

### Increasing awareness about waste management





#### LOCATION

Hoarafushi Island, Haa Alifu Atoll, Upper North Province, Maldives

• Strategies for Management

**DURATION** Two years from 1 January 2010

MFF GRANT AMOUNT US\$10,330

### Objectives

This project's main objective was to protect the target coastal area through better management of solid waste.

### Background

Each person in Malé, the capital of the Maldives, produces an average of 0.8 kg to 1 kg of solid waste each day. In the outlying atolls the daily average is 0.3 kg to 0.5 kg per person; on resort islands it is 2.5 kg.

Only 2% of the islands of the Maldives have any system to collect solid waste. Typically waste is dumped in a designated part of the island in an uncontrolled and unmanaged fashion. These dumping sites are usually near the shoreline, allowing waste to wash directly into lagoons. Airborne contaminants from slow-burning waste are also a health concern.

In the Haa Alifu Atoll, waste is transported for disposal on Thilafushi, an artificial island created as a solid waste landfill.

### **Target beneficiaries**

A total of 480 households on Hoarafushi Island.

### Outputs

- Production of awareness materials, including posters and leaflets on waste management, in the local language and distribution to every household on the island.
- Organization of two workshops on waste management, followed by a third to train residents in producing fertilizers from waste.
- Training of two people from the community to manage waste processing centres.
- Production of metal trays used to burn waste in the waste management centres.

## Accomplishments and challenges

There are two waste management centres on Hoarafushi Island, one on either side of the island. These lack a mechanism to deal with excess waste, in particular to manage the "outflow" of waste once the centres have reached full capacity.

The awareness workshops and seminars increased household management of waste, resulting in a lower amount of waste taken to the waste management centres on the island.

# Contributions to cross-cutting themes

### Communications

The project produced awareness materials in the local language and disseminated them to all target households in the island.

### Lessons learned

Properly documenting every event during the project would help to capture learning and identify challenges.

### Partners and their contribution

The Hoarafushi School Alumni Association made an in-kind contribution valued at US\$4,830.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Waste management centre on Hoarafushi Island, Maldives © Hanying Li