

BOBLME Inception Workshop

Developments Update - Maldives

3-5 November 2009

Bangkok, Thailand

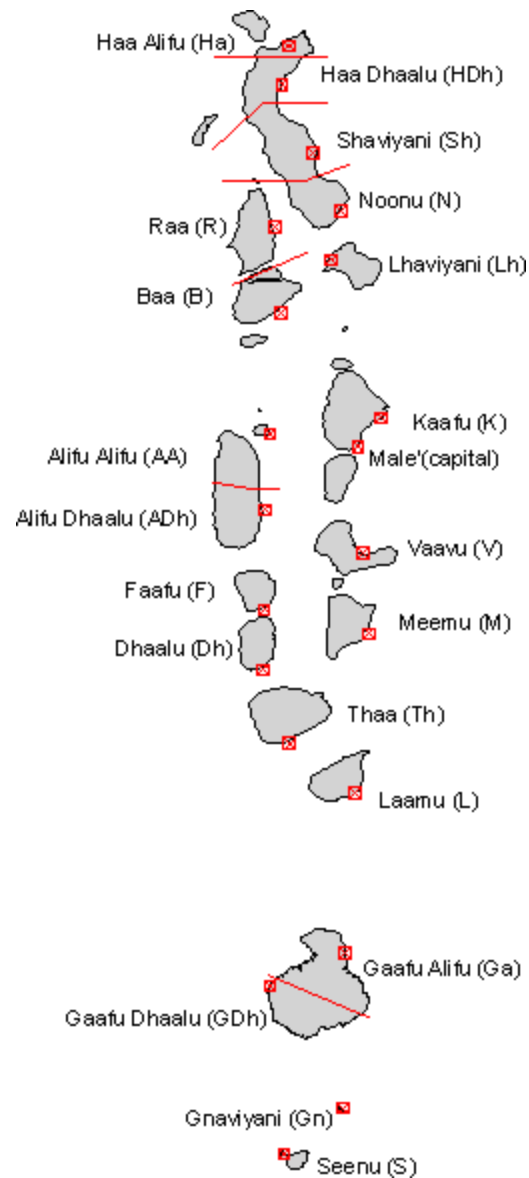
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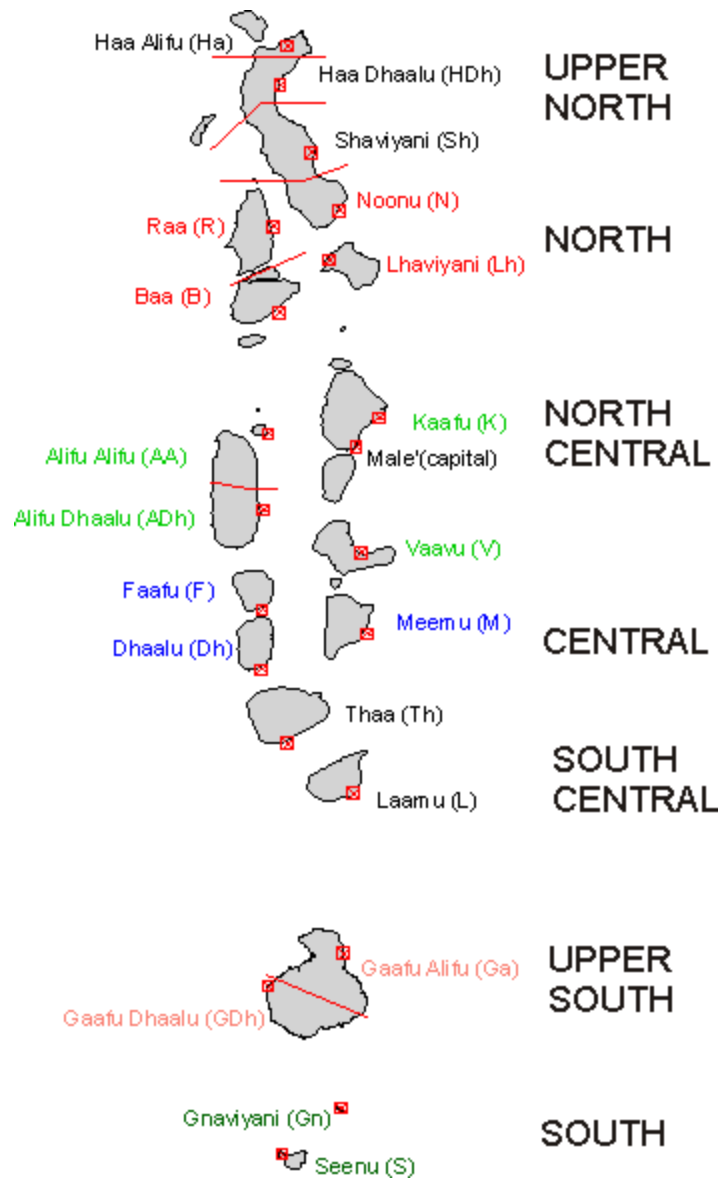
Outline of the presentation

- *Considered relevant information in the major headings provided by the RC*
 - *Governance*
 - *Legal instruments*
 - *Resources conservation*
 - *Critical habitat protection*
 - *Mitigation of land-based sources of pollution*
 - *Fisheries management*
 - *Data collection systems*
 - *Large scale oceanographic / environmental surveys*
 - *Major donor supported projects*
 - *List of major stakeholders (public + private)*
 - *Preparedness of implementation*

Governance

- *Civil Service Act; effective March 2008*
- *Decentralization of the administration of the atolls*
 - *Devolution of Ministry of Atolls Administration*
 - *Establishment of the new provincial system*
- *Changes to key ministries relevant to the Project*
 - *Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture*
 - *Change in name only*
 - *Ministry of Housing Transport and Environment*
 - *Previously Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water*





Legal Instruments / Regulations

- *Amendment to existing Fisheries Regulation*
 - *Description of penalties for effective implementation of the fishery management*
- *Draft New Fisheries Bill*
 - *Started work in 2002; submitted to Parliament in 2007; but was rejected; A revision was undertaken through consultative process. Revised one to be re-submitted in 2010*
- *Draft New Environmental Bill*
 - *Draft completed; open for public comments; to be submitted Parliament in 2010.*

Fisheries Management

- *Regional*
 - *Indian Ocean Tuna Commission; Preparations for participating as a Non-contracting Cooperating Member completed. To be submitted in due course. Full member participation pending approval from the Parliament*
 - *BOBP– IGO Full member*
- *National*
 - *Compliance on EU IUU Fishing Agreement; licensing of vessel and fish processors, issuing catch certificates to export consignments*
 - *Third party certification process – ongoing*

Fisheries Management ...

- *National (contd..)*
 - *Fisheries Management Plans*
 - *Shark (NPoA) – Draft completed, public consultations process to be started.*
 - *Groupers, preliminary plan completed*
 - *Extension of (local) Turtle Moratorium*
 - *10 more years from August 2008; ban on harvest of turtle eggs during the moratorium period*
 - *IOSEA Turtle Moratorium (looks like Maldives would sign this soon?)*

Resource Conservation

- *Ban of Shark fishing*
 - *Effective March 2009, shark fishing is banned from within 12 mile of atoll boundaries.*
 - *Effective from March 2010 all shark fishing (targeted fishery) will be banned from the EEZ of Maldives*
- *Baa Atoll pilot atoll ecosystem conservation*
 - *Protected dive sites, bird roosting / nesting island*

Critical Habitat Protection

- *National Biodiversity Target of 2010*
 - *Protect 5-10% of Maldives atoll area*
- *31 Protected areas, dive sites, including reefs, islands, mangroves, and coastal areas*
 - *Eedhigalhi Kilhi, in Addu Atoll (South Maldives – Seenu Atoll)*
 - *Protected Area; most recent been Angafaru, Hanifaru in Baa Atoll and South Maamigili Reef area in Ari Atoll (Central Maldives)*
 - *Proposed UNESCO Biosphere reserve, Baa Atoll*
 - *Proposal for managing protected areas through private sector participation*

Mitigation of land-based pollution

- *Development of island waste management centers (IWMCs)*
 - *Following tsunami, IWMCs have been constructed over 100+ islands.*
- *EU-supported pilot project to establish a regional waste management centre*
 - *ADH Atoll (for central region) → study completed*
 - *MEMP North Central Region*

Data Collection, Compilation System

- *MEMP – GIS database; to be housed in Dept. of National Planning*
 - *GIS Web-based platform; terrestrial and coral reef monitoring data;*
- *Fisheries Statistics System*
 - *In response to EU-IUU Fisheries Agreement Compliance; Overhauling of fisheries data base;*
 - *Incorporation of log-books (first phase piloting complete); fishing vessel registry; computerizing of fisheries licensing; database for fish processing facilities;*
- *Compilation of EIA baseline data*

Oceanographic / Environmental Resource Surveys

- *Valuing Biodiversity – The economic case for biodiversity conservation in the Maldives, Emerton, Baig and Saleem (2009)*
- *National Environmental Action Plan III, (NEAP III)*
- *National Sustainable Development Strategy*
- *National Strategy and Action Plan, under MFF*
- *Baseline Ecological Assessment of Baa Atoll done by AEC Project*
- *Natural Resource Valuation Study - EPA and SANDEE*

Major Donor Assisted Projects

- *Maldives Environment Management Project; loan assistance from WB (2008 – 2013)*
 - *Regional solid waste component for North Central Region*
 - *Capacity Building for Environmental Management*
 - *Technical Assistance for a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment*
 - *Project Management and Project Communication*
- *Atoll Ecosystem Conservation Project (AEC Project); Implemented by MHTE with support from GEF and UNDP (2003 – extended to 2010)*
 - *Mainstream biodiversity concerns into sectoral institutions and policies*
 - *To conserve biodiversity in Baa Atoll through innovative policies*
 - *To support local stake holders to pilot sustainable natural resource management and livelihood development practices in Baa Atoll*
- *Waste Management pilot study for RWMCs, EU*

List of Relevant Government Institutions

- *MHTE*
 - *EPA*
- *MoFA*
 - *MRC*
- *Atoll Provinces*
- *MoTCA*
- *Civil Society*
 - *Maldives Science Society, Fisherman's Association, Maldives Fish Exporters Association, Atolls and Island Councils (pending ratification of relevant law)*
- *NGOs*
 - *Ecocare, Blue Peace,*

Preparedness

- *Strengthened Institutional reforms*
 - *Creation of Fishery Management Unit within MoFA*
 - *ERC evolved into EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)*
 - *MRC ; more research focus*
- *Changes in representation of the Fishery Advisory Board*
- *HR and capacity developments in key ministries*
 - *MRC, MoFA, EPA, MHTE*
- *Greater involvement of the stake-holders and NGOs in decision making*
 - *Maldives Fish Exporters Association*
 - *Fishermen's Association*
 - *Province Offices (in future atoll / island councils)*

Preparedness ...

- *National Task Force*
 - *Requires re-formulation in the light of the Government restructuring*
- *Project Advisory Panel*
 - *Needs to be created*
- *Project Steering Committee Members*
 - *Need the official nominations.*

Priority Activities

- *Bait Fishery Research*
 - *Potential problem for development & management of tuna fisheries*
 - *Stock assessment, environmental effects of distribution and abundance*
- *Coral Reef Monitoring*
 - *Critical for fisheries and tourism.*
- *Adaptation measures for coastal erosion and mitigation*
 - *Coastal erosion, a difficult to issue to deal*
- *Reef Fishery Research and Monitoring*
 - *Data / information gap; some requires urgent management interventions*
- *Shark Fisheries Monitoring*
 - *Keystone species, regulates ecosystem function, high economic tourism value*
- *Capacity Building*

Questions?