

BAA ATOLL CONSERVATION FUND BOARD MEETING

Meeting No: 03

Date: 14 August 2014

Time: 1.30pm

Venue: Ministry of Environment and Energy

Minutes of the Meeting

The third meeting of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board was attended by 9 participants from 7 stakeholder organisations (Annex 1).

The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Mr. Ibrahim Naeem.

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

Agenda, Item 2

Presentation of BACF 2014 Budget, BR Office Workplan 2014 and Income and Expenditure

As the second item on the agenda the BACF 2014 Budget BACF together with the Workplan of BR Office of 2014 was presented by the Fund Manager Mr. Abdulla Shibau. In his presentation he highlighted the work being carried out the Programmes of the BR Office (Conservation, Outreach and Livelihood).

Apart from this the Income and Expenditure of BACF for 2013 was also presented to the Board members by the Fund Manager.

As these were being presented queries were raised by Board members and these queries were clarified by the Fund Manager.

With regards to BACF Budget, BR Workplan, Income and Expenditure 2013 the following were discussed:

RESORT REPRESENTATIVE

To discuss budget issues there is a strong need for the Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet of BACF for the year 2013 to be there.

Also the issue of buying in of the local communities for the cause of the Biosphere Reserve is of utmost importance.

The issue of Reviewing of the status of the Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO was brought up.

BACF

All documents presented in the meeting in relation to the budget and Income and Expenditure are work undertaken by the Finance Department of the Environment Ministry.

CHAIR/EPA

Informed Board members that EPA will write to UNESCO to clarify the issue raised by the resort representative.

BR Office

With regards to the 2 proposed Management Plans for Olhugiri and Goedhoo Koaru it was informed that the idea is to look into a different form/method of management for these 2 PAs where the communities of the neighbouring 2 islands of Hithaadhoo and Goidhoo to be involved working together with EPA, BR Office, Atoll Council, Resort community and the two respective Councils.

It was also raised that since Olhugiri is a turtle nesting island and also special for frigate birds, the management plan would give an opportunity to look into a different form of management.

LAM

The opportunity for Safari Operators to take advantage of this unique situation was raised in terms of looking in the management plan for the island.

Since Goidhoo Mangroves are of important and migratory birds are seen at the site the need for a Bird Expert preferably from EPA to be involved in this was also mentioned.

RESORTS REPRESENTATIVE

For the Marine protected areas of Dhigali Haa and Angafaru and other PAs of Baa Atoll there are Dos and DO NOTs where the existing laws apply.

In coming up with a management plan for PAs to use the present codes of conducts at first and then develop a detail management plan.

EPA

The present guideline and codes of conduct applies to all PAs and they act as a mini management plan for each area for now.

These need to be further developed with the participation of all stakeholders.

Enforcement needs to be improved.

BACF

The most important objective should be to include the locals of the two inhabited islands of Hithaadhoo and Thulhaadhoo then only the ownership will be taken up.

RESORTS REPRESENTATIVE

To improve the visibility of the BR the proposed sign boards which are to be erected on all inhabited islands needs to be permanent.

BR OFFICE

The sign boards would be permanent in all inhabited island at the harbour front and near the schools.

RESORTS REPRESENTATIVE

All documentation in relation to what is up in the Agenda for discussion needs to be received beforehand as this is the ideal scenario to make a decision.

Very difficult to make a decision on the budget and the grants in the meeting as these need to be discussed with the rest of the resorts.

Prefer to have a separate meeting to discuss this preferably during the course of the month.

Requests all documents to be send with the details discussed in the meeting as soon as possible.

Since this meeting took place after a long break a lot of time was spent on issues not relating to the agenda but very important to the board in terms of knowing how things are. In this regard ample amount of time was los and therefore the meeting took longer than expected and in the end ran out of time.

The following decisions were taken by the BACF Board in relation to the Agenda Items discussed:

1. To circulate all documents to the members.
2. To hold the next meeting of the Board in Eydhafushi on 18 August 2014.
3. To finalize BACF budget 2014 and to approve the grants from BACF in the next meeting based on the documents circulated.

The 3rd meeting of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board came to a close at 3.00pm.

Annex 1

Participant's List

	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Ibrahim Naeem	Director General	Environment Protection Agency
2.	Mohamed Adil	President	Baa Atoll Council
3.	Peter Gremes	General Manager / RBR	Resort Representative
4.	Abdulla Azmeen	Assistant Director	LGA
5.	Ismail Shahid	Vice President, LAM	LAM
6.	Husen Zahir	Independent Consultant	
7.	Shaafee Ali	Outreach Officer	BR Office

Other Participant's

	Name	Designation	Organization
8.	Abdulla Shibau	Fund Manager	BACF
9.	Mariyam Rifga	Environment Analyst	Environment Protection Agency

Annex 2

Agenda

1. Welcome Chairman
2. BACF 2014 Budget Discussion BACF
3. Presentation of proposals for BACF Grant BACF
4. Discussion
5. Other Issues