

BAA ATOLL CONSERVATION FUND BOARD MEETING

Meeting No: 02

Date: 18 July 2019

Time: 11:15pm to 12:35pm

Venue: Secretariat of Baa Atoll Council, Eydhafushi

Minutes of the Meeting

The Board meeting of the Baa Atoll was attended by 8 participants from 7 stakeholder organisations (Annex 1).

The meeting was chaired by the Director General of Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Ibrahim Naeem.

In his opening remarks he welcomed all members who attended the meeting and briefed the participants on the agenda (Annex 2) scheduled for the meeting.

He also summarized the conclusions of the previous BACF Board meeting and highlighted on the need for tangible outputs from the second cycle of grants as discussed in the previous meeting. The Chair then invited the President of Baa Atoll Council to present the findings on the work undertaken in this regard.

Agenda, Item 2

Presentation by Mr. Mabrook Naseer, President of Baa Atoll Council

Mr. Mabrook in his presentation gave a brief overview of the work undertaken based on the conclusion of the first BACF Board Meeting held in January 2019 and stated that the Atoll Council has written to all 13 Island Councils requesting to identify projects in prioritized order to be undertaken on each island.

He also stated that through the discussions which have taken place since the communication was sent to all island Councils they have identified the need for suitable accommodation for professional experts who visit the islands.

Based on this, he stated that all 13 islands are in agreement that a 2 bedroom apartment should be built on each inhabited island which will be a tangible output developed through grants from second cycle of BACF grants and also will act as a source of revenue to all the Councils.

It was also mentioned in this meeting that Baa Atoll Council would match the amount proposed by the BACF Board in its previous meeting if this development is going to take place and the Atoll Council would also bear the cost of all engineering drawing for the proposed developments.

Regarding the presentation by Atoll Council the following were discussed and clarified:

LGA Representative

- Does the Atoll capital, Eydhafushi also require a 2 bedroom apartment?

Resort Participant

- The general population is not identifying themselves with Baa Atoll BR.
- If the proposed development is a priority of the Atoll Council then there should be sufficient recognition by the community.
- The perception of the communities should change.
- Who will benefit from this?

LAM

Do all communities need the proposed development?

If the development is taking place the whole community should benefit.

As long as the Councils require this this should go ahead as proposed.

Once the proposed development is completed they should not act as a competitor to guest houses.

BACF

- The proposed development is a way of giving back to the community as discussed initially when work was undertaken during the inception phase of AEC Project.
- The second cycle is different to the first, as the second cycle covers all inhabited islands of the atoll and activity/ties will be undertaken on all of them.

EPA/LGA/BR OFFICE/BACF/LAM/RESORT/ATOLL COUNCIL

- In principle all of the above fully supports the idea of the proposed development.

The Atoll Council provided the following information on the queries raised by the Board members:

- The proposed development on all 13 islands will be seen as something visible undertaken though BACF Grants as discussed in the last board meeting.
- The Council and the communities will benefit from this development.
- The development of apartments is not a competition to the already existing guest house industry.
- Eydhafushi also need the proposed development as this would be seen as a uniform input by BACF across the atoll.
- What Eydhafushi requires is a bigger ferry terminal, which is being undertaken through other source of funding from the government.
- Communities want finance for activities to be undertaken each year and more resort BR partnerships are required for this.
- The development of apartments will show to the communities that funds can be allocated for other purposes apart from conservation and this change the perception of the communities towards BR.
- Propose to continue as discussed for the second cycle of BACF Grants..

In order to proceed whether to carry on with the proposed development of 2 bedroom apartments on all inhabited island the Chair asked for a vote by a show of hands.

All respective representatives present in the meeting unanimously voted in favour of the proposed development.

Other Matters:

Other issues discussed in the meeting included the following:

- Youth Education and working with TIVET Authority.
- Initiate work with Higher Education Ministry to kick-start the process.
- Concept of Biosphere Scholarships
- Face Value of tokens
- Infringement into Core Areas by both the communities and to some extent from the tourism industry.

The following was approved by the BACF Board in its meeting held on 18 July 2019:

- a. To develop 2 bedroom apartments on all 13 islands.
- b. As approved in the last board meeting, BACF to transfer MVR 3,000,000.00 (Three Million Maldivian Rufiya) as grants from BACF for cycle 2019 to Baa Atoll Council once agreement is signed between Baa Atoll Conservation Fund and Baa Atoll Council.
- c. Baa Atoll Council to match the figure of BACF for the proposed development.
- d. All land plots allocated for this development to be registered under the Island Council prior to start of development.
- e. The apartments to carry "Biosphere" next to their name on each island. The next cycle of grants from BACF to be officially announced in April 2019.
- f. Baa Atoll Council to undertake all required work in relation to proposed development and to keep Baa Atoll Conservation Fund informed of the developments.

The Board meeting of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board came to a close at 12.35 pm.

Annex 1

Participant's List

	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Ibrahim Naeem	Director General (Chair)	Environment Protection Agency
2.	Armando Kraenzen	General Manager	Four Seasons Maldives
3.	Abdulla Rasheed	Assistant Director	Local Government Authority
4.	Mohamed Ignaaz Ali		Liveaboard Association of Maldives
5.	Abdulla Shibau	Managing Director	Baa Atoll Conservation Fund
6.	Shafee Ali	Outreach Officer	BR Office
7.	Mabrook Naseer	President	Baa Atoll Council
OTHER PARTICIPANTS			
1.	Ahmed Shan	Conservation Officer	BR Office

Annex 2

Agenda

1. Welcome Remarks by Chairman
2. Discussion on Second Cycle of BACF Grants
3. Other Issues