

Ocean Country Partnership Programme

**Marine Protected Area Management Plan Training
29th July 2024, Male', Maldives**



Ministry of Climate Change,
Environment and Energy



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ISLAND WETLANDS

Marine Protected Area Management Plan Training

Male, 29 July 2024, Maldives

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This report is compliant with [JNCC's Evidence Quality Assurance Policy](#).

Ocean Country Partnership Programme:

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) is a bilateral technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCPP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood.

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Acronyms

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MCCEE	Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
OCP	Ocean Country Partnership Programme
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PCA	Protected and Conserved Area
Q&A	Questions and Answer

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the first Marine Protected Area Management Planning Training held under the Consultancy to Develop Marine Protected Areas management plans and training in the Maldives, covering key discussions, activities, and the outcomes of the training sessions.

The inaugural Marine Protected Area Management Planning Training was conducted on the 30th of July 2024 at the Champa Central Hotel in Malé, Maldives. The training was delivered by Island Wetlands and organized by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy (MoCCEE) in collaboration with the Ocean Country Partnership Programs (OCP). This program aimed to enhance the management and protection of marine ecosystems, specifically Marine Protected Areas in the Maldives.

The purpose of this training workshop was to empower Local Island Councils, NGOs and Community Stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively develop and implement management plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Given the exceptional biodiversity of the Maldives' marine ecosystems and their critical contribution to the national economy through tourism and fisheries, it is essential to ensure the sustainable conservation of these natural resources.

This training focused on enhancing understanding of two published documents: (i) the Maldives National Framework for Management of Protected and Conserved Areas, and (ii) Maldives National Management Plan Guidance for Protected and Conserved Areas and also to equip council members and community members with the practical expertise to develop and implement MPA Management Plans. Through this training, the aim was to foster a culture of marine stewardship, ensuring the long-term health and resilience of the Maldives' marine ecosystems, which are vital for the survival and prosperity of its island communities.

Main objectives of the training were to:

- improve understanding of MPA management within Local Island Councils based around 11 MPAs;
- provide comprehensive training on the National PCA Management Framework and Guidance documents;
- equip participants with the skills to develop effective MPA Management Plans; and
- facilitate the selection of three MPAs for which detailed management plans will be developed.

To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the training specifically targeted seven Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that are legally designated but currently face

challenges in active management and enforcement. The MPAs that were the focus of this training included:

1. Haa Dhaalu Finey Thila
2. Baa Dharavandhoo Thila
3. Kaafu Guraidhoo Kandulhi
4. Meemu Hakuraa Thila/Lhazikuraadi
5. Dhaalu Fushee Kandu
6. Alif Alif Rasdhoo-Madivaru
7. South Ari Marine Park (SAMPA)

These areas were prioritized due to their ecological significance and the need for immediate and effective management intervention.

1.1. Training Participants

The training was initially proposed for councils, NGOs, and community stakeholders associated with the seven identified MPAs, with a target of participation from 12 island councils. However, five councils did not register for the training, resulting in the attendance of seven island councils. Rasdhoo and Thoddoo Councils were unable to participate due to rough seas, while the three councils from SAMPA did not provide any reasons for their absence. During this consultancy work, efforts will be made to reach out and deliver a brief MPA training to the Rasdhoo and Thoddoo Councils, specifically focusing on the Rasdhoo-Madivaru MPA. For the three councils that missed the training from SAMPA, it is suggested that the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy either engage with these councils directly to deliver the training or share the prepared training materials to ensure they receive the necessary information.

The training brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including members from local councils, representatives from NGOs, tourism operators, and community leaders from the selected MPAs. In total, 27 participants from the seven island councils attended the training. Notably, there was no participation from Alif Alif Atoll, which led to the absence of representation for the Rasdhoo Madivaru MPA.

The table below details the number of representatives from each participating island council. A breakdown of participants by sectors is provided in Section 5.1 for further insights into the diverse representation in the training.

Table 1: Number of Island Council Representatives present in the Training.

MPA	Island Councils	Number of participants
Finney Thila	H.Dh Finney	4
Dharavandhoo Thila	B.Dharavandhoo	4
Guraidhoo Kandulhi	K. Guraidhoo	4
Hakuraa Thila/Lhazikuraadi	M. Mulah, M. Muli	8
Fushee Kandu	Dh. Meedhoo	4
South Ari Marine Park (SAMPA)	A.Dh. Dhigurah	3

1.1 Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) in MPA Management Training

In line with the Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles outlined in the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP), the training for Marine Protected Area (MPA) management planning was designed to promote equitable participation. To ensure gender equity, participating organizations were encouraged to send an equal representation of men and women, with a particular emphasis on including women in decision-making roles. This approach aimed to address inequalities and provide opportunities for women and other marginalized groups to actively contribute to MPA management.

Inclusive invitations and communications were key to broadening participation. The invitations were crafted in accessible language and disseminated through channels that reached both men and women. Additionally, a WhatsApp group was established to facilitate communication and address any travel or venue-related emergencies. The training was scheduled at times that were convenient and safe for all participants, with the venue selected for its accessibility, ensuring that no group was disadvantaged.

During the training, participants were asked if they required any additional support to fully engage with the materials and activities. This commitment to inclusivity ensured that all attendees had equal access to resources and could actively participate, reinforcing the GESI framework's focus on providing equitable opportunities for all.

2. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the training was held on the 29th of July, beginning with participant registration from 8:30 to 9:00 AM. The official proceedings commenced at 9:00 AM with a recitation of the Holy Quran. Muhsina AbdulRahman, Director at the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, delivered the welcome remarks. This was followed by an introduction to the National MPA Management Framework and the training program by Beth Flavell from the Ocean Country Partnership Program (OCP).

The National MPA Management Framework was officially launched by His Excellency Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, Thoriq Ibrahim, alongside Her Excellency Caron Röhsler, the British High Commissioner. Additionally, the Maldives Management Plan Guidance for Protected and Conserved Areas was launched by the same dignitaries. Remarks were then delivered by both H.E. Minister Thoriq Ibrahim and H.E. Caron Röhsler, emphasizing the significance of these frameworks for marine conservation in the Maldives. The ceremony concluded with group photos and a coffee/tea break at 9:30 AM.

3. Content and Delivery of the Training

The one-day training program, spanning a total of eight hours, was designed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of Marine Protected Area (MPA) management. The program featured a blend of presentations, discussions, and practical exercises, aimed at equipping attendees with the essential knowledge and skills for effective MPA design and management.

The training was organized into structured sessions, each addressing crucial aspects of MPA management such as legal frameworks, management planning, stakeholder engagement, and management strategies. A significant portion of the training was dedicated to guiding participants through the process of writing a draft management plan. This included a practical exercise where attendees collaborated to develop a draft MPA management plan, applying the concepts learned during the training to real-world scenarios in their MPAs and presenting to the audience.

A one-hour lunch break and two 10-minute coffee breaks were incorporated into the schedule to ensure participants remained engaged and refreshed throughout the day. The detailed outline of the training can be found in Appendix One of the report.

Below is an outline of the structure and content of the training:

Registration and Pre-Assessment

The training day commenced with the registration of participants from 9:30 AM to 9:45 AM. This was immediately followed by a pre-assessment of the participants' knowledge on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The pre-assessment, conducted through an online questionnaire, aimed to evaluate the participants' understanding of MPA management and to identify their expectations from the training. The results of this assessment were displayed live on the screen, providing immediate insights into the participants' baseline knowledge.

Introduction to Marine Protected Areas

This session provided an introduction to marine ecosystems, with a focus on local biodiversity in the Maldives. It emphasized the importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in preserving biodiversity and supporting local communities. Participants were introduced to the definition and significance of MPAs, followed by a discussion and Q&A session.

Legal and Policy Context

The legal and policy frameworks governing protected areas in the Maldives were presented, covering relevant laws and regulations. The roles and responsibilities of local stakeholders in implementing and adhering to these frameworks were discussed, ensuring that participants understood their obligations under these legal structures.

Introduction to the National MPA Management Framework

This session provided an overview of the National Framework for the Management of Protected and Conserved Areas in the Maldives. It covered the key components and objectives of the framework, highlighting the importance of effective management practices and the role of local stakeholders in MPA management. A Q&A session followed to address any uncertainties.

Management Planning and Zoning

Participants were introduced to the concept of management planning for MPAs, including the purpose and key questions that a management plan should address. The session outlined the steps and processes involved in management planning, with a focus on zoning and resource management. A discussion and Q&A session followed to further explore the challenges and considerations in MPA management planning.

Management Plan Preparation

This session delved into the comprehensive process of developing an MPA management plan, covering aspects such as data collection, stakeholder engagement, and community involvement. An interactive session allowed participants to engage in identifying resources and establishing a planning team. A case study analysis was also conducted to demonstrate effective stakeholder engagement strategies.

Writing a Management Plan – Part 1

The first part of the session on writing a management plan focused on the key elements of a management plan, including site description and key values. Participants engaged in a breakout session to brainstorm and discuss the key facts about their selected MPA.

Writing a Management Plan – Part 2

The session continued with the identification of constraints, opportunities, and threats, as well as governance structures and policies. A group activity allowed participants to identify key values and threats specific to their MPAs, fostering collaboration and deeper understanding.

Writing a Management Plan – Part 3

The final part of the management plan writing session focused on setting a clear vision and management objectives. Participants developed management strategies and action plans, including the creation of SMART objectives. The session concluded with a group discussion on effective management strategies.

Steps for Effective Management Plan

Participants were guided through the process of resource need assessment, identifying essential requirements for effective MPA management. This was followed by a presentation on market and destination assessment, which provided insights into evaluating tourism opportunities and understanding visitor willingness to pay. The session also addressed common challenges in MPA management.

Sustainable Financing

This session focused on strategies for securing sustainable financing for MPA management. Participants were introduced to various funding sources and mechanisms, with examples and best practices from other regions in the Maldives.

Developing a Mock MPA Management Plan

In this practical session, participants engaged in hands-on exercises to create a mock MPA management plan. A template of the management plan was shared with the participants to develop their management plan. The session included presentations and feedback, allowing participants to apply the knowledge gained throughout the training.

Training Delivery Methods:

The training was delivered through interactive presentations, group discussions, workshops, case studies, real-life examples, and practical exercises.

A Google Drive folder was created for all participants, containing essential resources to support their involvement in the workshop. The folder included copies of the presentation slides, a template for the mock management plan, maps of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and the official gazette announcement for the declaration of the six MPAs. Additionally, each MPA group was provided with a printed A3-sized paper map of their respective MPA, which they used during the practical exercises.

The 27 participants were divided into six groups, with each group assigned the name of one of the MPAs. This arrangement facilitated focused discussions and practical exercises, enabling participants to apply the workshop materials directly to the specific MPA they were tasked with.

Evaluation and feedback sessions were integrated to ensure assessment of participant understanding.

Assessment and Certification:

The training concluded with the presentation of certificates to participants by two State Ministers of MoCCEE, Mr. Ibrahim Nizam and Mr. Muhammad Zaheen. A post-training assessment was conducted to gather feedback on the participants' experiences and perceptions of the MPA management training. This assessment was aimed at identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, rather than testing knowledge acquisition.

Participants provided valuable insights into which sessions they found most effective and engaging. Sessions on practical MPA management strategies and interactive sessions received particularly positive feedback. These were noted for their relevance and practical application.

4. Key Discussion and Observation from Each MPA

4.1. Haa Dhaalu Finey Thila

Description & Features:

Finney Thila is noted for its beautiful bottom reef, making it a prime location for diving and snorkeling. The area is particularly famous for its soft corals, which create a unique underwater landscape.

It's an ideal spot for night dives due to the diverse marine life and the vibrant colors of the soft corals.

The adjacent mangrove area is highlighted as a good conservation zone, adding to the ecological significance of the MPA.

Key marine species observed include eagle rays, Napoleon wrasse, and various shark species. Finey Thila is one of the most visited areas in the atoll and is also recognized as a turtle nesting site.

Threats & Concerns:

Anchoring has been identified as the biggest threat to the coral reefs in this area, potentially causing significant damage to the delicate marine environment. Stakeholders include the local council, the EPA, resorts, safaris, and diving operators who frequently visit the site.

Recommendations:

The council suggested extending the boundary of the MPA to include mangrove area and the turtle nesting beach.

4.2. Baa Dharavandhoo Thila

Description & Features:

Dharavandhoo Thila is known for its rich coral formations and diverse marine species such as electric rays, garden eels, and eagle rays. The area benefits from favorable ocean currents, which contribute to its biological diversity.

The Thila is also culturally significant, as it has been carefully protected by local fishermen who recognize its importance. Historically, its sheltered location has earned it the nickname "bandharu" or harbor.

Observations & Feedback:

The council emphasized the need for consistent political will to protect the MPA, irrespective of changes in government. They raised concerns about the granting of permits for activities that could harm the Hanifaru MPA, such as unregulated sand piling.

There was a strong call for the MPA to be governed by clear and consistent regulations that are not subject to political changes.

Recommendations:

It was proposed that the core area of Dharavandhoo Thila should be reserved exclusively for diving, with seasonal closures during coral spawning periods to protect the ecosystem.

The need for more detailed environmental, social, and economic data, as well as a comprehensive governance structure, was highlighted to ensure effective management of the MPA.

4.3. Kaafu Guraidhoo Kandulhi

Description & Features:

Guraidhoo Kandulhi is a heavily used MPA, with significant tourism activities including diving, snorkeling, and surfing. The area features two famous surf points (Kandoomaa Cave and Losfushi) and a manta ray cleaning station.

Other key hotspots include Banana Reef, which is ideal for beginner divers, and several dive points such as Kaaru Gaa and Turtle Point.

The MPA is frequently visited by guest houses and tourist operators from nearby islands such as Maafushi, Gulhi, and Guraidhoo.

Threats & Concerns:

The council raised concerns about the impacts of nearby developmental projects, particularly dredging and reclamation activities within 200 metres of the MPA, which have severely affected its ecological integrity.

Sand mining inside the atoll, especially for large projects like 'RasMale,' has further degraded the MPA.

Despite national-level destructive activities, the Guraidhoo community itself is committed to protecting the MPA.

Recommendations:

The council suggested extending the boundary of the MPA and improving the monitoring and regulation of activities within the area.

A more structured approach to managing the number of visitors and tourist activities was recommended to minimize environmental impacts.

4.4. Meemu Hakuraa Thila/Lhazikuraadi

Description & Features:

Lhazikuraadi, also known as Hakuraa Thila, is noted for its excellent bait and reef fisheries, although it is an old MPA that has not yet been zoned under the current Protected Areas Regulation.

The MPA is significant for local fishermen and is recognized for its biological diversity, although detailed surveys and research are needed to fully understand its ecological and socio-economic features.

Observations & Feedback:

The Muli and Mulah councils expressed surprise at discovering they had an MPA in their atoll, indicating a need for better communication and awareness about the area's protected status.

The councils proposed re-zoning the area, rebranding it to reflect the local name (Zikuraadi), and ensuring it is under the jurisdiction of either the atoll or island council.

Recommendations:

A comprehensive stakeholder consultation process was recommended, involving local councils, resorts, safaris, fishermen, and NGOs to develop a management plan.

Detailed research on the biological, ecological, and socio-economic aspects of the MPA should be conducted before further management actions are taken.

4.5. Dhaalu Fushee Kanduu

Description & Features:

Fushee Kanduu is recognized for its deep bottom reefs and is used by locals for reef fishing. However, there is a general lack of detailed information about this MPA.

The area is significant but not well understood, highlighting the need for more research and data collection.

Observations & Feedback:

Meedhoo Council noted that not much is known about Fushee Kandu, and more information from resource users is required to develop a management plan.

The council stressed the importance of research to understand the ecological value and threats to the MPA.

Recommendations:

The council recommended conducting a thorough survey to identify the resources and ecological features of the MPA.

Collaboration with the Dhaalu Atoll EPA and the Ministry of Environment was suggested to facilitate better management and protection of Fushee Kandu.

4.6. South Ari Marine Protected Area (SAMPA)

Description & Features:

SAMPA is one of the most well-known MPAs, particularly for its population of juvenile whale sharks, with 236 individual encounters recorded so far. The area is a major attraction for tourists, with 300–400 visitors per day.

SAMPA also features 58 dive sites and should be ideally monitored by 25 rangers, who are crucial for enforcing regulations and managing the high volume of visitors.

Observations & Feedback:

There is a need to limit the number of snorkeling and diving activities within SAMPA to prevent overcrowding and degradation of the site.

The introduction of a hotline for rangers and more active monitoring was suggested to improve the management of the MPA.

Recommendations:

The council recommended conducting more research on the whale sharks' migratory patterns and increasing collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including the EPA, MOCCEE, Police, and MNDF.

Enhancing the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms was emphasized as crucial for maintaining the ecological integrity of SAMPA.

4.7. Selection of three MPAs for MPA Development

Based on observations by participants, consultants' insights, and discussions between consultants and the MoCCEE team, the decision has been made to select three Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for development: H.Dh. Finey Thila, K. Guraidhoo Kandulhi, and B. Dharavandhoo Thila.

The remaining two MPAs, Dhaalu Fushikandu and Meemu Hakuraa Thila, require further research, surveys, and data collection before a comprehensive management plan can be developed. Additionally, the SAMPa, being the largest MPA in the Maldives, presents more complex challenges. The development of its management plan may extend beyond the timeframe of this consultancy.

5. Training Feedback Assessment

For monitoring, evaluation, and learning purposes, training attendees were asked to complete a brief online questionnaire both before and after the training. This approach was designed to assess the impact of the training on their knowledge of MPA management and to gather feedback for improving future sessions.

Before the first presentation, an online questionnaire was distributed to all attendees, with a QR code link displayed to encourage maximum participation. The pre-assessment survey consisted of seven questions aimed at gauging the participants' initial level of knowledge and understanding of the training's focus areas. The post-assessment survey, which contained eight questions, included a final question soliciting feedback on the training's delivery.

The questions were primarily multiple-choice, allowing participants to quickly navigate the survey. A total of 27 responses were received, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of the training and areas for future improvement.

5.1. Composition of the Training

The training program was attended by 27 participants, with 67% of the trainees being male and 33% female. The participants were categorized as follows: 38% were Local Council Members, 21% represented NGOs, 17% were community members, 3% were tourist service providers, 3% were divers or surfers, and 17% fell into other categories (Figure 1).

Although the sectors fishermen were included in the pre-assessment questionnaire (since the invitation requested the participation of industry stakeholders such as fishermen and tourist operators), only one trainee who was involved in fishing attended, but he did not identify himself as such in the assessment.

Regarding experience in MPA management among the participants, 62% had no prior experience in this field. Meanwhile, 21% had over six years of experience, 3% had 4–6 years, 10% had 1–3 years, and 3% had less than one year of experience.

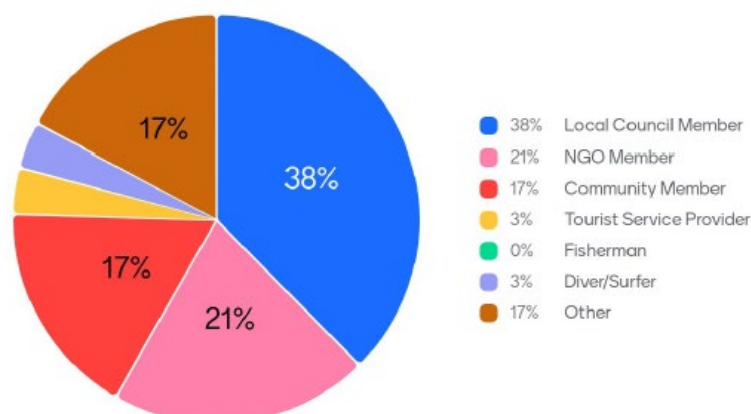


Figure 1: Professional capacity of the Participants

5.2. Summary of Feedback

Feedback from participants indicated that 95% felt adequately supported during the training in terms of access to training materials, language assistance, and other resources. However, 5% of participants reported needing additional support, specifically requesting Dhivehi translations of the slides and assistance with understanding some technical terms. To address this, future training sessions will ensure that all materials are available in Dhivehi and include additional resources or explanations for technical terms, aiming to enhance understanding and accessibility for all participants.

When assessing their confidence in applying the skills and knowledge gained from the training to MPA management, 73% of the participants expressed confidence, while 27% reported feeling very confident. Notably, none of the participants indicated a lack of confidence in applying what they had learned.

An overwhelming 91% of participants felt that the training topics were relevant and useful to their professional roles, underscoring the program's alignment with their practical needs in MPA management. Participants acknowledged that the training was very informative and emphasized the importance of initiating the implementation of the management plan as soon as possible.

Participants provided several suggestions for improving future training sessions, including extending the duration of the training, ensuring the participation of the EPA (a key stakeholder that was absent), involving more relevant stakeholders,

conducting the training outside of Malé, and allocating more time for discussions. While some suggestions, such as extending the training duration and including more stakeholders, are under consideration for future sessions, others may be limited by logistical constraints. Nevertheless, all feedback will be reviewed to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of future training programs.

5.3. Knowledge Assessment

The participants' knowledge of MPA Management and Conservation was evaluated through both a pre-assessment and post-assessment, focusing on five criteria: not at all knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, knowledgeable, very knowledgeable, and extremely knowledgeable.

Before the training, 21% of participants identified themselves as not at all knowledgeable, 48% as somewhat knowledgeable, 31% as knowledgeable, and none rated themselves as very knowledgeable or extremely knowledgeable.

Following the training, the results showed a significant improvement in knowledge. The post-assessment indicated that none of the participants were not at all knowledgeable, 5% were somewhat knowledgeable, 18% were knowledgeable, 68% were very knowledgeable, and 9% considered themselves extremely knowledgeable. By the end of the training, a majority of participants had reached a very knowledgeable or extremely knowledgeable level.

The training significantly enhanced participants' knowledge levels. Before the training, none of the participants rated themselves as "Very knowledgeable" or "Extremely knowledgeable." In contrast, the post-assessment revealed that 77% of participants now consider themselves at these advanced levels of knowledge – 68% as "Very knowledgeable" and 9% as "Extremely knowledgeable." This represents a notable increase in confidence and understanding resulting from the training. Additionally, the proportion of participants who rated themselves as "Knowledgeable" or better increased from 31% before the training to 77% after, highlighting a substantial improvement in their overall grasp of MPA management concepts.

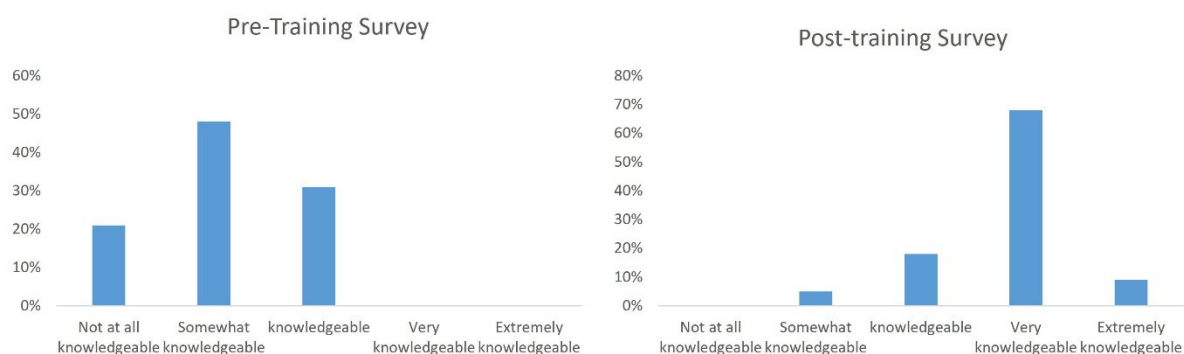


Figure 2: Participants' knowledge assessment pre and post training

6. Conclusion

The inaugural Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Planning Training, held on July 30, 2024, at Malé City, marked a pivotal advancement in marine conservation efforts in the Maldives. Organized by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy (MoCCEE) and delivered by Island Wetlands with support from the Ocean Country Partnership Programs (OCP), the training was designed to equip local councils, NGOs, and community stakeholders with the necessary skills to develop and implement effective MPA management plans.

The training focused on critical areas such as the National PCA Management Framework, legal and policy contexts, and stakeholder engagement. Participants received practical tools and guidance for creating their own MPA Management Plans, enhancing their understanding of Maldives' marine ecosystems and sustainable management practices. Collaborative exercises on mock management plans allowed participants to apply their new knowledge and identify practical strategies for overcoming challenges such as development impacts, awareness gaps, and governance issues.

Reflecting on the training, it is evident that while the objectives were largely achieved – empowering councils to draft management plans – there is room for further refinement. Future trainings could benefit from more tailored support in translating technical terms and providing materials in Dhivehi to ensure broader understanding. Additionally, incorporating more time for hands-on exercises and stakeholder discussions could enhance practical application and address specific needs more effectively. Overall, the feedback underscores the importance of continuous improvement in training delivery to better support the development and implementation of MPA management plans.

Appendix 1: Training Outline

Total Duration: 6 hours

8:30:00 AM - 09:30 AM: Registration and Welcome

- Registration of participants
 - Welcome address by MoCCEE & OCPP
 - Brief overview of the training program and objectives
 - Refreshment
-

09:30 AM - 09:45 AM: Introduction to Marine Protected Areas

- Presentation: Introduction to Marine Ecosystems
 - Introduction to ecosystems and biodiversity in the local context.
 - Importance of MPAs
 - Definition and significance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
 - Benefits of MPAs for biodiversity and local community
 - Discussion and Q&A (5 minutes)
-

09:45 AM - 10:00 AM: Legal and Policy Context

- Presentation: Legal and Policy Framework for Protected Areas in the Maldives.
 - Relevant laws and regulations
 - Roles and responsibilities of local stakeholders
-

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM: Introduction to the National MPA Management Framework

- Presentation: Overview of the National Framework for Management of Protected and Conserved Areas
 - Key components and objectives
 - Importance of effective PCA management
 - Importance for local stakeholders
 - Discussion and Q&A (5 minutes)
-

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Coffee Break

10:50 AM - 11:20 AM: Management Planning and Zoning

- Presentation: Management Planning for MPAs
 - Definition and purpose of a management plan
 - Key questions a management plan should answer
 - Steps and processes involved
 - Importance of zoning and resource management
 - Discussion and Q&A (10 minutes)
-

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Management Plan Preparation

- Presentation: The process for developing a management plan
 - Data and information collection
 - Stakeholder and community engagement activities
- Interactive session on identifying resources and establishing a planning team
 - Case study analysis on stakeholder engagement
 - Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement Strategies
- Discussion and Q&A (5 minutes)

12:00 PM - 12:20 PM: Writing a Management Plan – Part 1

- Presentation: Key elements of writing a management plan
 - Description of the Site
 - Key Values of the Site
- Breakout session: Groups will brainstorm and discuss key facts about their selected MPA

12:20 PM - 01:20 PM: Lunch Break

01:20 PM - 01:50 PM: Writing a Management Plan – Part 2

- Presentation: Key elements of writing a management plan
 - Identification of Constraints, Opportunities, and Threats
 - Governance
- Group activity on identifying key values and threats
 - Discussion on governance structures and policies

01:50 PM - 02:20 PM: Writing a Management Plan – Part 3

- Presentation: Key elements of writing a management plan
 - Setting vision and management objectives
 - Developing management strategies and action plans
- Group activity on creating SMART objectives
 - Group discussion on effective management strategies

02:20 PM - 03:00 PM: Steps for Effective Management Plan

- Presentation: Resource Need Assessment

- Identify needs in capacity building, human resources, finance, technology, equipment, and infrastructure.
 - Presentation: Market Assessment/Destination Assessment with Willingness to Pay
 - Evaluate potential markets, tourism opportunities, and assess visitor willingness to pay.
 - Overcoming common challenges
 - Discussion and Q&A (5 minutes)
-

03:00 PM - 03:20 PM: Steps for Effective Management Plan (cont)

- Presentation: Sustainable Financing
 - Discussion and Q&A (5 minutes)
-

03:20 PM - 03:30 PM: Coffee Break

03:30 PM - 04:00 PM: Developing a Mock MPA Management Plan

- Hands-on exercise in creating a management plan
 - Presentations and feedback sessions
-

4:00 PM - 04:15 PM: Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Summary of key takeaways from the training
 - Discussion on next steps and follow-up actions
 - Completion of feedback forms
 - Closing remarks by the facilitator
 - Refreshments
-

Training Delivery Methods:

The training will be delivered in person to and the following methods will be taken in to account while delivering the training.

- Interactive presentations and lectures
- Group discussions and workshops
- Case studies and real-life examples
- Practical exercises
- Evaluation and feedback sessions

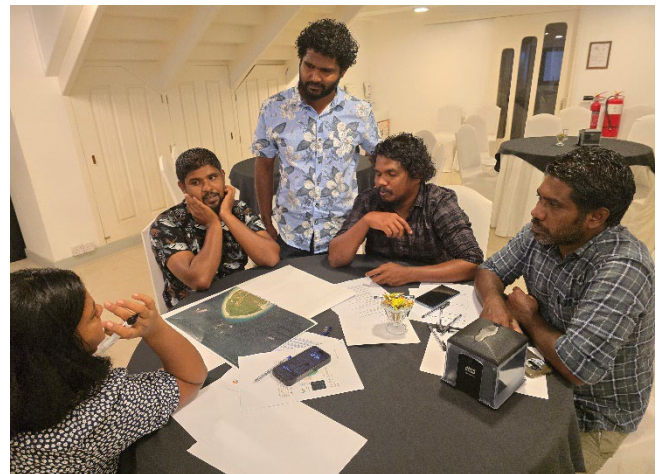
Assessment and Certification:

To ensure the effectiveness of this training program it is crucial to integrate continuous assessment within the sessions. The following methods will be considered to ensure the effectiveness of the training:

- Continuous assessment through quizzes and practical exercises
- Final evaluation based on participation and group work

Certification of completion for all participants.

Appendix 2: Pictures from the Training





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Ocean Country Partnership Programme

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) is a bilateral technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. Funding is provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).