

ACTIVITY REPORT

Exposure and Learning tour for Ministry of Tourism staff

26th – 28th May 2016

Baa Atoll; Dharavandhoo, Maalhos

1. Activity Details

Activity name: Exposure and Learning tour for Ministry of Tourism

TAP Project activity reference:

2.1.3 – Facilitate national and international visibility of the project through the Internet and other media coverage

1.2.7 - Increasing institutional capacity of the Ministry of Tourism towards environmental management

2.1.6 - CCA & Tourism Awareness program for educators

Number of participants: 15 participants (11 Male, 4 Female)

Number of beneficiaries: 45 people (15 staff members of the Ministry of Tourism, 28 students from B. Dharavandhoo School, 1 school staff member, 1 Dharavandhoo council member)

Activity time/duration: 2 and half days

2. Background:

Exposure and Learning tour for Ministry of Tourism was organized to coincide with the World Environment Day 2016. The main objective was to enhance the understanding of Ministry of Tourism staff of environmental issues and to expose them to a TAP small grant project. The sites that the team visited were the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) facility at Baa. Maalhos established by Maalhos Awareness and Recreation Society (MARS) under TAP Small Grant facility and the solid waste composting facility established under a World Bank project which was managed by the Baa. Maalhos Island Council.

The second objective of this activity was to establish a link between the Ministry staff and one of the TAP outputs. As the TAP project is ending soon, a handover process is seen as an essential component of ensuring the sustainability of the work done under TAP. Thus far the TAP PMU, although stationed within the Ministry of Tourism, has functioned independently and in isolation to the Ministry staff. Therefore it was believed that by demonstrating how TAP has improved the climate resilience of a local community we could establish an interest and ownership of the

project within the Ministry staff and facilitate the transfer of TAP outputs to the Ministry at the end of the project.

3. Objectives:

- Exposing the Ministry of Tourism to real life environmental impacts of climate change
- Enhance the understanding of the Ministry of Tourism staff of climate change
- Exposing the Ministry of Tourism to TAP small grant projects and creating a partnership between the ministry and the grant manager.

4. Event Summary

A total of 15 Ministry of Tourism staff participated in the trip and the delegation was headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism Mr. Ahmed Salih, who is also the TAP Project Director.

The team travelled from Male' to Dharavandhoo Airport on 26th May 2016. Accommodation was provided at Dharavandhoo Airport island since accommodation was not possible for 15 people at Baa. Maalhos. The team had its first formal session on the same day, which was facilitated by TAP Communication and Stakeholder Relations Officer, Ahmed Yaamin Mohamed. It was a short session on “what is Climate Change and how it affects the Tourism Sector of Maldives”

On 27th May 2016, the team left for Baa. Maalhos in the afternoon. The team was received by the Maalhos Island Council, island residents and members of MARS. After a brief introduction of the island and the challenges the island faces due to extended dry weather periods, the team was taken by the council and members of MARS to see the composting facility.

At the composting facility, the team was given a brief demonstration as to how composting works, how segregation works and how used metal are stored and sold. The Island Council and members of MARS also explained the benefits of managing island waste more effectively and making a business out of composting as the natural fertilizer that is produced is in high demand by Tourist Resorts.

After seeing the composting facility, the team was taken to the IWRM facility. At the facility, MARS club member (who is also the Maalhos Island Council President) Mr. Ahmed Sujau gave a tour of the facility and explained how it works. He explained how Maalhos had to depend on the government institutions and the National Disaster Management Center every year to get drinking water during the dry seasons and how after the establishment of the facility last year, they have enough water this year to get them through the dry periods, making them self-sufficient. This would cut down the stress on the residents of the island and also save the government a considerable expense that is involved in transporting emergency drinking water to the island by sea.

Back at Dharavandhoo, the team had to do presentations about How Climate Change can be addressed in their everyday work. And they had to also identify what they thought were the issues that should be addressed as soon as possible regarding climate and weather impacts on the

Maldives, particularly pertaining to the Tourism Sector. The staff also analyzed each team's opinions and understanding of climate change and its impacts on the Maldives. Discussions also included how we could incorporate environmental good practices and 'green actions' at the office.

On 28th May 2016 morning the team did a presentation at the Dharavandhoo school. The staff explained to the students the work that they are doing at the Ministry of Tourism and the job and career opportunities which are available at the Ministry of Tourism.

In the afternoon the team was taken on a snorkeling trip to the Maldives Biosphere Reserves' Turtle Reef. The objective was to give an opportunity for the staff to see first-hand the fragile environment and ecosystem that the Maldives tourism sector is based on.

5. Outcomes of the event:

- Built a partnership between the members of MARS, Baa. Maalhos Island Council and the Tourism Ministry.
- Exposed the Ministry of Tourism staff to real life environmental impacts of climate change
- Exposed TAP to students at Baa. Dharavandhoo school and also the career opportunities available at Ministry of Tourism UNDP
- Enhanced the understanding of climate change within the Ministry of Tourism
- After the tour the TAP Project Director has expressed a keen interest in visiting the other Small Grant projects implemented under TAP

6. Constraints and challenges:

- *Lack of preparation by the Ministry of Tourism for the school session* – Although it went smoothly, the session was organized poorly as people were not tasked with any roles and had no idea as to how it will go.

7. Recommendations

- Have more staff exposed to real environmental impacts as this activity gave them a better understanding than having them go through reports or research
- Have Ministry of Tourism staff exposed to other TAP grants as the feedback from the staff have been very positive

Report by:

Ahmed Yaamin Mohamed

Participant List

#	Name	Institution	Designation	Section
1	Ahmed Salih	MoT	Permanent Secretary	
2	Ali Shinan	MoT	Director	Planning
3	Fathamath Sharuma	MoT	Senior Planning Officer	Planning
4	Abdulla Iyaz	MoT	Planning Officer	Planning
5	Ahmed Abeer Ismail	MoT	Assistant Director	Admin
6	Aminath Nasfa	MoT	Admin Officer	Admin
7	Abdulla Masroof	MoT	Assistant Project Officer	Development
8	Ahmed Yamin	MoT	Assistant Project Officer	Development
9	Aishath Azla	MoT	Assistant Registration Officer/Environment Officer	Development
10	Mohamed Sameeh	MoT	Assistant Accounts Officer	Finance
11	Hassan Saeed	MoT	Assistant Comp. Technician	IT
12	Aminath Manike	MoT	Masakkath	Reception
13	Mohamed Hammadh	MoT	Asst. Quality Auditing Officer	Quality Assurance & Registration
14	Mohamed Yasir	MMPRC	Marketing Executive	
15	Ahmed Yaamin Mohamed	TAP/MoT	Communications and Stakeholder Relations	Tourism Adaptation Project (TAP)

Photos



1 Visit to Hanifaru Bay biosphere reserve



2Visit to composting facility



3Hanifaru Bay visit



4 Visit to IWRM facility and discussions with Small Grant Manager

Ministry of Tourism, Fifth Floor, Ameer Ahmed Magu, Male', Maldives

Tel: + (960)3022 207, + (960)3022 200, Fax: + (960)332 2512

E-mail: tap@tourism.gov.mv Website: www.tourism.gov.mv



5 Students at School information session



6 Working session for staff on integrating CCA into Ministry processes



7 Awareness session and discussions among Ministry staff on CCA



Ministry of Tourism, Fifth Floor, Ameer Ahmed Magu, Male', Maldives

Tel: + (960)3022 207, + (960)3022 200, Fax: + (960)332 2512

E-mail: tap@tourism.gov.mv Website: www.tourism.gov.mv







8 Visit to Composting facility