

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code:		Project Title: Increase the resilience of the coral reef system	
Executing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water		Implementing Agency:	
Geographic Coverage: National	Start Date: Immediate	Target Groups:	
Goal: Minimize human stress on coral reefs of Maldives			
Objectives		Activities	
<p>1. <i>Increase the knowledge base and understanding of the natural adaptation process in coral reefs.</i></p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Synthesize and enhance the knowledge on Maldivian reef biology and ecology and its interactions with climate parameters. 2 Conduct research on how human induced stresses such as reef fishery, tourism, land reclamation and other developmental activities affect growth and functioning of coral reefs to facilitate informed decision-making on coral reef management. 3 Conduct research to understand how coral reefs and islands adapt to climate change and identify ways and measures required to enhance the natural adaptation process. Specific attention will be given to the modified coastal environments of inhabited islands. 4 Develop a GIS-based national coral reef database to enable the management and analysis of ecological and socioeconomic data on coral reefs. 	
<p>2. <i>Develop policy and legal framework to protect and manage coral reefs.</i></p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Develop the coral reef management framework that enables the relevant institutions to designate zones, uses and marine protected areas systems. 2 Review the existing institutional framework to identify gaps and barriers in coral reef management and recommend roles and responsibilities for custodians, users and managers. 3 Develop regulations and conflict resolution mechanisms for resource use among competing industries such as fishing and tourism to ensure balance between resource protection and resource usage. 4 Develop standards and guidelines for high impact coastal development activities, especially land reclamation and island access infrastructure development. 	
<p>3. <i>Enable the enforcement of existing coral reef management regulations</i></p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sensitize public infrastructure contracting agencies and contractors on coral reef protection regulations relating to design and construction of coastal developments. 2 Develop the mechanisms for public consultation and inquiry in the EIA process. 3 Strengthen the capacity of island and atoll offices to enforce regulations including training on coral reef management and designation of staff responsible for enforcement and monitoring. 4 Organize an information dissemination campaign to inform public on all regulations related to coral reef management. 5 Develop mechanisms to determine compliance with regulations. 	

<p><i>4. Reduce human induced and natural stress on reef environment</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Identify the criteria for the selection of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). 2 Review the effectiveness of designated MPAs and recommend ways and means to strengthen MPA management. 3 Develop guidelines on different reef resource uses. 4 Develop quotas and control methods to prevent over-exploitation of specific species, ban destructive fishing practices such as use of chemicals and explosives and regularly monitor status of fish stock. 5 Develop monitoring plans for reef fishery stock. 6 Investigate the effectiveness of mooring buoys, navigation aids and signs in preventing boat damage on reefs. 7 Develop and establish best practice guidelines on snorkelling, diving and water sports activities.
<p><i>5. Develop the capacity of national organizations and communities to manage coral reef environment.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Develop the terms of reference, organisational structure and staffing needs for a National Coral Reef Management Authority (NCRMA) with nodal agencies in the atolls. 2 Undertake training needs assessment to determine the training requirements for the NCRMA and nodal agencies and a strategy for human resource development. 3 Develop a comprehensive training package on coral reef science and management to be integrated into the existing Coastal Zone Management Training Course (CZMTC). 4 Conduct appropriate training programmes for atoll and island office staff on coral reef management. 5 Carry out awareness among NGO's, IDCs and WDCs on climate change risks and the importance of coral reef management on future natural adaptation of islands and reefs.
<p>Financial Resources: US\$</p>	<p>2,315,000</p>