

Importance of Tourism in Promoting Green Growth In the Maldives



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A Regional Consultation on South Asian Green Economy
23-24 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

Presentation Content

- Overview of Maldives & Tourism
- Importance of Tourism for Green Growth
- Maldives Tourism Policies & Plans
- Maldives Resort Hotel Standards & Practices
- National Green Growth Targets & Achievements



Overview of Maldives & Tourism

Maldives

- * **Island Nation in the Indian Ocean**
 - * 2000+ years history
 - * Settled by fishermen & travellers
- * **~823 km in length crossing the Equator**
- * **26 coral atolls**
- * **Rich marine biological diversity;**
 - * Coral Reefs, lagoons, islands, mangroves & sea grass beds
 - * 1090+ fish species, 466 sp of coral & sponges, 750 sp of molluscs & crustaceans
 - * 9 sp. of whales, 15 sp of sharks & 7 sp of dolphins



Maldives



- * 1,190 islands in the archipelago
- * 200 islands inhabited by locals
- * Population: approx 350,000
- * Nations Capital – Male'
- * Main economic activities: Fishing & Tourism

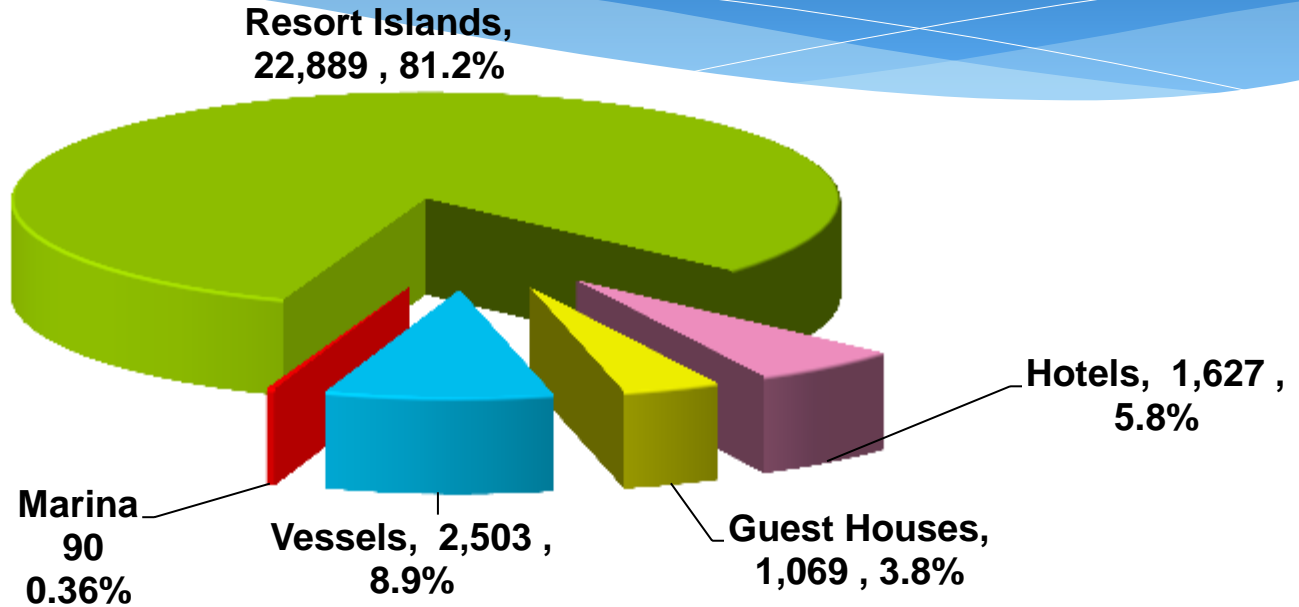
Maldives Tourism

- * Introduced by European adventurers & divers in 1972
- * Tourism developed in uninhabited small coral islands
- * Self-contained Resort, Concept **“One Island - One Resort”**
- * Products & services based on the natural setting

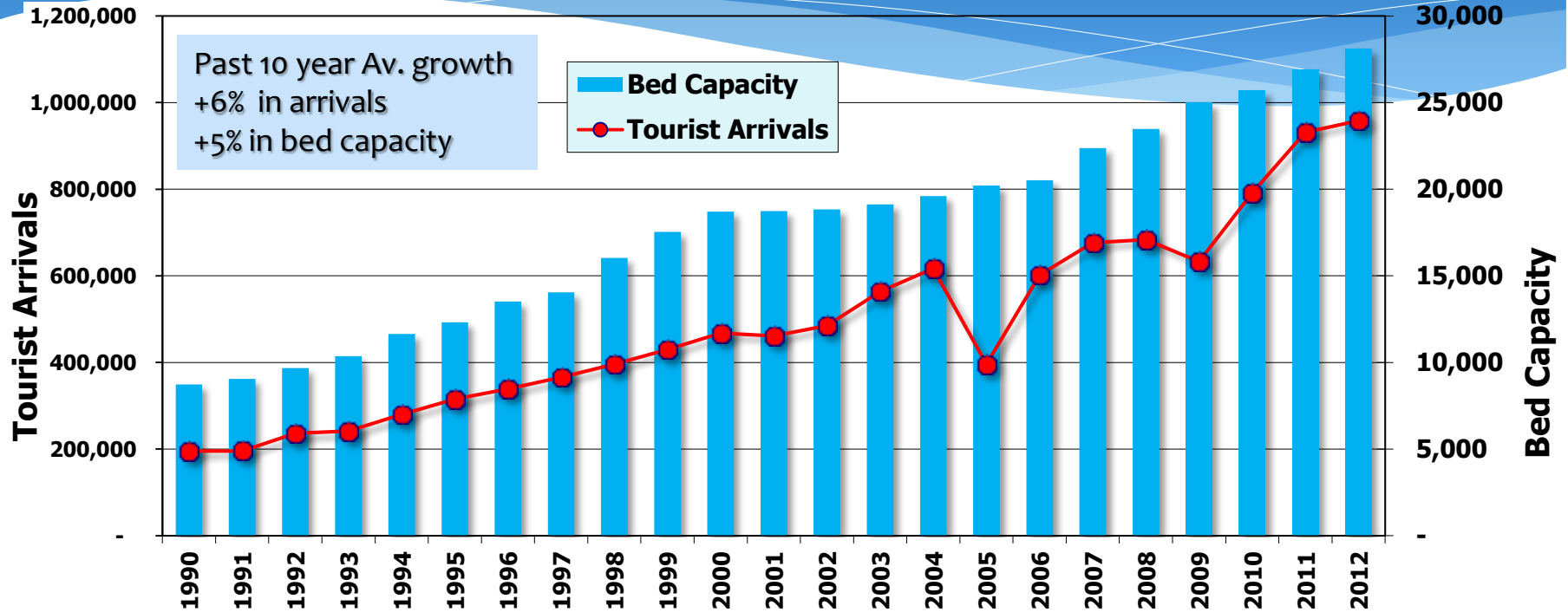
Tourism- Economic Engine

- * Tourism Contributes ~30% to GDP
- * Over 40% of Govt. revenue
- * Main foreign exchange earner
- * Receipts USD 1.87 billion (2012)
- * Linked to all other sectors

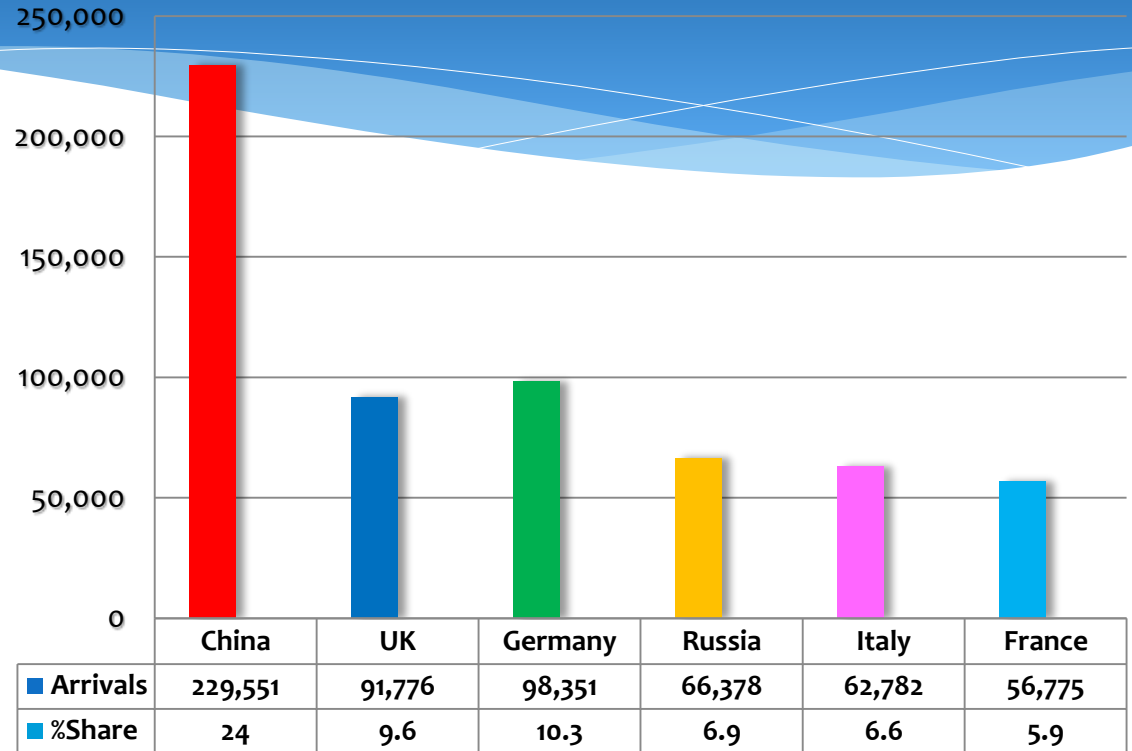
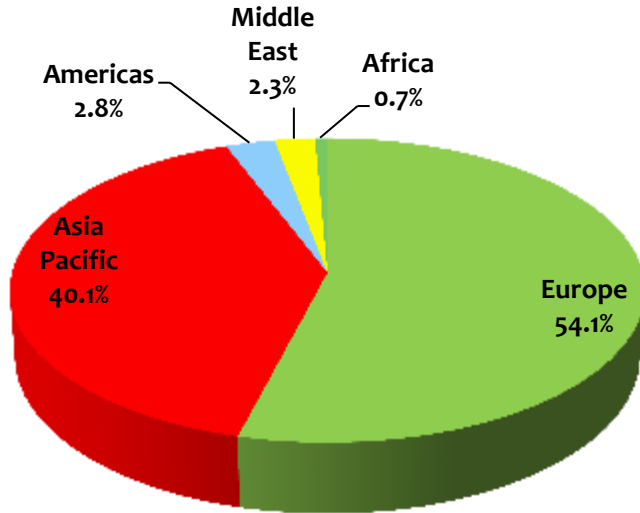
Tourist Accommodation Type & Bed Capacity 2012



Tourist Arrivals & Bed Capacity



Major Generating Markets 2012



International Access

**FREE VISA ON
ARRIVAL**

- * International Arrivals by;
 - * Ibrahim Nasir International (main gateway)
 - * Gan International (South)
 - * Hanimaadhoo International (North)
 - * Cruise & yachts
- * 1.2 million international passengers in 2012 by;
 - * 19 scheduled carriers
 - * 15 Charter carriers

Domestic Flight Services



Serviced by

2 Domestic Carriers

- * Maldivian
- * FlyMe

2 Seaplane Operators

- * Maldivian Air Taxi
- * Trans Maldivian Airways



Importance of Tourism for Green Growth

Reputation as a Green Destination

- * Pristine environment is a premium tourism product
- * International brands promote investments in new technology and for community as CSR
- * Highend Tourism creates the market potential for greening the economy



Vulnerability to Climate Change Effects

- * Maldives is highly vulnerable to Climate Change- therefore a threat to tourism & economy
- * Small size – forces people to live close to sea (44% of settlements within 100 m of coastline)
- * Dynamic nature of coral islands place people and livelihoods at risk.
- * low elevation (80% land area <1m above MSL) – risks flooding, salination of ground water & inundation from sea-level rise

Savings on Energy & Energy Insecurity

An aerial photograph of a Maldivian island. The island is surrounded by a shallow lagoon with clear, turquoise water. In the foreground, there is a smaller, more developed island with several buildings and palm trees. To the right, a long, narrow strip of land extends into the water, featuring a resort with numerous overwater bungalows and a curved path. The background shows the deep blue ocean.

- * Fuel dependency is extremely high, as the nation spends a third of GDP on fuel imports
- * Tourist Resorts sector consumes power as much as the rest of country.
- * Off-grid independent units are opportunities for grid connections with local islands that stand to benefit
- * Unit cost of electricity generation stands at USD 0.25 (therefore attractive for RE investments)



Maldives Tourism Policies & Plans

Maldives Tourism Policies

- * **Vision to be an example sustainable tourism island destination**
 - * **A nation with an economically profitable tourism industry in harmony with its natural environment, cultural resources & values of people**
- * **Policy Objectives**
 - * **Continue a planned tourism development**
 - * **Attain equitable distribution**
 - * **Promote foreign investment**
 - * **Promote public & private partnerships**
 - * **Diversify markets & products**
 - * **Maintain destination competitiveness**

Maldives Tourism Planning

- * **Tourism Planning & Regulation mandated under Maldives Tourism Act**
- * **Sector Planning (Strategic & Master planning)**
 - * **First Tourism Master Plan (1984-1993)**
 - * **Dev concepts, minimal regulations (Laissez Faire Model) & tourism tax levy**
 - * **Second Tourism Master Plan (1996-2005)**
 - * **Harmonizing dev., Set zoning and expansion targets**
 - * **Third Tourism Master Plan (2007-2011)**
 - * **Taking tourism to people, equitable tax regime and lease period extension**
 - * **Fourth Tourism Master Plan (2013-2017)**
 - * **In Draft- fill gaps, Infrastructure, Climate Adaptation, community inclusion**



Maldives Resort Hotel Standards & Practices

Tourism Standards

- * **Tourism Ministry sets regulations and compliance standards**
- * **Comply with Environment regulations**
 - * EIA compulsory for tourism projects
 - * Restrictions on shoreline obstruction
 - * Waste management requirements
 - * Sewage treatment requirement
 - * Water conservation
 - * Groundwater use restricted
 - * Fresh water production required
 - * Water storage required
- * **Operational Service Standards**
 - * Annual Monitoring of tourist facilities

Maldives Tourism Standards

- * **Carrying Capacity Standards for Resort islands**
 - * **Maximum built Area of resort islands <30% of land area**
 - * **Minimum 5 linear meters of Beach for each guest room built**
 - * **Beach oriented rooms and setback for accommodation structures from vegetation line required**

Maldives Tourism Standards

- * **Building Standards**
 - * **Building height limited to 2 storey**
 - * **Coral stone use restrictions in building**
 - * **Restrictions on shoreline obstruction**

Maldives Resort Hotel Practices

- * **Sustainable Energy management Practices employed by tourist resorts include;**
 - * **Energy auditing and application of energy saving methods (products, hotel operational procedures & improve generator efficiency)**
 - * **Solar PV outdoor lighting & Solar water heating are standard**
 - * **Solar PV-diesel hybrid system (largest resort RE 70kW PV power plant, Hybrid system)**
 - * **Combined heat and recovery**

Maldives Resort Hotel Practices

- * **Marketing & Branding**
 - * **Ecolabels and Green marketing**
 - * Adoption of recognised standards in hotel operation (ISO14000, Green Globe certification etc)
 - * **Green Products & services offer**



Maldives



National Green Growth Targets & Achievements

Carbon Neutral Target

- **Maldives Carbon Neutral vision for 2020**
 - Reduce electricity emissions by 80%
 - Generate 60% of electricity via solar
 - Remaining 40% by wind and biomass,
 - diesel remain as back-up



Carbon Neutral Target

- **Achievements**
 - Prepared Maldives SREP Investment Plan (2013-2017)
 - ASPIRE Project by World Bank (WB, SREP and GoM funding US\$18M)
 - Create an enabling environment for distributed RE, capacity building for GoM, utilities and regulators
 - Design financial mechanisms and incentives to mitigate risks & leverage private investments
 - Install 20MW of RE generation (avoid 12 M litres /year of diesel, reduce GHG emissions by 31,000 tCO₂/year)
 - New Regulations drafted for RE investment, Amendments made in the Import/Export law in 2012 for exemption of duty for RE products. Further amendment proposed for Energy Efficient equipment
 - 1st RE Investor Conference held in June 2013, in Maldives

Carbon Neutral Target

- **Achievements**
 - Solar PV and Solar water heating widely used in tourist resorts
 - 03MW of RE system being installed by Male' Water & Sewerage Company to utilize water production
 - 2012- First PV project connected to State electric Company STELCO Grid reducing 5-12% of diesel consumed per KWh in these islands
 - Solar Pv –DG hybrid systems installed for ice making in fishing community islands (capacity of 40kW) under the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership by The Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc

GHG Reduction

- **GHG reduction Plan**
 - **GHG emission reduction and HCFC phase-out by 2020**
- **Achievement**
 - **Maldives ahead on HCFC's phase-out Schedule under Montreal Protocol**
 - **CFC's phased-out implemented successfully in tourism sector**

Conservation Targets



- * **Increase Marine Protected Areas annually to meet CBD**
- * **Establish Baa Atoll a Biosphere Reserve**
- * **Establish entire Maldives archipelago a marine reserve status in 2020**

Conservation Targets

- * **Achievements**
 - * **Baa Atoll including Hanifaru bay established as a UNESCO biosphere reserve**
 - * **6 tourist resort establishments and local islands within Baa atoll benefit from the new BR status**
 - * **Established a Conservation Fund**

Conservation Targets



* Achievements

- * Established 33 designated MPA's that include important Tourist Dive Sites
- * 70 Species, whales, dolphins, sharks & turtles protected for conservation mainly due to tourism demands
- * Prohibited fishing from tourist resort island lagoons and reefs & promoted sustainable fisheries
- * Regulated Scuba Diving for conservation & safety

Climate Change Adaptation

A high-angle photograph of a traditional Maldivian dhooni sailboat on clear turquoise water. The boat is made of dark wood and has a large, light-colored sail. Two men in white traditional clothing are visible on the boat. The background is a vast expanse of clear blue water.

- * National Adaptation Needs Assessed in 2007
- * Tourism Adaptation to Climate Change (TAP) project in 2012
 - * Tourism baseline studies completed
 - * Workshop underway to
 - * prioritise key Climate Change risks for sector
 - * Identify interventions for partnership with project, sector & dependent communities
 - * Adopt proposed tourism CC adaptation platform.

Climate Change Adaptation



- * **Hard and soft engineered coastal defenses streamlined to protect beach and investments**
 - * **Submerged breakers**
 - * **Groynes on beach**
 - * **Raised over-water buildings**



Thank You

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