

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Maldives is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and had signed and ratified the convention on 12th June 1992 and 9th November 1992 respectively. Maldives gives high importance to climate change and was the first country to sign the Kyoto Protocol on 16th March 1998. The Protocol was ratified by the Maldives on 30th December 1998.

The Maldives is fully committed to implementing the UNFCCC and this is the first National Communication of the Republic of Maldives. This first National Communication is composed of seven main chapters: (1) National Circumstance; (2) National GHG inventory; (3) Mitigation of GHG emissions; (4) Vulnerability to climate change; (5) Adaptation to climate change; (6) Policy and measures; and (7) Project proposals. The first five chapters include an inventory of the GHG emissions and options for mitigating GHG emissions, an assessment on how climate change and associated sea level rise would affect the most vulnerable sectors of the country and identifies the next steps for possible adaptation options for the Maldives.

This first National Communication is the main output of the enabling activity project; *Maldives GHG Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment: A Climate Change Enabling Activity*, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment (MHAHE) implemented and executed the Climate Change Enabling Activity. The work for the National Communication was carried out through consultations and active participation of all concerned agencies in the Maldives. The National Communication also received valuable inputs from international experts in providing the necessary training for the different components of the project, conducting a beach erosion assessment, guidance on the executing of the project and reviewing the National Communication.

The work for the vulnerability and adaptation assessment was done as a case study process with a selected team from all concerned government organisations. The case study process involved fieldwork on selected case-study sites; interviews with the public; review of existing literature



and analysis of other available information. A beach erosion assessment was also conducted with the help of international experts.

The process of developing the National Communication and the Climate Change Enabling Activity were overseen and guided by a selected International Advisory Board (IAB) consisting of a group of international experts in the field of climate change. Regular meetings of the IAB were held throughout the development of this National Communication. The existence of such a Board has been extremely useful for the development of this National Communication and it is highly recommendable to include such a board in future projects.

The Climate Change Enabling Activity, not only helped produce the National Communication, but has helped build vital capacity within the country to deal with climate change issues. One of the main achievements of this project includes coastal zone management training conducted for the local islands. It is very important to continue and sustain such training programmes.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) played a vital role in assisting MHAHE with the various administrative activities of the GEF Climate Change Enabling Activity.

