



# National Coordination Mechanism

**“Review and Update of the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Maldives” Project**

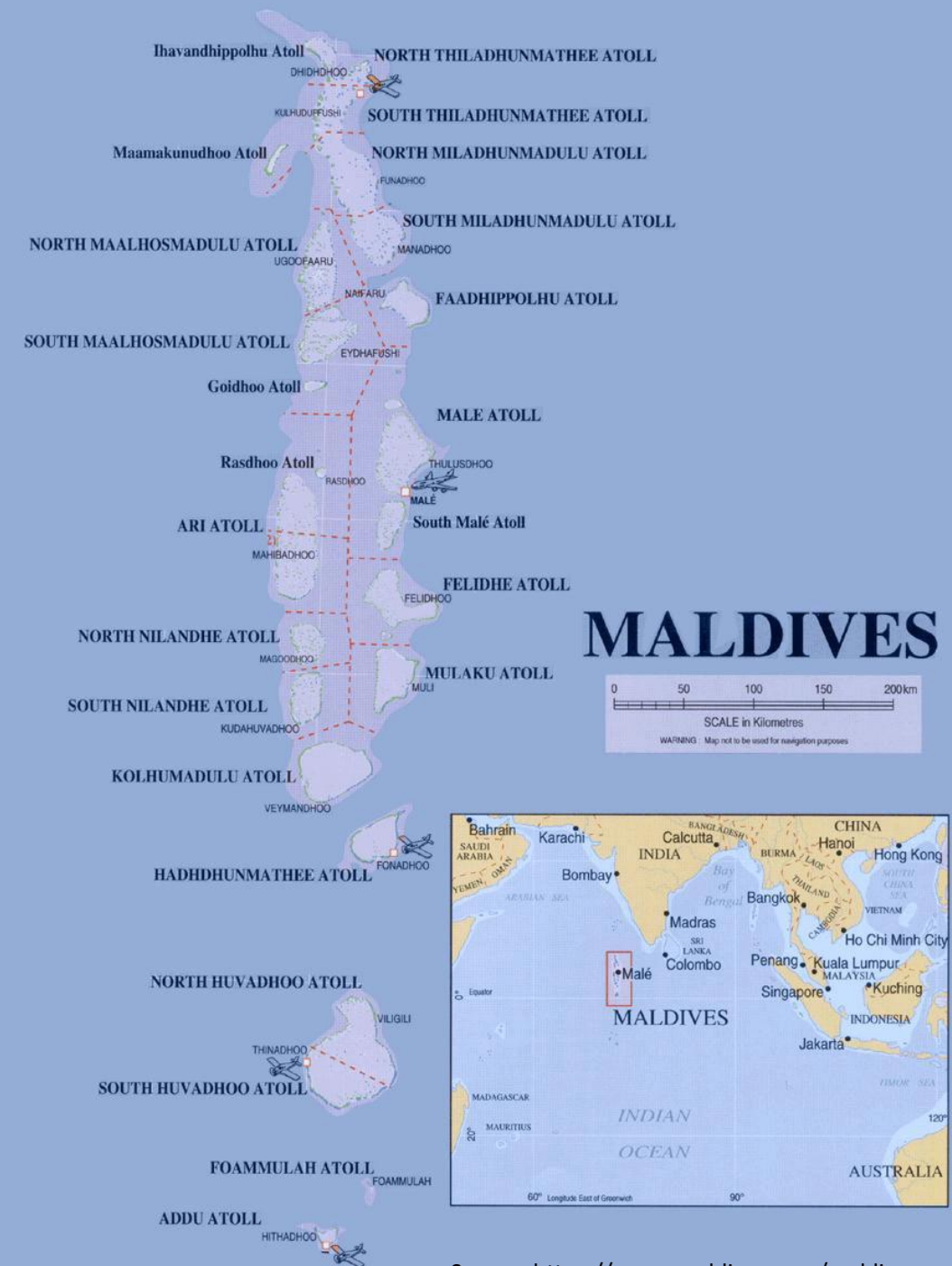
**Presentation by: Fathimath Fairooza**  
**Project Coordinator**



**Ministry of Tourism and Environment**  
Republic of Maldives

# Maldives

- An archipelago comprised of 1,190 coral islands, in 26 atolls (area of 750 km on a north-south axis and 120 km on an east-west axis)
- 1% land area
- A low-lying island nation with average 1.8 meters above sea level.



# Introduction cont....

- Environmental: Land scarcity, vulnerability to climate change impacts, natural disasters,
- Economic: High transportation costs, lack of adequate infrastructure, lack of industrial development incentives.
- Population of 382,751<sup>1</sup> (Census, 2022) dispersed across 197 inhabited islands, additional 166 tourist islands.



1. Maldives Bureau of Statistics (2024) *Statistical Yearbook of Maldives 2024, Statistical Yearbook 2024*. Available at: <https://statisticsmaldives.gov.mv/yearbook/2024/> (Accessed: 13 November 2025).



# Introduction cont....

- Estimated waste generation is 324,000 tonnes annually with 0.5 to 11% of hazardous chemicals depending on location and size of island.
- Inadequate storage options and current disposal practices of hazardous chemicals and waste may lead to toxic chemicals and waste to end up in the ground water and oceans.



# Specific Responsibilities of the NCM

- Evaluate and assess the progress of the project; and provide advice, policy and institutional guidance to the project. In this regard, relevant governmental institutions will be requested to allocate necessary human and technical resources to support project implementation through the NCM of Maldives.
- Provide overall guidance and strategic direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints of time, scope and budget.
- Assess and decide to proceed on project changes through appropriate revisions.
- Share information on chemicals related activities of respective member organizations and ensure coordination and harmonized data sharing for effective implementation

# Modality and process used to establish the NCM

- A stakeholder list was created with reference to current Steering Committees created for similar Chemicals related projects in the Ministry.
  - **POPs Project** (Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) through Sound Management of Chemicals)
  - **SP Project** (Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes in the Maldives)
  - **ISLANDS Project** (Implementation of Sustainable Low and non-chemical Development in SIDS)
- The final list of stakeholders to be included in the NCM was confirmed based on the initial NIP of Maldives compiled in 2017.

# INSTITUTIONAL OVERLAPS

CHEMICAL GROUP	INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED	LEGAL REFERENCE	NOTES/COMMENTS
<b>Hazardous Chemicals in General</b>	Ministry of Defence	Import Prohibition Act /Hazardous Chemicals Regulation	Authorize any “chemical” that do not fall under Annex 6 of Hazardous Chemicals Regulation.
	Maldives Food and Drug Authority	No law but mandate of MFDA provided by President’s Office.	Mandate provides authorizing chemicals that may affect public health. (Note: “Chemical” not clearly defined in mandate and hence interpreted to be very broad.)
	Maldives Customs Services	Maldives Customs Act	Import/export permit for any goods imported/exported from Maldives.
	Ministry of Environment	Stipulated under Ministry’s mandate, no legislation	Focal point for chemicals conventions and implementing them, responsible for public awareness and research, provide support for other agencies
<b>Pesticides</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	Agricultural Pesticide Control Act / Agricultural Pesticide Control Regulation	Primary responsibility to implement law and reg and issuing permits, licenses, standards, penalties.
	Ministry of Defence	Import Prohibition Act / Hazardous Chemicals Regulation	Authorize any “chemical” that do not fall under Annex 6 in Hazardous Chemicals Regulation.
	Maldives Customs Services	Maldives Customs Act	Import/export permit for any goods imported/exported from Maldives.

# INSTITUTIONAL OVERLAPS

CHEMICAL GROUP	INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED	LEGAL REFERENCE	NOTES/COMMENTS
<b>Hazardous Wastes</b>	Ministry of Environment	Environment Protection and Preservation Act Waste Management Act	Power to enact regulation for waste management.
	Environment Protection Agency	Waste Management Regulation	Implementation and enforcement agency under regulation. Issuing permits and monitoring. Basel permits given by EPA
	Ministry of Tourism	Regulation on the Protection and Conservation of Environment in the Tourism Industry	Waste management guidelines for tourist facilities.
	Maldives Customs Services	Maldives Customs Act	Import/export permit for any goods imported/exported from Maldives.



# Finalization of the NCM

- Invitation letters were dispatched to the institutions' requesting for a nominee and an alternative member from each institution for the NCM.
- The first NCM was held on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- A Terms of Reference was drafted and approved by BCRC China.

# Institutions and agencies involved in NCM

- 1) Environmental Regulatory Agency (ERA)
- 2) Maldives Civil Aviation Authority (MCAA)
- 3) Maldives Customs Service (MCS)
- 4) Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) / Fire and Rescue Services (FRS)
- 5) Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare (MoAAW)
- 6) Ministry of Cities, Local Government and Public Works (MCLP)
- 7) Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- 8) Ministry of Health (MoH)
- 9) Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MTCA)
- 10) Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) / Tourism and Project related Department
- 11) Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) / Environmental Management and Conservation Department
- 12) Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) / Waste Management and Pollution Control Department
- 13) The Maldives National University (MNU)
- 14) Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO)

# How the NCM supported NIP review and update – successes, challenges, bottlenecks

- The purpose of the first NCM meeting was to endorse the budget and share the responsibilities of NCM members for the timely deliverance of the project deliverables and overall success of the project.
- The NCM consists of an Executive and 14 members nominated by the respective institutions.
- The Executive is an individual who represents stewardship of the project and will chair the Project NCM.
  - Ensure that the project is focused throughout its life cycle on achieving its objectives and delivering outputs that will contribute to higher level outcomes.
- The Executive has to ensure that the project gives value for money, ensuring cost-conscious approach to the project, balancing the demands of beneficiary and supplier.
- Specific Responsibilities of the Executive include:
  - Ensure that there is a coherent project organization structure and logical set of plans;
  - Monitor and chair the project National Coordination Mechanism meetings

# Current status of Project Deliverables

- Draft inventory reports have been submitted to the PMU by the NIP expert team for review and comments.
  - Source groups of PCDD/PCDF and other UPOPs.
  - Preliminary Inventory of Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs) and Medium-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (MCCPs) in Maldives
- Planned 2<sup>nd</sup> NCM Meeting next month.
- Project extension process ongoing.
- Upon completion of POPs inventory reports and POPs country profile, plan to hold the validation workshop.

# Mandate of the NCM

- Based on the POPs profile developed, the NCM will develop criteria for prioritizing the mitigation (and where feasible, the elimination) of the health and environmental impacts of POPs.
- Based on these criteria, priority issues to address the management of new POPs and set of objectives to guide preliminary country-specific activities relevant to new POPs will be developed.



# Mandate of the NCM


- The NCM will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year.
- In the project's final year, the National Coordination Mechanism is required to hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.
- This final review meeting is expected to discuss the findings outlined in the project terminal evaluation report and the management response.

# Lessons learned and recommendations for other Parties

- Provide a tentative timeframe with 2 weeks' notice before planning the meetings.
- Provide scheduled meeting reminders to members.
- Share updated workplan and deliverables beforehand of meetings.
- Combine physical and virtual meetings to maximize attendance. Incorporation of online participation is needed to cater for the members agendas since there is a lack of human capital in the field.
- Additionally, due to the geographical dispersed nature of the country, stakeholders within the country might find it more feasible to join online meetings.
- Need to work with local government authorities.



# Thank you

 [nip@environment.gov.mv](mailto:nip@environment.gov.mv)

 [fathimath.fairooza@environment.gov.mv](mailto:fathimath.fairooza@environment.gov.mv)



**Ministry of Tourism and Environment**  
Republic of Maldives