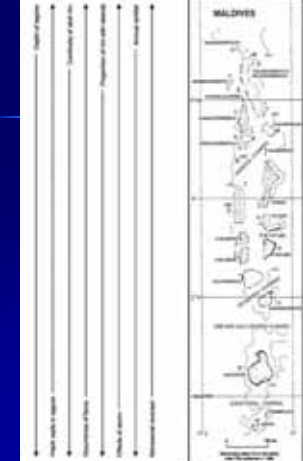




## The Indian Ocean tsunami and the Maldives: A reef island perspective

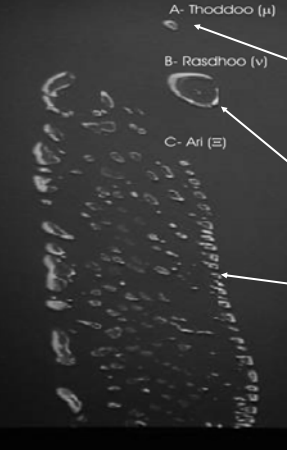
*Mohamed Ali*  
SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre



**Geographical trends**

- Lagoon depth
- Continuity of atoll rim
- Proportion of rim with islands

↑  
Effects of storms  
Occurrence of faros  
Lagoonal islands



<p><b>Atolls</b></p> <p>1. Reef-top, "table"</p> <p>Thoddoo, Kashidhoo</p> <p>2. Closed</p> <p>Rasdhoo, Goldhoo,</p> <p>3. open</p> <p>Ari, Baa, Raa</p>	<p><b>Reefs</b></p> <p>Patch</p> <p>Faros</p> <p>Knolls</p> <p><b>Islands</b></p> <p>Single</p> <p>multiple</p> <p>Lagoonal</p> <p>Peripheral</p>
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## The major ecosystems:

1. Coastal vegetation (*heylihi*)
2. Evergreen moist forests
3. Mangroves
4. 'pond' ecosystems
5. coral reefs
6. Seagrass beds



## 1. Coastal vegetation (*heylihi*)

- Special vegetation types
- Important function
- Special habitat
- Threatened species
- Useful species



## 2. Evergreen moist forests

- 496 species noted
- Endemic, rare, threatened, endangered species
- Special/different habitats



## 3. Mangroves

Mangroves found on 150 islands (12%)

Mostly small in size

Associated with enclosed or semi-enclosed brackish water bodies locally known as *kulhi*, or with *chasbin* (marsh)  
Not estuarine based (no rivers)

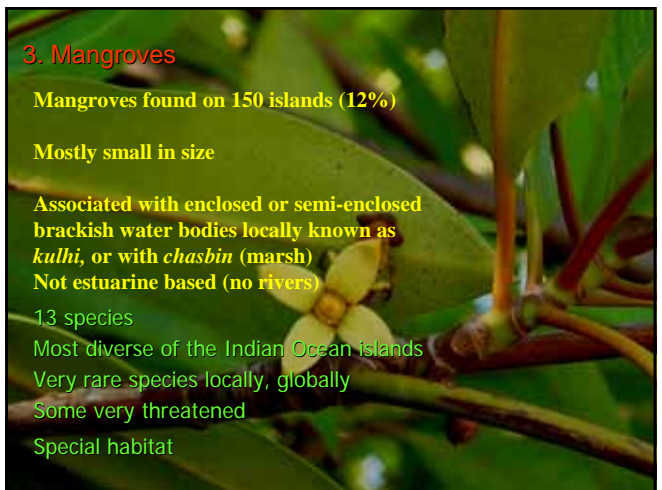
13 species

Most diverse of the Indian Ocean islands

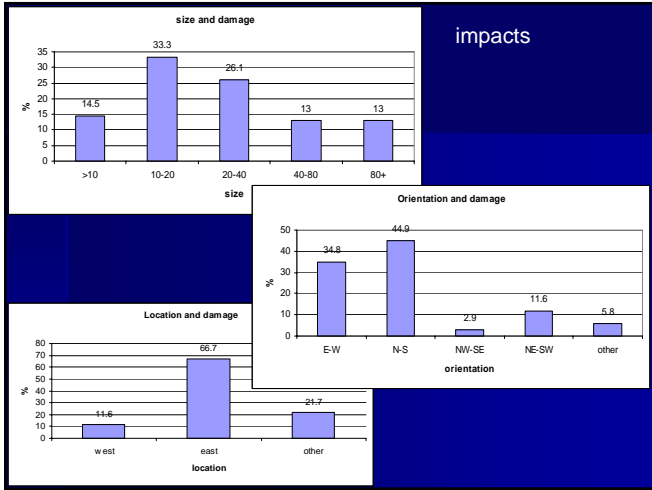
Very rare species locally, globally

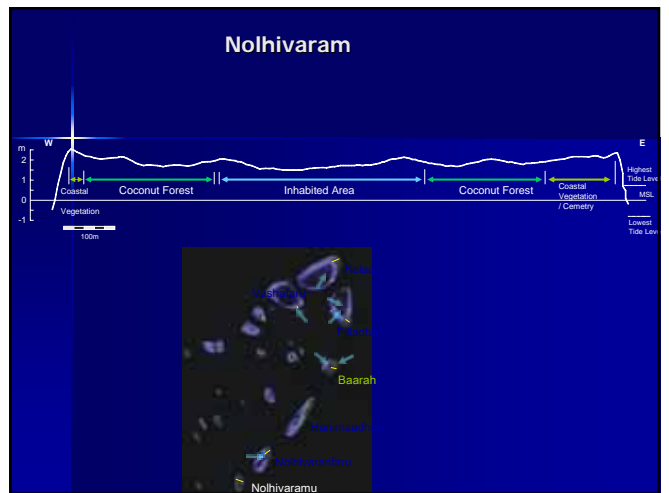
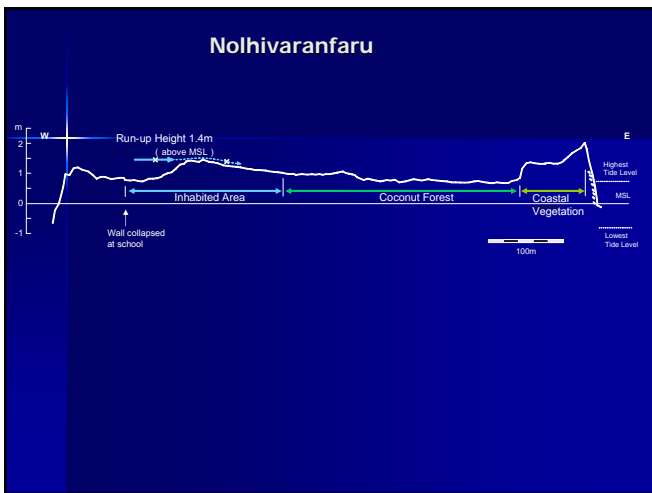
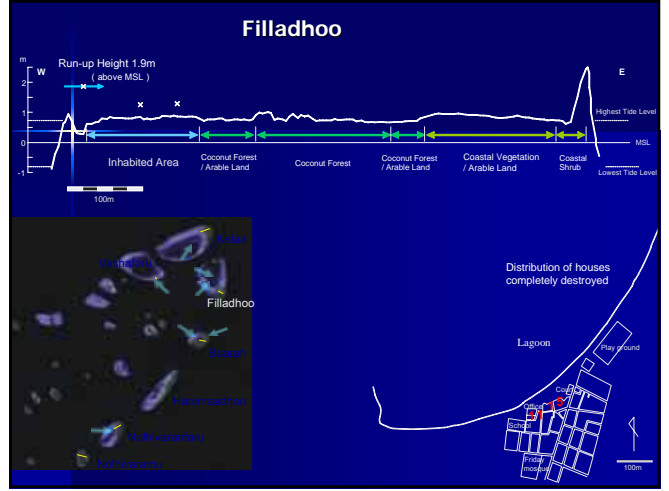
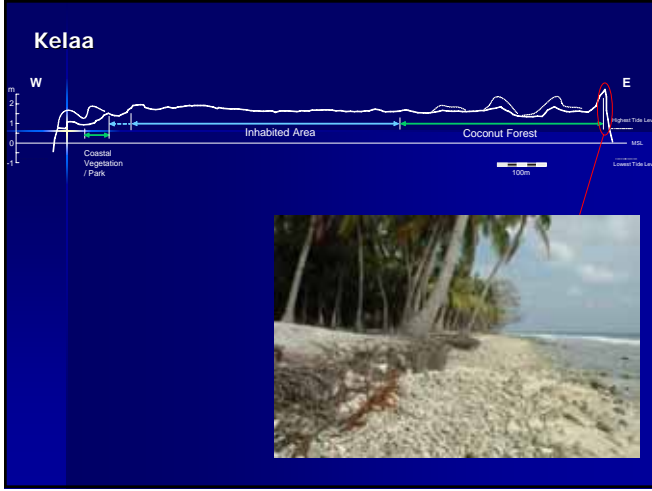
Some very threatened

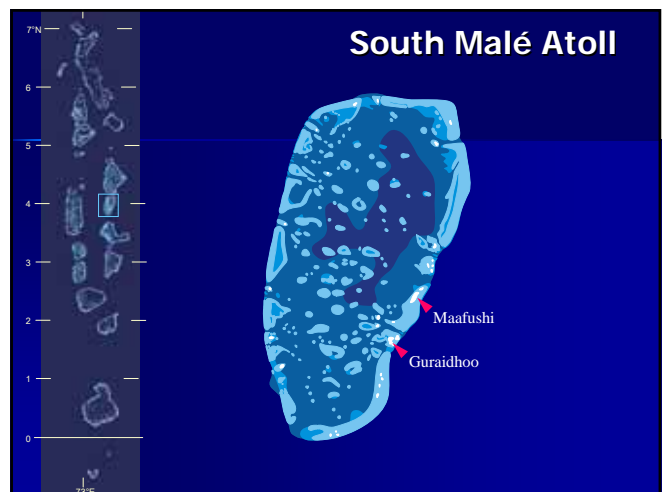
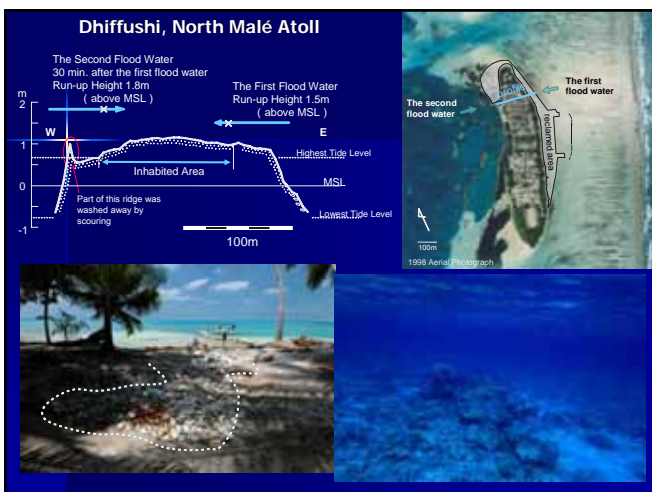
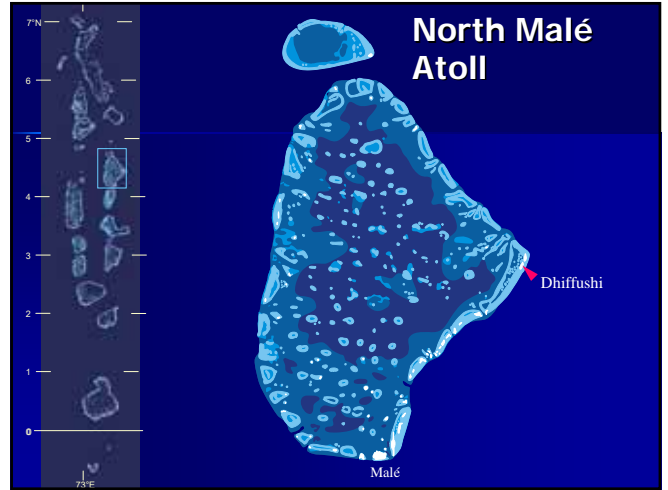
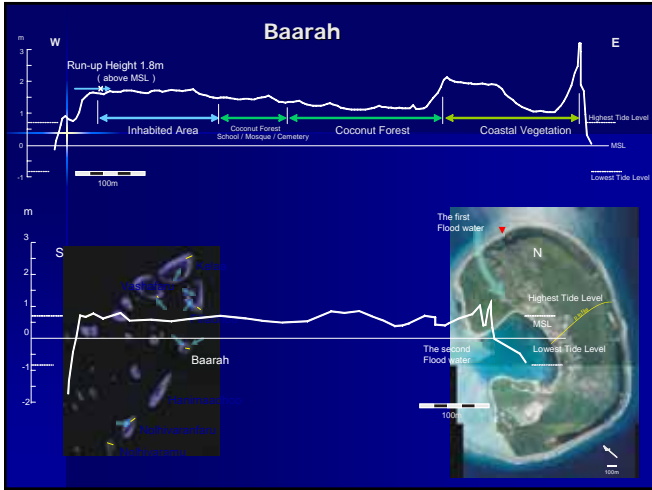
Special habitat

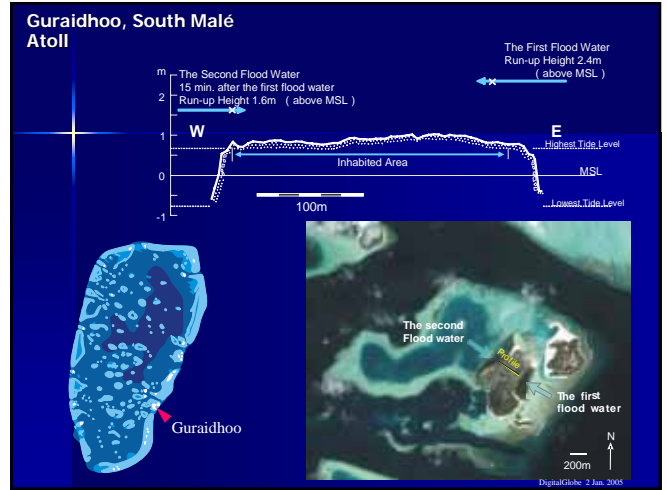
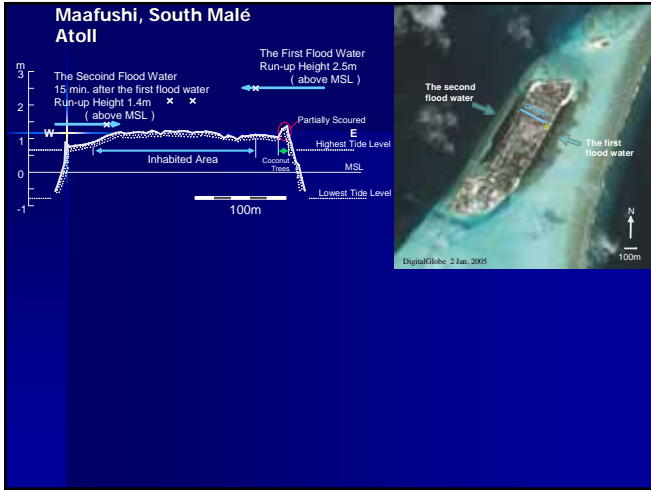












- ### Factors
- Proportion of passages (open/closed)
  - Orientation (E-W, N-S, ..)
  - Reef type (faro, patch)
  - Island form, (ridge, bowl-shaped..)
  - Island shape (circular, elongated)
  - size (small, medium, large)
  - Modifications (harbour, reclamation)

