



BAA ATOLL  
UNESCO  
BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Baa Atoll**  
Biosphere Reserve since 2011  
Man and the Biosphere Programme



# AEC PROJECT 2004 – 2012

## Purpose of the Project by the Government

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Designing and demonstrating an effective management system for atoll ecosystem conservation and sustainable development on Baa Atoll, which could then be replicated throughout Maldives



**GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
FACILITY**



**GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES**



**UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM**



# Baa Atoll

**3 Geographic Atolls**  
Fasdhoothere, Mai Atholhu, Goidhu Atholhu)

**Population: 12,000+**

74 islands  
13 inhabited

3 Resort Islands

2 Protected Areas



# AEC PROJECT / Background

**2004** Project Inception workshop in Eydhafushi, Baa Atoll

December 2004, Project put on hold by the government due to the tsunami

**Late 2005** Project restarts

## Project OBJECTIVES

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into existing policies and plans and future plans
- Conservation of biological diversity
- Livelihood Improvement



## QUESTION raised at the Project Inception Workshop

What is in it there for us if the AEC Project is undertaken in Baa Atoll?

## ANSWER

a project on **environment**,  
**not a project on infrastructure**  
development.

**meetings, workshops, seminars, consultations**  
**and studies will be undertaken**

**working together with the communities**, and by the **end** of the **project** a  
mechanism will be in place for Baa **Atoll's natural resources to be managed** in a  
**sustainable** manner

and

a **Conservation Fund** would be setup whereby **communities will directly benefit**  
from the **use of natural resource** of the atoll



Baa Atoll  
Conservation  
Programme

5 Year Strategy / 2008 - 2013  
www.aec.mv

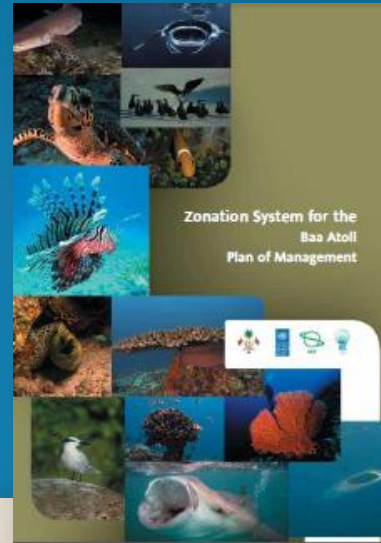


Valuing  
Biodiversity

The economic case for biodiversity  
conservation in the  
Maldives



Prepared for  
AEC European Conservation (AEC) Project by UNEP



Zonation System for the  
Baa Atoll  
Plan of Management



2013-2008

ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ބާރު 2008-2013



**SHORTENED REPORT**

Planning marine protected areas on Baa Atoll  
(Republic of Maldives)



Serge ANDREFOUET  
Malissa HAMEL  
Youssef RILWANI  
(September 2010)



Baa Atoll  
a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve  
Consultation document for high level stakeholders  
An opportunity to share your views



Legislative Framework for  
Biodiversity Conservation

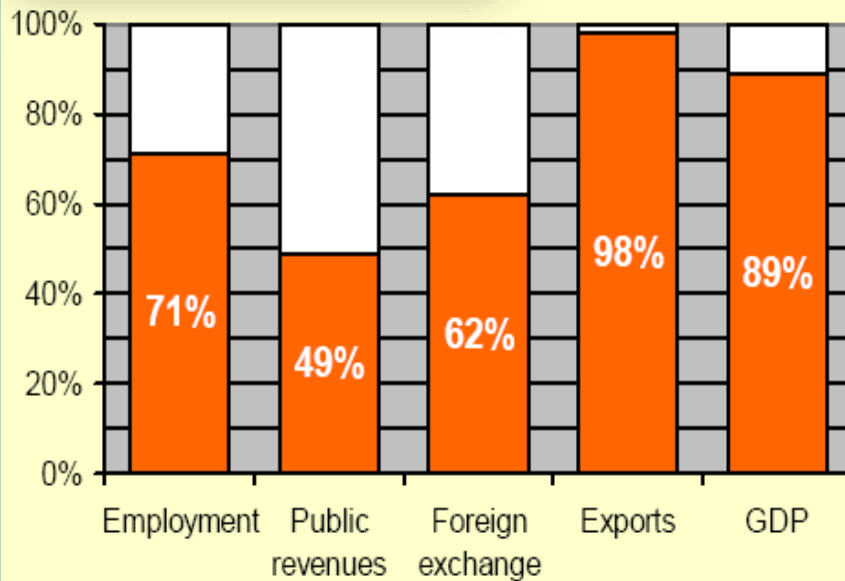
Rapid Marine Ecological  
Baseline Assessment  
of Islands of Baa Atoll





# THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN MALDIVES

## MALDIVES NATIONAL ECONOMY



### *Biodiversity-based sectors contribute:*

- 71% of national employment (78,500 jobs)
- 49% of public revenue (Rf 2.5 billion)
- 62% of foreign exchange (US\$ 435 million)
- 98% of exports (Rf 1.7 billion)
- 89% of GDP (Rf 135 billion)

## Valuing Biodiversity

The economic case for biodiversity conservation in the Maldives



# THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN MALDIVES

## BAA ATOLL ECONOMY

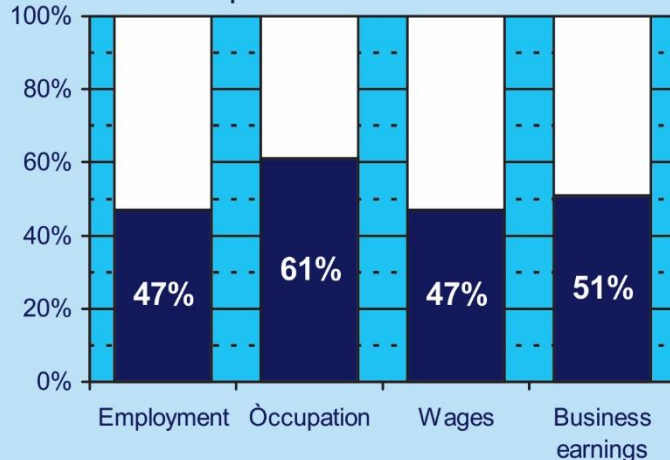


*For households, biodiversity-based activities contribute:*

employment worth Rf 78 million  
business earnings worth Rf 80 million  
fresh fish worth Rf 1.8 billion  
other biological resources worth Rf 19 million  
47% of employment  
47% of wages  
51% of business earnings  
and occupy 61% of the population

- 40% of households have members employed in the tourism sector, earning Rf 68 million
- 60% are engaged in biodiversity-based business, which contributes 51% of all business earnings and generates income of Rf 80 million
- More than 40% engage in fishing with a catch worth Rf 1.8 billion
- 55% harvest other biological resources together worth well over Rf 19 million
- Six tourist resorts entertain 45,000 tourists a year, selling bednights worth around US\$ 160 million
- Six dive centres generate income of around US\$ 2.3 million

The contribution of biodiversity to economic and development indicators in Baa Atoll







# Baa Atoll UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE Governance



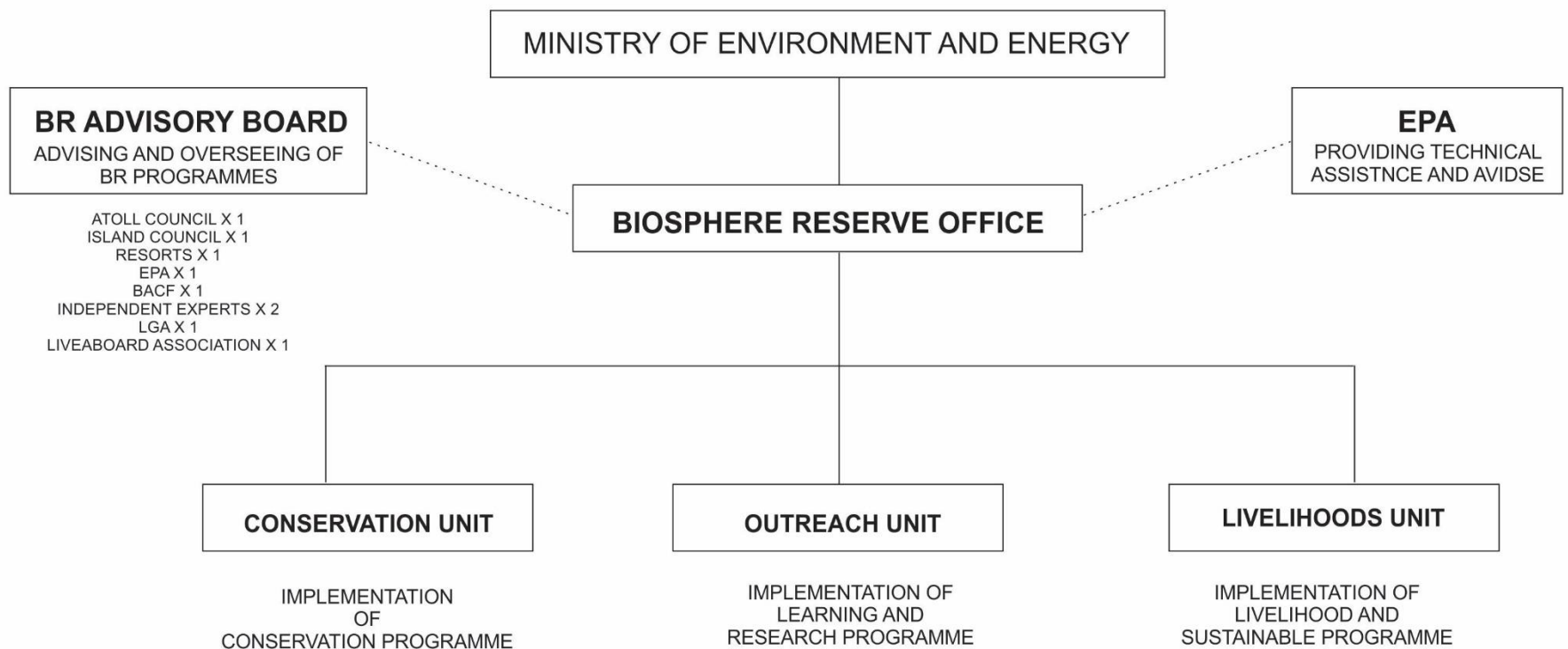
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# Opening of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office



Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office under the Ministry of Environment and Energy was opened in the capital of Baa Atoll, Eydhafushi by the government on 13 June 2012, with the mandate to carry out its Conservation, Education and Awareness and Livelihoods Programmes

Environmental Protection Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Energy technically assists the BR Office in its day to day operations .



## BR OFFICE, Roles and Responsibilities

**Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office** under the Ministry of Environment and Energy was opened in the capital of Baa Atoll, Eydhafushi by the government on **13 June 2012**.

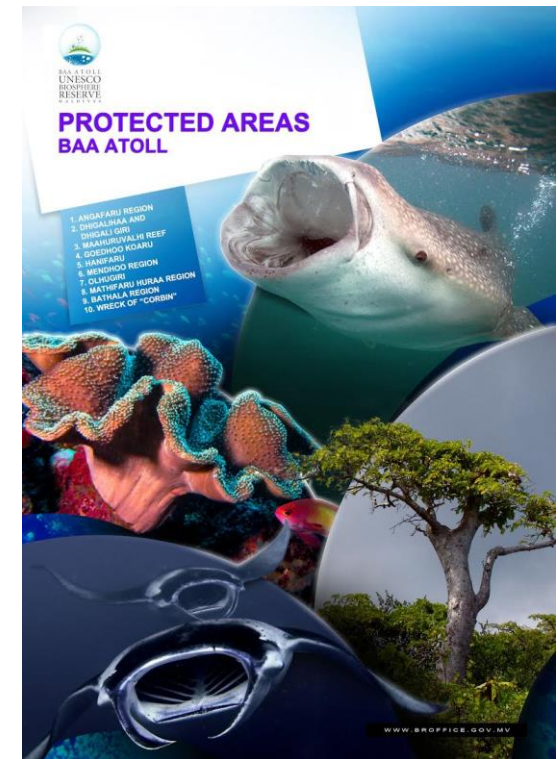
The BR Office with its own Administrative and Financial Unit is supported by the staff of **Conservation Programme, Learning and Research Programme and Livelihoods and Sustainable Development Programme** of the Office and has been set up as a Civil Service Office under the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** of the Ministry of Environment and Energy **technically assists** the BR Office while the **Environment Department** of MEE **assist in its day to day operations** .

**Government budget provides all recurrent cost of BR management**

while the

**Workplan of BR Office is funded from Baa Atoll Conservation Fund.**





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BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES

## Conservation Programme

- Supporting implementation of the Biosphere reserve zonation system, including monitoring of developments, input to EIAs and the enforcement of regulations in close consultation with EPA and the police;
- promoting implementation of the management plans for core areas, and where necessary enforcing regulations in close consultation with EPA and the police;
- Implementing, and regularly updating, the programme of strategic actions to reduce key threats to biodiversity

# Outreach Programme

- Working with schools and NGOs to promote education and awareness to enhance the objectives of the Biosphere Reserve
- Developing community engagement and volunteering activities in support of the Biosphere Reserve
- Identifying priority research topics and supporting local, national and international research initiatives that will enhance the Biosphere Reserve
- Coordinating monitoring programmes, making the data available and reporting the results



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## Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme

- Support to livelihood development initiatives that are consistent with the objectives of the Biosphere Reserve.
- Working with key sectors (fisheries, tourism, agriculture, transport, construction etc) to build sustainability as a core principle of development.
- Promoting measures to address climate change including mitigation (eg renewable energy) and adaptation activities.

# THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN MALDIVES

Share of government budget allocated to Ministry of Environment

Year 2002 – 0.73%

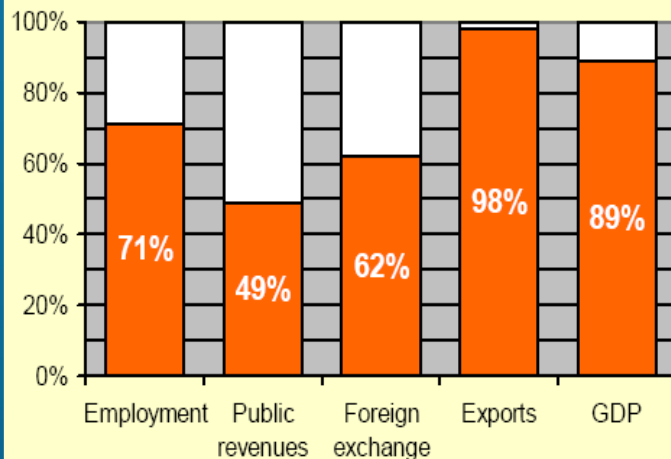
Year 2003 – 0.72%

Year 2004 – 0.86%

Year 2006 – 1.12%

Year 2007 – 0.99%

Year 2008 – 1.22%



## *Biodiversity-based sectors contribute:*

- 71% of national employment (78,500 jobs)
- 49% of public revenue (Rf 2.5 billion)
- 62% of foreign exchange (US\$ 435 million)
- 98% of exports (Rf 1.7 billion)
- 89% of GDP (Rf 135 billion)



Valuing  
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The economic case for biodiversity  
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# Baa Atoll CONSERVATION FUND

## Background

- BACF, Trust Fund established on 18 April 2012 under the Public Finance Act (Act No: 3/2006) of the Republic of Maldives.

## Purpose

- Co-finance activities that ensure that Baa Atoll is a world class model of atoll ecosystem conservation in accordance with its designation as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2011.





## BACF Board Composition

- 1 X Environmental Protection Agency
- 1 X Baa Atoll Council
- 1 X NGOs from Baa Atoll
- 1 X Liveaboard Association of Maldives
- 1 X Local Government Authority
- 1 X Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office
- 1 X Baa Atoll Conservation Fund
- 2 X Resort representatives





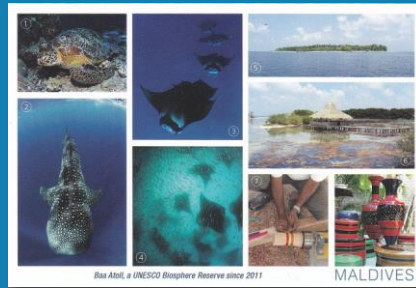
### PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS



### TOUR GUIDE EXAMINATION FEES



### SALE OF SOUVENIRS



### DONATIONS FROM WELL WISHERIES



### SALE OF ACCESS PERMITS



### VIDEOGRAPHY/PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS



How is BACF funded?

16 May 2012

## First visitors enters Hanifaru Marine Protected Area with ACCESS PERMITS

A delegation from Global Environment Facility (GEF), who was attending a 3 day meeting on Six GEF South Asia Constituency, in Male' Maldives.



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LIST OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY BACF FOR FUNDING

Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme

	Proposal from	Project Name	Implemented by
1	Manta Trust	Baa Atoll Manta Ray Research Development Programme	4 seasons
2	Manta Trust	Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve School Education Programme	4 Seasons
3	Dharavandhoo	Training Program on Hydroponics	Dharavandhoo Development Cooperative Society
4	Eydhafushi	Development of Children's Park	Club the Beginners
5	Eydhafushi	The importance of clean beach and lagoon of Eydhafushi focussing on the health aspects of the community.	Public Health Unit/ Hospital
6	Eydhafushi	Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance	FEYLI
7	Dhonfan	Agriculture	Dhonfan Council
8	Hithaadhoo	Environment Friendly Agriculture	Mr. Amir Abdul Latheef
9	Kamadhoo	Agriculture	Kamadhoo Island Council
10	Kamadhoo	Training of Mudhimun, Gaaree, Kahukamaakemi	Kamadhoo Ummeedhee Cooperative Society
11	Kamadhoo	No to plastic bags	Youth Association of Kamadhoo Initiative s
12	Kendhoo	Waste Management	Kendhoo Council
13	Kendhoo	Save the Turtle Campaign	Kendhoo School
14	Kihaadhoo	Agriculture, Kihaadhoo Goes Organic	FAAM Foundation
15	Kudarikilu	Erection of Monument	Kudarikilu Council
16	Maalhos	Conservation of biodiversity	MAARES
17	Maalhos	Environmentally friendly fertilizer production.	Women's Committee
18	Maalhos	Training on lacquer works	Maalhos Council
19	Maalhos	Training on lacquer works / handicrafts	Women's Committee
20	Maalhos	Awareness program of Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	Islander's League of Maalhos (ILM)
21	Maalhos	Completion of Women's Committee Pharmacy	Women's Committee
22	Maalhos	Procurement of play ground equipment for Maalhos School	Maalhos Council
23	Sonevafushi	Baa Atoll Eco Camp for Baa Atoll students	Sonevafushi
24	Sonevafushi	Organic Composting	Sonevafushi
25	Thulhaadhoo	Training Course on Lacquer Works	Thulhaadhoo Council
26	Thulhaadhoo	Awareness on Biodiversity	Thulhaadhoo Mala



LIST OF PROPOSALS APPROVED BY BACF BOARD FOR FUNDING

1. Introduction and Training Program on Hydroponics by Dharavandhoo Development Cooperative Society (Livelihood, Education/Awareness).
2. Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance by FEYLI of Eydhafushi (Livelihood).
3. Save Turtle Forum by Kendhoo School (Education /Awareness, Conservation).
4. Kihaadhoo Goes Organic by FAAM Foundation of Kihaadhoo (Education/Awareness, Livelihood).
5. Erection of Monument by Kudarikilu Council (Livelihood).
6. Eco friendly fertilizer production by Maalhos Women's Development Committee (Livelihood).
7. Training Course on Lacquer Works by Thulhaadhoo Council (Livelihood).

Proposal from	Project Name	Duration	FUNDING (MVR)			TOTAL VALUE	Implemented by
			Requested FROM BACF	OWN	Others		
1	Dharavandhoo	Training programme on Hydroponics	24 mnths	230,368.00	150,000.00	380,368.00	Dharavandhoo Development Cooperative Society
2	Eydhafushi	Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance	6 mnths	117,290.00		117,290.00	FEYLI
3	Kendhoo	Save Turtle Forum	24 mnths	100,000.00		100,000.00	Kendhoo School
4	Kihaadhoo	Agriculture, Kihaadhoo Goes Organic	24 mnths	205,000.00	47,000.00	252,000.00	FAAM Foundation
5	Kudarikilu	Erection of Monument	14 mnths	152,812.14	5,000.00	3,000.00	160,812.14 Kudarikilu Council
6	Maalhos	Environment friendly fertilizer production	12 mnths	231,000.00		120,000.00	351,000.00 Women's Committee
7	Thulhaadhoo	Training Course on Lacquer Works	6 mnths	231,300.00	46,260.00		277,560.00 Thulhaadhoo Council
				<b>1,267,770.14</b>	<b>248,260.00</b>	<b>123,000.00</b>	<b>1,639,030.14</b>



Project Name: Training Course on Lacquer Works  
Grantee: : Baa Atoll Thulhaadhoo Council  
PROJECT Duration: 24 months  
BACF Funds: MVR 231,000.00  
Council Funds: MVR MVR 46,260.00  
Total Project Value: MVR 277,560.00  
Project Status: COMPLETED

The Training Course started in February 2016 at a special ceremony held to mark the occasion on 22 February 2016.

The training was conducted for 30 participants of whom **28 participants completed the training course** where the participants learned the art of carving together with the art of lacquer.

At the end of the thirty day training course a mini exhibition was held to display the items produced by the participants.

The main objective of the training programme is to revive the art of lacquer work undertaken at present only by middle aged population of Thulhaadhoo and to introduce youth of the atoll to this field whereby giving them the opportunity of a new form of livelihood.



Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme

Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)





**Project Name: Composting of Organic Waste**  
**Grantee: Maalhos Womens Development Committee (MWDC)**  
**Project Duration: 24 months**  
**BACF Funds: MVR 231,000.00**  
**MWDC Funds: MVR 150,000.00**  
**Project Status: COMPLETED**



Upon receiving the grant from BACF for the Organic Composting Project, **Maalhos Women's Development Committee (MWDC)** teamed up with **Maalhos Island Council (MIC)** to come up with a system for waste management for the island as well. This was made possible by Maldives Environmental Management Project (MEMP) funded by the World Bank and implemented by Ministry of Environment and Energy.



Under the joint effort by the two parties compost training was undertaken in Weligama, Srilanka, upgrading of the existing waste management facility and equipment was provided by MEMP and the waste management plan for the island was formulated and approved by the community leading to a proper waste management facility for the island.

Waste is at present collected from all households of the island and a user fee is levied on this service and organic composting is carried out the Center.

**The Waste Management Centre of the island was inaugurated on 6 June 2015** as part of World Environment Day celebrations.

By maximizing the limited resources and combining the efforts of MIC and MWDC a proper solution has been found to the ever present issue of waste by Maalhos.



**Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme  
Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)**

**Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)**



Project Name: Kihaadhoo goes Organic  
Grantee: FAAM Foundation, Kihaadhoo  
PROJECT Duration: 24 months  
BACF Funds: MVR 205,000.00  
FAAM FUNDS: MVR 47,000.00  
Total Project Value: MVR 252,000.00  
Project Status: COMPLETED

To start off project activities staff from FAAM Foundation underwent training in May 2015 on Organic Farming in Male' and with the assistance from World Bank funded Maldives Environmental Management Project, compost training was undertaken at Weligama, Sri Lanka. Once these activities were completed FAAM met with the farmers of Kihaadhoo and informed them of the proposed project's activities and in this regard **20 farmers joined up with FAAM** to work together.

Awareness sessions for farmers and school children was undertaken, equipment and training were provided to the farmers. The farmers of Kihaadhoo **in June 2015** were able reap benefits of the project and the first batch of products produced by the farmers were sold to **Reethi Beach Resort, Dusit Thani, Four Seasons and Amillafushi**. The main challenges experienced while undertaking the project are changing of mind set of farmers to a new method of farming, low interest from farmers, farmers demands for tangible goods compared to workshops, seminars and awareness sessions and marketing of products produced.

The activities undertaken to date are community awareness and sensitization workshops targeting farmers, field trip to Baa Atoll Anhenunfushi, continuing support for home gardening, starting of composting activities at the waste Management Center and work is currently underway on establishment of model farms and providing of organic fertilizers.



Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme  
Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)

Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)

Project Name: Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance

Grantee: Foundation of Eydhafushi Youth Linkage (FEYL)

PROJECT Duration: 06 months

BACF Funds: MVR 117,290.00

Project Status: **COMPLETED**



The Training Course on Outboard Engine Repair and Maintenance aims to find a solution to the long lasting problem faced by outboard vessel owners of Baa Atoll on the lack of know-how and knowledge by captains and boat crews in fixing minor issues to outboard engines.



The course was conducted under the guidance from certified Instructors from Maldives Marine Police Services, Yamaha and Mercury undertaking both theory practical and practical sessions totalling up to 60 hours over a period of 2 weeks starting 21 November 2015.

**A total of 17 participants completed the training course.**



**Project Name: Construction of Monument**

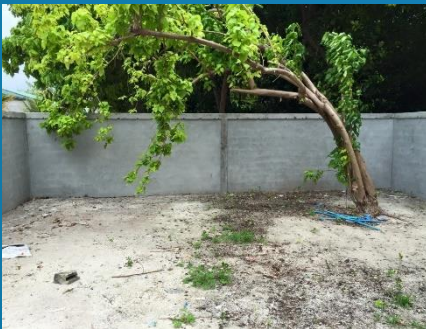
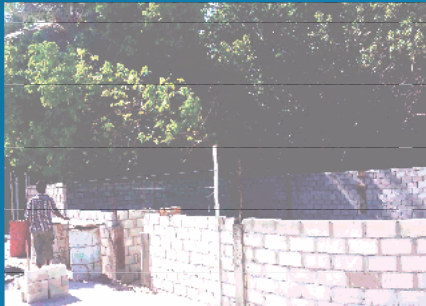
**Grantee: Baa Atoll Kudarikilu Council**

**PROJECT Duration: 14 months**

**BACF Funds: MVR 160,812.14**

**Council Funds: MVR 8000.00**

**Project Status: ONGOING**

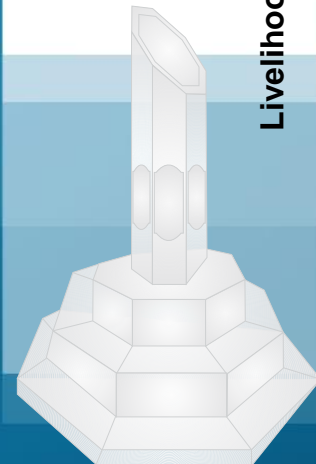


The story of the monument to be constructed evolves around an **explosion which occurred on the island during World War 1, in 1915** and it is to be built in memory of the lives lost. One version of the story is that a fishing vessel from Kudarikilu found a drifting mine floating in the sea and not knowing what the object was, the islanders brought it on to the island. The fatal explosion occurred on a Friday while some children were playing on the beach and one of the kids accidentally tampered with it.

Work on the construction of the Monument started in early July 2015 and it was expected to be completed within 6 months but will now be completed by the end of second quarter of 2018.

The work to be undertaken under the project has been divided into three phases, the first being site clearing, the second being completion of boundary wall both of which has been undertaken. The third phase consists of work on the structure to be completed once all work has been undertaken of the boundary wall.

The Council of Kudarikilu wishes to utilize the monument as a **tourist attraction point** and to develop a livelihood activity around the story of the explosion.



**Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme  
Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)**

**Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)**



Project Name: Save the Turtle Forum  
Project Number: BACF/PROJ-013/2014  
Grantee Name: Baa Atoll Kendhoo School  
Project Duration: 24months  
Project Value: MVR 100,000.00  
Project Status: COMPLETED

**Community Awareness** on **endangered species**, study tour on Waste Management to Sonevafushi with Island the Council, visit to **Hanifaru Bay and Hanifaru Island**, **awareness sessions for students and parents**, and **field visits to turtle hatching areas**, distribution of re-usabale bags to the community and putting up of billboards are some of the activities that have been undertaken so far.



Baa Atoll Conservation Fund  
Grants Programme  
Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)



Livelihoods and Sustainable Development programme (BR Office)

**BACF YEAR END BALANCE**

	MVR
2012	5,190,509.00
2013	5,828,517.58
2014	6,941,891.34
2015	7,958,130.34
2016	8,826,585.36
2017	8,919,662.29
2018	9,576,902.90

**INCOME BREAKDOWN 2013 to 2018**

INCOME (MVR)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sales of Acces Permits	137,330.00	352,412.00	614,375.00	777,421.00	551,616.00	1,167,164.00
Partnership Fees	154,780.50	663,115.00	826,990.00	287,765.00	660,010.00	723,470.00
Tour Guide Registratiobn Fees	4,320.00	19,273.00	15,420.00	15,370.00	15,050.00	132,733.00
Photography and Videography Permits	6,280.00	8,100.00	19,072.00	42,405.00	62,765.00	117,963.00
Donations	771,000.00	771,000.00	771,000.00	771,000.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,073,710.50</b>	<b>1,813,900.00</b>	<b>2,246,857.00</b>	<b>1,893,961.00</b>	<b>1,289,441.00</b>	<b>2,141,330.00</b>



## Next cycle of grants

Decision to award MVR THREE MILLION (was undertaken by BACF Board in mid 2019)

Baa Atoll Council to take the lead role in identifying activities to be carried on each island.

2 Bedroom Apartments to be built on each of the 13 islands

Land has been allocated from all islands for this project

Contractors has been identified

Work to start March 2020



**Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Partnership building**



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**Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Conveying the message**



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Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Conveying the message



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**PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE MALDIVES**  
**މަތީގެ ދިވެހިގެ ފަދަ ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް**

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**PROTECTED AREAS BAA ATOLL**

1. BAA ATOLL  
 2. BAA ATOLL  
 3. BAA ATOLL  
 4. BAA ATOLL  
 5. BAA ATOLL  
 6. BAA ATOLL  
 7. BAA ATOLL  
 8. BAA ATOLL  
 9. BAA ATOLL  
 10. BAA ATOLL

**PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE MALDIVES**  
**މަތީގެ ދިވެހިގެ ފަދަ ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް**

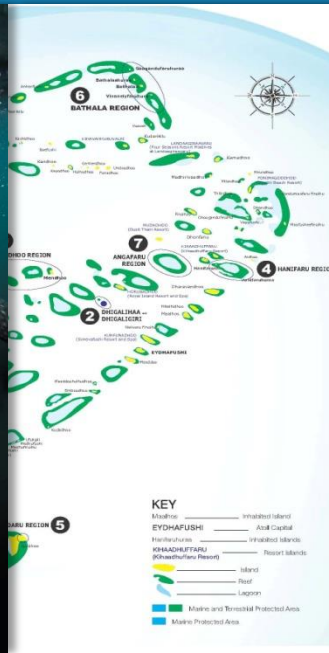
މަތީގެ ދިވެހިގެ ފަދަ ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ. ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ. ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ.

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**PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE MALDIVES**  
**މަތީގެ ދިވެހިގެ ފަދަ ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް**

މަތީގެ ދިވެހިގެ ފަދަ ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ. ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ. ޕްރޮޓެކްޓެޑް ސޯޕްލިސް ގެ ނަންބަރު 11-20 ގެ ދެމެހެއްޑެވެ.

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**BAA ATOLL UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE MALDIVES**

**MANTA RAYS**  
 a frequent visitor

**WHALE SHARKS**  
 a frequent underwater sight

**of habitat. bird.**

**UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE MALDIVES**

The Government of Maldives established the Atoll Ecosystem Conservation Project in 2003 with support of UNEP and the Global Environment Facility with the purpose of designing and demonstrating an effective management system for good ecosystem conservation and sustainable development on Baa Atoll, which could then be replicated throughout the Maldives.

Baa Atoll was selected as the demonstration site for this project on account of its globally significant biodiversity, the commitment and capacity of local communities, the potential to address threats to biodiversity and to demonstrate sustainable use.

In recognition of the outstanding natural values of this atoll, and the commitments being made by local communities and reports the AEC project proposed International designation of Baa Atoll as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve through the government on 28 September 2010 and Baa Atoll was declared as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve on 20 July 2011.

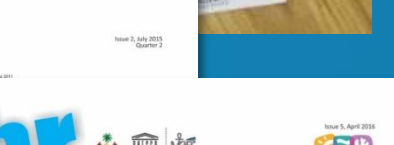
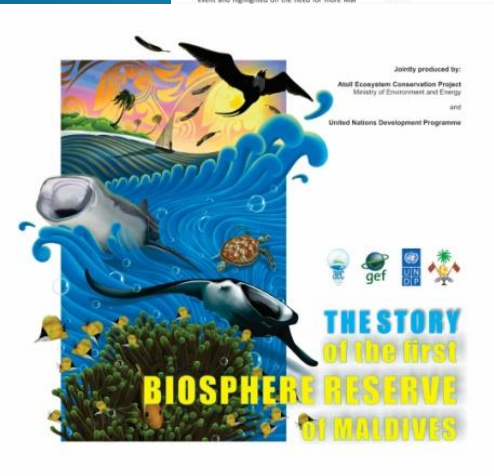
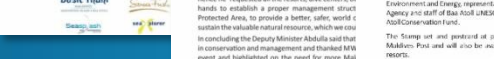
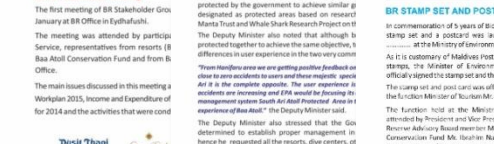
There is seasonal movement within the Maldives and in Baa WHALE SHARKS are sighted from May and October. Whale sharks visit Maldives to feed along with manta. These mass feeding events only happen a few times each month and depend on the relative population concentration.



**BAA ATOLL UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE MALDIVES**

**Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Conveying the message**

# Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Conveying the message



BAA ATOLL  
UNESCO BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES

## OUR PARTNERS



**Scientific Name:** *Manta alfredi*  
**Lower Classification:** Giant Oceanic manta ray  
**Life Expectancy:** At least 60 years

**Reproduction:** Oviparous  
**Life Expectancy:** At least 60 years

**Threats:** Habitat loss, overfishing, and bycatch in fisheries.

**Habitat:** Tropical and subtropical waters, including reefs, lagoons, and open ocean.

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable (as per IUCN Red List).

**Diet:** Zooplankton.

**Distribution:** Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Pacific Ocean.

**Manta rays are large eagle rays** belonging to the genus *Manta*. The larger species, *Manta birostris*, reaches 7 m (23 ft) in width while the smaller, *Manta alfredi*, reaches 5.5 m (18 ft 1 in).



**BR STAMP SET AND POST CARD LAUNCHED**

In commemoration of 5 years of Biosphere Reserve status, a stamp set and a postcard were launched at a special event in the Maldives Post office.

The stamp set and postcard was officially launched by the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Moosa Zameer.

The launch took place at the Ministry of Environment and Energy, with the presence of the Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Ahmed Mohamed, and the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Moosa Zameer.

The stamp set and postcard will be available from all post offices.



**ANNUAL WHALE SHARK FESTIVAL 2013**

The 3rd Annual Maldives Whale Shark Festival was held on 28th August 2013, and the festival was held at the International Whale Shark Day. Both the Whale Shark Festival and the International Whale Shark Day were organized by the Deputy Minister for Environment, Mr. Abdullah.

The main purpose of the Science of Ecosystems (SE) was to share knowledge on SoA. The Science of Ecosystems (SE) also gave an opportunity to Biologists and Educators to share their knowledge on a platform.

Speaking at the function the Deputy Minister for Environment, Mr. Abdullah, said that the Government is committed to protect the two sites which are famous for whale sharks. He also mentioned that the Government is committed to protect the two sites which are famous for whale sharks.



**1st BR Stakeholder Meeting**

The first meeting of BR Stakeholder Group was held on 15th January 2013 at BR Office in Eydhafushi.

The meeting was attended by participants from various organizations including the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health.

The main issues discussed in this meeting were related to the management of the Biosphere Reserve and the activities that were conducted in the Biosphere Reserve.



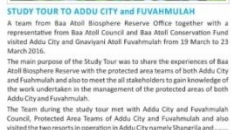
**STUDY TOUR TO ADDU CITY AND FUAHMULAH**

A team from Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office together with a representative from Baa Atoll Council and Baa Atoll Conservation Fund visited Addu City and Gnaviyani Atoll Fuvahmulah from 19 March to 23 March 2013.

The main purpose of the Study Tour was to share the experiences of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve with the protected area teams of both Addu City and Fuvahmulah and also to meet the all stakeholders to gain knowledge of the work undertaken in the management of the protected area of both Addu City and Fuvahmulah.

The team during the study tour met with Addu City and Fuvahmulah Council, Protected Area Teams of Addu City and Fuvahmulah and also visited the two resorts in operation in Addu City namely Shangri-La and ..... The BR Team also visited the protected areas of Addu City and Fuvahmulah and gained first hand knowledge by interacting with the staff of both protected area teams.

The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment Mr. Abdullah Mohamed Didi participated in the meeting with took place with Fuvahmulah Council.





Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Conveying the message



1/2



**Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Networking with other PA Management Teams  
Outreach Programme**



BAA ATOLL  
UNESCO  
BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES



# Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Networking with other PA Management Teams Outreach Programme



BAA ATOLL  
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BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES





**Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Networking at policy level  
Outreach Programme**



**BAA ATOLL  
UNESCO  
BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES**





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RESERVE  
MALDIVES

Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve  
Networking  
Outreach Programme

Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Eydhafushi land reclamation and Shore Protection

Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Dharavandhoo Airport Development

Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Harbour Development and re-construction work

# Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Thulhaadhoo Shore Protection and Harbour Project



# Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Water and Sanitation, Solar PV, Road Development Projects

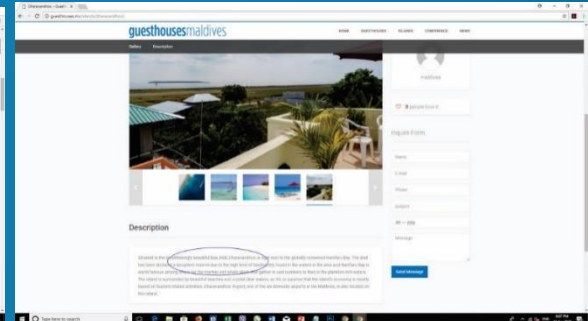
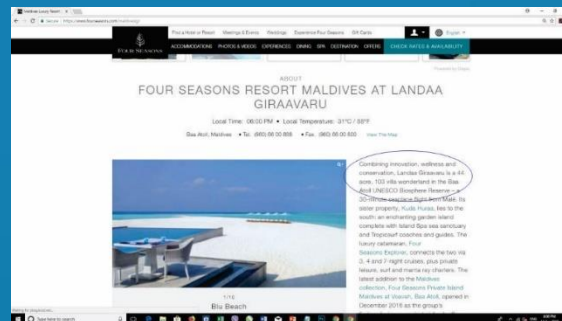
Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?



Island Waste Management Centers

# Have the declaration of Baa Atoll as a Biosphere Reserve restricted Atoll Development?

28 Registered Guest Houses  
16 Resorts



“Biosphere” a new brand widely used by the of Baa for tourism promotion and an avenue to showcase the products of Baa Atoll





# O U R P A R T N E R S



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



- Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve since 2011
- Man and the Biosphere Programme



Abdulla Shibau  
Managing Director  
Baa Atoll Conservation Fund



BAA ATOLL  
UNESCO  
BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE  
MALDIVES



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Baa Atoll**  
Biosphere Reserve since 2011  
Man and the Biosphere Programme



for more information on  
Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

[www.broffice.gov.mv](http://www.broffice.gov.mv)

[www.facebook.com/biospherereservemaldives](https://www.facebook.com/biospherereservemaldives)

and

Baa Atoll Conservation Fund