Issue no : 33 December 2011



A second campaign to say No to plastic bags to be initiated

Clean Development Mechanism

NEWS

Maldives urged the world nations to reach a legally binding agreement by no later than 2015

Workshop on Introduction of Hydrocarbon refrigerant as a drop in replacement for HCFC based AC systems

Maldives urges Montreal Protocol to further work towards protection against climate change

The Maldives Story:

At the forefront of ozone layer protection and achieving carbon neutrality

First Stakeholder Workshop on Review and Update of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP)

General Recommendations of the National coral reef Monitoring programme, 2005

A SECOND CAMPAIGN TO SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS TO BE INITIATED ON 1 JANUARY 2012

Ahmed Hassaan Zuhair

In collaboration with State Trading Organization (STO), Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO) and Bright Brothers (AGORA), Ministry of Housing and Environment is organizing a second phase of 'No to Plastic Bags Campaign' to be initiated on 1 January 2012. This campaign is a continuation of the 'No to Plastic Bags Campaign' held earlier this year to mark the World's Environment Day. The objective of the campaign is to raise public awareness regarding the negative impacts plastic bags cause to the environment, with a broader view to slowly phase out plastic bags in the country and consequently increase the popularity of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

In this campaign 4500 non woven bags will be distributed to various customers shopping from STO, MIFCO and AGORA with a discount system planned for those customers utilizing these bags.

The details of events planned by each respective company are as follows:

State Trading Organization (STO)

STO is organizing 2 events; event concept and cloth bag campaign. Both events will be continued for 6 months.

1. Event Concept (Eco Promotion)

STO Home Improvement has listed out several products that use eco-friendly technology which will be selling with a 2% discount.

HITACHI: Refrigerator, Washing Machines, LED TV, Inverter Air Conditioners

PHILIPS: LED TV

NIPPON: INTERIOR PAINTS: Nippon Odor-less Premium all-in-1, Nippon Paint Easy Wash with Teflon, Nippon Paint 3-in-1 Medifresh, Nippon Paint Vinilex 5000 Low Odor

NIPPON: EXTERIOR PAINTS: Nippon Weather bond

2. Cloth Bag Campaign

1500 non-woven bags will be distributed to customers of STO Supermarket. Those who bring them back will be

getting a 2% discount. Banner and posters are to be displayed outside the supermarket to inform and attract customers.

Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO)

1500 non-woven bags will be distributed to customers buying a wide range of dry products from MIFCO Mas Fihaara in Male' and Hulhumale'. A registered wholesale customer of MIFCO 'Fasmeeru Geydhoshu Fihaara' will also join this event by offering bags to their customers.

A monthly gift hamper will be rewarded to the customer who brings the green (non-woven) bag most frequently when coming to shop from MIFCO Mas Fihaara in Male'. MIFCO invite both AGORA and STO customers to participate in this event at MIFCO Mas Fihaara, Male' by presenting the green bag when they shop at MIFCO Mas Fihaara in Male'. The event will be continued for 6 months.

Information leaflets about the overall program, its objectives and the monthly reward will be distributed along with the bags. Posters will also be circulated to the partner shops for public awareness of the program.

Bright Brothers (AGORA)

1500 bags will be distributed to customers buying products worth more than MRf. 200/- from the two AGORA shops in Male'. A 2.5% discount will be given to customers who bring these bags and buy products worth more than MRf. 300/- from AGORA. A special discount counter is to be established for customers utilizing the reusable bags.

The ground floor of AGORA shops will be decorated for the campaign with posters and banners. The objective of the event organized by AGORA is to minimize the average daily number of plastic bags used by AGROA shops from 4000 to 3000. The event will be continued till the end March 2012.



CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM)

Zammath Khaleel

Clean Development Mechanism established under Kyoto Protocol in Article 12 (2/CMP1, 3/CMP.1) is one mechanism to assist developed Country Parties (Annex 1) to meet their commitments under the protocol by investing in Non-Annex 1 parties. Under CDM a party can invest on low carbon technology on another Non-Annex 1 Party (Host Country) and reduce the carbon intensity of the host country. In return the carbon emission reduced by the investment is quantified as Certified Emission Reduction (CER) and used to offset the investing party's emission. This mechanism allows a reduction in overall carbon emission at the same time facilitate, low carbon technology transfer and means of sustainable development for the host country. Clean development mechanism has 5 major stages or processes, that is;

- 1. Project Design (2 6 months)
- 2. Host Country Approval (1-2 months)
- 3. Validation Process (3 months)
- 4. Registration (3 months)
- 5. Implementation and Monitoring (12 months)
- 6. Verification and Certification (1-2 months)
 Issuance of CERs



Figure 1: Summary of the CDM processes with timeline

As Maldives is aiming to go low carbon in the future, CDM is an opportunistic mechanism which would provide a market incentive for low carbon investments. Although there are some difficulties and limited scope of CDM in a small country, currently it is the only market mechanism operational for Non-Annex 1 Parties.

To establish CDM projects as prescribed under decision 3/CMP1 there are some prerequisites that needs to be fulfilled. The following paragraphs would outline the necessary prerequisites for establishment and operation of CDM projects in the Maldives.

Designated National Authority (DNA) for CDM: Dr. Mohamed Shareef, Minister of State for Housing and Environment

As DNA, he is tasked with review and approves local CDM projects for submission to CDM executive board (CDM EB) established under UNFCCC.

DNAApproval Procedures

Under KP and other COP/CMP decisions, there are no prescribed rules and procedure for issuing approval from DNA. The host country has the freedom of setting a procedure in favor their conditions. The tentative procedure which could be adopted for Maldives is outlined below.

- Project Developer should submit a Project Idea Note (PIN) along with supporting documents to CDM unit
- PIN would be reviewed and evaluated by a CDM panel; if there are queries after the review of PIN, Project Developer would be asked to address those.
- After review of PIN, if there is no objection, a tentative approval or letter of no objection will be given to go ahead with the project and develop Project Development Document (PDD).
- Upon submission of PDD, it would be reviewed and evaluated by a CDM panel; PDD would be checked for consistency with the approved PIN and if additional queries arise, Project Developer would be asked to address these for completion of the PDD.
- Once the PDD is approved by the CDM panel, Letter of Approval (LoA) will be issued by the DNA.



Figure 2: Flowchart for DNA approval process

Project Idea Note:

Project Idea Note (PIN) is a document introducing the basic concept and a brief description of the project. PIN should contain the following information;

- Project Developer (PD)
- Designated Operating Entity (DOE)
- Project Type, location and size
- Tentative schedule for targets
- Tentative budget and funding sources
- Brief description of the project
- Compliance to National Sustainable Development Criteria.
- Stakeholders and brief discussions of their involvements
- Approximate estimate of Certified Emission Reductions (CER) generated

Supporting Documents

Following documents are to be submitted along with PIN:

- Environmental compliance document (eg: decision statement for EIA done for the project)
- Approval from sector specific regulators (eg: MEA for energy sector, Transport Authority for Transport sector, Ministry of Tourism for Tourism Sector....etc)
- Validity of project developer (eg: company profile and registration)

Note: A tentative format for the PIN attached

Project Development Document (PDD)

The guidelines to develop PDD have been clearly outlined under KP decisions (3/CMP.1, 4/CMP.1, 6/CMP.1 and 7/CMP.1) along with their annex. The project developer is to prepare this document in accordance with the guidance of KP directives with the involvement of a accredited Designated Operational Entity with proper licensing to operate CDM project in the intended sector or region. PDD should be submitted for review by the national CDM review panel for evaluation as indicated in the procedures. The PDD should be submitted to CDM Executive Board (CDM EB) along with Letter of Approval (LoA) of host country DNA.

Care should be taken in preparation of PDD as it would be subjected to scrutiny by CDM Executive Board (CDM EB) with verification by a 3rd party DOE and subject to worldwide public comments before CERs is approved for the project.

Note: The PDD format for different sectors is articulated in KP decisions and is readily available at UNFCCC CDM website along with necessary accredited methodologies

Review and Evaluation Criteria:

Review and evaluation of a project would be done on 2 occasions. That is upon submission of PIN and again after submission of PDD. Review and Evaluation would be carried out by the CDM panel. The criteria's for the evaluation of the project is below;

Criteria	Requirements
Environment	△ Should comply Environment ACT 4/1993 and any other revision or amendment made to that ACT △ Should comply with all EPA (EIA and environmental liability regulations) regulations △ Should be in line with policies and strategies of SAP and other environmental policy document developed after SAP. ✓ Should promote the concept of climate resilience and sustainable development
Economic	A Should provide opportunities for the economy (jobs and other investment opportunities) Increase the efficiency of the economy or economic sector (at least should demonstrate models and practices) Should be in line with SAP economic chapter policies and regulations or any other sectoral plans and strategies which the project is directed at.
Social	
Regulatory conventions	

News

MALDIVES URGED THE WORLD NATIONS TO REACH A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT BY NO LATER THAN 2015

08 DECEMBER 2011

Speaking at the ministerial high-level segment of the United Nations Climate Change conference, 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) and the 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7) held in Durban, 28 November to 9 December, Minister of Housing and Environment, Mohamed Aslam stated that it is already too late to act and we need to reach a legally binding agreement no later than by 2015. Minister stated that "for vulnerable countries the urgency is now. It is time to act decisively. Parties need to go beyond their long stated positions and kick-off negotiations towards a

comprehensive, fair, ambitious agreement. What we seek is a legal mandate for us to work on a binding agreement and for the parties to agree that we shall start the process now and reach that agreement as soon as possible but no later than 2015". He congratulated the Commissioner of European Union, Ms. Connie Hedegaard for their leadership and flexibility manifested by them to commit for a second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is the only instrument with binding emission reduction targets and must remain the primary instrument governing developed country emissions for the second and subsequent commitment periods. Speaking about the importance of reducing the emissions, he highlighted that the current pledges made by the behemoth emitters will not fulfill the target of keeping the globe below 2 degrees and if Durban cannot conclude with a legally binding agreement to close the door on raising mitigation ambitions, many of our small island states will be literally and figuratively doomed. "Current emission reduction pledges have the world on a pathway for temperature increase of at least 4 degrees or more, which will definitely wipe out my country and many small island states from the world map", said the minister. He stressed to act resolutely to agree to a 2012 work plan to close the Giga-tone gap, referring to the recent reports by the International Energy Agency and UNEP.

WORKSHOP ON INTRODUCTION OF HYDROCARBON REFRIGERANT AS A DROP IN REPLACEMENT FOR HCFC BASED AC SYSTEMS

10 DECEMBER 2011

Miruza Mohamed

Ministry of Housing and Environment in association with Hydrocarbon gas suppliers in Singapore and local Agent, Affix Maldives Pvt Ltd held a workshop on Introduction of Hydrocarbon refrigerant as a drop in replacement for HCFC based AC systems on 10th December 2011 at Maldives Polytecnic.

The Objective of the Workshop was to introduce Hydrocarbon refrigerant as a drop-in replacement for HCFC based AC systems in Maldives and reduce HCFC consumption in the RAC sector in Maldives and to assist the country to comply with the phase-out schedule for

HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol. The workshop sessions covered Introduction of basic components of the Ecospan Hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants, case studies based on the performance evaluation of AC retrofitted with HC Ecospan Hydrocarbon (HC) refrigerants, and present comparative analysis including environmental aspects such as ODP and GWP issue, Safety measure handling and storage of HC refrigerants applicability as a drop in refrigerant and subsequent technical, environmental, safety as well as financial issues and a practical demonstration.

The sessions were conducted by Technical Director of Ecospan Dr. Ladas Taylay and the Managing Director Tan Poh Chung. Workshop was attended by technicians from RAC sector.

MALDIVES URGES MONTREAL PROTOCOL TO FURTHER WORK TOWARDS PROTECTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

25 NOVEMBER 2011

Miruza Mohamed

Speaking at the Ministerial segment of the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Vienna Convention and the 23rd Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer held in Bali, 24-25 November, Minister of State Mr. Kamaludeen high-lighted that going carbon neutral and phasing-out HCFC are part of the Maldives low hazardous National Development Strategy and that Maldives believes phasing out ozone depleting gases provides tremendous opportunities to reduce global warming and climate change and thereby enabling the mitigation of impacts of climate change.

Mr. Kamaludeen said, "Maldives believes the Montreal Protocol should evolve itself and emerge as an instrument that not only protects the ozone layer but is also a safeguard against climate change".

Speaking about the importance of establishing a mechanism under the Multilateral Fund to consider financing for ozone-climate co-benefit activities, the Minister of State said, 'While the Maldives appreciates being the first country to receive funds for HPMP, regrettably, the Multilateral Fund had to discard all components in our HPMP that demonstrated climate ozone co-benefits as there are no arrangements under MLF to consider ozone-climate co-benefit activities."

Speaking about the available alternative technologies when phasing out HCFCs, the State Minister said that the Maldives wants to achieve two targets by 2020; carbon neutrality and HCFC Phase-out under the low hazardous development plan and therefore low ODP and higher GWP technologies are not an option for Maldives.

Highlighting the importance of protecting the environment, Mr. Kamaludeen urged the countries to give serious consideration to the ongoing debate on whether to consider HFCs under the ambit of the Montreal Protocol. Mr. Kamaludeen also said that in order to protect the ozone layer we should not contribute in destroying the climate system.



THE MALDIVES STORY: AT THE FOREFRONT OF OZONE LAYER PROTECTION AND ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

Miruza Mohamed

The Government of the Maldives showcased its success story in ozone protection and achieving carbon neutrality in a side event organized by the Ministry of Housing and Environment of Maldives in cooperation with the OzonAction Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 24th November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. This event was held during the 23rd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer from 21 to 25 November 2011.

"We want to share our ozone story – how the HPMP of Maldives was the first to be approved, how our government was able to pledge the total phase-out of HCFCs 10 years ahead of the Montreal Protocol deadline and how our ozone depleting substances programs are linked with the country's carbon neutrality policy," stated

Akram Kamaluddeen, Minister of State for Housing and Environment, Maldives.

The HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) of Maldives, approved at the 60th Executive Committee (Decision 61/37) of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, follows a single stage approach – freezing the consumption of HCFC gases by 2011 and gradually reducting it until 97.5% phase-out by 2020, with 2.5% allowance for servicing the needs of existing equipment until 2025. The Maldives' strategy of accelerating their phase-out deadlines many years earlier that what is required under the Montreal Protocol is aligned with the country's carbon neutrality policy.

"Maldives is the first country to get funds for the HPMP. We have started implementing our HPMP. We have two targets to achieve by the end of 2020- phase-out of HCFCs and become carbon neutral. Though small in size, the challenges ahead are bigger- much bigger than the CFC phase-out. However, with political backing and support from various organizations, partners, we are not hesitant to go ahead in achieving our targets- 10 years ahead of Montreal Protocol Phase-out targets," said Ahmed Saleem, Permanent Secretary of Ministry Housing and Environment.

"Being the first country to have our HPMP approved, we also faced several challenges of how to initiate our programme and learned some lessons during the HPMP preparation, initiation and implementation, including establishing an HCFC licensing and quota system in the country. Experience in this regard in Article 5 countries globally was like blank paper on which we had to imprint our work. Through this meeting, we want to share this information with other countries that are just about to begin their HPMPs," shared Ms. Miruza Mohamed, Assistant Director and Ozone Officer of Maldives.

UNEP and UNDP are, respectively, the lead and cooperating implementing agencies supporting the Maldives for the implementation of the HPMP.t" As a small island state at risk from climate change, the Maldives recognized early on at the highest level the linkages between ozone depletion and climate change. Their HPMP presents innovative approaches for achieving dual benefits and maximizing the climate cobenefit of the HCFC phase out. Their example will inform and inspire other developing countries which consume low volumes of HCFCs to take a similar smart ozone-climate path."," said Mr. James Curlin, Interim Head of the UNEP OzonAction Programme.

Meanwhile, Mr. Balaji Natarajan of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) talked about implementing investment projects under the HPMP, and

Pemphis Newsletter | Issue 33 | December 2011

Mr. Rolf Huehren of GIZ discussed the pilot project on zero ODP low GWP, and energy efficient R-290 based AC systems in Maldives. The event was attended by delegates from countries and agencies, notably governments whose HPMPs have just been approved.



FIRST STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON REVIEW AND UPDATE OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)

Muhsina Abdul Rahman

3N NOVEMBER 2011

The first Stakeholder Workshop on Review and Update of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) was held on 30th October 2011 at Nalahiya Hotel. The workshop was inaugurated by the Director General of Department of Environment Mr. Mohamed Zahir. Speaking at the opening ceremony Director General highlighted the importance of relevant agencies contribution. The objectives of this half day workshop include;

- Setting National priorities for biodiversity and National Targets under Aichi Targets
- Information sharing with regards previous NBSAP, 4th National report on Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity targets
- Discussions on the activities that can be carried out to achieve the National Targets for 2020 The Stakeholders who participated in the workshop were from Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Presidents Office, Department of National Planning, UNDP, Environmental Protection Agency and other departments of the Ministry of Housing and Environment.

CONTRACT SIGNED WITH HCFC IMPORTER FOR THE YEAR 2012

29 December 2011

Zainab Gulisthan

Ministry of Housing and Environment has signed the contract agreement yesterday, with the least cost bidder, Bright Brothers Pvt Ltd. for the import of HCFC for the year 2012. Based on the financial proposal submitted, Bright Brothers will be the only authorized importer of HCFC for the Maldives in the year 2012.

The government under its target to phase-out HCFCs and HCFC Blends by 2020, has set 67MT as the quota for HCFC import to the Maldives for the year 2012. Maldives started the controlling of import of HCFC in 2011 with an import of 67MT.

According to the HCFC regulation published in 2010, unauthorized importers and distributers of HCFCs and HCFC blends will be subject to penalties.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL CORAL REEF MONITORING PROGRAMME, 2009

The following are extracts from the general recommendations of the National Coral Reef Monitoring Programme, 2009, with minimal changes to ensure internal consistency in this article. This report was developed under the Maldives Environmental Management Project, as part of the environmental monitoring and management component.

The report is available at

http://www.mhe.gov.mv/v1/download/289 Reference:

Dawson Shepherd, A.R., (2009). Final Report. Pp. 120. 10th October 2009. Maldives National Coral Reef Monitoring Programme. MEMP 4427

MV. Marine Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Male', Republic of Maldives.

General recommendations

A: Core policy initiatives

- 1. The first core policy initiative relates to curriculum. It proposes that the primary and secondary school curriculum should require an understanding of any dependency between coral reef ecosystem health and social and economic development and drivers and pressures that may impact on these links. The curriculum should reflect the set of key indicators and associated monitoring procedures identified and recommended by this assignment and require monitoring as project/field studies work.
- 2. The second core policy initiative proposes that Government approach the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to request that it identify the standards and seek funds to implement the incremental costs of monitoring coral reef ecosystem health according to the 12 principles of the ecosystem approach.
- 3. The third core policy initiative proposes that Government approach the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change to implement a robust framework for carbon trading and offset. The framework should have two objectives. The first objective should be to provide incentives to develop and use alternative energy sources to that provided by fossil fuels. The second objective should be to generate resources to meet the incremental costs of social, economic and ecological adaptation to projected climate change.
- 4. The fourth core policy initiative proposes that Government commission a study into its carbon budget particularly with respect to potential sequestration by phytoplankton within its exclusive economic zone. This should determine (a) whether Maldives is a net carbon sink and so can trade its excess; (b) the extent to which it is carbon neutral; (c) the liabilities should climate change adversely effect phytoplankton production.

B: Subsidiary policy initiatives

- 5. The first proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to an indicator based approach to state of the environment monitoring. The proposal is that government should require that all environmental reporting relating to coral reef ecosystem health should comply, as a minimum, with the set of key indicators and associated monitoring procedures identified and recommended by the current assignment.
- 6. The second proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. It is proposed that EIA and end of lease assets reconciliation for tourist resort islands should be based on an inventory of natural assets and their management. This inventory should comply with the set of key indicators and associated monitoring procedures identified and recommended by the current assignment.

- 7. The third proposed subsidiary policy initiative also related to EIA. It proposes that it should be a performance requirement of the EPA to obtain, through sub-contracts funded by the lessee, reports on Environmental Management Plan compliance. Compliance should be benchmarked against the set of key indicators and associated monitoring procedures identified and recommended by this assignment and to make available these reports to the public. 8. The fourth proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to protected areas. It proposes that at least 10 % of uninhabited islands and 10% of coral reef areas should be leased under a set of strict preconditions for traditional and/or non-extractive use. The leases should be to public-private sector partnerships, private-civil society partnerships (Resort/dive operator - communities) and charitable foundations. These preconditions should relate to performance against the set of key indicators and associated monitoring procedures identified and recommended by this assignment.
- 9. The fifth proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to incentives for the use of renewable resources. It proposes that there should be a system of incentives for use of renewable energy resources and disincentives for use of non-renewable resources with the latter subsidising the former.
- 10. The sixth proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to the introduction of an enabling environment that can help catalyse the creation of civil society based trusts modelled along the lines of the national trusts found in many commonwealth countries. These trusts should have the right to receive moneys and to secure natural and cultural assets as a balance to the forces of development.
- 11. The seventh proposed subsidiary policy initiative relates to the European Union requirements for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of tuna. It proposes that the initiatives should be extended to baitfish and key reef fisheries.
- 12. The eighth proposed subsidiary policy initiative proposes that Government should make it a condition/criterion for approving all new tourist resort leases and extensions of existing leases that there is evidence that they are future proofed against such climate change events as may be specified at the time by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Layout & Design by: Mohamed Aflah

Published by:

Environment Department, Ministry of Housing and Environment, 1st Floor, Tinu Building, Ameenee Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives. Email: ahmed.hassaan@mhe.gov.mv Web: http://pemphis.wordpress.com http://www.mhe.gov.mv



The Maldives National University in collaboration with the Maldives Environmental Management Project

3004 311 memp.scholarships@mhe.gov.mv

www.mnu.edu.mv www.mhe.gov.mv/memp

- * Scholarships cover course fees and pocket money
- * Scholarships covered until mid-2013



MALDIVES ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

בנפת אחשם בפרפת אחשפתים בכל בינים בינים בינים בינים (وَيُرْسُرُ سَرُهُ مَا وَ 4/93 وَمَرْسُ بِرُّسُمُ مُ مُوْوِرُمُ وَ وَسِمَدُ

Birds protected in Maldives under the Environment Protection and Preservation Act: 4/93







