



AN ENVIRONMENT CLUB GUIDELINE

“And it is He (God) who has made you successors (khala'ifa) upon the earth”

Al-'An`am - 165

Note: khala'ifa: Caliph/ Steward

Minister's Note

We live in an age challenged with various environmental sustainability issues. With our ever increasing footprint on the earth's natural resources, we need to build the collective capacity to address these issues. Environmental education should be taken as an opportunity to make these drastic changes. The government remains committed to develop environmental education and awareness and in this manner, empower individuals and communities to become agents of change.

Students can play an important role in this regard. As leaders of tomorrow, students must equip themselves with the knowledge and skills to take on current and future challenges. Recognising our individual responsibilities to protect and preserve the environment should be the key in this regard.

It is my sincere hope that this guideline will provide a tool for students to take on a more active role and collectively address environmental challenges facing the Maldives.

Thoriq Ibrahim
Minister



Foreword

As humans we have been raised above other creations and have been made custodians of the earth; we should build our stewardship we owe to our home, the only tiny speck in the vast known universe where the conditions allow for sustaining life.

Students must recognise their role and responsibility towards protecting the environment. They must instil within themselves love and care for the environment as they pass through the national curricular.

Even though this book undertakes to provide a basic mechanism to setup and run a School Environment Club; the teacher/facilitator should consider that this book is more of a guideline to assist in this endeavour.

It is encouraged that schools build up and enhance their activities through creative and exciting ways.

Ministry of Environment and Energy
Green Building,
Handhuvaree Hingun,
Maafannu,
Male', 20392,
Republic of Maldives.
Tel: +(960) 301 8300
Fax: +(960) 301 8301
secretariat@environment.gov.mv

environment.gov.mv

Written by:
Ismail Ajmal

Layout and Design:
Mohamed Aflah
Ismail Ajmal
Saaif Mohamed Rasheed

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School Environment Club

An Environment Club is a voluntary group comprised primarily of students, with the aim of promoting environmental awareness within the school and the larger community.

Goal of Environmental Education

“The goal of environmental education is to develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.”

Belgrade Charter-UNESCO, 1975

Objectives

Knowledge and Awareness: work towards a better understanding of environmental challenges and promote awareness regarding environmental issues

Attitude: promote the concept of environmental stewardship

Skills: acquire the skills for identifying and solving environmental problems

Evaluation: help in assessing environmental issues and monitor progress, and consistently evaluate the work of the club and align to the club's objectives

Participation: provide the opportunity for students to be actively involved in working towards resolving environmental problems

Importance of an Environment Club in Maldives

The geographic insularity and the ecological vulnerability places the Maldives at the forefront of environmental challenges facing the world today. As a low lying nation, the Maldives is threatened with sea level rise, severe erosion, and impacts from climate change.

As a small island developing state, the Maldives also faces numerous socio-economic challenges. Both the economy and the well-being of the population is highly dependent on the state of the environment.

Given these, an Environment Club provides the opportunity for students to substantively contribute towards protecting and conserving the environment.

Scope

The focus of an Environment Club should be targeted towards the intersection between the environment and society. In particular, students are advised to focus on local and nationally relevant issues.





Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Since education is the key in implementing sustainable development in any community, environment clubs can promote the concept through creative awareness campaigns. These campaigns can be amplified from school level to community or even broader.

Sustainable development: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

World Commission on Environment and Development's (the Brundtland Commission) report "Our Common Future": (1987)

"Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way."

UNESCO



Initiate an Environment Club

Selection of an advisory board

The senior management of the institute should appoint an advisory board to support and undertake the responsibility of the environment club. The advisory board members shall compose of teachers and support staff who preferably can act as facilitators and are eager to learn, teach and is passionate about the environment. The senior management shall decide the number of members of the advisory board.

Recruiting Students

The advisory board shall put up a notice to attract interested students to join the environment club. Registration can be made in the first meeting as well. It is recommended to keep the registration open at all times to allow more students to join the club.

Constitution of the Club

To have a constitution of the club is important as this would enhance leadership and creativity skills of the students and provide a better understanding of the conduct of the club. It is preferable to draft a constitution through consensus of the students while the teachers act as facilitators.

The constitution may include the following or more:

- Advisory Board**
- Name and logo**
- Aims and objectives**
- Leading facilitator**
- Administration**
- Membership**
- Contacts**
- Club meetings**

Club name and logo

Designing the logo and giving the club a name can be opened among the members of the club or the institute as a whole. The best name and logo design can be chosen through a vote among the members of the club.

Aims and objectives of the Club

This can be set through consensus between the Club and the senior management of the school.

Appointment of the Executive Committee

Students can declare or nominate their candidates and elect through voting among the club members for the club posts. This can be done either at the first meeting or more preferably after several club meetings once the students get to know each other better.

Membership

The club should obtain the necessary information of interested students and keep an up to date registry of the club members. It is preferable to keep the membership open and always welcome new members.

**Refer to Annex IV for a sample club portfolio.*

Contacts

It is important to have an updated list of the following contacts:

Emergency numbers:

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
Environmental Protection Agency
Maldives Meteorological Service
School Senior Staff



Club Meetings

The advisory board/ facilitator should decide the frequency, venue and time of the club gatherings, with respect to the institute's rule of conduct.

First Meeting

A member of the advisory board shall brief about the club and the importance of having such a club. This may include the organisation structure, types of club activities, etc. Furthermore, the students should be informed on the general club meeting timings or a mechanism on how the students would be informed about the venue and timings of the meetings.

Utilization of Social Media

In this digital age, it is important to utilise the ease of social media in making the activities of the club be heard. The elected/appointed media officer shall be assigned of managing this task. Free social sites such as Facebook and Twitter could be used to publicise up to date activities of the club. Students should use social media for the club purposes under the guidance of the lead facilitator.

Club Museum

It is a good idea to have a special room or hall to display and store the works of the environment club. Over the years, the museum can become a resourceful centre with the collection of gathered information and materials.



Implementing Environmental Projects

Environment Club should be a gateway or an eye-opener for the student to build their career and enhance environmental stewardship. Designing and implementing projects is a good way for students to develop these skills and substantively contribute towards addressing environmental challenges facing their communities. This will also allow students to develop their critical and creative thinking.

In formulating and designing environmental projects, students should recognise the importance of adhering to the scientific method. The scientific method is a helpful tool to ensure that such projects are sound, feasible and sustainable.

SAMPLE PROJECT:The facilitator or teacher can open discussion among club members on the status of waste management in their respective community. To develop critical thinking, the facilitator can ask the students on how they feel about the current procedures and ask them to find the pros and cons of the procedure. The facilitator can even ask the students to make models for a better waste management than the one being practiced. Later on, the facilitator/teacher can brief about the hazards of improper waste management and how best practice methods can minimise these [Environment ministry can provide information regarding the matter]. Furthermore, the students can initiate effective and proper waste management in their school premises by segregating the wastes and so on.

The Scientific Method

1. Purpose
2. Question
3. Observe and Research
4. Experiment
5. Collect data and analyse
6. Conclusion





Outdoor Activities

Having activities outside the boundaries of a conventional classroom can be vital as it provides students with first-hand experiences to support the lessons and theories learned inside a classroom.

General meetings can be held at the open compound of the school. Field trips should be well organised and well informed to all the relevant parties including the parents, Police, etc. As always, no activities should be carried out unless all the necessary health and safety guidelines set by the Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities are met.



Special Events for an Environment Club

Students can learn and be aware of the current environmental issues by celebrating these important annual events since these events are thematized to the most prevailing matters related to the environment. Furthermore, it can also be a platform for the students to interact with the wider community to spread environmental awareness and work together to strive for environmental sustainability.

February



WORLD WETLANDS DAY

This day marks the date of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The convention concerns the conservation and sustainable use of all wetlands.

March



WORLD FORESTRY DAY

World Forestry day provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of the importance of Forest trees and trees outside forests.

March



WORLD DAY FOR WATER

In December 1992, the UN General Assembly declared March 22 as the World Day for Water. The day is marked to increase the people's awareness on the importance of water in environment, agriculture, health and trade.

March

EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour is an annual celebration where individuals, communities, households and businesses are encouraged to turn off their non essential lights for one hour.

March



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY

The day is marked annually to commemorate the creation of the World Meteorological Organization.

April



WORLD HEALTH DAY

The day is marked to raise awareness on to a subject of major importance to global health each year. Since the environment and our wellbeing coexist symbiotically, it is an important day to reflect upon the effects on our health due to anthropogenic (originating from human activities) events as well as natural changes in the environment.

April



WORLD EARTH DAY

Marked annually to exhibit support for environmental protection.

May



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

A 2 day event to highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. It is particularly important for Maldives as the majority of birds sited in the nation are migratory birds.

May

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The day is marked on the anniversary of the adaptation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

June



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Conference on the Human Environment. The same day marks the birth of UNEP as well. The World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

June



WORLD OCEANS DAY

The Day was first introduced in 1992 to raise awareness of the role the oceans play as sources of food, oxygen and medicine.

June



WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The day has been observed since 1995 to promote awareness relating to international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

July



WORLD POPULATION DAY

The day is dedicated to raise awareness on global population issues. The day was inspired by "Five Billion Day" on July 1987, which approximately marks the date the world's population reached five billion.

September



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER

This designation was made on December 19, 1994, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

October



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) encourages every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations. The United Nations General Assembly designated October 13th as the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction as part of its proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

October



WORLD ENERGY DAY

The aim of World Energy Day is to send positive signal worldwide demonstrating the importance of choices society makes regarding energy policy, energy production, energy use, and the environment.

Annex I.

Responsibilities of the Club Posts

President

The elected President shall oversee the club's activities as a whole, while undertaking the leadership role in managing and planning the activities of the club. For a club to be successful it is important to distribute the responsibilities among fellow club members as it may be difficult for one student to handle large amounts of work in an efficient manner.

Vice-President

Vice President shall assist the President in all matters and undertakes the duty of the President, in case the President is unable to perform his or her duties. The Vice President and President must work together to ensure the objectives and goals of the club and its projects are met.

Secretary

The Secretary shall keep all club records and record meeting attendance, keep an inventory of the clubs materials and literature.

Treasurer

The Treasurer has the responsibility of safe keeping the funds of the club. He/She is responsible for recording all income and expenditure and for reporting on the financial position of the club. Since it involves money, a teacher should be attached with the treasurer to oversee the whole process.

Registrar

The registrar should keep and maintain the records and contact details of the club members. He or she should work closely with the club secretary.

Media Officer /Public relations officer

The core responsibility of the media Officer/Public relations officer is to publicise club activities through all available means of communication (the internet, billboards, printed media, radio, TV, etc.).

It is an important duty of the media officer to ensure the clubs activities are recorded.

**The facilitator should bear in mind that the posts of the club are not limited to the stated; and it is encouraged to broaden the club posts to best suit the club's activities and conduct.*

Annex II.

STUDENT'S NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENT OUTCOME DOCUMENT

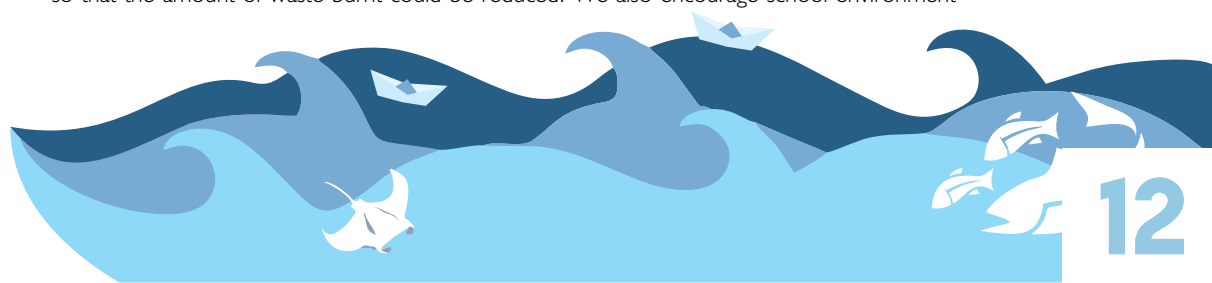
The Students' National Symposium on Environment, held at Dharubaaruge, Male', Maldives from the 20th to 21st of August 2015,

Noting that there is a need to create more awareness in the areas of coastal protection, waste management, protection and conservation of biodiversity and the use of innovation and green technology at school and island level and, the central role of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and Ministry of Education in fostering this awareness in collaboration with the school environmental clubs of Maldives,

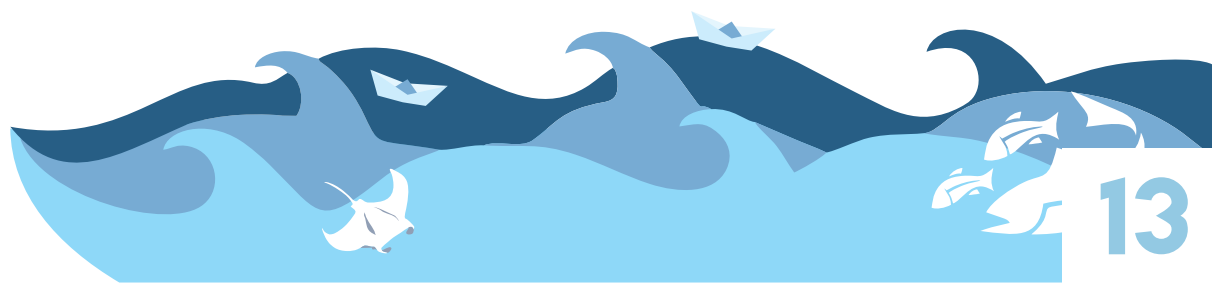
Affirmed that there is a need for various government institutions, offices and organizations to work collaboratively to resolve environmental issues, and as such, agreed to take the following actions;

Re-determining the fate of our environment

1. We renew our commitment to protect the environment and to ensure that individuals are environmentally friendly with regard to the actions they take. As we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary of independence this year, we believe that our future prosperity and happiness is dependent on the protection and preservation of our environment.
2. We recognize the role that people play in creating a more environmentally friendly country. We call on the people, the government, academia, civil society and the private sector to work together to secure the future we want for ourselves and future generations.
3. We resolve to have at meetings of environment clubs two meetings every semester.
4. We resolve to take urgent action to address the problem of soil erosion, protection of biodiversity and coastal management in individual islands. We therefore plan to create awareness about the aforementioned issues at a school and island level through leaflets, posters, billboards and photo exhibitions etc.
5. We recognize the importance of 'Re-use, Reduce and Recycle' and make a commitment to encourage the parents, students and staff of the schools to make buy and use re-usable grocery/shopping bags at our schools and encourage the students of the schools to use re-usable water bottles to reduce the amount of waste in the form of packets, bottles and cans.
6. We reaffirm the need for various government institutions, offices and organizations to work collaboratively to resolve environmental issues and call on the aforementioned bodies to work to collaboratively in addressing waste management issues.
7. We recognize the importance of a clean environment and propose cleaning the entire island including the beach area of our respective islands and devote 2 hours monthly for this as a community service.
8. We recognize that a change in the lifestyles and attitudes of the people need to be brought with regard to waste management, including through the segregation of waste at the household level, so that the amount of waste burnt could be reduced. We also encourage school environment



8. We recognize that a change in the lifestyles and attitudes of the people need to be brought with regard to waste management, including through the segregation of waste at the household level, so that the amount of waste burnt could be reduced. We also encourage school environment clubs to observe and monitor environmental changes (such as the beaches) and prepare an annual report.
9. We are committed to working towards low emissions development through initiatives such as marking a monthly 'Walk or Bike to School Day' and generally encouraging individuals to walk when going to short distances. We also recognize the importance of switching to renewable energy in achieving low emissions development.
10. We resolve to plant trees like 'Kuredhi' and 'Magoo', and other coastal vegetation near the beach to prevent soil erosion and to plant trees, [including locally endangered species] in public places to reduce the effects of urbanization on biodiversity.
11. We resolve to create a culture in schools which encourage students to refrain from littering everywhere both in and out of school premises and to dispose litter in a responsible way.
12. We resolve to create a culture in schools where lights and fans are switched off and computers are shut down when not in use/after hours. We also resolve to switch off ACs when not in use and keep the temperature at 25 degrees when in use.
13. We recognize the importance of enforcement and strengthening of laws to address environmental issues.
14. We recognize the importance of composting and encourage initiatives to assist school students to establish composting programs at the school level.
15. We request relevant authorities to include in the school's annual budgets funds to conduct environmental activities. We also request schools to conduct fund raising programs for environment club activities.
16. We welcome the efforts of the Ministry of Environment and Energy in compiling a handbook/guideline for school environment clubs.
17. We encourage all school environment clubs to prepare annual reports and share these with the Ministry of Education.



Annex III.

Environment Club Award

The award aims to recognise School Environment Clubs that has made superior or exemplary contributions to the environment through active participation and encourage their efforts to achieve environmental sustainability.

The award's vision is to inspire and foster environmental stewardship among school students and the community as a whole.

Winners would be determined based upon the criteria sheet* and the overall club portfolio.

*Criteria Sheet Download: www.environment.gov.mv

Annex IV.

Club Portfolio

Sections

1. School Profile
2. Description of your Area/Community
3. Summary of previous Environment related activities
4. Active Group Members
5. Record of Meetings
6. Future Plans

1. School Profile

Name of Environment Club:

School Name:

Atoll and Island:

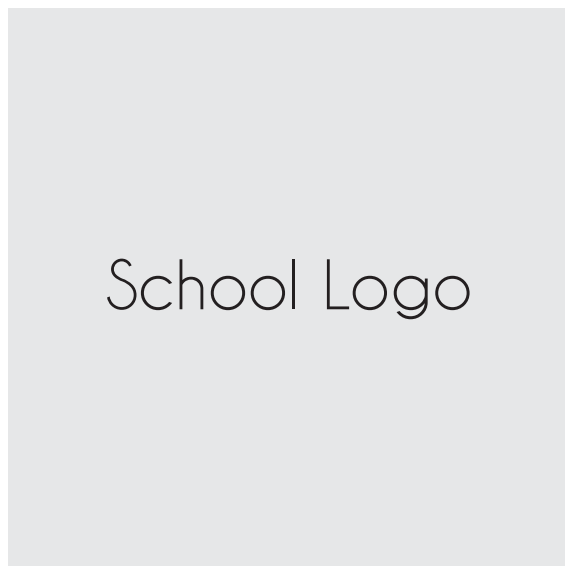
Tel: Fax:

Email:

Facebook:

Other Social Media:

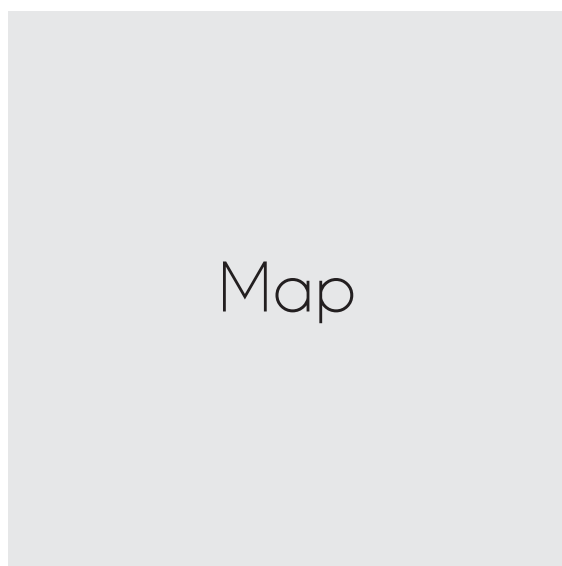
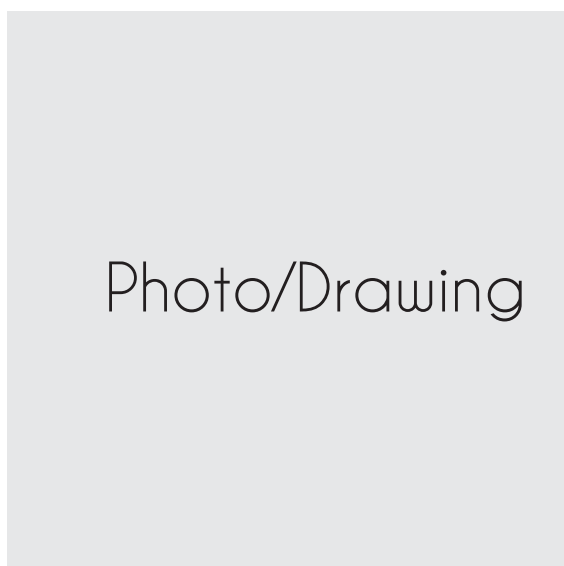
Number of Environment Club Members:



**Note: Please find editable version of the form and related materials from the Ministry's website www.environment.gov.mv*

2. Description of your Area/Community

Include a brief description of your school's location and identify the environmental issues affecting your school, students and/or community.



*Note: Please find editable version of the form and related materials from the Ministry's website www.environment.gov.mv

3. Previous Environment Related Activities

You may include the following information of the activity.

i. Place, time and Event name

ii. Objectives

iii. Who was involved

iv. Challenges faced

v. Achievements and Highlights

**You may add more fields if required.*

Photo/Drawing

Map

**Note: Please find editable version of the form and related materials from the Ministry's website
www.environment.gov.mv*

4. Active Group Members

List of all the people involved in the management of the club.

i. Executive committee of the club

ii. General members of the club

iii. Teachers of the club

iv. Community members (if any)

v. Other members (Please specify their relation to the club)

You may add a flow diagram
of the club structure

5. Record of Meetings

Below is a meeting minute template which you could use. You may modify the template to best suit the conduct of the club and meeting.

Date:	Time:
Number of Attendees:	Lead Facilitator:
Meeting type [General, Other (please specify):	
Agenda / Issues Discussed:	
Decisions:	

*Note: Please find editable version of the form and related materials from the Ministry's website www.environment.gov.mv

6. Future Plans

Planning is one of the key functions to achieve the targets of an Environment Club. Students and the facilitators can set up yearly targets of the club the club through discussion and consensus.

Stated below are some key points to consider while setting up the targets.

- i. Is it achievable?
- ii. The scale of the target.
- iii. Will the target be sustainable?
- iv. Funds to achieve the target.

Contributing Artists



AMINATH ALANIYA FATHUHY



ISMAIL ZAIN ZUHOOR



ZAYA MOOSA HASHIM



ZAKWAN THOLHATH HASSAN



AHMED ANOOF AVEEF

FATHMATH LUYOONA



MAHEEN BINTHU MAMDHOOH



MARIYAM ELYSHA SHAREEF



ANIL HUMAM HUSSAIN



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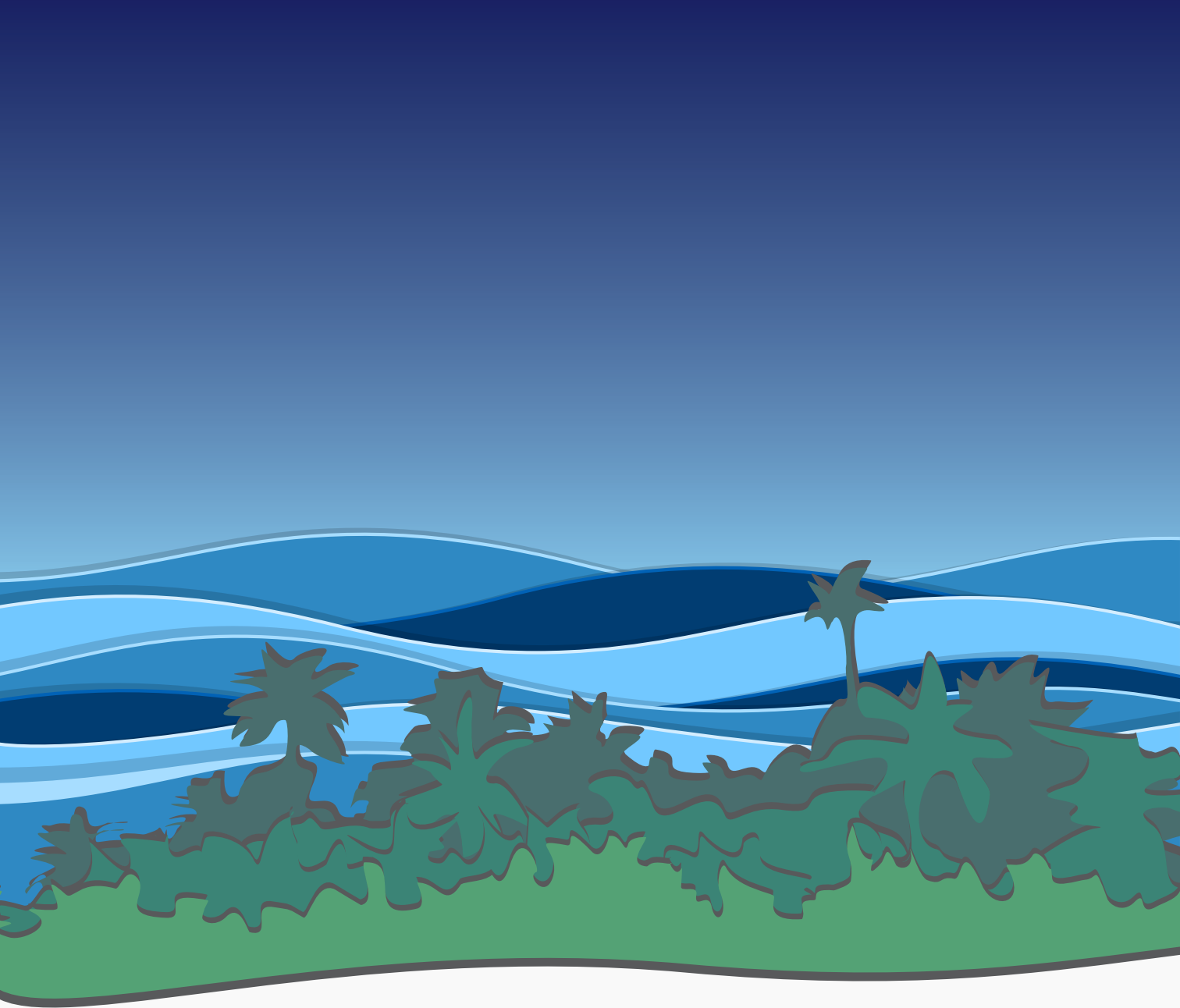
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**A GUIDELINE FOR SETTING UP AND
RUNNING A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT CLUB**

