral reefs.

Furthermore, a field trip was arranged to famous “Maifahi Kullhi” wetland area of the island to find the values and observe the biodiversity of the area and also to get in-depth knowledge on the threats facing the area mainly due to human activities. Participated students gathered valuable information about the values, biodiversity and threats facing the wetland area with recommendations on managing the area. Climate change Department has arranged similar workshops in 2 different atolls last year to advocate the students on climate change issues and increase awareness on environmental protection. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry to organize the workshops.

## AGREEMENT SIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SANITATION FACILITY IN L.GAN.



An agreement was signed between Ministry of Environment and Energy and Male' Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC) to implement the plans for establishment of sanitation facility in L.Gan on 18 February 2013. The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Minister of State Abdul Matheen Mohamed signed this agreement on behalf of the Ministry and Managing director of MWSC Mister Mohamed Ahmed Didi signed the agreement from MWSC.

The project is funded with the loan aid from French Development Agency. The proposed cost by the MWSC is MRF. 85,692,317.84. The project is to be completed within 18 months.

## IMPACT2C FIELD WORK STARTED IN HULHUMALE'

The field work required to develop digital elevation models (DEM) of Hulhumale' has been initiated by Ministry of environment and Energy with close collaboration with Maldives Land Survey Authority and Housing Development Cooperation for research project "Quantifying projected impacts under 2oC warming" (IMPACT2C). Under IMPACT2C digital elevation models (DEM) will be developed on few sample islands which would then be utilized to make inundation models to assess the impacts under different climatic scenarios of 2 degree Celsius rise and recommend potential adaptation options for the future.



Quantifying projected impacts under 2oC warming (IMPACT2C) is an EU funded research project assessing potential impacts of climate change in a 2 degree Celsius warmer world pre-industrial era. The project comprises of 28 partners working on different workgroups. Ministry of Environment and Energy along with its workgroup counter parts is working on assessing the said impacts on small island nations like Maldives. Southampton University is the leading partner for the work programme on small island states.

## THE THIRD NATIONAL MEETING OF THE SECOND NATIONAL COMMUNICATION WAS HELD

The third National meeting of the Second National Communication was held on 6 February 2013 at Nasandhuraa Palace Hotel. The technical team working on the vulnerability need assessment and the green house gas inventory met to share about their work progress and

to discuss about the inter-relationship among the key thematic areas. Discussions were also held about the preliminary results drawn by the various sectors, how to further improve the results and shared about new idea development for the Second National Communication.

National communications are developed as a part of reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It assess the vulnerability need of various sectors such as coastal environment, marine and fisheries, tourism and agriculture etc. It also reports about the greenhouse gas inventory and asses possible mitigation options.

The meeting was attended by Dr. George Manful from UNEP who is responsible for the National communication support project under GEF financing. His mission is to assess the programmes of the ongoing Second National Communication and provide guidance for experts working on it.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATION DRAFT OPENED FOR COMMENTS



Waste management regulation draft was opened for comments during this month. This regulation was drafted under the Act number 4/93 (Maldives Environment Protection and Preservation Act). The objective of this regulation is to implement the National Waste Management Policy through that protects the environment by minimizing the impact of waste on the

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environment including, in particular, the impact of waste so far as it directly affects human health, establishing and integrated framework for minimizing and managing waste in a sustainable manner and putting in place uniform measures to seek to reduce the amount of waste that is generated, when and where waste is generated and to ensure that waste is reused, recycled and recovered in an environmentally sound manner before being safely treated and disposed.



Comments may be sent through email to [environment@environment.gov.mv](mailto:environment@environment.gov.mv) or documents addressed to Ministry of Environment and Energy. Deadline for sending comment is before 7th March 2013 at 3pm.

## MALDIVES PARTICIPATES IN THE REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION ON NEAR-TERM CLIMATE PROTECTION AND CLEAN AIR BENEFITS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Near-term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits in Asia and the Pacific (CCAC) was held in Bangkok on 4-5 Feb 2013.

Hosted by Bangladesh, Japan and UNEP the meeting aims at looking ways to catalyse fast action to reduce the impacts of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) in the Asia Pacific region.

SLCPs, such as black carbon or soot, methane, tropospheric ozone and some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are responsible for a substantial fraction short term warming, with various detrimental impacts on human health, agriculture and ecosystems.

Governments and officials from 19 Asian countries discussed existing measures that can be quickly taken up and integrated into strategies for economic development and environmental protection. This is the first time that the impacts of SLCP has been discussed at a regional level.

Deputy Minister Mr. Ahmed Musthafa Mohamed joined Bangladesh Minister of Environment and Forests, the Japanese Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs and the Regional Director Dr. Park in the opening ceremony.

The two day meeting includes discussions on various mitigation options and reduction potential in Asia and the Pacific relating to the SLCPs such as black carbon, Methane, and non-methane ozone precursors and HFCs; in different sectors such as transport, solid waste and wastewater, agricultural sector, etc.

The session on HFCS: opportunities and options for mitigation was chaired by the Permanent Secretary Mr. Ahmed Saleem. He stressed the importance of receiving assistance through CCAC for the interested countries for a phase-down of HFCs which has been in the discussion table among the member Parties of the Montreal Protocol for the past four years.

While providing country specific information on issues related to HFCs, he highlighted the increase in the use of HFCs due to the control of HCFC usage and that fast actions and programmes are required to achieve the dual targets;- phase-out of HCFCs and to become carbon neutral by 2020.

The SLCP consultation meeting was attended by 28 partner countries and many intergovernmental organizations, representatives of the civil society and the private sector that is spearheading global efforts on SLCPs.

Maldives joined the CCAC in December 2012.

The two day meeting was held back to back with the Fourth Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality in Asia. Urban Air Quality in Asia meetings are held every two years and organized by Clean Air Asia and UNEP to update governments on developments of urban air quality management internationally and in the region and to harmonize approaches between Asian countries in tackling urban air pollution, including that caused by some SLCPs, and related areas such as climate change.

# THE 27TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM CONCLUDES AT NAIROBI, KENYA

The 27th Regular Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum concluded on the 22nd of February 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was the first Universal Session of the Governing Council following the decision to this regard by the Rio+20 outcome document and the subsequent General Assembly Resolution 67/213 establishing universal membership in the Governing Council. The delegation from Maldives in the meeting was led by the Minister of Environment and Energy H.E. Dr. Mariyam Shakeela.

During her statement at the Ministerial Plenary, Dr. Shakeela highlighted the slow pace of development of effective measures and agreements to address global environmental issues. Noting the strategies adopted at a national level in the Maldives with regards to environmental management, Dr. Shakeela urged the UNEP, with its new mandate to scale up its efforts to address global environmental issues. Furthermore, she also highlighted the importance of maintaining not seeing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in isolation and not forget about MDGs in the process. Furthermore, the Minister also noted the importance of the integration of climate change issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

During the Session, the Minister, along with the Minister of Environment, Finland, H.E. Mr. Ville Niinisto, Co-Chaired the Ministerial Roundtable discussions on emerging policy issues. This roundtable discussion dealt with responsiveness to country needs, science-policy interface, ~~secure, stable, adequate and increased~~ financial resources to fulfil UNEP's mandate, stakeholders' participation, future ministerial engagements and institutional arrangements. This roundtable discussion was one of the most important as it dealt with the approaches to respond to the new mandate of UNEP and the manner to upgrade and strengthen it as set out during the Rio+20. The report of the discussions was presented to the President of the Governing Council at the closing Ministerial Plenary.

The Minister also participated in several side events during the meeting, where she either Co-Chaired or was

among the panellists. In this regard, in her role as the Co-Chair, the Minister made a statement at the side-event 'What future for the Arctic', where she highlighted the inherent link between events at the Arctic and its impact on the Maldives. As a panellist in the side event 'The Benefits of Mitigating Short-Lived Climate Pollutants – Experiences from countries and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)', Minister Dr. Shakeela highlighted the importance of action on reducing Short-lived Climate-Pollutants (SLCPs) and the impact of non-action to this regard on small island states such as the Maldives. She also noted that the Maldives, through its Maldives Climate Observatory – Hanimaadhoo (MCO-H) had been contributing significantly to the research on SLCPs. The research conducted at MCO-H was instrumental in driving the understanding on SLCP and contributed a large degree, along with the 2011 UNEP report on SLCPs to the formation of the CCAC.

In addition to this, the Minister also attended the High-Level Forum on Gender and Environment, organised by the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment and United Nations Environment Programme (NWMLE). During this meeting the Minister facilitated the session on climate change, gender and health.

## CERTIFICATES AWARDED FOR THE PARTICIPANTS WHO COMPLETED THE TRAINING PROGRAMME 'TRAINING OF OPERATORS FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN MALDIVES'

Certificates have been awarded for the participants who completed the training programme 'Training of Operators for Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply and Sewerage Systems in Maldives', which was held for 2 weeks duration with funding from UNICEF. The training programme was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, UNICEF and Male' Water and Sewerage Company Private Limited. The certificates were given at a special ceremony held at MWSC

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building. The ceremony was honored by the attendance of the Minister of State for Ministry of Environment and Energy, Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed. After handing over the certificates to the participants, Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed addressed the ceremony.

The main objective of Training for Water Supply Systems was to instruct the participants on how to operate, maintain and manage the water supply systems in small islands sustainably. The training program provided the participants with detailed theoretical and practical exposure of gravity type sewerage and brief on various other types of sewerage systems. Important task in operation and maintenance of the sewerage systems and familiarization with standardized terminology, techniques and procedure for various types of sewerage technologies were also outlined.

## SPOTLIGHT

### CITY FOREST, SINGAPORE



*Photograph by Wong Maye-E, AP*

Using plants and trees in a unique way, Singapore officials opened Gardens by the Bay this year. The 11-million-square foot (1-million-square-meter) complex—the size of nearly 250 U.S. football fields—aims to curb the heat island effect while bringing botanical bliss to urbanites.

The centerpiece of Gardens by the Bay is a glass atrium that houses approximately 220,000 types of vegetation, or 80 percent of the world's plant species, according to Singapore's National Parks Board.

Outside the menagerie of plants is a grove of 18 “supertrees”—vertical gardens up to 164 feet (50 meters) tall that capture rainwater, filter exhaust, and are

capped with solar panels that provide enough energy to light up the trees at night.

The heat island effect occurs in cityscapes characterized by pavement, asphalt, and concrete—all materials that can absorb warmth.

### GIANT SPIDER CRAB



*Photograph by David Doubilet, National Geographic*

Thought to be the largest arthropods on Earth, giant spider crabs spend their time foraging on the ocean floor up to a thousand feet (300 meters) deep. These rare, leggy behemoths, native to the waters off Japan, can measure up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) from claw tip to claw tip. This five-foot (1.5-meter) specimen was photographed in Japan's Sagami Bay.

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