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LEVEL SEGMENT OF UN
CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE IN DOHA**

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TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
NOT TO GIVE A BLIND EYE TO
THE INHERENT LINK BETWEEN
OZONE PROTECTION AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**RAPID FLOODING
ASSESSMENT COMPLETED
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**NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER
CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH
THE MALDIVES GREEN FUND
HELD**

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05 December 2012

The Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Maryam Shakeela has participated in the High Level Segment of the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha. The meeting was opened by the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his opening address, noted the importance of developing a road map to utilize the pledged 100 billion US dollars from 2012 until 2020. He further called for the speedy implementation of the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Technology Centre.

The meeting opened with a video depicting the vulnerability of the Maldives, Madagascar and Qatar to climate change. The video highlighted the vulnerability of the Maldivian environment and coral reefs to the impacts of climate change.

Minister Dr. Shakeela also delivered an address at the Climate Vulnerable Forum. In her address, Dr. Shakeela called for member states to take a unified stance and to call for additional assistance from developed states to address the impacts of climate change. The meeting was attended by Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN Hon. Ahmed Sareer and senior officials from the Ministry.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DR. SHAKEELA CALLS PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL NOT TO GIVE A BLIND EYE TO THE INHERENT LINK BETWEEN OZONE PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE



16 November 2012

Speaking at the high level segment of the 24th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol Environment Minister Dr. Shakeela urged Parties not to give a blind eye to the inherent link between the ozone layer protection and climate change. She said “I urge those who are blind to the inherent link between ozone protection and climate change, not to turn the Montreal Protocol, to a vehicle that promotes HFCs on the premise that other UN Conventions will take care of the problem we have created here. That would be the height of irresponsibility” Minister said.

Expressing concern on the increase in the use of HFCs, which is a highly potent global warming gas according to scientists, as a replacement for HCFCs, Minister questioned, “Please tell me ladies and gentleman, is our ultimate goal not environmental protection and global safety? If so, what is the bright idea of stopping ozone layer depletion in the name of saving the earth when that very same act is contributing to the degradation of the global climate systems and ultimately destroy the earth that we are trying to save?”, and she further went on to say that, “We as responsible people should not let our actions lead to the degradation of the global climate systems”.

Addressing on the issue of some countries reluctance to address the climate change impacts of ozone friendly gases being promoted under the Protocol as a replacement to ODSs, Minister said that it was revoltingly shocking to hear some countries say, that this

was not the right forum to address this issue. Minister said, “for countries like Maldives, who are on the front line of climate change impacts, every forum is a right forum. We have no choice. No time to spare. So please do not say that this is not the right forum to address what impacts global warming when actions that are promoted in this very forum has negative impacts on climate change affecting lives and livelihood. It is morally wrong not to acknowledge it and address it”.

Minister urged all Parties to the Montreal Protocol to work together to find a solution to this looming problem and called Parties to take rapid steps that would facilitate the provision of information and cost effective and climate friendly alternatives to HCFCs.

In her statement Minister also underscored some of the significant achievements the Maldives made under the Protocol. In this regard Minister highlighted that the Maldives was the first country in the world to successfully phase out CFCs, two years ahead of the Montreal Protocol target and have now committed to become the first country in the world to phase out HCFCs by 2020, ten years ahead of the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule. Minister also announced the intent of the Maldivian government to start banning of the import of HCFC based equipment beginning June 5th, 2014 into the Maldives.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, is dedicated to the protection of the earth's ozone layer. With 197 parties, it is the most widely ratified treaty in United Nations history, and have, to date, enabled reductions of over 97% of all global consumption of controlled ozone depleting substances. The Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP) takes place once a year around November. This is where decisions are normally discussed and approved by the Parties. The meeting of the Parties was preceded by the preparatory segment which took place from 12-14 November 2012 in Geneva. A seminar was also held on Sunday 11 November, in honour of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. Maldives became a Party to the Montreal Protocol in 1989.

RAPID FLOODING ASSESSMENT COMPLETED FOR SELECTED ISLANDS

13 December 2012

Under the project “Integrating Climate Change Risks into Resilient Island Planning Project”, Ministry

of Environment and Energy held a stakeholder workshop today to present and discuss the findings of the rapid assessment undertaken in selected islands prone to flooding. Representatives from Ha. Hoarafushi Island Council, Hdh. Kulhudhuffushi Island Council, Gdh. Thinadhoo Island Council and Gn. Fuah Mulah Atoll Council participated along with all relevant stakeholders participated in the Meeting. The purpose of the workshop was present the preliminary findings and recommendations of drainage options that are cost effective.

The purpose of this activity is to design climate resilient drainage systems for selected islands under Integrating Climate Change Risks into Resilient Island Planning Project. A Pilot project activity will be started in the islands when the designs are finalized.

This activity is being carried out through a project funded by the Global Environment Facility, UNDP and the Government of Maldives.

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH THE MALDIVES GREEN FUND HELD

11 December 2012

A national stakeholder conference to establish the Maldives Green Fund was held today at Dharubaaruge Hakuraa Hall.

The conference was opened by the Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Maryam Shakeela. In her opening remarks, Minister Dr. Shakeela highlighted the need mobilize resources to address environmental challenges in the Maldives, and remarked that as the estimated costs for providing these services is extremely highly, it was necessary to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to achieve these aims. Mr. Abdullahi Majeed, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy welcomed the participants of the conference. Mr. Juerg Klarer, the national consultant also addressed the conference.

The Maldives Green Fund will facilitate, co-finance and enable investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, water and sewerage, and biodiversity & nature protection. By providing grants, interest subsidies and soft loans for investments in these areas, it will catalyze the implementation of relevant environmental and energy policy and significantly

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contribute to the Government's goal to increase electricity production from renewable sources and to have the entire country declared as UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The Maldives Green Fund will provide opportunity to obtain support to a wide range of project proponents including government, individuals, NGOs, community organizations, businesses, public organizations, etc. The Maldives Green Fund will be able to provide support to projects in the entire territory of the Republic of Maldives.

The plan is to launch the Maldives Green Fund yet in 2012 and to have the first call for tenders for project support in mid-2013.

MINISTRY SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WITH MWSC TO UPGRADE THE EXISTING RO PLANT AND STORAGE TANKS IN GDH. THINADHOO ISLAND

25 December 2012

Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) and Male' Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC) has today signed an agreement for upgrade of the existing RO plant and storage tanks in Gdh. Thinadhoo Island. At this ceremony held today at the Ministry, Minister of State for Environment and Energy signed the contract agreement on behalf of the Government and Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Didi, Managing Director signed the agreement on behalf of MWSC.

The project self financed by MWSC is expected to cost 5 Million Maldivian Rufiyaa and will be completed within 254 days. The project includes supply and installation of reverse osmosis plant 150 cubic meters per day capacity, bolted fabricated steel tank 1000 cubic meter capacity and flushing of bore hole at Gdh. Thinadhoo.

CHINA PLEDGES TO INCREASE CLIMATE CHANGE ASSISTANCE TO MALDIVES

05 December 2012

Minister Dr. Shakeela has met with the Chinese Chairman of National Development and Reform

and Minister in Charge for Climate Change Mr. Xi at the margins of the Climate Change Conference in Doha. In this meeting, the Minister shared with Chinese government, the Maldivian national concerns and policies with regard to climate change.

Minister Dr. SHakeela emphasized the recent damage caused by flooding in the Maldives, and the current national situation with regard to water and sanitation. In this meeting, the Chinese government pledged to extend their assistance to adaptation projects in the Maldives.

CONSENSUS REACHED WITH TATVA GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY (MALDIVES) PVT LTD FOR MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE GENERATED IN MALE' CITY



27 November 2012

The Public Private Partnership agreement with Tatva Global Renewable Energy (Maldives) Pvt. Ltd for solid waste management generated in Male' city is expected to commence soon.

Despite the initial agreement between Tatva and Male' City Council being signed on 10 May 2011, the agreement has to date not become effective due to reservations from the Government of Maldives on fulfilling the Conditions of Precedence stipulated in the original agreement. This includes the issuance of a sovereign guarantee from the government of Maldives, providing land from Thilafushi free of charge, and issues relating to tipping fee for daily guaranteed tonnage, amongst many other issues.

As it is in the interest of both the Government of Maldives and Tatva to continue with the agreement, after

several meetings between the concerned parties, a consensus has now been reached in how to move forward with the issue. All parties involved are now optimistic that implementation of the project will commence a near future.

FIRST NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE ON DECLARING MALDIVES A BIOSPHERE RESERVE NOW UNDERWAY IN BANDOS ISLAND RESORT



08 November 2012

First National Stakeholder Conference on Declaring Maldives a Biosphere Reserve was held in Bandos Island Resort on 8 November 2012.

The gathering was honored by the President of Republic of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed. The conference was attended by Vice President Mr. Mohamed Waheed Deen, Minister of Environment and Energy Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, cabinet Ministers, foreign dignitaries and dignitaries of the government, top level executives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and other distinguished guests.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the signing of Partnership Agreements for the resorts, dive schools, safaris and Live-Aboard Association with the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund. By signing these Agreements, the partners committed to support the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve both financially and programmatically, including through an annual management contribution.



This conference was the first stakeholder consultation building on the pledge of the President of Maldives, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Waheed in his speech on the Rio +20 summit on making the Maldives, the world's first nation as a whole Biosphere Reserve by the end of 2017.

The conference specifically aimed at developing a roadmap for realizing this pledge through effective governance and sustainable financing mechanisms while addressing the issues and challenges of such a programme.



ISLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHOPS IN NOONU ATOLL

Ministry of Environment and Energy, through the Maldives Environmental Management Project, has been continuing island waste management planning in the North Region. The most recent trip was made from 11th to 15th December to 10 islands in Noonu atoll, with workshops conducted in parallel every day. This is part of the series of workshops being held for all inhabited islands in the four atolls of the North Region.

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Two different meetings were held in most of the islands, with the first meeting bringing together representatives from the island council, voluntary organizations, health sector, education sector, and those involved in waste management on the island as well the general public. During the first meeting topics such as the importance of island waste management planning and the parts of an island waste management plan, as well as information on the activities being carried out by MEMP were outlined and discussed. During these meetings the main parts of the first draft of the plan was drawn up through guided discussion among all the participants.



A second meeting was held in most islands, and aimed to disseminate the draft plan and the purpose of the plan to a wider public audience. All the communities in each of these islands were invited to participate.

The community meetings enabled those who are interested in waste management and community development to give their input on the draft plans, and helped to identify ways in which the plans could be improved. The draft plans will be further discussed by the councils among themselves and with the public before being endorsed by the councils.

The Solid Waste Management component under MEMP caters to the North Region, comprised of N, R, B and Lh atolls. The project primarily targets all 46 inhabited islands within the region and the 15 existing resorts.

The eastern part of R. Vandhoo is being developed as the RWMF, based on the best practicable environmental option identified through discussions with the communities.

R. Vandhoo was selected as the optimal location through a series of community consultations and discussions with

island authorities of the region carried out through November 2009 to March 2010. On 31st August 2010, the Cabinet decided to allocate 15 hectares of Vandhoo for the project, Gazetted on 9th September 2010. The site allocation process was completed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture officially on 25th July 2012.



MEMP became effective in September 2008 and commenced in January 2009 with preparatory studies for the RWMF designs developed by 2011.

These included a Social Assessment of the region (2009), development of a user fees framework for island waste management activities (2010), determination of location and technology to be utilized (2010), followed by clearance from the World Bank in sequence. The feasibility study and concept designs were completed in 2011 and detailed designs of Vandhoo were completed by mid 2012. The EIA process also commenced in 2012 and is now being completed.

US\$6.5million is allocated for waste management under the Project, including studies, provision of waste transport vessels, civil works, machinery, equipment and the incinerator.

The project takes an integrated approach to waste management focusing on island level activities and best

practices supported by a regional system. Studies and community discussions show that 30% of the waste generated can be managed on the islands themselves. The remaining 70% will be carried to R. Vandhoo through a Project-developed transport system, where the residue will be land-filled after incineration in an industrial scale incinerator of 40 tonnes per day capacity.



Island level activities such as development of environmental management plans, island waste management planning, building awareness, community mobilization, provision of waste management infrastructure and equipment have also been ongoing in parallel to the establishment of the RWMF in Vandhoo. The RWMF is expected to be in full operation by the end of 2013.



UKULHAS COUNCIL PRESENTS LOCALLY PRODUCED COMPOST TO THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

25 December 2012

The Island Council of AA.Ukulhas has presented the

Minister of Environment and Energy Dr Mariyam Shakeela with a sample of the compost that is now being produced by the Council locally.

This effort was initiated on 20 June by the Co-Task Team Leader (World Bank) Dr Sumith Pilapitiya, who takes a keen interest in waste management, as part of the activities of the Maldives Climate Change Trust Fund. The composting was begun on Ukulhas with the assistance of the Ukulhas Council, which has taken a keen interest in managing waste on their island, and which has hired 5 expatriate staff in addition to having a well-managed island waste management centre equipped with a pickup truck.



Dr Sumith conducted an intensive training session for the staff of the island waste management centre as well as for the council members who closely supervise and even participate in the waste management efforts. This included hands-on training in how to put together piles of leaf-based waste as well as the organic (food) waste into an aerated pile, which is turned once a week for about 8 weeks until the compost is ready.

The composting process carried out at the island waste management centre contributes towards the management of organic waste that is produced on the island, and helps the environment by enabling the use of the waste in an efficient manner.

This is locally the first significant effort at composting for waste management, and this method of composting, it is believed, will enable islands to ensure that food waste is managed appropriately and also enable the generation of a commercial end product that would be useful in gardening as well as farming. The activities in Ukulhas will be replicated in the North Region under the MEMP project.

SPOTLIGHT

IF WE'RE GOING TO PAVE PARADISE, LET'S PUT UP A GREEN PARKING LOT



Can you imagine if our roads and parking lots were painted yellow or maybe a light blue? It would challenge our concept of a typical blacktop, but according to research, "cool pavement" seems like the way of the future. Pavements from streets and exposed parking lots make up a large percentage of surface area in our growing communities. And it is easy to feel the heat that is absorbed in those dark pavements. As pavement surface heats up, local air is also heated and aggravates urban heat islands—urban areas that become warmer than their surrounding areas. To address this issue, the Heat Island Group of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has been experimenting with "cool pavement" technologies. Similar to the way lighter-colored roofs have a cooling effect by reflecting the sun's energy, cool pavements also have the same ability. Cool pavements can be made from traditional pavement materials that are lighter in color and therefore have a higher solar reflectance, or can consist of cool-colored coatings for asphalt surfaces. Because sealcoats are commonly used as asphalt pavement structures degrade over time, when roads do need to be repaved or patched up, cities may want to opt for these new technologies. The benefits of cool pavements will not only help local ambient air, but can also impact global warming and energy loads. Dark roofs and dark pavements both contribute to warming temperatures as they absorb large amounts of solar energy and then radiate that energy back into the atmosphere in the form of heat.

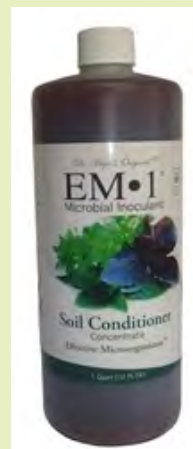


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