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Official Report

“High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Plastic Waste Management Challenges and Solutions in the Maldives”

High-Level Roundtable Discussion | Maldives | 20 August 2024



Event: High-Level Roundtable Discussion

Theme: Plastic Pollution Interventions in the Maldives

Topic: High-Level Roundtable Discussion on Plastic Waste Management Challenges and Solutions in the Maldives

Date: 20 August 2024

Time: 10:00 AM to 13:00 PM - Roundtable Discussion | 13:15 PM onwards - Lunch and networking

Venue: JEN Maldives, Malé by Shangri-La

Moderator: Nalaka Gunawardene, Senior Communication Consultant | World Bank

Discussants: Senior representatives from the Government of Maldives, United Nations agencies, multilateral financial institutions, bilateral donors, Non- Governmental Organizations and civil society networks, the corporate sector, and Academia

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DG	Director General
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
PLEASE	Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RBG	Regional Block Grants
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
WB	The World Bank
RTD	Round Table Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
SUP	Single-Use Plastic
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
MACCS	Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society
SIGS	Small Island Geographic Society
MCEP	Maldives Clean Environment Project
WAMCO	Waste Management and Corporation Limited

IG	Innovative Grants
MAWC	Male' Aerated Water Company

Introduction:

The High-Level Roundtable on Plastic Waste Management, held on 20 August 2024, at **JEN Maldives, Malé by Shangri-La**, was a significant event among a series of high-level discussions aimed at tackling the escalating plastic waste crisis in Maldives. The event was organized by the Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PLEASE) project, a regional initiative implemented by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and funded by the World Bank, brought together key stakeholders. These included representatives from government agencies, international organizations, corporations, and civil society, all of whom discussed the complex challenges of managing plastic waste and explored collaborative solutions. The discussions were structured into three thematic sessions, each addressing a different aspect of the issue, and concluded with a commitment to actionable steps moving forward. A total of 75 individuals participated, including 59 invited external participants and 16 internal members from SACEP, UNOPS, and the World Bank.

The objectives of the Roundtable Discussion were:

- To create a platform for discussing policy and regulatory measures to address plastic pollution in Maldives, engaging different stakeholders, including government agencies, corporate entities, and civil society organizations.
- To identify existing interventions and innovations in plastic waste management within Maldives, as well as to discuss strategies for scaling up successful initiatives and overcoming challenges;
- To explore opportunities for collaboration in plastic waste management in the Maldives through leveraging shared interventions and experiences
- To promote greater coordination among government bodies, development funders, corporate sponsors, and international organizations active in this sector, aiming to reduce duplication of efforts, optimize resource utilization, and enhance the impact of plastic waste management initiatives.

Roundtable Discussions in Brief:

Opening Remarks:

1. H.E. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
2. Rokeya Khaton, Director General, SACEP
3. Erdem Atas, Country Economist and Resident Coordinator for Maldives at the World Bank
4. Charles Callanan, Director of UNOPS Multi-Country Office

H.E Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, delivered the opening remarks, extending his gratitude to the World Bank, SACEP, UNOPS and the participants at the Roundtable



Discussion. He highlighted the government's efforts to reduce plastic waste, particularly through policy measures such as banning the production, importing and selling single-use plastics, introducing a levy on plastic shopping bags, and promoting sustainable alternatives. He emphasized that, by 2028, the Maldives aims to establish a sustainable, safe, and cohesive national waste and resource management system and implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to hold manufacturers accountable for the waste generated throughout a product's life cycle. He further highlighted the Maldives support for the UN treaty to establish a legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution. Additionally, he stressed the vital importance of public engagement in achieving a circular economy and sustainable waste management practices.

Ms. Rokeya Khaton, Director General of SACEP, highlighted SACEP's dedication to partnerships and environmental protection in South Asia, emphasizing the organization's commitment to advancing the PLEASE Project through cross-border collaboration while continuing its work in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and environmental governance. Ms. Khaton also highlighted SACEP's efforts, supported by the World Bank and UNOPS, to help local organizations in the Maldives reduce plastic pollution.

Mr. Erdem Atlas, Country Economist and Resident Coordinator for Maldives at the World Bank, highlighted that South Asia leads the world in open dumping, generating 40 million metric tons of plastic waste annually. Without intervention, this amount is projected to double by 2050, positioning South Asia as the largest producer of plastic pollution. He also emphasized that plastics significantly contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, driving human-induced climate change. Furthermore, he noted that the plastic industry currently accounts for approximately 6% of global oil consumption, projected to rise to 20% by 2050.

He highlighted the World Bank's findings, noting that the Maldives has one of the highest densities of microplastics globally, threatening ecosystems and public health. He also mentioned the recommendations to decentralize waste management and enhance recycling efforts to address this issue. He concluded his remarks by emphasizing the World Bank's commitment to tackling plastic pollution through the PLEASE project, which aims to implement interventions across the plastic lifecycle and foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Mr. Charles Callanan, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office, stressed that plastic waste is a global, transboundary issue, with poor waste management leading to plastics entering the oceans. He highlighted the existential threat this poses to the Maldives, where microplastics in tuna and plastic debris on beaches threaten two key industries: fishing and tourism. He noted that the world is producing a vast amount of plastic waste, and the Maldives needs protection both internally and externally. He explained how the PLEASE project aims to tackle plastic pollution with implementing support from SACEP and support by the World Bank, and UNOPS.



He noted that the Maldives was one of the first countries to receive a regional block grant from the PLEASE Project, supporting efforts like those of the Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS) and the Small Island Geographic Society (SIGS) in reducing plastic pollution and improving waste management. Additionally, two innovation grants were awarded to Community Empowerment Linkage (CEL) and Clean Maldives. He also highlighted UNOPS' role in supporting the PLEASE Project through project management, grant administration, communications, and infrastructure development for SACEP's headquarters. He concluded by encouraging the collaboration to address the critical challenge of plastic pollution and wished success in ongoing efforts.

The Roundtable Discussion then held wide-ranging discussions around policy, financing donor coordination and synergies, and community and civil society engagements and efforts toward plastic pollution prevention, control and management in the Maldives, through structured discussion under three themes, viz:

1. Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management
2. Initiatives by Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners
3. Showcasing work by corporate and civil sectors

Session 1: Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management

The first discussion, led by Haleemath Shazleen, Environment Analyst, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy, focused on the current policies addressing plastic waste management in the Maldives.

Current policies highlighted by the Ministry to address plastic waste management include:

- Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Phase-Out Plan 2020-2023
- Waste Management Act
- Regulation on taking fees from Plastic Bags on Point of Sale
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Draft Regulation on Single-use Plastic
- Waste and Resource Management Strategy
- International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on Plastic Pollution

This discussion centered on the plastic policy landscape in the Maldives, current enforcement status, challenges, and lessons learned.

Plastic waste is a pressing issue in the Maldives, prompting the government to implement the SUP Phase-Out Policy in 2020, followed by Ban Decree 2021/9. The SUP Phase-Out Plan 2020-2023, which successfully eliminated 13 of the 14 targeted SUP items, was reviewed in detail. This plan focuses on controlling the production, import, and consumption of specific SUPs while encouraging sustainable

alternatives. The discussion noted that the SUP ban has significantly reduced single-use shopping bags, raised public awareness, and fostered a shift toward SUP alternatives.

Since the Maldives imports the majority of consumer goods, introducing SUP phase ban at the import, consumption and point of sale, levy on plastic bags, and introduction of EPR in managing plastic packaging waste are taken as appropriate policy and regulatory measures to tackle plastic pollution.

The Discussion also hinted at amendments to the existing regulatory framework and the drafting of new regulations.

The Waste Management Act is being amended in the Maldives. Similarly, the Government is planning to review the progress of the SUP phase-out plan 2020-2023 and conduct a study on new items for incorporation.

Under the Waste Management Act, Maldives is drafting a regulation addressing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This will play a critical role in ensuring the producers or importers are accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, particularly their end-of-life disposal and recycling. Maldives has drafted the EPR framework. The EPR Regulations and EPR Roadmap are under review and will undergo enforcement shortly.

Similarly, under the new Waste Management Act, the government has introduced various regulations, including the "Regulation on collecting plastic bag fee by persons registered for GST- 2023/r-76." This regulation sets out the rules for persons registered with the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA) for Goods and Services Tax (GST) in collecting plastic bag fees under Chapter 8 of the Waste Management Act (Law Number 24/2022). From 18 April 2023, Maldives, under the Regulation on Collecting Plastic Bag Fee by Persons Registered for GST, charges (MVR) Maldivian Rufiyaa 2 per single-use plastic shopping bag (non-woven reusable bags are exempted from the levy). The levy collected goes to the Maldives Green Fund.

Despite encouraging policy development, the discussion also surfaced many challenges and bottlenecks in policy enforcement.

Building the capacity of policy enforcement agencies such as the Maldives Customs Service (for the SUP phase-out plan) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to certify sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics is a huge challenge.

For instance, to regulate the ban of 14 SUP items, the Customs have to regulate nearly 900 HS codes, which is a resource and time-consuming process at the Customs Department. Additionally, the lack of or

limited awareness and understanding of the regulations by the importers, traders, and brokers is another hurdle. Enhancing the capacity of customs officers as traders and importers is necessary.

There are also no mechanisms or laboratory testing or certification of the items promoted as sustainable alternatives to SUPs. The EPA only certifies the biobags. It is therefore important to include scrutiny of these alternatives from human health and ecosystem health angle because many alternatives to SUPs have plastic polymers hidden (e.g. plastic lining in paper cups for hot beverages) or ultimately release microplastics, and many are endocrine disruptors. Therefore, it is critical to increase the capacity of the regulatory agencies in this regard so that the policy and regulatory solutions do not get to the wrong end.

The 5th Amendment to the Waste Management Regulation (2021/R-109) mandated the source separation of selected waste streams at the household level, promoting recycling, re-use, and recovery of household waste, including SUP bottles. Malé households participated in the source separation, but due to a lack of segregated waste collection facilities, WAMCO collected the segregated waste into one vehicle, which broke public trust, and the waste source segregation could not work properly.

These above examples raised important lessons and learning, that is, the necessary preparation/homework should be done before announcing the regulations, for example, market readiness for alternatives to SUPs or readiness of the waste management facilities to cater for the policy enforcement needs for the policy to be enforced successfully.

Not only in the domestic policy arena, Maldives is also active in the global plastic pollution policy negotiation. Maldives, as a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), positions for an ambitious agreement that addresses the whole lifecycle of plastics, addressing particularly harmful, problematic and unnecessary polymers, chemicals, additives and products on the international legally binding instruments (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Blue Natural Capital is the foundation of the Maldives' economy, and Ocean plastic pollution continues to be challenging. Plastic pollution is a high-priority area as it affects the country's GDP through tourism fisheries, which depend on clean oceans and beaches and a healthy marine ecosystem.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Maldives' economy relies heavily on ocean-based resources, making plastic pollution a critical issue due to its impact on tourism, fisheries, and marine ecosystems.
2. The Maldives government's initiative, the SUP Plan Implemented in 2020, aimed to phase out 14 identified SUPs, significantly reduce the use of SUPc items, and promote alternatives. This Plan also supports advocacy on public awareness and shifts toward sustainable alternatives to plastics.
3. A Levy of MVR 2 per plastic shopping bag is charged, with the revenues collected to the Maldives Green Fund



4. Enforcement agencies like the Maldives Customs Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) face challenges due to limited resources and a lack of awareness among importers and traders.
5. Customs also faces regulatory complexity issues, creating a resource-intensive process to monitor the banned items
6. Lack of mechanisms to certify the sustainable alternatives to SUPs,
7. The government is drafting EPR regulations to hold producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products, including end-of-life disposal and recycling.
8. Effective policy enforcement requires adequate preparation, including market readiness for alternatives and suitable waste management facilities.
9. Proper waste management practices are essential to maintain public trust in recycling and segregation programs.
10. As a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Maldives advocates for ambitious international agreements addressing the entire lifecycle of plastic pollution, including harmful chemicals and additives.

Session 2: Initiatives by Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners (UN and donor Agency Reps Speaks

The second discussion started with a presentation from the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy that provided an overview of the donor-funded waste management projects implemented by the Ministry.

Waste Management Projects implemented by the Ministry include;

- Maldives Clean Environment Project- World Bank funded
- Greater 'Malé Environmental Improvement and Waste Management Project- Multi-donor funded with the donors being ADB, JFPR, JFJCM, AIIB, IsDB, and GoM
- Small Scale Waste to Energy Project- ADFD & GoM funded
- Converting Waste to Energy in Addu City Project- ADFD & GoM funded
- Zone 1 WTE Component -OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

The presentation gave an overview of technical and financial assistance provided by various bilateral and multilateral donors and UN agencies, including ADB, AIIB, WB, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and OFID.

A **representative from MCEP, Ms Jumaina Hassan**, has highlighted the importance of having a centralized coordination platform to foster better collaboration among donors. This platform should have all donors, NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders in one place. It can serve as a hub to

share the project goals, timelines, and resources, ensuring that each donor's contribution is not duplicated.

Ahmed Shifaz, Assistant Resident Representative from the UNDP Maldives, highlighted that they have been working on waste management, focusing on plastic waste, for over 10 years at community, national, and global levels. Their approach includes policy development, research, innovation, and partnerships to drive change. Key efforts include policy engagement through the UNDP's Ocean Innovation Challenge, which has supported extended producer responsibility for plastics.

Mohamed Zahi, Project Management Specialist from the USAID Maldives highlighted the USAID Ocean Plastic Reduction Activity, a five-year initiative which was launched in 2022 to combat plastic pollution in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. He mentioned that the project focuses on reducing ocean plastic by improving solid waste management systems and decreasing reliance on virgin plastics. Also, It aims to mobilize funding, enhance government capacity, and increase participation in waste management and recycling programs, ultimately preventing thousands of tons of plastic from entering the environment.

All the representatives stressed the importance of increasing collaboration and achieving synergies to harmonize the efforts of various donors and achieve an impactful result in reducing plastic pollution in the Maldives.

The Roundtable participants all agreed that acknowledging the shared responsibility, ensuring consistency and complementarity in policies, funding and investments, fostering a culture of collaboration, establishing synergies among donors and development partners, and recognizing and continuing collaborative efforts would be the best approach to end plastic pollution in the Maldives, and in the region and globally.

The Ministry of Finance and the Government of Maldives shared the current approach they take in achieving donor coordination and synergies and exploring innovative financing for plastic waste management by establishing the Sustainable Strategic Finance Hub and Public Private Partnership (PPP) Unit at the Ministry. The Ministry of Finance highlighted the need to strengthen the project monitoring process, capacity building, and coordination with other line ministries for building synergies.

Key Takeaways:

1. Coordinating efforts among donors, development partners, and various government ministries can enhance the effectiveness of plastic waste management initiatives.
2. Building a culture of collaboration among stakeholders is essential for effective plastic pollution management.



3. Ensuring that policies and funding mechanisms are consistent and complementary is crucial for creating synergies and achieving the intended impact in plastic waste management.
4. Enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders, including line ministries, is necessary to build synergies and achieve better outcomes.
5. The Ministry of Finance has established a Sustainable Strategic Finance Hub and Public Private Partnership (PPP) unit at the Ministry, which can explore innovative financing solutions for plastic waste management.
6. There is a need for improved project monitoring processes to ensure effective implementation of plastic waste management projects.
7. Recognizing and continuing collaborative efforts at the local, regional, and global levels is key to progressing in addressing plastic pollution.

Session 3: Showcasing work by corporate and civil sectors

The third session started with a presentation from MACCS and SIGS, all recipients of regional block grants (RBGs) of the PLEASE Project, about their key activities and milestones of the Project. After the Presentations, Clean Maldives and Community Empowerment Linkages (CEL), which have received innovation grants (IGs) of the PLEASE Project talked about their experience with successful community-led projects conducted by them.

Additionally, SONEVA Namoonaa, one of the NGOs in the Maldives, highlighted the activities by their organization to address plastic pollution, giving focus to plastic waste management in the tourism sector. They also shared the lessons learned on citizen engagements and behavior nudging based on the ongoing projects they implemented, potential challenges and the most crucial gap in plastic pollution management in the Maldives.

MAWC, one of the bottling industries in the Maldives, gave an overview of their initiatives, including the concept of EPR, plastic credits to enhance post-consumption plastic waste collection, and recycling works ongoing and planned by them

Lastly, the discussion also highlighted how more granular and regular data is needed at the local, national, and international levels to take an informed holistic approach to identifying successful evidence based solutions in policy, infrastructure, and industry innovations to tackle plastic waste management in the Maldives.

The discussion was joined by other NGOs, private sector companies, and CSOs that are involved in the management of plastic waste to talk about their project activities and milestones. The Roundtable

Discussion acknowledged the important role civil society and private sector play in the fight against plastic pollution, especially engaging communities in the fight against plastic pollution through various ways:

Key Takeaways:

1. Engaging civil society and the private sector is crucial in addressing plastic pollution. This includes working with NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and citizens to promote behavioral changes, conduct citizen science initiatives, and gather data on littering. Pilot projects and research can help in crafting effective policies and practices.
2. NGOs and CSOs should be recognized as key partners in governmental efforts to combat plastic pollution. Their involvement is essential for a comprehensive and inclusive approach.
3. It's important to build and sustain partnerships with civil society and the private sector. Maintaining public trust is crucial for the success of environmental initiatives

The roundtable discussion concluded with closing remarks from Mr Ahmed Nizam, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy. The session summarized the key takeaways from the discussions, emphasizing the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to address the plastic waste crisis in Maldives:

Conclusion:

The Roundtable Discussion on plastic waste management in the Maldives facilitated critical conversations on policy, financing, and community engagement, highlighting the need for a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach that the country is undertaking to tackle plastic pollution.

Significant progress in policy development, including the phase-out of single-use plastics (SUP), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, and regulatory advancements like plastic bag levies were highlighted. However, enforcement challenges, such as limited regulatory capacity and infrastructure gaps, were also underscored.

The event focused on the importance of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in mobilizing resources, fostering synergies among donors, and ensuring consistency in policy and funding. It emphasized the role of civil society and private sectors in raising awareness and implementing on-ground initiatives, reinforcing the need for collaboration and public trust.

Overall, the event highlighted the need for sustained dialogue, stronger coordination, and enhanced regulatory capacities to achieve long-term solutions to plastic pollution in the Maldives, both domestically and in alignment with global commitments.

Annex 1

Agenda

Timestamp	Segment	Description
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Opening Remarks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recitation of Holy Quran by Abdul Rasheedh 2. H.E. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy 3. Rokeya Khaton, Director General, SACEP 4. Erdem Atas, Country Economist and Resident Coordinator for Maldives at the World Bank 5. Charles Callanan, Director of UNOPS Multi-Country Office
10.30 - 11.15 AM	1st Open Discussion [45 mins]	<p>Theme: Policy and regulatory matters related to plastic waste management (state sector representatives)</p> <p><u>Presentation 10 mins</u></p> <p>Presentation on the Policy and Regulatory Framework for Plastic Waste Management in the Maldives by Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Haleemath Shazleen, Environment Analyst</p> <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 35 mins</u></p>
11:15 - 12:00 PM	2nd Open Discussion [45 minutes]	<p>Theme: Initiatives by Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners (UN and donor Agency Representatives)</p> <p><u>Presentation 10 mins</u></p> <p>Presentation on the waste management projects implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy by Suma Mohamed, Senior Program Officer</p> <p><u>Speakers 5 mins each</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahmed Shifaz, Assistant Resident Representative Maldives, Senior representative of Plastic Innovation Grants Projects implemented by UNDP Maldives 0. Jumaina Hassan, Project Manager, MCEP

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0. Mohamed Zahy, Project Management Specialist, USAID Maldives 0. Khadheeja Milha, Resource Mobilization Specialist, Ministry of Finance <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 15 mins</u></p>
12:00 - 12.45	3rd Open Discussion [45 mins]	<p>Theme: Showcasing work by corporate and civil sectors <u>Presentation 05 mins each</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Presentation - MACCS (Key activities and Milestone of the PLEASE Project) by Aishath Hudha Ahmed, Team Lead/ Environment Waste and Plastic Management Consultant.</i> 2. <i>Presentation - SIGS (Key activities and Milestone of the PLEASE Project) by Mizna Mohamed, Project Manager.</i> <p><u>Speakers 05 mins each</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hafsath Aleem, Founder of Clean Maldives. 2. Ahmed Hassan, Founder, Community Empowerment Linkage. 3. Avinash Pratap Singh, Director, Soneva Namoonaa 4. Rajat Batra, CEO Stenum Asia, on behalf of Prevention of Marine Litter in the Lakshadweep (PROMISE) project <p><u>Open Floor Discussion 15 mins</u></p>
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways	<p>The session will conclude with a summary of key takeaways and insights from the discussions.</p> <p>Closing remarks by Deputy Minister Ahmed Nizam, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy SACEP National Focal Point for the Maldives</p>
13.00 PM onwards	Lunch & Networking Session	

Annex 2



List of Participants (75 Representatives)

Government of Maldives (25 Representatives)

1. Thoriq Ibrahim (Minister) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
2. Ajwadh Musthafa (Permanent Secretary) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
3. Ahmed Nizam (Deputy Minister) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
4. Abdhulla Amir (Deputy Minister) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
5. Jumaina Hassan (Project Manager) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
6. Jumana Niyaz (Information Education and Communication Specialist) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
7. Suma Mohamed (Senior Program Officer) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
8. Haleemath Shazleen (Environment Analyst) - Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
9. Ali Shareef (Special Envoy for Climate Change)- President's Office
10. Ismail Mohamed (Deputy Minister) - Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare
11. Hamidh Ibrahim Fulhu (Project Coordinator) - Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare
12. Mohamed Nabeel Ahmed (Research Analyst) - Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
13. Khadheeja Milha (Resource Mobilization Specialist) - Ministry of Finance
14. Mariyam Hamdha (Assistant Resource Mobilization Executive) - Ministry of Finance
15. Ali Mohamed (Deputy Minister) - Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
16. Ahmed Ibrahim (Deputy Minister) - Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
17. Aminath Shabana Ali (Food Quality Assurance Coordinator) - Maldives Food and Drug Authority
18. Husnu Afrose (Education Development Professional) - Ministry of Education
19. Ahmed lyad (Deputy Chief Superintendent) - Maldives Customs Service
20. Aishath Wilny (Superintendent) - Maldives Customs Service
21. Hashim Nabeel Abdhulla (Senior Environment Analyst) - Environmental Protection Agency
22. Khadheeja Ishaanee (Administrative Officer) - Environmental Protection Agency
23. Nazeer Shaah (General Manager, Waste Management & Horticulture) - Maldives Airports Company Ltd
24. Mohamed Ali Waheed (Director General, Technical, Engagement and Education) - Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA)
25. Yoosuf Shiraz (Senior Director, Engagement) - Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA)

Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners (09 Representatives)

1. Shadiya Ibrahim (Head of Office) - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Maldives
2. Fukuoka Shuto (Second Secretary) - Embassy of Japan
3. H.E. Ms TAKEUCHI Midori (Ambassador of Japan to Maldives) - Embassy of Japan

4. Ahmed Shifaz (Assistant Resident Representative) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
5. Mohamed Zahy (Project Management Specialist) – USAID Maldives
6. Yoo Gyoung KIM (Partnership Specialist) - UNOPS/SAMCO
7. Rajat Batra (CEO of Stenum Asia consortium Partner) - Prevention of Marine Litter in the Lakshadweep (PROMISE) Project
8. Shaha Shakeeb (Associate Development Coordination Officer) - UN RCO
9. Najfa Razee (Chief Technical Officer), IUCN Maldives

Government-Owned or Private-Owned Companies (06 Representatives)

1. Ismail Ibrahim (Assistant General Manager) - Malé Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC)
2. Ali Shaheem (General Manager Manufacturing) - Malé Water and Sewerage Company (MWSC)
3. Ritesh Tiwari (RTM Manager) - Male' Aerated Water Company
4. Milind Derasari (Chief Operating Officer) - Male' Aerated Water Company
5. Ismail Ubaid (General Manager) - Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO)
6. Hussain Ibrahim Fulhu (General Manager) - Waste Management Corporation Limited (WAMCO)

Academia (02 Representatives)

1. Wadheea Thoufeeq (Head of Department of Environment and Natural Sciences) - Maldives National University
2. Zeeniya Hassan Kamil (Assistant Professor) - Maldives National University

Civil Society Representatives (17 Representatives)

1. Afrah Ismail (Founder) - Zero Waste Maldives
2. Aishath Hudha Ahmed (Team Lead/ Environment Waste and Plastic Management Consultant) - Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)
3. Aminath Abdhulla (Project Coordinator) - Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)
4. Shifna Saeedh (Project Manager) - Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)
5. Maani Moosa (M&E/Grants Manager) - Maldives Authentic Crafts Cooperative Society (MACCS)
6. Avinash Pratap Singh (Director) - Soneva Namoon NGO
7. Abdulla Waheed (Solid Waste Management Services Coordinator) - USAID
8. Aishath Hushmath (Communications Lead) - Soneva Namoon NGO
9. Akshay Chavan (General Manager) - Maldives Ocean Plastics Alliance
10. Ahmed Maumoon (President) - Maldives Ocean Plastics Alliance
11. Ali Rilwan (Founder) - Bluepeace
12. Hafsath Aleem (Founder) - CleanMaldives
13. Ali Faaq (Manager) - One Degree South Addu Factory

14. Ahmed Hassan (Founder) - Community Empowerment Linkage (CEL)
15. Mizna Ahmed (Project Manager) - Small Island Geographic Society
16. Zara Athif (Research Assistant) - Small Island Geographic Society
17. Mohamed Bunyameen (Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant) - Small Island Geographic Society

World Bank (03 Representatives)

1. Joseph Ese Akpokodje (Task Team Leader, PLEASE Project) - World Bank
2. Nalaka Gunawardene (Senior Communication Specialist) - World Bank
3. Erdam Atas (Country Economist and Resident Coordinator) - World Bank

SACEP (03 Representatives)

1. Rokeya Khaton (Director General) - SACEP
2. Prakriti Kashyap (Plastic Expert, PLEASE Project - SACEP)
3. Kapila Mahesh Rajapaksha (Environment & Social Development Specialist, PLEASE Project - SACEP)

UNOPS (10 Representatives)

1. Lian Zhang (Programme Management Advisor) -PLEASE Project – UNOPS
2. Chamini Maheshwari Ekanayake (Technical Senior Associate) - Environmental PLEASE Project - UNOPS
3. Dinali Jayasinghe (Grant Management Specialist)- PLEASE Project - UNOPS
4. Yasodhara Kariyawasam (Communications Specialist) -PLEASE Project UNOPS
5. Priyanga Jayasekara (Programme Support Officer) PLEASE Project - UNOPS
6. Harshani Bathwadana (Gender Specialist) - PLEASE Project - UNOPS
7. Imasha Lakshmiwewa (Project Management Support) - Senior Assistant PLEASE Project - UNOPS
8. Mohamed Hamdhaan Zuhair (Project Manager) -PLEASE Project - Country Team Maldives
9. Mariyam Samha (Technical Expert) - Environment PLEASE Project - Country Team Maldives
10. Ahmed Shazeen Salim (Project Management Support) PLEASE Project - Country Team Maldives