



Towards a comprehensive and ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement – the Maldives experience

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European Commission DG Environment Conference

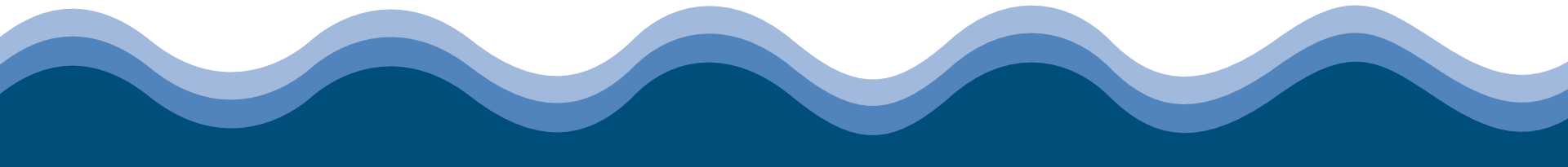
WG III - Adaptation to climate change

15th October 2008

Brussels

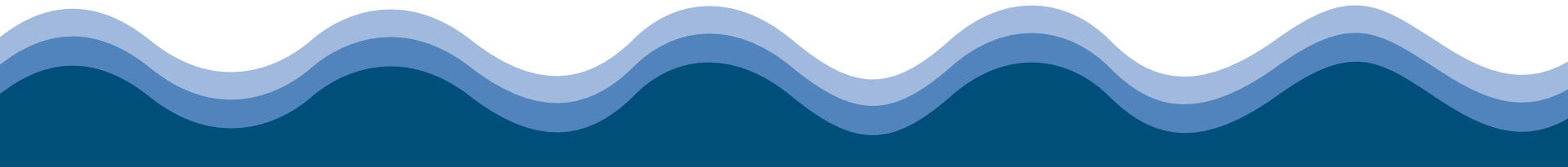
*H.E. Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom,
President of the Maldives, speech on
dangers of sea level rise, 1987:*

**“The death of a
nation”**



Presentation Overview

- Climate hazards and vulnerabilities
- Maldives adaptation policy
- Urgent and immediate adaptation priorities and needs
- Financial, technological and institutional options
- Male' Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change



Climate Hazards & Vulnerabilities

Why is Maldives so vulnerable to Climate Change & Sea-Level Rise?

- Extremely low elevation-1.5m above MSL
- Infrastructure damage and economic impacts
- Food security
- Damage to coral reefs
- Water resources
- Human health



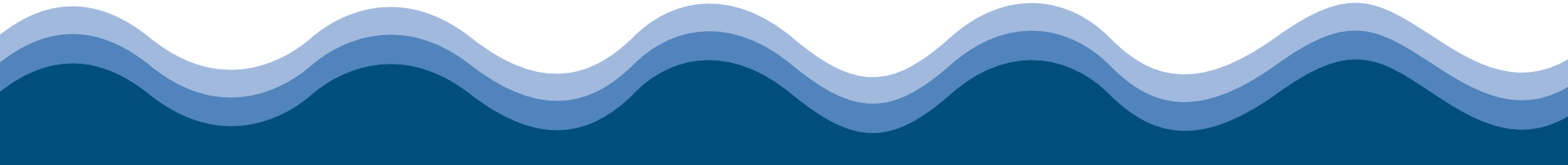
Key example - Impacts of Coral Reefs

- Impacts the largest economic sector – tourism; and the largest livelihood – fisheries
- Tourism - based healthy coral reefs
- Main fisheries dependant on bait catch from coral reefs
- Reduces the natural defense of the shoreline of the islands



Maldives Adaptation Policy

Objectives of Adaptation Policy

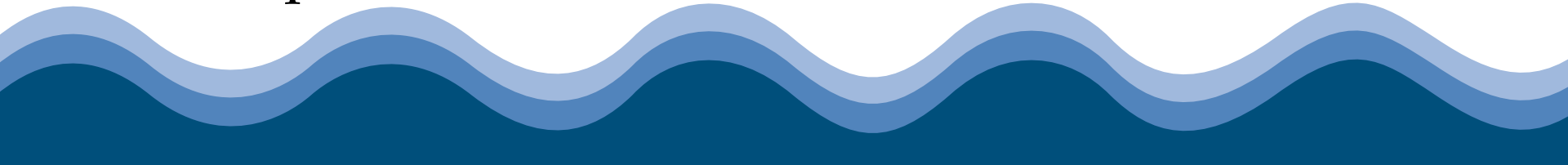
- Develop process, plans, strategies and approaches to avoid or adapt to climate change on natural environment and to minimize the impacts on economic activities, human health, human settlement and critical infrastructure
 - Develop legal and institutional system for planning and responding to climate change
 - Develop economic incentives to encourage public & private sector adaptation measures
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Ongoing Adaptation Measures

- Male' seawall
 - Cost 135 million dollars
- Hulhumale'
 - Elevation of 2m above MSL
 - US\$3,891,050 per sqkm of elevation 2m above MSL
- Population and Development Consolidation Strategy
- Safer Islands Development
- Coral mining is banned



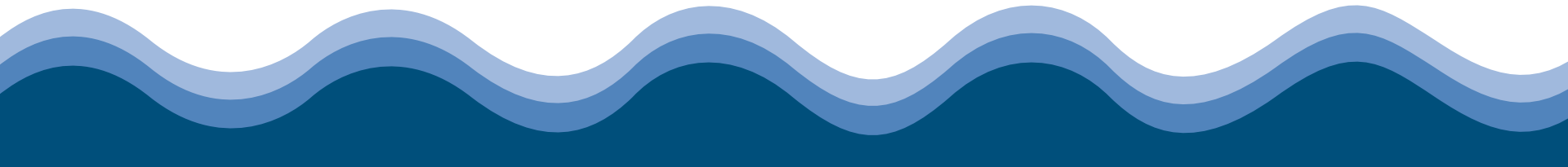
Adaptation comments

- What do we want from adaptation under the UNFCCC?
 - Without considerable progress in Poznan success in Copenhagen will be difficult. A weak adaptation decision could do more harm than good.
 - Ultimately, future action on adaptation should focus on the most vulnerable, promote poverty reduction and long-term resilience, and be transparent.
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*Urgent and immediate
adaptation priorities and needs*

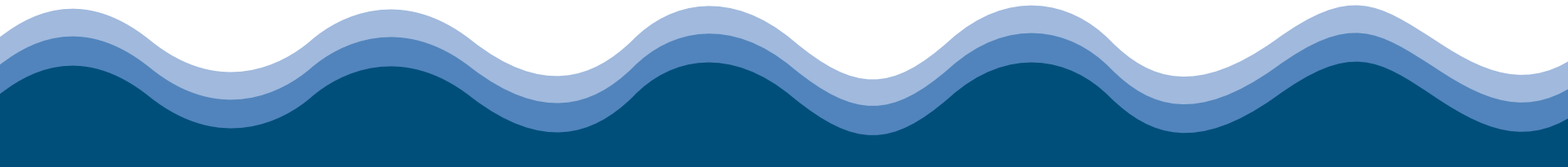
Urgent Adaptation Projects

- Coastal protection of Male' International Airport
- Development of coastal protection for safer islands
- Improve resilience of island communities through sustainable building
- Flood Control measures on selected islands
- Enhance adaptive capacity of fresh water availability by appropriated technologies and improved storage facilities
- Increase local food production
- Improve health status



Priority Adaptation Needs

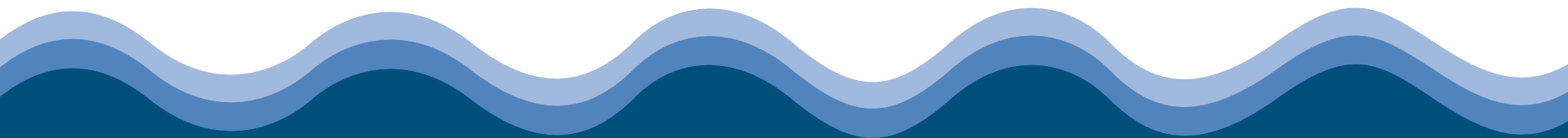
- Protect critical infrastructure
- Protect human settlements
- Increase the resilience of the coral reef system
- Protect tourist resort beaches and tourism infrastructure
- Strengthen capacity for health services
- Acquire technologies and appropriate tools to manage water resources
- Build resilience of fisheries
- Strengthen agricultural production and increase food security



*Financial, technological and
institutional options*

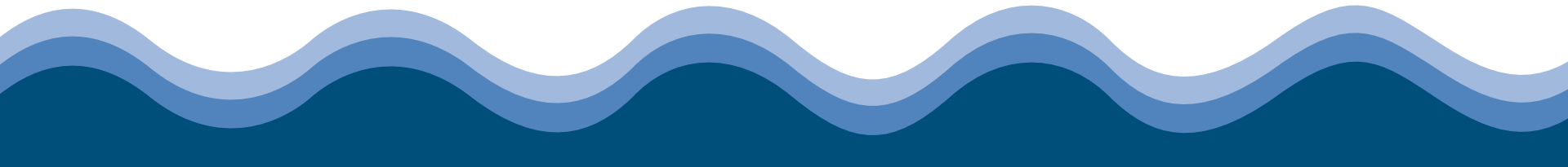
Financial sources and mechanisms

- UNFCCC estimates USD 60-182 billion with the most recent figure from UNDP at USD 86 billion.
- A WWF study indicates - 16 funds, run by U.N. agencies
- Due to public pressure in Western Europe, adaptation was not included in the World Bank CIF
- Bonn successfully started the finance discussion - developing countries must start inputting on relevant figures.
- Monetizing CERS from the CDM



Priorities for technology cooperation

- Financial Mechanism and 1/CP10
- Operationalization of Adaptation Fund
- Nairobi Work Programme report from SBSTA and secretariat
- Disaster risk and vulnerability workshop at COP14
- NAPs



Institutional architecture and enabling environment

- In Bonn 2008, debate defining definition of mainstreaming vs. stand-alone adaptation commenced.
- Further work would help identify categories to be funded with UNFCCC funds to avoid anything similar to matching funds or additionality.
- The importance of regional centers emerged through the Nairobi Work Programme & highlighted the contribution of centers such as SPREP in the South Pacific and CCCCC in the Caribbean basin in enhancing regional capacity for context-specific interpretation of climate change.



*Male' Declaration
on the Human
Dimension of Global
Climate Change*

14th November 2007

Male' Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change

- Presented at international gathering of Small Island Developing States 13-14 November 2007, Maldives
- The Declaration asserts that the “impacts of climate change pose the most immediate, fundamental and far-reaching threat to the environment, individuals and communities around the planet.”
- It further stresses that “climate change has clear and immediate implications for the full enjoyment of human rights.”
- UN Resolution adopted in 2008 leading to study on topic in 2009

Thank You

