

Regional workshop for South, East and Southeast Asia on updating NBSAPs

Goal B :National experiences and lessons

Maldives

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Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5

By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

- Maldives has very little forest.
- A Forest regulation is being drafted
- We have a regulation on uprooting and transporting trees from one place to another.
- Earlier no land use plans, which led to almost complete vegetation loss in some islands.
- Today, some islands have land use plans, but still unsustainable practices are very common.



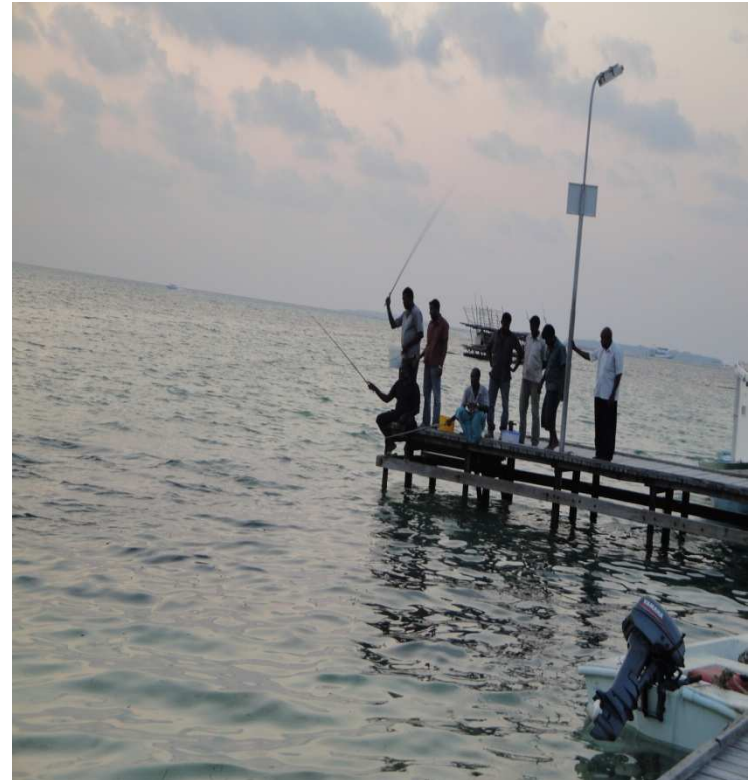
Target 6

By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

- Maldives has no specific guideline on aquatic plants,
- Guidelines and regulations were made for some marine species.
- Maldivians used to practice most environment friendly method in tuna fishery (pole and line)

Target 6 (cont'd)

- Fish catch decreased 40% from 2006 to 2009.
- In the past over-exploitation was seen in species of turtle, sea cucumber and groupers.
- Now there are guidelines for each of these types of fishery.
- Shark fishery has been banned since 2010.
- sustainable modern methods of fisheries promoted by the government.



Target 7

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

- Agriculture is a growing industry in Maldives.
- No regulation to date. But a regulation is being drafted.
- Unsustainable methods are still practiced resulting in land degradation, contamination of ground water and increase in persistent pests.
- Agriculture sector has a positive list for pesticide import.
- Agriculture is a growing industry in Maldives.



Target 8

By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

- Contamination of ground water is in an ever increase due to:
 - Construction waste,
 - Pesticides and insecticides,
 - **Discharge of sewerage into water table**
 - Salt water intrusion during storms
- No proper waste management systems in the Maldives, 2 sites developed under ADB, another site being developed under a project.
- Air pollution is comparatively low in Maldives, but it has an increasing trend.



Target 9

By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

- Regulation on plant quarantine since 2008.
- Single quarantine unit, which does not have adequate facilities.
- This has resulted in eradication of local varieties of some species.
 - Eg: watermelon
- A guideline was recently gazetted by the government to enforce restriction on imports of alien species.

Target 10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

- Coral reefs are the most important protective wall around the islands of Maldives.
- 28 Marine Protected areas
- Maldives has almost no contribution to ocean acidification, but the reef systems of Maldives are most vulnerable to it.
- Maldives experienced coral bleaching in 2010. The most severe bleaching was in 1998.

Target 10 (cont'd)

- Previously, coral and its aggregates were used as construction materials.
- Regulation on Mining and Utilization of Coral, Sand and Coral Aggregate since 2008.
- Some unsustainable practices such as land reclamation and sand mining still continues.
- Beach erosion continues.



Limitations and challenges

- Lack of experts in specific fields
- Lack of resources/ limitations in mobilizing resources.
- Limitations in alternative solutions to address sustainable conservation of biodiversity.
- Lack of awareness among people to conserve biodiversity
- Lack of commitment/interest from different organizations, people and offices.
- Conflicting and overlapping mandates between different government offices.
- Weak institutional and technical capacities in the newly appointed local councils.

Next steps

- Land use plans to all inhabited islands and industrial island.
- Apply Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Strengthen EIA regulation and implementation.
- Promoting environment friendly methods of agriculture by promoting organic farming and biological pest control.
- Strengthen import controls on alien species.
- Revise the existing and make new acts, regulations and guidelines.
- Increase awareness
- Review NBSAP

Thank You

