

Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework

Contents

Foreword.....	2
Glossary.....	2
Executive Summary.....	2
1 Introduction	3
2 The Rationale for Policy Consideration	4
3 Guiding Principles of the Policy.....	7
4 Policy Statement and Purpose Vision.....	10
5 Policy Strategic Framework	10
6 Policy Goals, Objectives and Strategies	12
6.1 Policy goals.....	12
6.2 Objectives and Strategies.....	12
6.2.1 Sustainable Financing.....	13
6.2.2 Low Emission Development	14
6.2.3 Adaptation and Opportunities.....	16
6.2.4 Capacity Building and Advocacy	17
6.2.5 Fostering Sustainability	19
6.2.6 Leading advocacy at international climate negotiations	Error! Bookmark not defined.
7 Institutional Framework	21
8 Implementation, monitoring and review of the Climate Change Policy	22
8.1 Reviewing MCCPF.....	23
8.2 Reporting mechanism of MCCPF.....	23
9 Conclusion.....	23

Foreword

Glossary

Executive Summary

1 Introduction

The Maldives believes that climate change is the 21st Century's greatest development and security challenge. Climate change threatens the integrity of Earth's climate system and ecosystems. Negative effects are already taking place and these will gravely undermine our efforts towards sustainable development and threaten our survival and the sovereignty of our nation and people. While longer-term impacts such as sea level rise could result in the unavoidable out-migration of some of our people, we have a right to pursue any and all means to ensure our nation survives and our legacy remains in these islands, with our future generations living productive lives on these islands.

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. 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, we cannot do this alone; regional and global cooperation is imperative to put Maldives on a pathway to build 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 have 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 in a special 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 fight against 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 to the adverse impact of climate change. Maldives being, one of the most land scarce and low lying vulnerable island nations, is exposed to the risk of intensifying extreme weather events such as, droughts, flooding and storm surges. Maldives contribution to global GHG emissions is negligible. Maldives has not significantly contributed to the causes of climate change problem and the slow pace of international negotiations to limit global warming is a therefore a cause for deep concern for the country. However, Maldives is determined to be part of a global solution by committing to achieve a low-emission development (LED) future.

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

They are;

- 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 Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework prescribes the Government and the people of Maldives strategic polices for responding to climate change impacts over the next 10 years (2014–2024).The Policy defines five thematic goals and strategies that the Government and the people of Maldives have prioritized for implementation to ensure that safety and resilience are achieved.

2 The Rationale for Policy Consideration

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 895,0000 sq. km, with 330,652 people located on the equator in the Indian Ocean, and consist of roughly 1,297 islands, 188 of which are populated, 105 are tourist resorts and 1004 are uninhabited islands (DNP, 2012).

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

Maldives is one of the most vulnerable Small Island Developing states to the adverse impacts of climate change and its associated consequences. Studies undertaken over the past few years identified eight key sectors impacted by climate change.

The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), an initiative undertaken to assess and address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation needs, outlines about 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.

Table 1 Climate Change Vulnerabilities of the Maldives (adapted from (MEEW 2007))

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 MSL - 44% of the settlement footprints of all islands are within 100 m of coastline. - 42% of the population and 47% of all housing structures being within 100 m of coastline. - More than 50% of the housing structures in 121 islands are within 100 m of coastline - More than 97% of inhabited islands reported beach erosion in 2004, of which 64% reported severe beach erosion - Land reclamation, several other human activities have increased vulnerability of land, beaches and human settlements. They include construction of poorly designed coastal infrastructure, poorly engineered coastal protection measures, removal of coastal vegetation, and sand mining.
Critical infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The infrastructure of the two international airports is within 50 m of the coastline. About 30% of the infrastructure of Male' International Airport lies within this range and additional land reclamation done on the island towards the ocean-ward side has resulted in parts of the island being within 15 m of the wave break zone - More than 90% of all resort infrastructure and 99% of all tourist accommodation are within 100 m of coastline - 70% of all fisheries infrastructure are within 100 m of coastline - 80% of the powerhouses are located within 100 m of coastline. - 90% of the islands have their waste disposal sites within 100 m of coastline and on the ocean-ward side of the island. - More than 75% of communications infrastructures are located within 100 m from the coastline.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 45% of tourist resorts have reported varying degrees of beach erosion - The additional risks to tourism are in many cases indirect, with the initial impacts being imposed on the infrastructure, fisheries, water resources, agriculture and human health.
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fisheries industry is highly vulnerable to climate change as tuna is highly attuned to the biophysical conditions of the pelagic environment, particularly ENSO and associated changes in SST. - During the 1997/1998 El Nino the Indian Ocean purse seine fishery was shifted to the east, unlike other years owing to the elevated depth of the 20°C isotherm
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 ENSO events. - The vulnerability to climate change related health risks is further compounded by local characteristics such as the high 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 direct effect on nutrition status of children and overall health of the population.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of the atoll households now use rainwater as the principal source of drinking water. - In Malé, 100% of the population has access to piped desalinated water.

Agriculture and food security

- The total cultivable land area is estimated at 27km², including 18km² on inhabited islands and 9km² on uninhabited islands
- 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.
- The available cultivable land is 103 m per capita
- Due to the high import dependency, the food security of Maldives is vulnerable to climate change related impacts on 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

Since climate change is a cross-cutting development issue and affects every aspect of the Maldivian way of life and livelihoods, 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 therefore vital that a comprehensive climate change policy framework is developed to address the challenges faced by climate change.

3 Guiding Principles of the Policy

Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework (MCCPF) has been formulated with a set of principles to guide implementation activities based upon and consistent with those adopted, national laws, national development plans, strategies, action plans, policies and relevant document. The guiding documents selected for analysis are documents published from 2001 – 2014.

Legislature
Environment Protection and Preservation Act 4/1993 EPPA Tourism Act Fisheries Act Transport Act Public Service Act
National Development Plans
Strategic Action Plan 2009-2013 (SAP) 2009 Seventh National Development Plan (7 th NDP) (2005) Vision 2020
Policies
National Water Policies (being developed) National Energy Policy (2010)

National Security Policy (2012) Maldives Foreign Policy (2014)
Strategies
National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) (2009) National Food Security Strategy (2012) Strategic National Action Plan for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (2009)
Action Plans
National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) (2007) Third National Environment Action Plan (NEAP III) National Disaster Risk Management Plan (draft 2006) National Environment Health Action Plan (draft NEHAP 2010) Fourth Tourism Master Plan (2013) Agriculture Master Plan (XXXX)
Other documents
First National Communication to UNFCCC (FNC) (2001) Second National Communication to UNFCCC (SNC) (draft being developed 2012) 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 (NEEDS, 2010) Coastal Protection Guidelines (2011) National Climate Change Research Strategy (2011) Scaling up of Renewable Energy Program (SREP, 2012)

Ownership, planning and implementation of this policy framework will ultimately lie with the Government and the people of Maldives and respective stakeholders of agencies, atolls, and islands and supported by regional agencies, Maldives development partners, international agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, private sectors, and non-government organizations (NGOs).

The Maldives will address the climate change challenge with dignity, taking the future into its own hands. 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 and 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 extent possible, the Maldives international commitments and obligations, including those under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, and leverage sub-regional, regional and international opportunities and partnerships;
- *Multilateral Partnership*: Collaborate as appropriate and feasible, with regional and international partners and organization to pursue the climate change agenda of the Maldives through resource mobilization to implement the programmes and projects on climate change;
- *Transfer of Technology*: Adoption of Environmentally Sound Technologies and Practices (ESTs) in reaching of 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-sectorial 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 vulnerability of both natural and physical systems;

4 Policy Statement and Purpose Vision

The overarching aims of the Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework aim 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 the 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 adverse impacts of climate change.
- Promotes a coordinated approach amongst all national stakeholders to strengthen the capacity of Maldives in reducing current and projected climate change impacts and risks such as the risk of loss of land, life, 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 be incorporated into every sector's development and implementation plans for addressing climate change issues. All sectors of development, the people, 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.

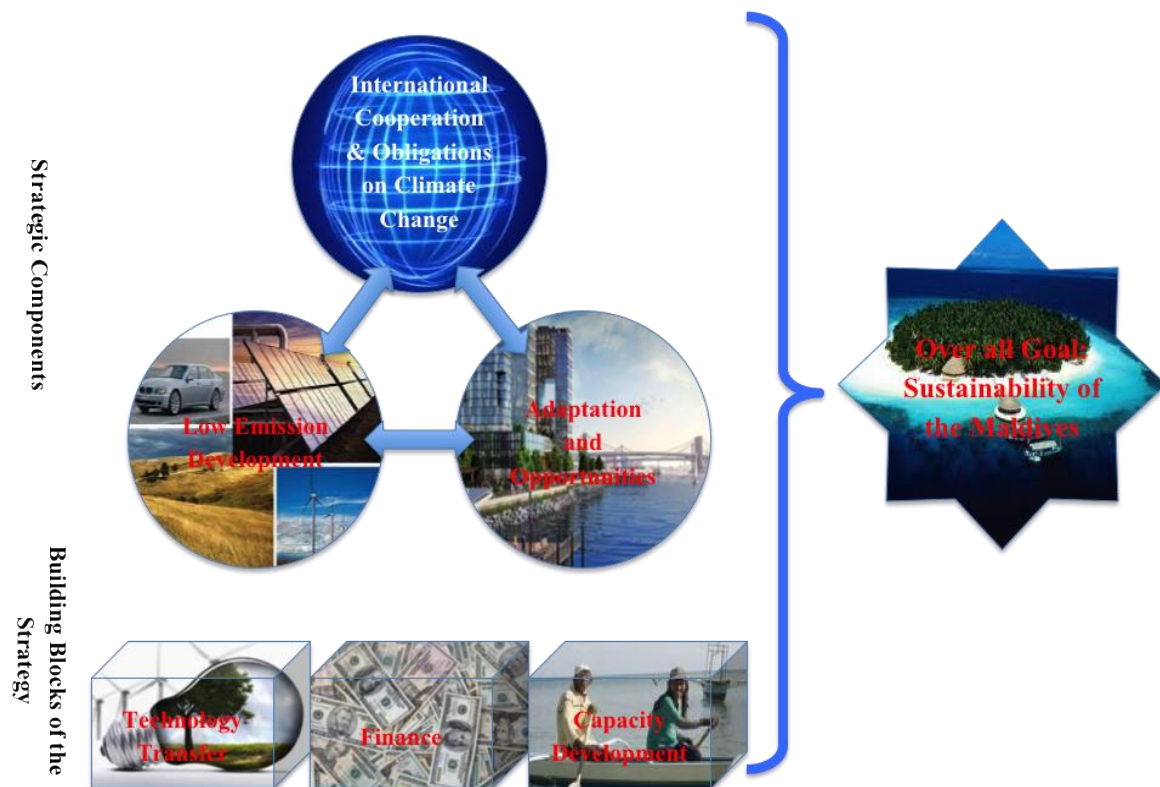
The policy's aim is underscored in its vision.

Vision:

To protect Maldives National status as a nation from the adverse impacts of climate change and to

5 Policy Strategic Framework

The MCCPF is comprised of strategies that drives the policy. The figure below provide the strategic framework for driving the MCCPF. The strategic framework structures the breakdown of how the policy's vision will be achieved.



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

The strategic components encompass

- Low Emission Development: To help to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas 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 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.
- The international obligations and commitments and cooperation 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, government, civil society, private sector and atolls and islands consultations and workshops together with government, civil society, and private sectors were attended. The goals underpin sustainable development in 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 a low carbon development and climate resilient development in the Maldives.

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

- ❖ *POLICY GOAL 1. Ensure and Integrate **sustainable financing** in 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 the 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 issue and its role in the overall goal of

sustainable development necessitate prioritizing climate action. The climate change policy goals articulated above needs to be strategically addressed. For each five strategic goal above, objectives and strategies are identified for each goal 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 and ensure for 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 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 of climate change funds and other resources;
- iv. To improve and enhance a robust financial management procedures and procurement policy for donor funded (or partner supported) climate change programmes;
- v. To strengthen national institutional arrangements and position itself 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 adaption and opportunities and low emission development (LED) activities.

2. Streamline climate finance through innovative financial mechanism 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 efficiency and effectiveness of national climate funding modalities and project delivery and review accordingly.
5. Develop and strengthen leveraging of private financing to the 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, private, 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 the energy security for Maldives.

OBJECTIVES

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;

- i. To create a more sustainable and stable economy independent of external shocks to base economic factors such as fluctuating energy prices;
- ii. 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;
- iii. To achieve a balanced shift towards environmentally friendly transport modes to bring about a sustainable transport and mobility system;
- iv. To create a healthy environment for the citizens of Maldives while introducing Sustainable Resource-Efficient Economy with 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycling)

- and achieve reduction of GHG;
- v. 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 (power generation, transport, agriculture and waste) plan to reduce the GHG emission.
5. Develop a mechanism to monitor the target of energy source composition towards maintaining a low emission development.
6. Diversify the power generation technologies through the application of Renewable and Alternative Energy.
7. Enhance and ensure the Implementation of market mechanism in curbing out GHG emissions.
8. Develop comprehensive policies and plans to reduce the GHG emissions from the transport sector.
9. Strengthen the existing policies and plans on RE and EE, (particularly the use of 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 the impacts of low emission development activities with the view to disseminate lessons learned and increase replicability.

13. Increase capacity in among key stakeholders (public utilities, government authorities, local private sectors) for proper 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 for adaptation and opportunities;
- ii. To promote and implement adaptation programmes that support and improve communities' livelihoods to reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience;
- iii. To make the inhabited islands and people of Maldives resilient against the threats posed by global climate change;
- iv. To protect critical infrastructure such as international airports, other 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 its 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 mechanism for adoption of sustainable adaptation technologies that are locally and traditionally appropriate.
6. Prepare the detailed island risk assessments plans, tools and guide for selected islands in the Maldives.
7. Analyse and evaluate poverty, health and food security issues to determine their vulnerability to climate change, and consider these vulnerabilities in future policies and initiatives.
8. Review and improve policies, plans and strategies of all key vulnerable sectors to create opportunities for climate change adaptation.
9. Develop a mechanism to sustain supply and management of fresh water availability for communities to adapt in changing climate and prolonged dry spell.
10. Enhance and expand water resource storage capacity in the island communities.
11. Foster the use of local and traditional knowledge into climate adaptation
12. Educate and empowering local governments to incorporate adaptation in their planning (island planning or 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 sectorially 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 into education and training;
- iii. To mobilize public interest and engagement on the subject of climate change including youth, who makes 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 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;
- 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 means of communication tools available 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 displays across the nation.
5. Include and update climate change elements within the secondary school curriculum as well as in, the tertiary and vocational education courses.
6. Encourage student research around the issue of local climate change and its significance to the Maldivian societies.
7. Strengthen capacity building for atoll, island and city councillors to promote awareness on climate change issues
8. Develop appropriate training tools on climate change for government officers involved in awareness and training programmes in all relevant government institutions.
9. Strengthen the institutional mechanism of the government that represents the Maldives at the international arena such as in the form of a climate change cabinet portfolio or climate change Ambassador/ 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 Maldives participation at various international climate negotiations/ relevant conferences.

12. Field as much as possible within its capacity, chairmanship/ coordinators/ lead roles from the Maldives at various international climate negotiations such as UNFCCC, Post-2015 Development Agenda framework etc.
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, 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 its 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, just society with respect for 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. Encourage the establishment and defend the stability of established institutions in the country, based on justice, fairness and openness. Ensure that the values of the society are consistent with sustainable development and other international commitments;
- vii. 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. Continuously upgrade and renew the critical infrastructure, information and

communication infrastructure.

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 that 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.
4. Develop a mechanism to ensure that climate change is integrated in all sectors of economic and social development and ensure that the citizens of the Maldives respect for, and preservation of, the values, culture and traditions of 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 through legislative means the protections 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
7. Ensure national ownership with broad participation of stakeholders in the decision making/ planning process for climate change issues without prejudice.
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. Lead in climate change and sustainable development aspects within the regional communities.
11. Integrate of 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 to address climate change and sustainable use of resources and equitable services
13. Establish climate spatial data mechanism to make climate inform decisions and climate sensitive reporting.

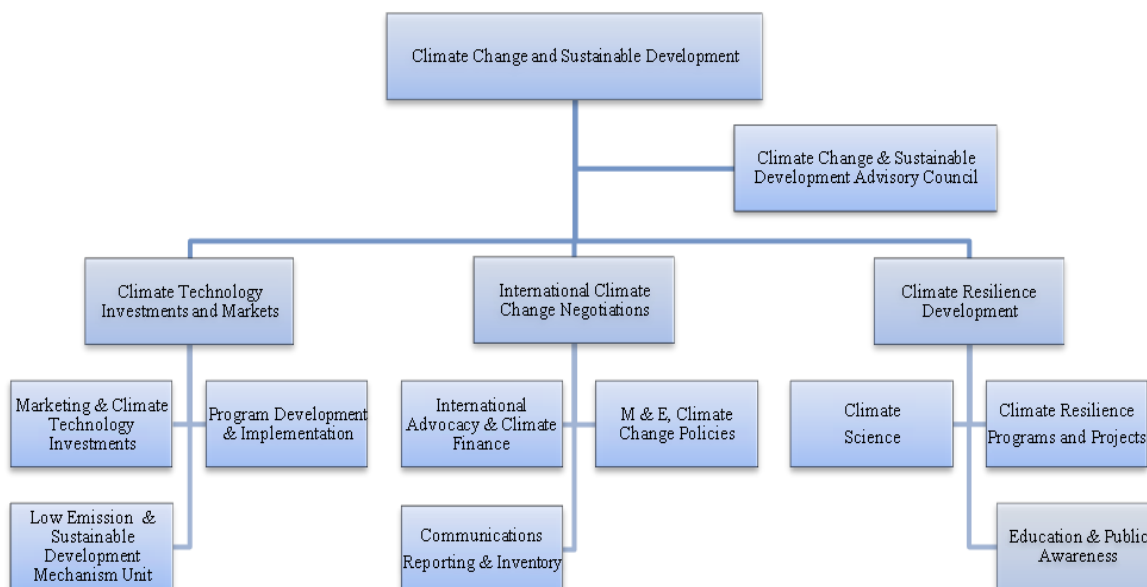
7 Institutional Framework

Even though Maldives is a key international actor advocating combating climate change, the existing institutional setup is not adequate. The current climate change activities are carried out in a fragmented manner, with different climate change activities carried out by different government institutions with different intent. These sometimes conflicting mandates, along with disappointed and uncoordinated climate related activities, has given Maldives a mixed international reputation on climate change. The tug of war for the climate change mandate of climate change by different agencies has left many of opportunities untouched and unexploited.

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 done in fragmented manner. These activities carried out by a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary institution, which can carry forward the activities in harmony and carry forward the lessons learned back and forth to the convention to facilitate to convention to assist with our goal and ultimate objectives of the convention. The opportunity to increase the mix of Renewable energy is given under technology transfer, capacity building financial and market mechanisms under the Convention.

To bring about sustainable development at a stipulated in convention in a desirable rate and achieve our 2020 mitigation target, Energy investments (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, the following structure for a CCSD is as proposed below.



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 at different times to address different issues through the joint planning and implementation of actions.

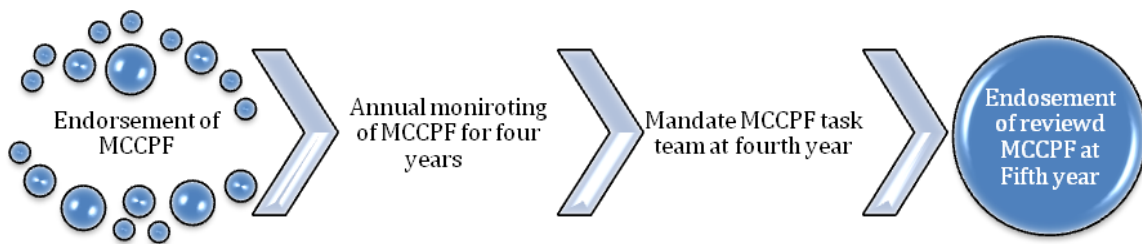
The Government will adopt and implement relevant legislation to support the implementation of the MCCPF. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms need to be developed and in place for proper implementation of the legislation and regulations.

Climate change and sustainable development is the primary institution responsible for

implementing MCCPF. Climate change and sustainable development will facilitate preparation of sectorial adaptation and opportunities and low emission development action plans. These action plans will map out expected outcome, outputs and means of achieving (actions) 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 sectorial action plans.

8.1 Reviewing MCCPF

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



8.2 Reporting mechanism of MCCPF

In order to prepare an appropriate and well-informed review of the MCCPF at its fifth year of implementation, a progress reporting mechanism will be implemented during the 4th year.

9 Conclusion