

ROLE OF HIGH CARBON ECOSYSTEMS IN ADAPTATION; National Activities & Experiences

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UNFCCC Workshop on Technical & Scientific aspect of Ecosystems with high-reservoirs not covered
by other agenda items under the Convention

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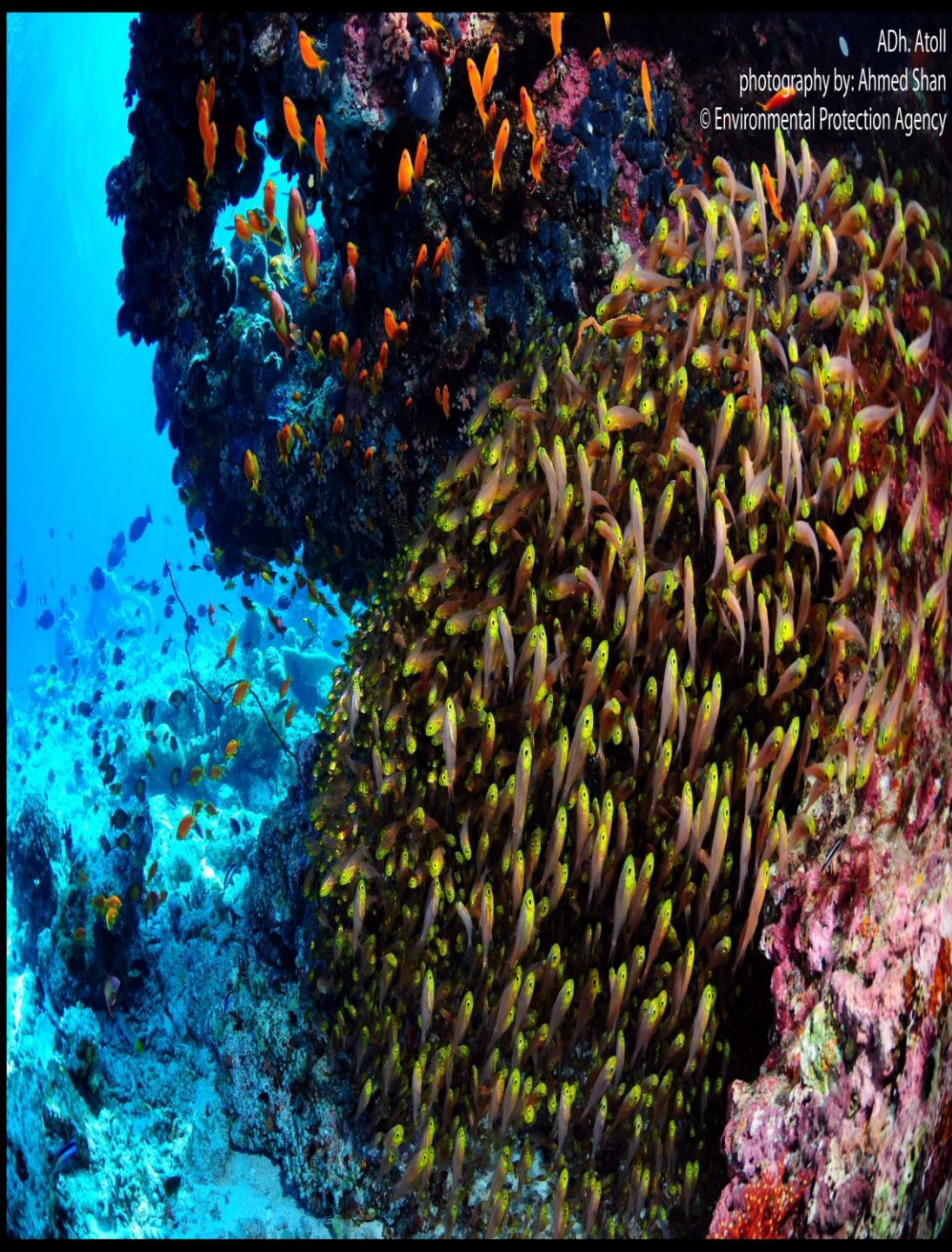
Maldives Overview

- Approx 1200 islands (200 inhabitat + 150 economic islands)
- Fragile coral reef based environment
- Limited land space
- High anthropogenic pressure on fragile ecosystems
- Extremely vulnerable to forces of climate change



High Carbon Ecosystems in Maldives

- Limited only to small scale wetlands of some of the larger islands
- There are 41 islands that have been identified with such wetlands of varying size across Maldives
- Mostly brackish near the coastal area
- Considered to be endangered due to pressure demand of land for habitation
- Source of a diverse and unique (in Maldivian context) economic activities
- Rich biodiversity



ADh. Atoll
photography by: Ahmed Shan
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Coastal and marine biodiversity and accounts for:

- 98% of national exports
- 89% of GDP
- 62% of foreign exchange
- 71% Of our national employment

Taking our passion in to actions

Resilient

- **Enhancing resilience of communities and ecosystems**
- **Disaster risk reduction**

Integrated

- **Capacity strengthening**
- **Dealing poor governance, degraded ecosystems and inequity of resource use**
- **Promoting multi-sectoral approaches**

Sustainable

- **Sustainable management, conservation, protection and restoration of critical ecosystems**
- **Is participatory, transparent and accountable processes**
- **Enhancing available science and local knowledge**

Maldives Climate Change & Vulnerability



Project Overview

- Title: Community based conservation of wetland Managment
- Source of Funds: Climate Change Trust Fund
- Objective: To protect and minimize impacts of climate changes on mangroves, wetlands, environment and community existence; Conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity to ensure maximum ecosystem benefits; and Conservation of wetlands and mangrove ecosystem for future water security in the islands
- Target: Hithadhoo Protected Area(Brakish water wetland) and Fuvahmulah (Freshwater wetland)

Fuvahmulah



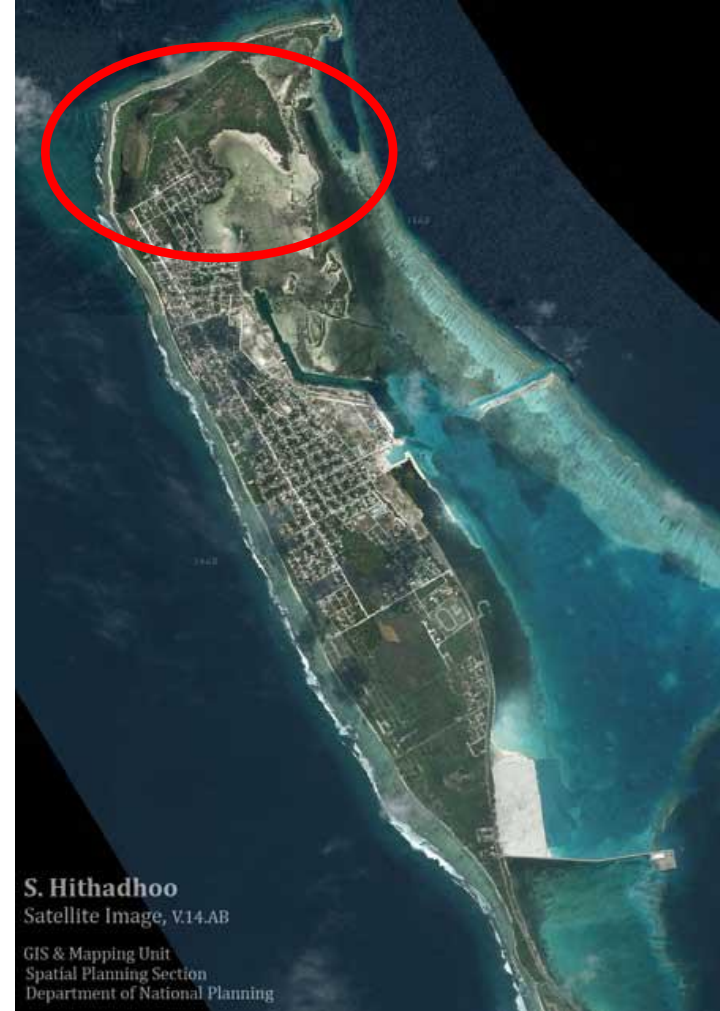
Hithadoo Protect Area



photo: Mohamed Shafeeg



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S. Hithadhoo
Satellite Image, v.14.AB

GIS & Mapping Unit
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Linkages with Wetland Management and Adaptation

- Improved Drainage: Allowing rain water run off in to the wetland basin to reduce flooding in the island during heavy rainfall
- Ground water Recharge: Allowing rain water run off in to the wetland area instead of the open sea allows more time for seepage and increase the quality of ground water (a very limited resource)
- Increased source of fresh water
- Enhanced Coastal Protection: The coastal Wetlands, and Mangroves protect the area from erosion and land loss as well as act as a buffer for sea swell waves

Linkages with Wetland Management and Adaptation

- Improved Biodiversity: Leading to increased aesthetics and provide wider ecosystem services
- Increased economic diversity: Development of ecotourism by taking advantage of natural environment
- Improved food security: the productivity is extremely high and thus allows more food in less space

Coral reef monitoring



- Development of Training modules, materials and field guides at RFP stage
- Development of Web Enabled Data base
- Monitoring and restoration of coral reefs undertaken in selected Resorts



Thank you

