

Coastal forest rehabilitation and management in the Maldives

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COASTAL FOREST REHABILITATION & MANAGEMENT IN MALDIVES

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1. THE PRE-TSUNAMI STATUS OF COASTAL TREES & FOREST RESOURCES & THE FOREST RELATED IMPACT OF THE TSUNAMI

- Coastal vegetation consists of a limited range of species
- Provides a range of recreational, economical, conservation and heritage values



- No through assessment has been made
- Management is spread over several ministries

Impact of tsunami

- Complete island over wash to inundation around island margins
- Accumulation of debris
- In some islands sea lettuce, ironwood and screw pine were either damaged or completely destroyed
- Clean up operation-bulldozing demolition debris and garbage into over thicket vegetation



2. THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COASTAL FOREST REHABILITATION, ISSUES THAT HAVE EMERGED & LESSONS LEARNED

- Ministry of Environment & Construction conducted a survey of the affected islands – Joint UNEP and OCHA
- An inter ministerial environment task force was formed
- Safe island concept

Measures Taken

- More awareness among communities for the environmental importance of coastal forests
- Through Forestry project coastal reforestation has started
- Other agency's with the assistance and guidance of MoFAMR has done coastal reforestation
- More studies are being carried out



3. POLICES, LEGISLATION & INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS AFFECTING MANAGEMENT OF COSTAL FOREST & TREES

- MoFAMR, MoEEW, MoAD, Island Offices
- Environment Protection and Preservation Act of Maldives (Law no. 4/93)
- Act relating to Uninhabited islands (Law no. 20/89)
- Act relating to Coconut Palms and Trees of Inhabited Islands (Law no. 21/89)
- Tourism Law (Law no. 2/99)

4. KEY NEEDS TO SUPPORT SHORT-& LONG-TERM EFFORTS IN COASTAL FOREST REHABILITATION & MANAGEMENT

- Capacity building
- Assistance to make through assessment of Maldives forest
- Financial & Technical assistance for short-term and long term management of coastal forest



Q&A

What has been the experience with interministerial cooperation in the Maldives with the large number of post-tsunami projects?

All projects are under the National Disaster Management Centre and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Resources has a steering committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Planning and other departments in related sectors.

To what extent are communities and NGOs involved in post-tsunami projects?

Communities are always involved in planning and execution of projects and reforestation has generally been taken care of by island authorities.

Have there been problems with moving people to “safe islands” since the tsunami?

People have been reluctant to leave but after the tsunami, there has been more impetus; the schemes are voluntary.

Does natural regeneration occur on islands from which people have moved?

There has been regeneration of trees on deserted islands and the islands have been registered as uninhabited, which means that any cutting of trees has to be done with government approval.