



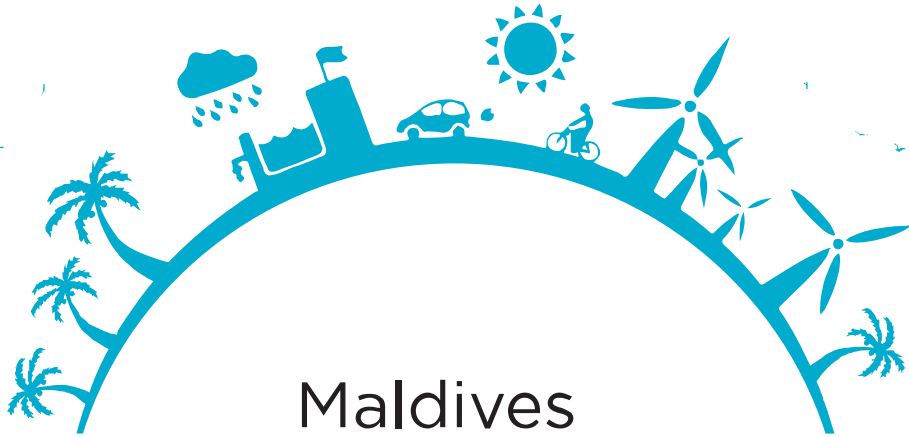
Maldives

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FRAMEWORK



Ministry of Environment and Energy

August 2015



Maldives

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FRAMEWORK



Climate Change Department
Ministry of Environment and Energy

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Green Building
Handhuvaree Hingun
Maafannu, Male', 20392
Republic of Maldives

www.environment.gov.mv

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Coordinating Lead Author

Amjad Abdulla

Contributing Authors

Ahmed Waheed
Ali Shareef
Mareer Mohamed Husny
Mohamed Asif
Zammath Khaleel

Proof read

Ahmed Yasir

Layout design

Munaz Mubarik

Photo acknowledgement

water-solutions.biz
environment.gov.mv

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FOREWORD

His Excellency President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom

As the Republic of Maldives is one of the Small Island Developing States that is most vulnerable to climate change, addressing the related issues is crucial and essential to its very existence as a nation.

The Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework is an essential policy document in helping the Maldives deal with the numerous facets of the climate change issue. Its implementation will be a major step towards adapting and mitigating the current and future effects of climate change.

This framework has been developed through extensive consultations with representatives of the general public, government institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and other parties, as well as an extensive array of stakeholders, in order to take into account as wide a variety of relevant, objective facts, knowledge and opinions as possible.

1. Sustainable financing,
2. Ensuring a low emission development for the future and creating energy security,
3. Developing adaptation actions and opportunities and building appropriate infrastructure and communities,
4. Leading role in various international negotiations,
5. Fostering sustainable development.

Swift, continual and well thought-out action needs to be undertaken to effectively and cohesively address climate change issues, both at an international level and national level. The Government sees the Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework as a unified and comprehensive instrument in working towards climate-proof and sustainable development for the Maldives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom'.

Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom





MESSAGE

His Excellency Minister of Environment and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim

Climate change consequences are clear and loud, for us as vulnerable small islanders. Scientific community have proved with high level of confidence that climate change is human triggered. They have called for more robust and bold measures for combating climate change.

The Maldivian islands are only of its kind in the world. The coral nation is also one of the islands considered to be most vulnerable to climate change. Our islands are small, extremely flat, thus is highly exposed and vulnerable to coastal hazards. In addition to rising sea level, alterations of precipitation have lead to increase in extreme drought conditions in the Maldives over the past few years. Therefore, climate change for the Maldives is not merely a problem of environment, however it is more of a socio-economic issue.

Climate change remains as one of the biggest barriers for Maldives to prosper and achieve its goals and objectives of the sustainable development. Additionally, the tiny Maldivian economy is extremely vulnerable to external or international shocks. We rely on imported products from our very basic needs to major investments.

Despite huge challenges in addressing and integrating climate change into all sectors at all scales, we have never lost our hope and faith in our battle for sustainable development. Over the past few decades, we have invested extensively on climate change adaptation and mitigation. We have invested from community development to major infrastructure development in energy, water, coastal, tourism, urban planning and health, where successful accomplishment are made with flying colours.

Even though mitigation and adaptation measures are addressed throughout the country, the need for such measures are increasing daily. Thus a strategic and holistic approach in addressing climate actions is vital in achieving sustainable development goals.

The Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework is a crucial policy paper that recognises climate change as a central player in sustainable development. The policy will remain as a key document that would guide us domestically and internationally in our efforts to combat climate change.

I thank all the stakeholders who contributed in formulating this policy framework. I am confident, that with your support, we will be able to achieve the goals and objectives of this endeavour and would cherish for our future generations.

Thoriq Ibrahim

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCSD Climate Change and Sustainable Development

EE Energy Efficiency

ESTP Environmentally Sound Technologies and Practices

GHG Greenhouse Gases

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LED Low Emission Development

MCCPF Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework

MEE Ministry of Environment and Energy

MRV Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable

NAMA Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

NAPA National Adaptation Programme on Action

NIE National Implementing Entity

NGO Non-governmental Organizations

RE Renewable Energy

SIDS Small Island Developing States

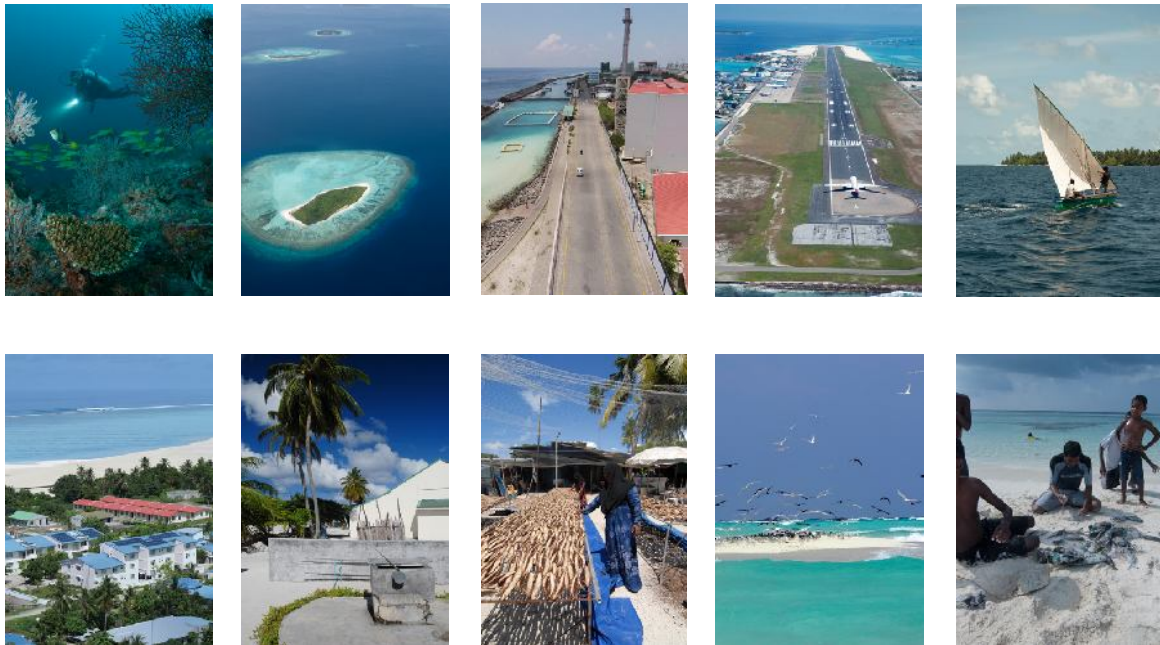
UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



Aa ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework (MCCPF) is formulated by Climate Change Department at the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) with wider consultation of stakeholder at all scales. MEE wishes to acknowledge valuable and generous support provided by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH during the process of formulating the MCCPF. MEE would like to provide sincere appreciation towards all the stakeholders consulted across several sectors during the process of MCCPF formulation.

The authors would like to thank His Excellency Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment and Energy, His Excellency Abdullahi Majeed, Minister of State for Environment and Energy and Mr. Ajwad Mustafa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Energy for their guidance during the policy formulation process.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Republic of Maldives is one of the Small Island Developing States that is most vulnerable to climate change, due especially to population density, poverty, a dispersed geography which challenges communication and transport, and an economy that is reliant on the state of the world economy.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action isolates the following sectors as being most vulnerable: extensive erosion, impacts on critical infrastructure, tourism, fisheries, human health, water resources, agriculture, and food security.

This policy document, the *Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework*, is based on a set of principles to guide related activities that take into account national laws, national development plans, strategies, action plans, policies and relevant documents.

The ownership, planning and implementation of this policy framework falls to various parties including the government and people of the Maldives as well as relevant stakeholders of relevant agencies, islands and atolls. For the success of this framework, support will be needed from regional agencies, Maldives' development partners, international agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The approach to this policy framework is guided by eight principles, namely: climate leadership, intergenerational equitability, mainstreaming climate change, relevant international commitments, multinational partnerships, transfer of technology, and climate resiliency.

The main aims of this policy framework are: fostering and guiding a national plan of action against current, short-, medium- and long-term effects of climate change, setting out strategic priorities in responses to climate change, promoting a coordinated approach among all national stakeholders, and building and strengthening current policies, plans and institutional structures and incorporating these into all related sector plans.

This strategic framework consists of two components: strategic components and building blocks. The strategic components are based on low emission development aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas concentration at a level that prevents human interference with the climate system, achieving a window of time that will enable adaptation of ecosystems to climate change and using opportunities to ensure safety for food production and sustainable economic development, and meeting international obligations and commitments. On the other hand, the building blocks consist of technology transfer, finance and capacity building considerations.

The framework is based around five policy goals which have been developed through an exhaustive consultative process with relevant stakeholders throughout different sectors and



at various levels including at island community level. The goals take into account sustainable financing, low emission development and ensuring energy security, adaptation actions or opportunities and building a climate-resilient infrastructure and communities, building local capacity and taking up an advocacy role at international level, and fostering sustainable development.

These five policy goals have been refined into the following five areas of objectives and strategies: sustainable financing, low emission development, adaptation and opportunities, capacity building and leading advocacy at climate negotiations, and fostering sustainable development.

In order to ensure that the framework is put into action and to ensure that there is a harmonised effort throughout the government in addressing climate change, an institutional framework that builds on existing structures is proposed. In addition to this, there would still need to be efforts to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of various ministries and departments of the government and other stakeholders are clarified and agreed to.

It is proposed that the framework undergoes a single mid-term review in fifth year. The framework is to be monitored and reviewed by a designated team, and the review process is to be carried out by an independent expert. Furthermore, a progress reporting mechanism is to be implemented during the fourth year in order to insure that an appropriate review is carried out.





1 INTRODUCTION

The Maldives asserts that climate change is the greatest challenge to development and security in the 21st century. Climate change threatens the integrity of Earth's climate ecosystems and the basic rights of all inhabitants, especially those in low-lying island states such as the Maldives. The adverse effects of climate change are apparent and they gravely undermine our efforts to achieve sustainable development. These adverse effects threaten our very survival and the sovereignty of our nation and people. Consequently, the Maldives needs to explore various ways of ensuring that our nation survives and our legacy remains, with our future generations.

Climate change is a cross-cutting development issue as it affects every aspect of the Maldivian way of life and livelihoods. The Maldives, as a small island state, is faced with enormous development challenges due to the dispersal of our population across many islands, issues of economies of scale and environmental challenges. Climate change impacts exacerbate existing cultural and socio-economic vulnerabilities, and these impacts threaten the security of our nation. To this end, the people of Maldives must collectively build and strengthen our nation's resilience to combat climate change. However, regional and global cooperation is imperative to put Maldives on a pathway to building a climate-resilient economy in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Maldives is of the view that the scientific underpinnings of the discussions on climate change are clear in defining impact thresholds. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like the Maldives are the ones who will be hit first and hardest by global climate change. SIDS has not only contributed the least to climate change, they are also among the least equipped to respond and adapt to climate change impacts. Additionally, these islands are at especially high risk of being inundated as sea level rise, land loss and beach erosion continues to increase and threatens food and water security. Therefore, international cooperation is essential to mitigate climate change. Any failure to reach an agreement to radically cut emissions would jeopardize our development and survivability. Recognizing this, the international community is actively engaged in minimizing the current effects and likely future adverse impacts through effective implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Climate change is a real challenge to the existence and viability of the Maldives due to its vulnerability. Maldives, being one of the countries with the smallest land areas and a low-lying vulnerable island nation, is exposed to the risk of intensifying extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding and storm surges. Maldives' contribution to global Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) emissions is negligible. While Maldives has not significantly contributed to the causes of climate change, the slow pace of international negotiations to limit global warming is therefore a cause for deep concern for the country. In spite of this, the Maldives is determined to be part of a global solution by committing to achieve a low-emission development (LED) future.



The Maldives firmly believes that we have to take appropriate actions to reduce the GHG emission and to reduce its vulnerability, and to build resilience to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Within the context of extreme vulnerability to climate change impacts and to address these impacts, the Maldives has developed this Climate Change Policy Framework (MCCPF) to provide a blueprint to build resilience in concert with our regional and global partners. In this context, the MCCPF is formulated and composed around three main guiding questions.

They are as follows.

- Why does climate change matter to the Maldives?
- What are the current and future implications of climate change to the Maldives?
- What are the current practices and future directions of climate change policy and programming?

The MCCPF prescribes strategic policies the Government to respond to climate change impacts over the next ten years (2015–2025). The Policy defines five thematic goals and strategies that the Government and the people of the Maldives have prioritized for implementation to ensure that safety and resilience are achieved.







2 THE RATIONALE

The Maldives is one of the smallest six atoll island nations globally, with a landmass of approximately 300 sq. km. Even though the land area is small, it has a relatively large exclusive economic zone, measuring approximately 895,000 sq. km, with 330,652 people located on the equator in the Indian Ocean, and it consists of roughly 1,190 islands, 188 of which are populated, 105 are tourist resorts and 1004 are uninhabited islands.

The challenges Maldives faces in the context of climate change and development are similar to other small island nations. These challenges include, but are not limited to, extremely high population density, high levels of poverty, a dispersed geography which challenges communication difficult and makes transport expensive, and a small island economy that is physically isolated from world markets but highly is susceptible to global influences. Similarly, because Maldives is a small, low lying island nation, its vulnerability to climate change impacts and associated disasters is significantly greater due to limited ecological, socio-economic and technological capacities.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), an initiative undertaken to assess and address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation needs, identifies extensive erosion, impacts on critical infrastructure, tourism, fisheries, human health, water resources, agriculture, and food security as the immediate sectors where climate change impacts are significant in the Maldives, thus making climate change in Maldives a multifaceted challenge (see below).

Since climate change is a cross-cutting development issue and affects every aspect of the Maldivian way of life and livelihoods, the Maldives has attempted to address these key vulnerable sectors to increase the resilience to climate change. As these sectors contribute to overall sustainable development, it is vital that a comprehensive climate change policy framework is developed to address the challenges.



SECTOR	VULNERABILITY
COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 80% of the total land area of the Maldives is less than 1 m above mean sea level. Approximately 44% of the settlement footprints of all islands are within 100 m of the coastline More than 50% of the housing structures in 121 islands are within 100 m of the coastline More than 67% of inhabited islands reported beach erosion in 2013 at different scales and of different severity. The adaptation measures to mitigate erosion in the islands, due to its lack of planning and poor design have lead to increased maladaptation countrywide
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The infrastructure of the four international airports are within 50 m of the coastline. More than 90% of all resort infrastructure and 99% of all tourist accommodation are within 100 m of the coastline Approximately 70% of all fisheries infrastructure is within 100 m of the coastline Utility facilities including most powerhouse and waste facilities are located within 100 m of the coastline. More than 75% of communications infrastructures are located within 100 m of the coastline
TOURISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly 45% of tourist resorts have reported varying degrees of beach erosion. Rise in temperature leads to coral bleaching, loss of beach, saltwater intrusion and loss of tropical vegetation. Maldivian tourism product is based on sea, sand and sun. Adverse impacts on climate variability will have negative consequences to the tourism industry.
FISHERIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 1997/1998 El Niño event the Indian Ocean purse seine fishery shifted to the east, unlike other years, owing to the elevated depth of the 20°C isotherm Over the last few years ocean temperature changes has lead to the transformation of the biophysical conditions of the pelagic environment, resulting in decreased tuna catch in the islands.
HUMAN HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in temperature and rainfall regimes are causing higher incidence of vector-borne diseases. There is evidence that dengue outbreaks are becoming more frequent and it appears that there is an association with El Niño Southern Oscillation events. The vulnerability to climate change-related health risks is further compounded by local characteristics such as the level of malnutrition in children, accessibility and quality of healthcare, high population congestion and low income levels Climate change-related impacts on fisheries and agriculture threaten food security in the Maldives. Such impacts will have a direct effect on the nutrition status of children and overall health of the population.
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainwater is the main source of potable water in the outer islands. After the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, there is observed increased demand of bottled water as drinking water, mainly associated with groundwater contamination and reduced precipitation. 7 out of 196 inhabited islands including Capital Male' have access to piped desalinated water.
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total cultivable land area is estimated at 27 km², including 18 km² on inhabited islands and 9 km² on uninhabited islands The agriculture sector is constrained by the limited availability of cultivable land, poor quality of soil and the abundance of cheap imports of vegetables and fruits Due to the high import dependency, the food security of Maldives is vulnerable to climate change-related impacts on the agriculture of other countries Heavy import dependency, limited food storage and ad hoc distribution also pose severe food security risk to the population. The Maldives imports almost all food items except fresh tuna and coconut. Long-term and emergency food storage is virtually absent except for warehousing in Male' and nine other islands





3 THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The MCCPF has been formulated with a set of principles to guide implementation activities based upon and consistent with national laws, national development plans, strategies, action plans, policies and relevant documents. The guiding documents selected for analyses are documents published from 2001 – 2014. The key guiding documents are as follows.

Legislation

Environment Protection and Preservation Act 4/1993 and its amendments 12/2014

Maldives Tourism Act 2/1999

The Fisheries Law of the Maldives 5/1987

General Public Service Act 4/1996

National Development Plans

Strategic Action Plan 2009-2013 (2009)

Seventh National Development Plan (2005)

Policies

National Energy Policy (2010)

National Security Policy (2012)

Maldives Foreign Policy (2014)

Strategies

National Sustainable Development Strategy (2009)

List of climate change related documents analysed as guide to the MCCPF

The ownership, planning and implementation of this policy framework will ultimately lie with the government and the people of Maldives and respective stakeholders of agencies, islands and atolls, and will need to be supported by regional agencies, Maldives' development partners, international agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Maldives will address the climate change challenge with dignity, taking the future into its own hands as far as possible. The Maldives' approach is underscored by the following eight principles:

- **Climate leadership:** Strong political commitment and demonstration of “climate leadership” at the highest levels of government, including the President, the Cabinet, the Parliament, island and atoll councillors, and non-governmental partners;
- **Intergenerational equitability:** Safeguard the country's natural assets or “exclusive economic zone, “social, economic and national security, and ensure that future



generations of Maldivians rightfully enjoy and have the opportunity to achieve national development and wealth. Equitable development between population groups through recognition of the unique nature of each of the atolls, diversity of needs and access to opportunities, services, goods and privileges. Respect for human rights, the rule of law, gender equality and sensitivity;

- **Mainstream climate change:** Focus on direct implementation (not just policies and plans); and mainstream climate change considerations into core economic and social development goals and the development and implementation of sectoral plans and programs;
- **International commitments:** Recognize and fulfil to the fullest extent possible, the Maldives' international commitments and obligations, including those under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and leverage sub-regional, regional and international opportunities and partnerships in order to achieve commitments and targets set out internationally;
- **Multilateral Partnership:** Collaborate as appropriate and feasible, with regional and international partners and organizations to pursue the climate change agenda of the Maldives through resource mobilization to implement the programmes and projects on climate change;
- **Transfer of technology:** Adopt Environmentally Sound Technologies and Practices (ESTPs) in developing a low carbon economy. Create an enabling environment for the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices that will assist in meeting national and international commitments with respect to the causes and effects of climate change;
- **Climate resiliency:** Recognize the inherent complexity of the climate change challenge, and the need for multi-focal and cross-sectoral responses, designed and implemented in a coherent and coordinated way. Recognize that the resilience of the natural environment is key to coping with climate change, thus adaptation measures that enhance, maintain, and where necessary, restore, the integrity of ecological processes are essential for reducing the vulnerability of both natural and physical systems.







4 POLICY STATEMENT AND VISION

The overarching aims of the framework are to:

- Foster and guide a national plan of action to address current, short-, medium- and long-term effects of climate change in a coordinated, holistic and participatory manner in order to ensure that, to the greatest possible extent, the quality of life of the people of Maldivians and opportunities for sustainable development are not compromised.
- Set out the strategic priorities for scaling up the commitments of the government to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- Promote a coordinated approach amongst all national stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of Maldives to reduce current and projected climate change impacts and risks such as the risk of loss of land and life, and of economic disruption and damage to the environment and property, and to alleviate poverty in vulnerable groups and islands, thus ensuring a healthy, educated, peaceful and prosperous Maldives.
- Build and strengthen existing policies, plans and institutional structures and incorporate those into every sector's development and implementation plans for addressing climate change issues. All sectors of development, the people, and government and non-governmental organizations have a role to play, as the enormity of the challenge will continue to increase if global emissions are not reduced significantly.

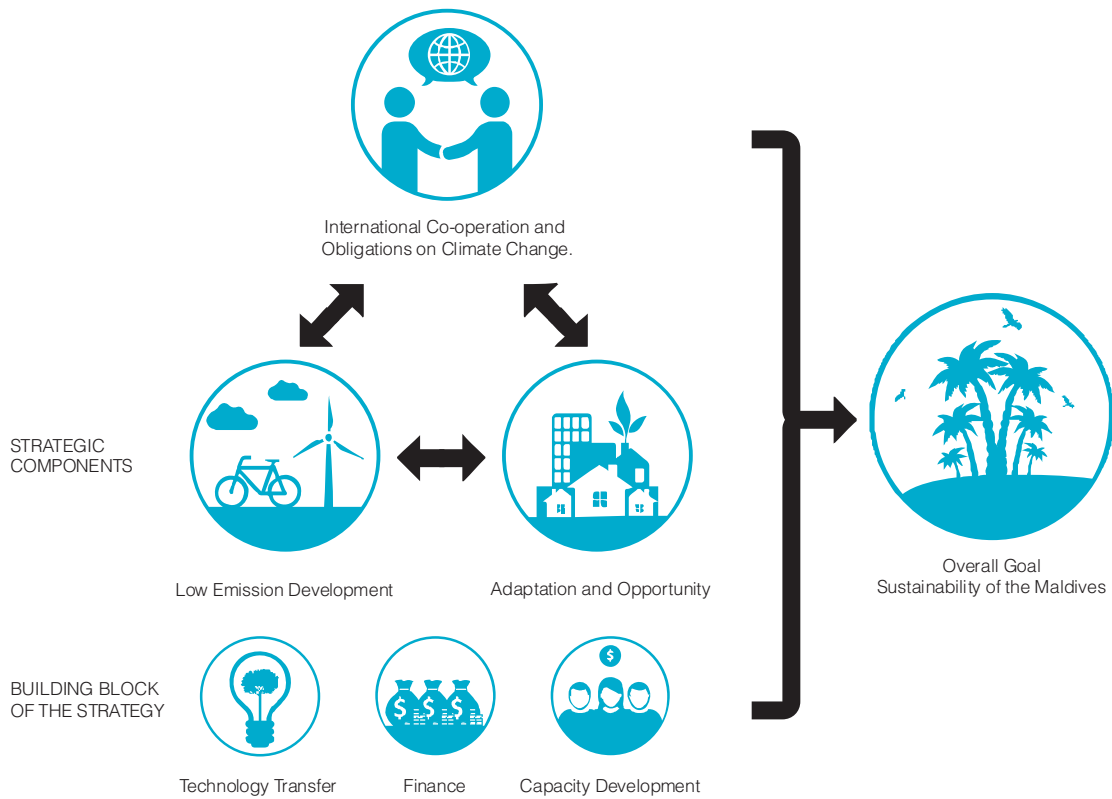


To recognize the status of Maldives as a nation suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change and to build its capacity to ensure a safe, sustainable, resilient and prosperous future



5 POLICY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The MCCPF is comprised of strategies that drive the policy, as shown below.



The strategic framework consists of two components: strategic components and building blocks.

The strategic components encompass the following.

- **Low emission development:** To help to achieve stabilization of GHGs concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- **Adaptation and opportunities:** Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient as to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.
- **Obligations and commitments:** Meeting international obligations and commitments, and cooperation at all levels are essential for achieving the MCCPF.

The building blocks consist of:

- Technology transfer;
- Finance; and
- Capacity development;

These building blocks are essential for the implementation of the MCCPF. The Maldives Government will plan mechanisms for affordable funding of the strategy, including seeking international cooperation, knowledge sharing and support.







6 POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

6.1 Policy goals

The following priority thematic goals are based on a comprehensive process of consultation including situation analysis, desk reviews, and government, civil society, private sector and atolls and islands consultations and workshops. The goals underpin sustainable development in the Maldives and the need to urgently scale up the financial resources, use of climate-friendly technology and the capacity to adapt and mitigate climate change and integrate climate change into sector and/or thematic policies, plans and budgetary processes to build low carbon development and climate-resilient development in the Maldives.

To prepare for these impacts, the MCCPF presents five strategic policy goals that provide a pathway to an integrated approach for the whole of the Maldives.

- **POLICY GOAL 1.** Ensure and integrate **sustainable financing** into climate change adaptation opportunities and low emission development measures;
- **POLICY GOAL 2.** Strengthen a **low emission development future and ensure energy security** for the Maldives;
- **POLICY GOAL 3.** Strengthen **adaptation actions and opportunities and build climate-resilient infrastructure and communities** to address current and future vulnerabilities;
- **POLICY GOAL 4.** Inculcate national, regional and international climate change **advocacy role in leading international negotiations and awareness** in cross-sectorial areas in favour of the most vulnerable and small island developing states.
- **POLICY GOAL 5.** Foster **sustainable development** while ensuring security, economic sustainability and sovereignty from the negative consequences of the changing climate.

6.2 Objectives and strategies

Recognizing the significance of climate change issues and their role in the overall goal of sustainable development necessitate prioritizing climate action. The climate change policy goals articulated above need to be strategically addressed. Objectives and strategies are identified for each of the five strategic goals above:



1. Sustainable financing
2. Low emission development
3. Adaptation and opportunities
4. Capacity building and leading advocacy at climate negotiations
5. Fostering sustainable development





6.2.1 Sustainable financing

Ensure and integrate sustainable financing in climate change adaptation opportunities and low emission development measures

OBJECTIVES

- i. To continue to advocate for and ensure the delivery of predictable and sustainable financial resources from the developed countries responsible for climate change, based on the polluter pays principle, to support the implementation of climate change measures now and in the future;
- ii. To strengthen and clarify national and local governance and coordination including partnership arrangements for climate change responses;
- iii. To streamline entry points for accessing and managing climate change funds and other resources;
- iv. To improve and enhance robust financial management procedures and procurement policy for donor-funded (or partner-supported) climate change programmes; and
- v. To strengthen national institutional arrangements and to position the nation to obtain maximum benefits from relevant international and regional instruments relating to climate change finances.

STRATEGIES

1. Include financial allocations within the national budget for climate change adaptation opportunities and LED activities.
2. Streamline climate finance through innovative financial mechanisms for funding adaptation opportunities and LED measures in the Maldives.
3. Mobilize and realize predictable and sustainable funding for climate change actions through multilateral and bilateral mechanisms.
4. Establish a mechanism to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of national climate funding modalities and project delivery, and review accordingly.
5. Develop and strengthen the leveraging of private financing to the fullest extent possible.
6. Streamline the funding mechanism to reflect the national priorities for climate financing in collaboration with development partners.
7. Establish a National Implementing Entity (NIE) for ensuring a direct access modality mechanism.
8. Create an enabling environment to provide support for public and private organizations, NGOs and communities in accessing climate finance.
9. Develop robust financial management procedures and procurement policy for climate change projects and programmes.



6.2.2 *Low emission development*

Strengthen a low emission development future and ensure energy security for Maldives.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To improve the quality of life of the Maldivian people through the provision of clean, safe, reliable, affordable, accessible, environmentally appropriate and sustainable energy services;
- ii. To create a more sustainable and stable economy independent of external shocks to economic factors such as fluctuating energy prices;
- iii. To ensure that transport and electricity systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimizing their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment;
- iv. To achieve a balanced shift towards environmentally-friendly transport modes in order to bring about a sustainable transport and mobility system;
- v. To create a healthy environment for the citizens of the Maldives while introducing a Sustainable Resource-Efficient Economy with the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycling) and achieve reduction of GHG; and
- vi. To work towards increasing community ownership of renewable energy sources in order to maximise domestic energy benefits and opportunities.

STRATEGIES

1. Create and provide opportunities for climate-friendly technologies for both private and public partnership.
2. Strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation.
3. Establish enforceable policies and standards towards achieving a low emission development and increasing energy security in the Maldives.
4. Prepare a sectoral low emission development (covering power generation, transport, agriculture and waste) plan to reduce GHG emission.
5. Develop a mechanism to monitor the target of energy source composition towards maintaining a low emission development.
6. Diversify power generation technologies through the application of Renewable and Alternative Energy.
7. Enhance and ensure the implementation of market mechanisms to curbing out GHG emissions.
8. Develop comprehensive policies and plans to reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector.
9. Strengthen the existing policies and plans on RE (Renewable Energy) and EE (Energy Efficiency) (particularly efficient water use in water desalination plants) implementation, monitoring and reporting.
10. Develop management capabilities of the energy sector institutions through appropriate training, empowerment and proper delegation of authority.



11. Increase public awareness and advocate EE measures and EE appliances (through labelling).
12. Develop a Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable (MRV) mechanism to monitor the emissions and impacts of low emission development activities in order to disseminate lessons learned and increase duplicability.
13. Increase capacity among key stakeholders (public utilities, government authorities, local private parties) for sustainable implementation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
14. Encourage new and innovative LED measures and technologies.
15. Establish an information-clearing house for LED measures, technologies and innovations.
16. Facilitate research and development, and technology transfer programs to aid the exchange of innovative ideas.



6.2.3 *Adaptation and opportunities*

Strengthen adaptation actions and build climate resilient infrastructure and communities to address current and future vulnerabilities.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To develop effective adaptation and risk reduction responses and capacity in all climate change priority areas;
- ii. To promote and implement adaptation programmes that support and improve communities' livelihoods to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience;
- iii. To make the inhabited islands and people of the Maldives resilient against the threats posed by global climate change; and
- iv. To protect critical infrastructure such as international airports, inhabited islands and tourist resorts from sea-related hazards and predicted climate change impacts.

STRATEGIES

1. Streamline and integrate climate change adaptation and create opportunities for climate-proof development.
2. Prepare adaptation vulnerability assessments for key vulnerable sectors identified in NAPAs and the subsequent plans and strategies.
3. Incorporate climate change scenarios and projections into the urban and rural planning sector.
4. Review and improve the national building code to ensure consideration of climate change impact projections and appropriate climate change resilience measures.
5. Develop mechanisms for the adoption of sustainable adaptation technologies that are locally and traditionally appropriate.
6. Prepare the detailed island risk assessments plans, tools and guides for selected islands in the Maldives.
7. Analyse and evaluate poverty, health and food security issues to determine vulnerability



to climate change, and consider these vulnerabilities in future policies and initiatives for the Maldives.

8. Review and improve the policies, plans and strategies of all key vulnerable sectors to create opportunities for climate change adaptation.
9. Develop a mechanism to sustain the supply and management of fresh water availability for communities to adapt to a changing climate and prolonged dry spells.
10. Enhance and expand water resource storage capacity in island communities.
11. Foster the use of local and traditional knowledge in climate adaptation.
12. Educate and empowering local governments to incorporate adaptation into their planning (island planning and financial planning).
13. Encouraging academia to research and understand vulnerabilities and adaptation measures.



6.2.4 *Capacity building and leading advocacy at climate negotiations*

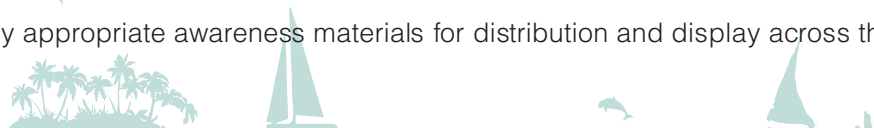
Inculcate climate change advocacy and awareness cross-sectorally nationwide and in the international arena.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To strengthen human, technical, regulatory and institutional capacity for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures;
- ii. To apply a strategic approach to integrating climate change awareness into education and training;
- iii. To mobilize public interest and engagement on the subject of climate change including youth, who make up a high percentage of the Maldivian population;
- iv. To improve the understanding and use of climate change information, including for decision-makers in policy and planning;
- v. To ensure that the Maldives maintains an active role in regional and internal arenas on climate advocacy;
 - i. To promote the Maldives as a leader amongst SIDS with a coordinated and cohesive national policy;
 - ii. To ensure that the Maldives is well-represented at international climate/ sustainable development negotiations towards achieving maximum benefit for the country; and
 - iii. To promote a coordinated and cohesive national policy at the international level.

STRATEGIES

1. Provide technical and scientific guidance to policy-makers through appropriate means.
2. Use available communication tools to spread awareness and advocate for climate change adaptation and opportunities, and LED measures.
3. Establish an effective communication and networking mechanism on climate change issues among various stakeholders.
4. Develop locally appropriate awareness materials for distribution and display across the **29** nation.



5. Include and update climate change elements within the secondary school curriculum as well as in tertiary and vocational education courses.
6. Encourage student research around the issue of local climate change and its significance to Maldivian communities.
7. Strengthen capacity building for atoll, island and city councillors to promote awareness of climate change issues.
8. Develop appropriate training tools on climate change awareness for government officers involved in awareness and training programmes in all relevant government institutions.
9. Strengthen the institutional mechanisms of the government that represents the Maldives in the international arena such as Maldives Chief Negotiator on Climate Change.
10. Strengthen the institutional national coordination mechanism within the government that deals with international diplomacy on climate change.
11. Enhance the participation of the Maldives in various international climate negotiations/ relevant conferences.
12. Represent as much as possible within its capacity, chairmanship/ coordinators' roles/ lead roles from the Maldives at various international climate negotiations including but not limited to UNFCCC, Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda framework.
13. Endeavour to host (both in the Maldives and by relevant Maldives Missions abroad) frequent seminars/ workshops/ interactive dialogues designed to promote Maldives' advocacy on climate change for climate vulnerable/ frontline states.



6.2.5 *Fostering sustainability*

Foster sustainable development while ensuring security, and economic, social and environmental sustainability and sovereignty, from the negative consequences of changing climate.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To ensure that the people, identity, culture and livelihood of the Maldivians are secured as a sovereign country in terms of the adverse impacts of climate change;
- ii. To diversify economic activities through the promotion of climate investments;
- iii. To safeguard the critical life support functions provided by ecosystems in all their diversity, respect the limits and thresholds of the natural resource base for renewal, and ensure the highest level of protection and improvement of the aesthetic and ambient quality of the environment;
- iv. To promote a harmonized, cohesive, caring and just society which respects human rights and diversity that creates equal opportunities, and combats discrimination in all forms;
- v. To promote a knowledge-rich, innovative, healthy and fit society that enjoys high living standards and high-quality employment, and is resilient to withstand shocks and stresses;
- vi. To encourage the establishment and defend the stability of established institutions in the country, based on justice, fairness and openness;



- vii. To ensure that the values of the society are consistent with sustainable development and other international commitments; and
- viii. To invest time and resources constructing facilities and infrastructure that can, in turn, be used to enhance future income and the capacity for future well-being and to continuously upgrade and renew critical infrastructure, information and communication facilities.

STRATEGIES

1. Strengthen the integration of sustainable development (economic, social and political development and ecological integrity).
2. Ensure sustainable use and preservation of natural resources for future generations.
3. Ensure equitable development between population groups through the recognition of the unique nature of each of the atolls, diversity of needs and access to opportunities, services, goods and privileges.
4. Develop a mechanism to ensure that climate change considerations are integrated into all sectors of economic and social development, and ensure that the citizens of the Maldives respect, and preserve the values, culture and traditions of the Maldives.
5. Consider the National Climate Change Policy in legislative review processes and develop cooperative and coordinated agreements between sectors to ensure respect for human rights, the rule of law, gender equality and sensitivity.
6. Ensure the protection of national sovereignty, basic human rights, the rule of law and equity among the citizens from the impacts of climate change and its response measures through legislative means.
7. Ensure national ownership through the broad participation of stakeholders in the decision making/ planning process for climate change issues.
8. Build on and strengthen the existing strategies and processes to enable convergence and coherence.
9. Establish mechanisms to reduce economic risks to investments from unavoidable future climate impacts.
10. Take the lead in climate change and sustainable development issues within regional communities.
11. Integrate economic, social and environmental objectives through mutually supportive policies and practices and the management of trade-offs.
12. Integrate population policy and population and development consolidation strategies in order to address climate change and sustainable use of resources and equitable services
13. Establish climate spatial data mechanisms to make well-informed decisions and climate sensitive reporting.







7 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Realising the overall vision of the Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework (MCCPF), requires a holistic institutional arrangement. The impacts associated with climate change in the Maldives are felt across all spectrums of economy and development. Thus different agencies within the government undertook ad-hoc measures to address climate change. These efforts initially kicked off with good intention have led to establishment of mistrust and conflicts. Furthermore, opportunities associated in the field of climate change are lost in this mistrust. Thus there is need for an institutional arrangement to mainstream climate change and sustainable development across sectors more holistically.

Most of the work to be done to achieve ambitious targets of low emissions development, and to continue to develop sustainably despite climate change cannot be completed in a fragmented or isolated manner. These activities need to be carried out by a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary institution, which can carry the activities forward in harmony and convey the lessons learned back and forth to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat to facilitate it in assisting us with our goals and to achieve the ultimate objectives of the Convention. Opportunities to increase the mix of renewable energy are given under the technology transfer, capacity building, financial and market mechanisms under the Convention.

To bring about sustainable development as stipulated in the UNFCCC at a desirable tempo and achieve mitigation target, energy investments in both Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) must be managed and guided through climate change provisions. This must be done in harmony with other adaptation opportunities and LED activities to achieve true climate resilience.

Thus, based on the existing institutional gap within the overarching setup and scope of the MCCPF, it is essential to establish a more holistic and robust institutional arrangement as climate change is an inevitable and urgent challenge, which will not only have negative implications, but retard the sustainable development of the country. No sustainable development agenda can be accomplished without encompassing climate change activities. Synergies and linkages between climate change and sustainable development need to be fully attended to achieve the future we want. Hence the institutional arrangement should include integration and mainstreaming of climate change into sustainable development arena. This will positively reflect the strategic development agenda in building resilient communities, achieving low-carbon development and overall sustainability. Furthermore, this will ensure a holistic national approach in fulfilling the obligations contracted under various international instruments.







8 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

A strong institutional and legal framework on climate change will be essential to the successful implementation of the MCCPF: the main responsibilities will come under the institution assigned by the Government of Maldives to undertake the climate change portfolio. However, climate change is a cross-cutting issue affecting many ministries and functions (e.g. service providers). It is therefore essential that mechanisms be put in place to ensure that climate change is taken into account in all the various development policies in the Maldives.

Strengthening institutions will involve ensuring that roles and responsibilities are clarified and agreed between ministries and other stakeholders, including at national, atoll and island levels. At a senior level, a working or advisory committee (if necessary) will be formed to decide high-level policy directions on climate change and sustainable development. The most relevant ministries will represent this committee. At a day-to-day working level, task forces will be formed as needed to address different issues through the joint planning and implementation of actions.

The Government will adopt and execute relevant legislation to support the implementation of the MCCPF. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms need to be developed and in place for proper implementation of the legislation and regulations.

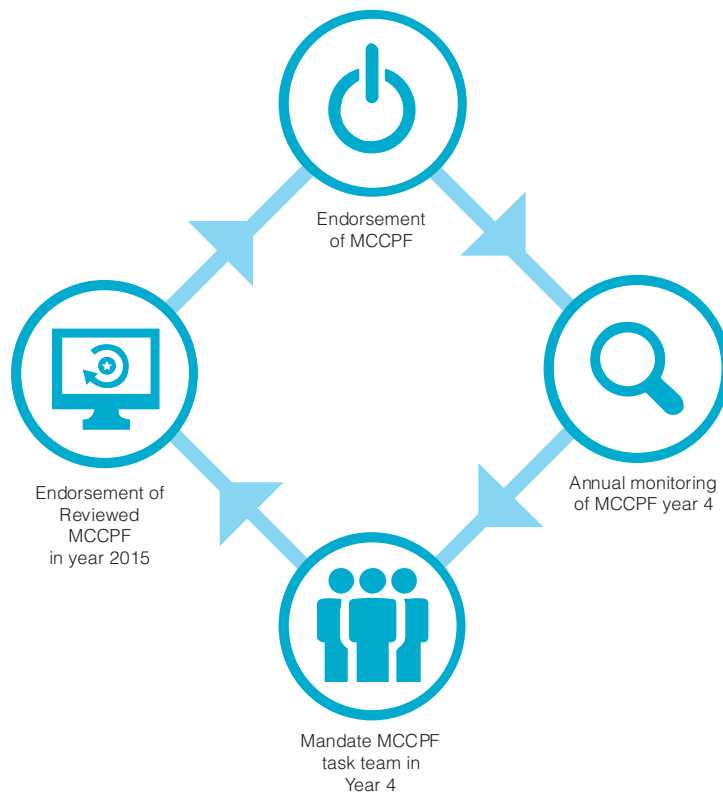
The Climate Change and Sustainable Development Office will be the primary institution responsible for implementing the MCCPF. Climate change and sustainable development will facilitate the preparation of sectoral adaptation and opportunities in addition to low emission development action plans. These action plans will map out expected outcomes, outputs and means of achieving the outputs. Additionally, indicators should be identified such that they are Specific, Measurable, Achieving, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART). This aids in effective monitoring and reviewing of policies and sectoral action plans.





8.1 Reviewing MCCPF

The MCCPF will undergo a single mid-term review (Year 5 upon approval of the policy). The MCCPF should be monitored and reviewed by a designated task team, chaired by the CCSD. The key stakeholders will provide the mandate for this task in the fourth year. The following figure summarizes the review process of the MCCPF. The review process will be carried out by an independent expert.



8.2 Reporting mechanism of the MCCPF

In order to prepare an appropriate and well-informed review of the MCCPF in its fifth year of implementation, a progress reporting mechanism will be implemented during the fourth year.



Documents referred

Action Plans

National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007)

Third National Environment Action Plan (2009)

Fourth Tourism Master Plan (2013)

Agriculture Master Plan (2006)

Other relevant documents

First National Communication to UNFCCC (2001)

Technology Needs Assessment for Energy and Transport Sector (2006)

Detailed Island Risk Assessment Management (2008)

Carbon Audit of the Maldives (2009)

Climate Risk Profile of the Maldives (2006)

Survey of Climate Change Adaptation Measures in the Maldives (2011)

National Economic and Environmental Developmental Studies (2010)

Coastal Protection Guidelines (2011)

National Climate Change Research Strategy (2011)

Scaling up of Renewable Energy Program (2012)



