

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## **BAA ATOLL CONSERVATION FUND BOARD MEETING**

Meeting No: 01

Date: 07<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Time: 1300 Opm to 1500pm

Venue: Ministry of Environment and Energy / Meeting Room 1

Following establishment of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) on 19 April 2012 as a Trust Fund under the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, the first meeting of the BACF Board of Directors took place on 7 November, chaired by EPA based on the agenda and papers prepared (Annex 1).

The purpose of the Board meeting was to update members of the Board about Baa Atoll Conservation Fund (BACF) and of the Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and its current status and to discuss future plans.

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

The first meeting of the Baa Atoll Conservation Fund Board of Directors was attended by 7 participants from 7 Stakeholders and 7 other participants (participant's list attached, Annex 2).

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.

### **Agenda, Item 2**

#### **Update on the BACF, Biosphere Reserve and AEC Project**

A presentation on BACF, Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the AEC Project was given the Project Manager of AEC Project. In his presentation he informed all members of the Board the current status of BACF, Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the AEC Project.

In the presentation given by the Project Manager he highlighted the highs and lows of the project, achievements to date and the challenges faced during the project's implementation and outlined the way forward in terms of what the exit strategy of the project is as the AEC project is to expire by end December 2012.

He also stated that as outlined in the project document work is in progress by the Ministry of Environment and Energy to replicate the lessons learned from the project elsewhere in the Maldives.

### **Agenda, Item 3**

#### **Overview of BACF governance and institutional arrangements**

The second presentation was also given by the Manager of AEC Project. In his presentation he briefed how the fund came in to existence. Also he explained about the fund governance, capitalization, spending strategies and priority spending areas.

The members cleared their doubts about the fund while the presentation was given.

**Agenda, Item 4**  
**Confirmation of members of the Board and Chairman.**

As the BACF Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure under Article 9: Membership of the Board states that the chairman of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister responsible for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from among the members and since Mr. Ibrahim Naeem represents Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) he was declared as the Chairman of the Fund Board.

While discussing this agenda item, an issue was raised regarding non representation of fisherman and farmers from Baa Atoll on the Board. After deliberating on this issue it was finalized that since a member from the Baa Atoll Council is present on the Board the representative from the Atoll Council would be acting on behalf of Baa Atoll fisherman and farmers.

It was also brought to the attention of the Board that presently only one name was nominated so far as a member from the resort community to the Board although the composition of the Board allows room for 2 members. On this matter it was decided that the Chair should communicate to the resort community and the second slot for the resorts on the Board should be filled for the next BACF Board meeting.

The Chairman then highlighted what the quorum of the meeting should be and most members of the meeting agreed 5 as the quorum number for a BACF meeting to convene.

It was decided that the composition Board as presented to the meeting was fine and there was no need to make any changes to the composition or the amount of members on the Board.

**Agenda, Item 5**  
**TOR and Rules of Procedure of the Board**

The TOR and Rules of Procedure of the Board was handed over to all members as handouts and after discussing this it was decided that these should be approved in the next meeting if there were any comments from the board members (Annex 3).

**Agenda, Item 6**  
**Appointment of Managing Director for BACF and other staff**

It was informed to the BACF Board that at present the AEC Project team, staff from Environment Ministry, EPA and Baa Atoll Council is involved in Fund Management and that the BACF Secretariat is based at the Ministry. It was also informed to the Board that the need for a dedicated individual to run and manage BACF as the post for Managing Director defined in the BACF Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure under Article 9 is vacant.

In this regard it was also brought to the attention of the Board that a public announcement would be made late 2012 through the Government Gazette to find a suitable candidate for the post of Managing Director of BACF. The issue of hiring more staff apart from the BACF MD was also raised as the fund would need more manpower from 2013 onwards to carry out the fund's activities.

The Chair informed that as per the Memorandum and Articles of Association of BACF, the BACF Board has the power to hire and fire staff. He also stated that BACF Trust Statement also allows the Board to undertake this as it is clearly mentioned in the statement that finance can be spent on hiring of staff for BACF.

After deliberating on this issue it was decided that Project Manager of AEC Project should act as the interim Fund Manager of BACF till the end of December 2012 and since the Secretariat of BACF is based in the Ministry, the Ministry would announce for the post of Managing Director and once this process is completed a candidate should be hired for this post as soon as possible and if the need arises for more staff to be hired during the course of 2013 and beyond.

### **Agenda, Item 7 Revenue streams – status, projections and plans**

The Project Manager of AEC informed to the Board of the revenues generated to date to BACF in the form of one-off GEF and GOM contributions and also regarding income generated to date through the sale of Hanifaru Access Permits and management fees from resorts, live-aboards, and dive schools and forecasted income to be generated via BACF (Annex 4).

### **Agenda, Item 8 Expenditure Projections and Decisions**

The management budget for BACF 2013 was then tabled and after deliberating on this the budget for 2013 was approved as US\$ 52,000.00 (Fifty Two Thousand United States Dollars) by the Board (Annex 5).

The Biosphere Reserve Office management budget 2013 was also tabled and the budget for 2013 was approved as US\$ 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand United States Dollars) after clarifications by the Board members (Annex 6).

As Programmatic grants for 2013 the members having discussed previously on the revenue streams of BACF, it was agreed that US\$ 100,00.00 (Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) would be allocated.

It was also decided that programmatic grants for 2013 should be in line with priority spending strategies of BACF which include Biosphere Reserve Management program, Biodiversity program, Livelihoods Program and Education and Research Programme.

### **Agenda, Item 9 General Discussion on BACF work plan priorities**

The members were also made aware of the planned activities for BACF in terms of communications. In this regard it was informed that the BACF website would be developed soon and once completed would act as the main gateway in terms of information flow.

Members were also made aware of the fact that at present work is underway to develop promotional materials in terms of BR and BACF merchandise and once this is also completed these would strengthen the revenue flow of BACF.

### **Concluding Remarks**

In conclusion it was decided that BACF Board meetings should be held at least thrice a year and the following dates were assigned as probable dates for the next BACF Board meetings (which are 7 February 2013, 01 June 2013 and 14 November 2012) provided that all necessary work were completed (Article 12 of BACF Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules of Procedure states Board meetings should be held twice a year).

## Annex 2

**Participant's List**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1.	Ibrahim Naeem	Director General	Environment Protection Agency
2.	Mohamed Adhil	Baa Atoll Councilor	Baa Atoll Council
3.	Mohamed Fathuhee	Coordinator	D.I.S
4.	I.Azmeel	CSR Manager	Sonevafushi Resort
5.	Naseeema Saleem	Advocator	LGA
6.	Fazeena Fariq	Managing Director	Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Office
7.	Ahmed Zubair	President	L.A.M

**Other Participant's**

1	Hawwa Liuza	Project Officer	AEC Project
8.	Ismail Naseer	Project Officer	AEC Project
9.	Mariyam Rifga	Environment Analyst	EPA
10.	Aminath Inaya	Assistant Project Officer	Ministry of Environment and Energy
11.	Ahmed Shifau	Account Officer	Ministry of Environment and Energy
12.	Abdulla Shibau	Project Manager	AEC Project
13.	Mike Moser	Adaptive Management Advisor	AEC Project