

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Male', Republic of Maldives.

رِقْمِ سِهُورِ وْوْرْمُومُ بِرِيْسُ - رِيْحُ مِوْرٍ رُوْجُ رُسُو

Biodiversity Student Prize

Introduction

Maldives has one of the most diverse and unique marine biodiversity of the world. Our small island nation represents the 7th largest and the 5th most diverse reef ecosystem globally. Coral reefs apart from accommodating a different array of species, serve as a food source, protects us from natural hazards, while we also generate income off of it and enjoy many recreational activities such as snorkeling and diving. Apart from the world famous coral reefs, the marine biodiversity of Maldives is also renowned for having large charismatic megafaunas, while our waters is also home for some of the most critically endangered species globally. We also have unique mangrove ecosystems found in many islands, used for different purposes and providing many services to us. Furthermore our economy is gravely dependent on marine and coastal biodiversity. The main contributors to our GDP, fisheries and tourism sector generates direct benefits from marine biological diversity. Therefore these essential benefits marine biological diversity provides us, makes it essential for us to ensure that our marine biodiversity is conserved and sustainably used. Our policies and actions should be focused to ensure that the benefits we enjoy form these biological resources is passed onto future generations.

The marine biodiversity of Maldives faces many challenges and threats such as climate change and associated impacts like ocean acidification, sea level rise, and increase in sea surface temperature. Moreover reef reclamation to support the growing population, coastal marine pollution from different sources are some of the threats to marine biodiversity of Maldives.

To address national and global threats to biodiversity, Maldives ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity on 28 October 1992. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Convention. Therefore, this essay competition also known as Biodiversity Student Prize focuses on "enjoying marine and coastal biodiversity of Maldives for the last 25 years". The winners of the competition will be announced on the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) which is 22nd of May every year. The theme for this year's IDB is "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity".

The aim of Biodiversity Student Prize is to enhance the knowledge of marine and coastal biodiversity in school students and make the students aware of the challenges in biodiversity conservation. This is also a great opportunity for school students to showcase their knowledge and understanding in biodiversity conservation.



Green Building, Handhuvaree Hingun,
Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives.

4(960) 301 8300
+(960) 301 8301
www.environment.gov.mv

Page 1 of 3 دُورِسُرْ ﴿ وَدُورِ سُرَوَ مُرَدِّ رَسِرَوُورَ رِسِرِوْرُورَ دُورُسُرْمْ، وَدُورُ 20390 ، مِرْوَرِيَّرُدُخْ . www.twitter.com/ENVgovMV من www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv



Eligibility

This Biodiversity Prize is open to all school students in Maldives through grades eight to twelve.

Participation

Students can write an essay about "enjoying marine and coastal biodiversity of Maldives for the last 25 years", which must be between 1000 to 2000 words. They can submit their essay themselves by emailing environment@environment.gov.mv with the subject "Biodiversity Student Prize". Hard copies are not accepted. Each student can submit one entry.

Essay topics

The essay must heavily focus on the theme of this essay competition "enjoying marine and coastal biodiversity of Maldives for the last 25 years", but must have their own title. The essay can also be based on experiences, interviews and quotes from the elderly. The essay can be based on one of the following topics:

- A marine species and its role in our livelihood and economy
- Marine and coastal biodiversity and the economy of Maldives
- Sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
- Challenges in conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity
- Climate change and marine and coastal biodiversity
- Threats to marine and coastal biodiversity
- Declining plants and animals species in your island

Prize

The winner will be awarded MVR 2500 in the form of a BML Card, a one year subscription to an educational online magazine/ a science educational app (tbd), and a certificate of merit. The essay will be published in the Ministry of Environment and Energy's newsletter PEMPHIS, on the official Ministry of Environment and Energy website, and in an online local news outlet.

The runner up will win MVR 1500, a six month subscription to an educational online magazine/ a science educational app (tbd) and a certificate of merit. Five second runner ups will be awarded 1000 MVR each and certificates of merit.

Judges

Judges will assess entries on: suitability of content, language and originality, accuracy and overall quality of writing. Entries will be assessed by a panel of judges.



Green Building, Handhuvaree Hingun,
Maafannu, Male', 20392, Republic of Maldives.

+(960) 301 8300
+(960) 301 8301
www.environment.gov.mv

Page 2 of 3

www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv



Competition dates

The Biodiversity Student Prize is open from 18 March to 18 April 2018. The winners will be notified and publicly announced during May 2018.

Requirements/ Terms and Conditions

- No application is required.
- One entry per student.
- The first page must include the students name, age, grade, school, island, contact number and an email address. Entries with incomplete information will be disqualified.
- Entries must be original and unpublished.
- The judges' decision will not be subject to review.
- Students retain ownership of material submitted to the competition. However, by submitting the essay to the competition, students hereby grant to the Ministry of Environment and Energy, rights to use, reproduce, display, publish and otherwise make use of the submitted essay in any and all media, whether now known or hereinafter created, throughout the world for any purpose.
- In addition, by submitting the essay, participants hereby represent and warrant that the submitted materials do not and shall not infringe on any copyrights or other right of any third party, and that the participant has the right to grant any and all rights and licenses granted to the Ministry of Environment and Energy herein, including but not limited to all necessary rights under copyright, free and clear of any claims or encumbrances.

Some useful resources are available at the following websites

- Ministry of Environment and Energy http://www.environment.gov.mv
- Convention on Biological Diversity https://www.cbd.int/
- Maldives Conservation Portal https://maldivesconservationportal.org/

Some useful publications

- Fifth National Report of Maldives to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016 2025
- State of the Environment of Maldives 2016



ويوره مولوديد كرسرفروير مسروش وَ مَرْسُرُ وَ وَهُ 20392، مِرْهُ رِسُّرُهُ عَ secretariat@environment.gov.mv www.twitter.com/ENVgovMV www.facebook.com/environment.gov.mv

www.environment.gov.mv