Resource Efficiency, safeguarding natural and cultural heritage for sustainable tourism development

Ministry of Tourism

Republic of Maldives

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Director of Planning
the island nation

MALDIVES

99% Water & 1% Land
Area of 90,000 SQ KM

Dhivehi
The Official Language

Population Maldives
407,660 (census 2014)

Inhabited Islands
202

Resorts
122

Geographical Atolls
26

Total Islands
1190

Guest Houses
411
Accommodation

RESORT ISLANDS
26,767 Beds
122 Resorts

LIVEABOARDS
128 Vessels
2,391 Beds

HOTELS
13 Hotels
1,559 Beds

GUESTHOUSES
411 Guesthouses
6,289 Beds
## SWOT

### Strengths
- Tourism is the no.1 industry accounting for 30% of country’s GDP
- Building regulations; Tender Process, EIA, Building Capacity, Landscaping, Water Conservation, Waste management
- Significant Sites; Historical, Religious, Cultural, Archaeological
- Tourism for the People; Inclusive growth, employment and tourism share
- Tourism Quality & Standards; Govt. regulations & guidelines
- Tourism Planning for Sustainable Development
  - Tourism Master plans; national policy for sector development
  - Sustainable Tourism Taxation policies
- Self-contained Concept; “One Island - One Resort”
- Biosphere Reserve (Baa Atoll)

### Weakness
- Government policies on sensitive areas
- Fewer islands available for the public to enjoy
- Effect on biodiversity; habitat destruction and biodiversity reduction
- Planning and implementation
- Public consultation and engagement (especially in tourism planning)
- Political instability (subject to change in strategic action plan)
- Law enforcement
- Vulnerability

### Opportunities
- Green Tourism Operations;
- Pursuing renewable energy; Maldives Green Fund (Green Tax)
- 30 resorts pledged to designate a core area for UNESCO biosphere reserve
- Protected Areas & Sensitive Areas
- Increase local productivity

### Threats
- Reclamations projects underway
- Protected areas under development pressure
- Projected increase in supply of tourist resorts
- Fear on losing indigenous culture (due to the growing tourism industry, especially local tourism)
- Ecosystem degradation and distraction (due to the nation wide developmental projects)
- Increase pressure on marine resources and productivity
- Climate change
## Stakeholder Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Stakeholder</th>
<th>Roles and Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>- Plan policies and strategies required for safeguarding natural resources &amp; Cultural Heritage for Sustainable tourism development. - Overall regulation of the industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>- Adhering to the laws and regulations set forth for sustainable tourism development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Associations</td>
<td>- Provide support and feedback for policies and plans for the sustainable development of tourism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Society</td>
<td>- Provide support in executing awareness programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Partners</td>
<td>- Provide required technical assistance and funding for such research and project implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Organization</td>
<td>- Provide required technical assistance and funding for such research and project implementation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
100% Solar Resort

First Solar Resort
Clubmed Finolhu Villas, K. Gasfinolhu (A resort powered fully by clean energy)

- The new Eco-nature Villas are nestled in the tiny, beautifully preserved island of Gasfinolhu in the heart of the Indian Ocean. The eco-friendly Villas respect all the norms for eco-construction. They provide the perfect balance between modern luxury and the natural charm of the Maldives.

- The new sustainably designed exclusive resort has been designed with respect to the local environment, and has adopted sustainable inclusions of the highest standards. All Villas are built to the highest eco-friendly standards in a beautiful natural setting, using energy saving construction techniques and solar-powered energy.

- The concept for the design of the Villas was “communication through space” with the aim of creating a setting that is comfortable, even homely, using a unique blend of refinement, exclusivity and eco-friendly design. Architectural features that optimise passive energy and elements that are in sync with the property’s idyllic natural surroundings are used throughout the Club Med resort. The entire resort is equipped with solar roofs that produce 100 per cent of the property’s energy requirements.

- The sensitive design of the resort ensures guests are able to receive high end luxury without creating unnecessary negative impact on the environment.
Sustainable Development Policies

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- 30% of land area developed as resort
- 5m beach for every bungalow
- No buildings above tree height
- Should allow equal open space on island for water structures built
Biosphere Reserve
Maldives as a Biosphere Reserve

- Existing Protected Areas (42) and Sensitive Areas (247)
- Protected species in Maldives
- Biosphere Reserve established in Baa Atoll.
- Government Pledge to become a Nationwide Biosphere Reserve by 2017.
Benefits of Biosphere Reserve

• First Biosphere Reserve Country
• Promoting Maldives as an Eco Tourist Destination
• Protecting the Beaches of Maldives
• Bring international interest to protect the sensitive beaches in Maldives
• Maldives will become a country which respects international pledges.
• International Protection to the reefs and beaches
• Marketing the resorts under the logo of Biosphere Reserve
Recommendations

• Public consultation in planning tourism
• Strengthening law enforcement
• Better implementation of strategic action plans formulated to achieve the sustainable development of tourism
• Technical Decisions Vs Political Decision
Thank you
Yearly Tourist Arrivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>931,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>958,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,125,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,204,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,234,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>359,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>105,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>92,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>52,366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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