

# The Vandhoo Turtles: When biodiversity conservation meets environmental management



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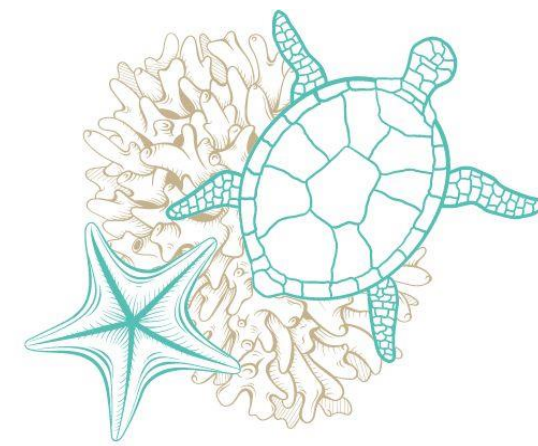
*<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/srilanka>*

*<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/maldives>*



# Finding Balance

- Archipelago of 1,192 small coral reef islands grouped into 26 natural atolls.
- Lowest elevation country in the World.
- Land is a premium and scarce.
- 365,000 tons of solid waste produced annually due to the large tourist influx in addition to the native population.
  - That are both growing.
- The Country has high biodiversity-dependent on its rich coral and coastal ecosystems
- Critically endangered hawksbill turtle and endangered green turtles.
- Balance between Development and Conservation

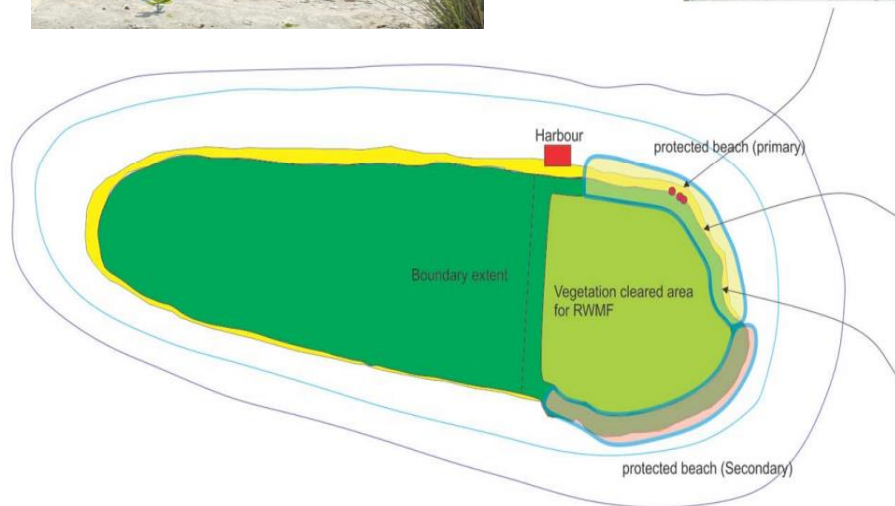


## Regional Waste Management System



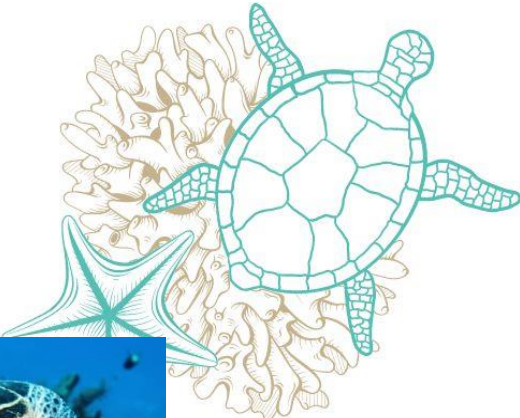
# Impact Assessment at the Core

- 2012 Best Practicable Environmental Options (BPEO) Study- WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS
- 2013 FIRST ESIA- Identified the Presence of Turtle Nesting Sites
- TUTLE MANAGEMENT PLAN- In line with World Bank OPE 4.04 on Natural Habitats
- No Take Fishing Zone Declaration and Protected Beach Declaration
- 2014 TURTLE SURVEY
- 2019 ESIA UPDATE
- 2021 ESIA UPDATE
- 2021-Initial nesting data collection survey- collaboration between Inamaadhoo School, EPA and Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MOECCT)
- CONTINUOUS ESIA MONITORING



# Turtle in Vandhoo

Of the eight species of sea turtles, five are known to occur in the Maldives.



**GREEN**

**LOGGERHEAD**

**LEATHERBACK**

**OLIVE RIDLEY**

**HAWKSBILL**

**HUMANS ARE THE GREATEST THREAT TO SEA TURTLES.**

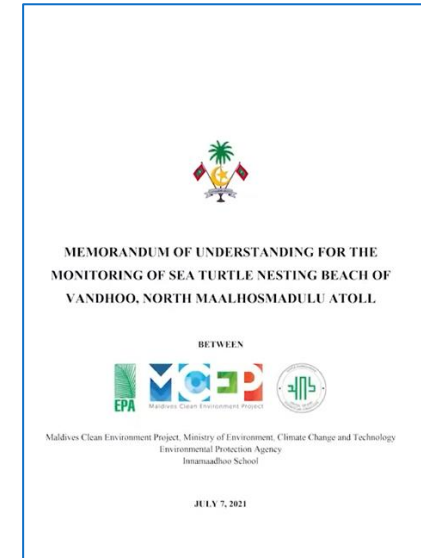
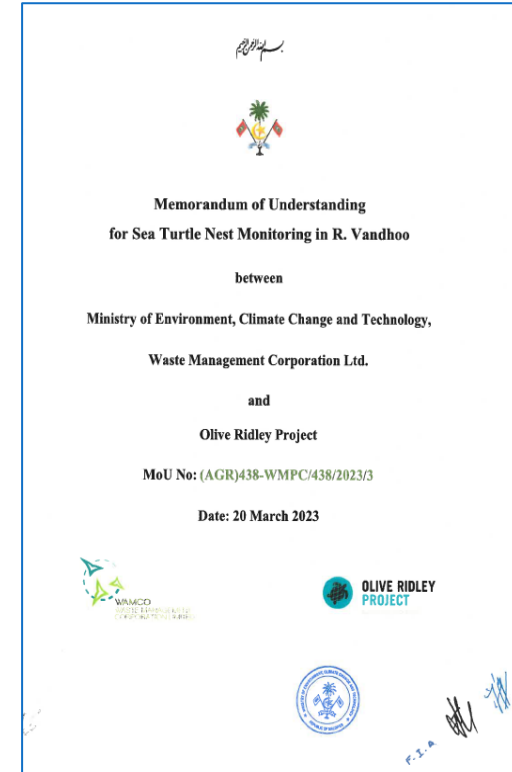
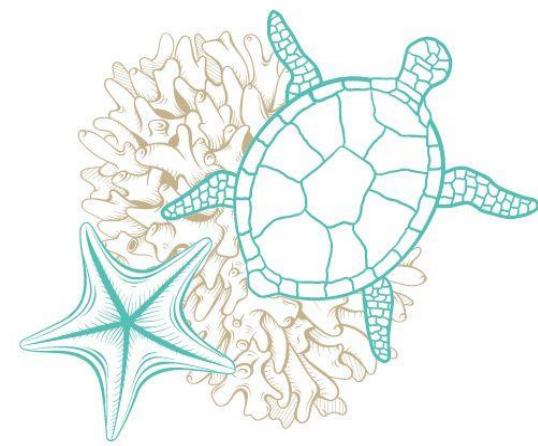
**1 in 1000** WILL SURVIVE TO ADULthood



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Green turtle</b><br/> <i>Chelonia mydas</i><br/>             80-120cm &amp; up to 300kg</p> <p>largest hard shelled turtle<br/>             green shades</p> <p>soft edge<br/>             rounder<br/>             one visible claws</p> | <p><b>Hawksbill turtle</b><br/> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i><br/>             60-90cm &amp; up to 80kg</p> <p>smaller<br/>             brown with black markings</p> <p>serrated edge<br/>             pointy beak<br/>             two visible claws</p> |
| <p>shell</p> <p>Head</p> <p>flippers</p>  | <p>flippers</p>  |



# Partnerships for Multiple Benefits





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Jul 14, 2021 · 🌐

Students from [Innamaadhoo School](#) have begun conducting sea turtle nest monitoring surveys in R.Vandhoo under the guidance of Environ... See more



# The Management Strategy and Goals

The objective of this management plan is to provide a framework for implementing management action as follows

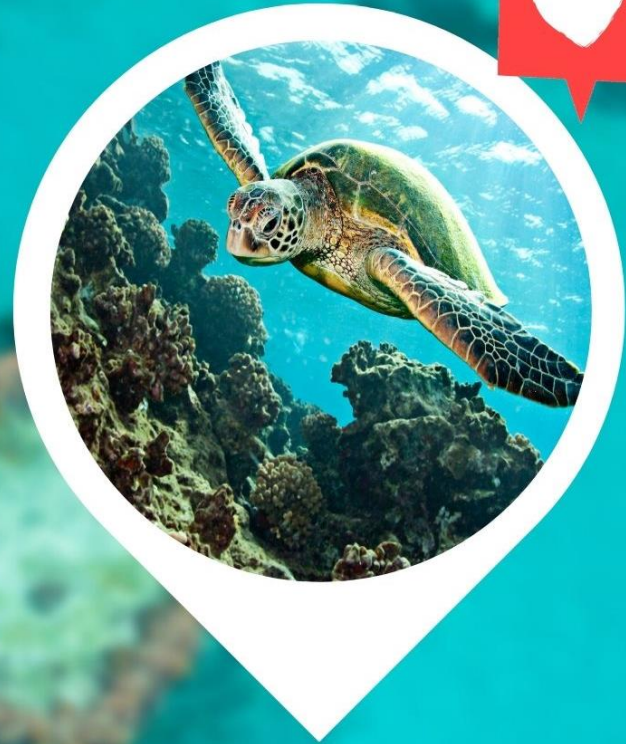
This plan addresses light management measures, public outreach, enforcement and additional activities which impact sea turtle nesting.

The purpose is to prevent interference with sea turtle nesting habitat while addressing public safety concerns.

## ARTICLE 4: SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS MOU

The MoU herein defines the scope of activities and areas of collaboration, reflecting the mandates of the parties to the MoU. The main areas for collaboration will include the following:

- Provide a logistical mechanism to carry out the project including research, awareness and community participation.
- WAMCO will be financing and hiring the AESO for R. Vandhoo, who will be collecting nesting data under supervision of ORP.
- MoECCT will provide logistical support for boat trips required for AESO training and supervision between Joali Being and R. Vandhoo, and Male' and R. Vandhoo where necessary, and equipment required for the AESO.
- ORP to provide technical capacity building and supervise the role, and analyse all data collected.



**OUR FUTURE AND THEIRS.  
HELP KEEP OUR OCEANS HEALTHY.**

# A Look Forward

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- An exemplary case of the mitigation hierarchy targeted at the top-Avoidance and Design based management.
- Build Capacity within Government Agencies to replicate similar programs.
- Showcase a good modal of conservation focused management-between government, private sector and academia.
- Not every development facility has to come at the cost of a natural environment.
- Promote co-existence and nature-based solutions- Critical for Small Island Developing States
- Further Strengthening Collaboration- Resorts, Schools and Regional Partners to promote sharing cross collaboration.
- Learning and Informing to add to the countries larger Turtle Management and Biodiversity Conservation Plans.
- Long-term strengthening of MOU- beyond the lifetime of projects

# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA23 app.



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