

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code:	Project Title: Consolidation of Vaavu Atoll – Development of Bodumohoraa		
Executing Agency: Ministry of Finance and Treasury		Implementing Agency: Ministry of Planning and National Development	
Geographic Coverage: Vaavu Atoll and nearby atolls		Target Groups: Population of Vaavu atoll and nearby islands.	

Located just south of Male' Atoll, Vaavu Atoll or Felidhe Atoll consists of 19 islands of which only 5 are inhabited. The atoll is the registered home to 2,146 residents but only 1,600 people are resident, making it the least populated atoll in the Maldives. Vaavu Atoll also has the least area inhabitable, with island sizes ranging from a mere 4ha to 12 ha with limited potential for land development.

The list of challenges to development faced by the Maldivian economy always note that scarcity of land and natural resources, small and dispersed populations are the key obstacles to growth. In this regard, it is obvious that this atoll suffers greatly, if not the most of all the atolls, from all these developmental challenges.

Due to the lack of development potential and ever shrinking population, the services available in Vaavu atoll are minimal. Unavailability of health and education facilities creates social vulnerability and lack of harbours creates access difficulties to the islands. Thus the current infrastructure and economic activities of all islands in Vaavu atoll are weak. However heavy infrastructure investments are not feasible in the atoll as the currently inhabited islands have limited natural potential to sustain a growing population.

The aim of the Population and Development Consolidation (PDC) policy is to enable the relocation of the smallest and most vulnerable populations to a more populated and spacious island with more development potential. The unique challenge faced by the residents of Vaavu Atoll is that there is no inhabited island in this atoll with the space to support population movements from any other island. Furthermore none of the five inhabited islands have the potential for land expansion which has provoked the search for an alternative.

The government proposes to reclaim the uninhabited island of Bodumohoraa to relocate the population from this atoll willing to move there. Bodumohoraa is an uninhabited island located on the southern edge of the atoll. Besides being the only lagoon in the atoll with potential for large scale reclamation, the lagoon is the largest unbroken stretch of coral formation in the country.

The development of Bodumohoraa should include the necessary physical and coastal infrastructure, provision of much needed social services to cater for a large population. By facilitating economic development, the atoll can attract residents from nearby atolls as well. The island has the potential to serve as a transit point of North to south shipping routes given its strategic location. Given its proximity to Male atoll, it can also serve as a regional hub for other atolls in the region.

Considering the geography of Maldives the islands are extremely susceptible to environmental pressures. Located on the outer rim of the atoll on the eastern side of the country exposes the Bodumohoraa reef to the open sea and thus will require strong coastal protection measures. Thus it is important to develop Bodumohoraa with suitable coastal protection measures, perhaps even with the characteristics of a Safer Island The new island structure should be planned to be reduce disaster risks and build community resilience to disasters and climate change.

The lagoon also has sufficient space to develop a regional airport if needed in future. Development of Bodumohoraa for immediate reclamation should consider future development plans as well and this includes reserving a suitable location of a future airport. In reclaiming and developing the islands, Bodumohoraa can also be modelled as a Safer Island with an higher altitude to defend against sea level rise, and sufficient coastal protection.

Objectives

- Reclaim 110 ha of land and develop Bodumohoraa to serve as a residential and industrial hub in the central region with a high standard of social services
- Relocate residents of Vaavu atoll and nearby atolls that are vulnerable and isolated
- Develop a Safer Island with elevated ground level, sufficient coastal protection and disaster mitigation measures.

Components

Code	Component Details	Cost (US\$ million)
	Reclamation phase 1 (50 ha)	4.7
	Revetment wall phase 1 (1800m)	4.9
	Reclamation phase 2 (60 Ha)	5.6
	Revetment wall phase 2	7.4
	Develop social infrastructure	
TOTAL		22.6