

BAA ATOLL CONSERVATION FUND BOARD MEETING

Meeting No: 01

Date: 15 February 2016

Time: 12.00 pm to 1:00 pm

Venue: Ministry of Environment and Energy

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 highlighted on the main agenda items for discussion for the day.

Agenda, Item 2

Presentation of BR Office Workplan and Budget 2016

The BR Office/BACF Workplan and budget for 2016 was presented by Shaafi Ali (Outreach Officer) of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office.

With regards to BR Office/BACF Workplan the following were discussed:

LIVEBOARD

- Reiterated the need for more volunteer partnerships from resorts as the amount of resorts are increasing in the atoll.
- Highlighted that as more and more resorts are being opened in the atoll the management of the resorts should work more closely with BR Office.
- Also highlighted that Liveboards also visit Baa Atoll frequently especially during the manta season and the need for awareness amongst the liveaboard community,

LGA

- As discussed in previous meetings the Workplan should be in line with work undertaken by the 3 programmes of BR Office.
- Should also include components to reflect more on Outreach work.
- Highlighted that Guest House tourism on local islands is increasing and they should be included in the Outreach programmes.

BR OFFICE

- Outlined how work is undertaken within the atoll on outreach work working with communities,
- Agreed that should also include components to reflect more on Outreach work.
- Also informed on existing work undertaken by the resorts working together with resource users from the resorts/dives schools. Water sports etc.

RESORT REPRESENTATIVE

- To inform the managements of the resorts on the need to work more closely with BR Office on the issue of voluntary partnership and to work amongst all resorts themselves to find an answer for this.
- Agreed with BR office that there exists a very good working relationship with resorts and are working together but highlighted that improvements can be made.
- In principle mentioned that they were happy with the Workplan proposed.

BACF

- The Workplan is developed based on the 3 programmes of BR Office.
- The Government provides all recurrent costs of the OFFICE, while the Workplan is financed by funds from BACF.
- Meetings are undertaken with the management of the resorts to discuss ongoing issues together with BR Office.
- Again highlighted as in previous meetings that working together only we can solve existing issues.
- Also agreed that that Guest House tourism on local islands is increasing in the country and the same applies to Baa Atoll as well and this is a new resource.

Item 3, OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed in the meeting.

The Board meeting of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board came to a close 12.55 pm with no objection to the Workplan proposed..

Annex 1

Participant's List

	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Ibrahim Naeem	Director General (Chair)	Environment Protection Agency
2.	Federica Sienna	Marine Biologist	Sonevafushi Resort
3.	Abdulla Rasheed	Assistant Director	Local Government Authority
4.	Ahmed Afrah	Treasurer	Liveaboard Association of Maldives
5.	Abdulla Shibau	Managing Director	Baa Atoll Conservation Fund
6.	Shaafee Ali	Outreach Officer	BR Office
OTHER PARTICIPANTS			
1.	Ahmed Shan	Conservation Officer	BR Office

Annex 2

Agenda

1. Welcome Remarks by Chairman.
2. Approval and Discussion of BR OFFICE/BACF Budget 2016.
3. Other Issues.