



# **ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT:**

## **Maldives RREEF**

January – December 2023

**Report submitted by:**

United Nations Development Programme - Maldives  
Ahmed Shifaz, Assistant Resident Representative  
[ahmed.shifaz@undp.org](mailto:ahmed.shifaz@undp.org)

## Programme Overview

Programme Title & Project Number		Programme Duration	
<b>Programme Title:</b> Maldives Resilient Reef Ecosystem and Economy for the Future (Maldives RREEF) <b>Programme Number:</b> 00140227		<b>Start Date:</b> June 2023 <b>End Date:</b> December 2029	
Programme Location		Co-recipient Organisation/s and Implementing Partners	
<b>Country/ies:</b> Maldives  <b>Priority Coral Reef Site/s:</b> Addu Atoll and Fuvahmulah Atoll		<b>Co-recipient Organisation/s: -</b>  <b>Implementing Partner/s:</b> Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MCCEE) (Former Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT)) - Fuvahmulah Nature Park (FNP) - Addu Nature Park (ANP) Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Former Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MFMRA)) Business Centre Corporation (BCC) Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI)	
Total Approved Budget			
<b>Total GFCR Budget:</b> USD1,518,148 <b>[Convening Agent]:</b> United Nations Development Programme (Maldives Country Office)			

**GFCR Preparatory Grant awarded for proposal development: YES**

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## Executive Summary

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The GFCR funded joint programme (JP) “Maldives Resilient Reef Ecosystems and Economy for the Future (Maldives RREEF)” was approved by the GFCR Board in March 2023, with the full programme document being signed in June 2023 and funds received by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Maldives Country Office (CO) in August 2023.

The GFCR JP will be implemented in four phases (Phase One, *months 1 to 18*, Phase Two, *months 19 to 36*, Phase Three, *years 4 to 6*, Phase Four, *year 7 to 8*). The initial grant funding for Phase 1 targets to seed a coral positive blue economy in two pilot atolls in the south of Maldives (Seenu/Addu Atoll and Gnaviyani/Fuvahmulah Atoll) to strengthen coral conservation and management effectiveness. Phase 1 will pilot a range of mechanisms and approaches to provide the foundation for tailoring solutions to scale-up reef-positive activities and market-based solutions across other atoll ecosystems in subsequent phases.

The Convening Agent (CA) for the overall joint programme is UNDP Maldives CO with the co-recipient being United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (envisioned for Phase II). The programme will follow the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and will be implemented through a phased approach for a total of seven years.

The main outcomes of the projects are to 1) establish Sustainable Financing Mechanisms to support improved management effectiveness of the Maldives Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, 2) catalyse coral positive economy and gender-responsive local livelihoods across Maldives and 3) increase capacity for coral research and development, as well as monitoring in Maldives.

The inception of the programme (August 2023) coincided with the country’s presidential election (September 2023). With a potential change in administration and leadership of partner Ministries, UNDP Maldives CO team, along with the core working group of partners, had made the decision to postpone the implementation of the project activities to after the swearing in of the new administration. As such, the key milestone achieved in 2023 was the programme inception workshop which was conducted in December 2023 with the key stakeholder agencies identified for Phase 1.

The inception workshop was used as an opportunity to reaffirm the programme’s strategic value to the new administration by introducing the programme’s objectives and planned activities along with the workplan for Phase 1, discussing the project risks and safeguards, exploring synergies and partnerships and revalidating the overall Theory of Change (ToC) and outcomes of the programme. The inception workshop was co-presented by the Maldives CO team and programme partners (MCCEE and MMRI), which helped in garnering interest and buy-in from the new leadership of the relevant Ministries.

The key priority milestones for 2024, as discussed by stakeholders in the inception workshop are as follows;

1. Remobilization grant to Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks;
2. Detailed costing of the drafted action plans for Addu and Fuvahmulah UNESCO Biosphere Reserves;
3. Baseline PAME assessments;
4. Designing a detailed survey plan for the environmental and socio-economic baseline surveys for Addu and Fuvahmulah;

5. UNDP GEF-SGP project to issue grants;
6. Development and implementation of a stakeholder engagement strategy;
7. Atoll-wide ecological surveys;
8. Develop an ESMP to manage safeguards risks;
9. Develop training course materials (videos, printing material, etc.) and certification process for the regular collection of coral reef monitoring data using the national protocols;
10. Explore the feasibility of specific remote technologies that could be used to support the expansion and efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts across Maldives atolls;
11. Development of the challenge grant competition for the identification of innovative coral restoration strategies and technologies;
12. NGO to provide trained and qualified researchers to work with MMRI specialists to support data collection on the sites, analysis and report writing;
13. Stakeholder mapping, due diligence, and ESG vetting of private partners/investors;
14. Establish a partnership knowledge-sharing platform;
15. Conduct a feasibility assessment for establishing PPPs;
16. Feasibility assessment for piloting marine Biocredits (Local consultant for PIN process);
17. Develop the Communications Plan and materials to familiarize tourist resorts on Addu Atoll with the concept of OECMs;
18. Engage all resort owners in Addu for the OECM process;
19. Grant to BCC;
20. Issuance of an expression of interest and market outreach.

Considering the successful implementation of the project requires a dedicated PMU, efforts were undertaken to start the recruitment process to onboard a Project Manager and a Project Analyst for the initial PMU setup. In this regard, during the 2023 period, TORs were finalised and aligned with the overall UNDP Maldives CO structure and the request to begin the recruitment process was made.



## I. Priority Sites

### Priority Site #1 – S. Addu

MPA/LMMA/OECM	Area (ha)	Coral Reef Area (ha)	GFCR Solutions
<b>Coral Reefs</b> <sup>14</sup>	5,532 [7,032 including land]	5,532	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development of a toolkits to provide coral positive blue economy business coaching services by BCC to grant and loan recipients.</li> <li>MMRI to develop training course materials (videos, printing material, etc.) and certification process for the regular collection of coral reef monitoring data using the national protocols.</li> <li>explore the feasibility of specific remote technologies that could be used to support the expansion and efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts across Maldives atolls.</li> <li>Small grants for MSMEs in Addu atoll to develop businesses around the thematic area of coral positive blue economy</li> </ul>
<b>Protected Coral Reefs</b>	2,118	2,118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remobilization grants to Addu Nature Park</li> <li>Resorts to sign up to becoming OECMs in Addu Atoll</li> <li>Atoll-wide ecological survey to establish baselines</li> </ul>
<b>Mangroves</b>	106.6	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remobilization grants to Addu Nature Park</li> </ul>
<b>Seagrasses</b>	315.15	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PAME Assessments</li> </ul>

### Priority Site #2 – Gn. Fuvahmulah

MPA/LMMA/OECM	Area (ha)	Coral Reef Area (ha)	GFCR Solutions
<b>Coral Reefs</b> <sup>14</sup>	505 [1,018 including land]	505	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development of a toolkits to provide coral positive blue economy business coaching services by BCC to grant and loan recipients.</li> <li>MMRI to develop training course materials (videos, printing material, etc.) and certification process for the regular</li> </ul>



			collection of coral reef monitoring data using the national protocols. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore the feasibility of specific remote technologies that could be used to support the expansion and efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts across Maldives atolls.</li> </ul>
<b>Protected Coral Reefs</b>	779	779	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remobilization grants to Fuvahmulah Nature Park</li> <li>• Atoll-wide ecological survey to establish baselines</li> </ul>
<b>Mangroves</b>	1.41	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remobilization grants to Fuvahmulah Nature Park</li> </ul>
<b>Seagrasses</b>	1.02	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAME Assessments</li> </ul>

## II. Partners

The GFCR Joint Programme will be implemented in close coordination with several key agencies including UNCDF, with UNCDF's role being more apparent starting from Phase 2 and beyond. In 2023, several key discussions were held with the core Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of technical staff from MCCEE and MMRI.

### Co-recipient(s)

No co-recipients in Phase 1: Not applicable

### Co-implementer(s)

Name of Partner	Type	Activity or Solutions supported	Type of Agreement (i.e. MOU or other)
Ministry of Climate Change and Energy	National government	Remobilization grants to Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks PAME Assessment completion	No agreement currently in place. LoA to be signed with the partner
Maldives Marine Research Institute	National government	Atoll-wide ecological surveys in Phase 1 priority sites	No agreement currently in place. LoA to be signed with the partner

### Other Partner(s)



Name of Partner	Type	Activity or Solutions supported	Type of Agreement (e.g. MOU or other)
Environmental Protection Agency	National Government	TBD	No agreement currently in place
Addu City Council	Local Government	No financial stake in the project, but the councils are on-boarded as a key stakeholder at the local level for activities undertaken within the atoll	No agreement currently in place
Fuvahmulah City Council	Local Government	No financial stake in the project, but the councils are on-boarded as a key stakeholder at the local level for activities undertaken within the atoll	No agreement currently in place
Addu Nature Park	Nature Parks/ Protected Area Management	Remobilization grants to Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks PAME assessment	No agreement currently in place
Fuvahmulah Nature Park	Nature Parks/ Protected Area Management	Remobilization grants to Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks PAME assessment	No agreement currently in place

## Coordination

A core technical working group (TWG) was established in July 2023 briefly after the approval of the proposal. The TWG, comprised of representatives from both MCCEE and MMRI. The group was put in place prior to the official inception workshop and in the lead up to the workshop, continued conversation with the partners were ensured to plan the programme implementation for Phase 1. This group convened in the lead up to the inception workshop to discuss and refine the project implementation plans. Each quarter, key priorities were identified with an emphasis on activities that would establish essential baselines. These baselines would then be used to inform the planning process for Phase 2 of the project. A total of 2 working sessions were held with both partners and separate meetings were conducted with both partners with regards to specific activity related planning.

MCCEE highlighted two main activities that would contribute to establishing these baselines:

- Remobilization grants: These grants would be issued to both the Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks, located in the priority atolls.
- Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments: These assessments would provide a comprehensive evaluation of the current management practices within these nature parks.





In addition to the core TWG, UNDP Maldives CO closely coordinated with key partner agencies such as City councils and nature park teams from both priority atolls of Addu and Fuvahmulah in the lead up to the inception workshop.

### **Lessons and Needs**

Due to the Maldivian Presidential Election held in September 2023, the implementation of a programme requiring partner support faced delays. This included key activities aimed at remobilizing the Addu and Fuvahmulah Nature Parks through the GFCR programme, which required significant input from both City Councils. Considering the political climate in the lead-up to the elections during Q3, MCCEE advised postponing the inception workshop initially planned for September. This postponement aimed to ensure maximum participation from both City Councils and other relevant government agencies.



### III. Programme Milestones

On an activity basis, although no significant milestones were achieved, progress was made in terms of revalidating the programme outcomes with the government priorities, especially following the new administration.

Key discussions were held with partners to plan the implementation process in 2024 and on ways to maximise the output without duplication. Partner input was sought to revalidate the needs identified in the Programme Document and to identify synergies with ongoing work in the conservation and protected area management sphere in the Maldives.

Deliverable or Milestone	Target Date of Completion	Status	Supporting Text
<b>Outcome 1: Sustainable Financing Mechanisms supporting improved management effectiveness of the Maldives MPA network are established.</b>			
<b>Output 1.1: Blended Finance mechanisms are tested to improve the management effectiveness and sustainable financing of coral reef resilience - Proof of concept Addu Atoll and Fuvahmulah UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.</b>			
<b>Activity 1.1.1 – Upgrading the visitor centres and visitor experience for Addu Nature Park and Fuvahmulah Nature Park</b>			
1.1.1.1 Remobilization grant to Addu Nature Park,	May 2024	Ongoing	A site assessment was conducted to identify the existing needs and revalidate the list of upgrades identified in the Programme Document. The assessment was done in collaboration with MCCEE and the report is to be finalised by the end of March 2024
1.1.1.2 Remobilization grant to Fuvahmulah Nature Park	May 2024	Ongoing	A site assessment was conducted to identify the existing needs and revalidate the list of upgrades identified in the Programme Document. The assessment was done in collaboration with MCCEE and the report is to be finalised by the end of March 2024
1.1.1.3 Consultancy to review and prepare a detailed costing of the drafted action plans for both Addu and Fuvahmulah UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	Sep 2024	Not started	Milestone: 2 Action Plans (1 for ABR and 1 for FBR) budgeted



<b>Activity 1.1.2: Preparation of a Sustainable Financing Plan to improve the management effectiveness of Addu and Fuvahmulah UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.</b>			
1.1.2.1 Consultant to conduct baseline PAME assessments for each of the protected areas (core areas) on Addu and Fuvahmulah	August 2024	Not started	Although the work to conduct the PAME assessment has not officially started, discussions were held with the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) to identify ways to synergise the PAME assessment process with their ongoing efforts.  Milestone: 2 PAME assessments conducted and score available
1.1.2.2 Consultant to support MCCEE in designing a detailed survey plan for the environmental and socio-economic baseline surveys to be conducted for Addu and Fuvahmulah to be completed in Phase 1.	Q2 2024	Not started	
1.1.2.3 Consultants (ICs) on retainer to conduct a stakeholder mapping, due diligence, and ESG vetting of private partners/investors, as well as review the social and environmental safeguards of any pipeline project to be funded through financing instruments piloted under the GFCR.	Q3 2024	Not started	
<b>Activity 1.1.3: Feasibility assessment for establishing PPPs to cross subsidize MPA management finance in Addu Atoll and Fuvahmulah Atoll</b>			
1.1.3.1 Consultant, including travel, to conduct a feasibility assessment for establishing PPPs	Q4 2024	Not started	Milestone: PPP Feasibility Assessment for 2 sites (ABR and FBR)
<b>Activity 1.1.4: Feasibility assessment for two sites to pilot and implement marine biocredits</b>			
1.1.4.1 Feasibility assessment for piloting marine Biocredits to be conducted by Wallacea Trust through co-financing. This budget line is for local consultants to	Q4 2024	Not started	Milestone: Project Identification Notice for 2 biocredit sites completed



support the PIN process, which is a required step to kick start the Wallacea Trust co-financing and technical support.			
<b>Output 1.2: Increased management of resort reefs in partnership with resort owners through other effective area-based conservation measures</b>			
<b>Activity 1.2.1: Development of a communication campaign for OECMs</b>			
1.2.1.1 Engagement of a communication expert (consultant) to develop the Communications Plan and materials to familiarize tourist resorts on Addu Atoll with the concept of OECMs	Q2 2024	Not started	Milestone: at least 1 OECM application submitted
<b>Activity 1.2.2: Launch of the communication campaign and convening workshop with resort owners.</b>			
1.2.2.1 Costs for a workshop, travel, and a consultant to engage all resort owners on Addu Atoll that may potentially be interested to register their interest in becoming an OECM, and to explain the benefits of OECMs, aiming to get all resort owners to sign up to the OECM process. The activity will be implemented by MCCEE	Q3 2024	Not started	Milestone: at least 1 OECM application submitted
<b>Activity 1.2.3: Technical guidance, oversight and support for resort owners engaged in the OECM application process.</b>			
1.2.3.1 PMU and CTA's travels to the pilots for coordination, oversight, meetings, etc. and to provide technical assistance to hotels in the OECM application process and overall support to the implementation of outcome 1.	Q3 2024	Not started	Milestone: at least 1 OECM application submitted
<b>Output 1.3: Sustainable financing identified to support the effective management of the Maldives MPA network nationwide.</b>			
<b>Activity 1.3.1: Partnership platform to improve knowledge sharing about coral conservation and management effectiveness in the Maldives</b>			



1.3.1.1 Local consultant and meeting costs to establish a partnership knowledge sharing platform. In Phase 1 an ongoing platform of cooperation would be launched to convene the relevant stakeholders, during which these ongoing initiatives would be mapped out and scaled in phase 2. This activity will allow to learn from existing local initiatives and inform the development of national level activities planned for phase 2.	Q4 2024	Not started	Milestone: 1 Partnership platform operational
<b>Outcome 2: Coral positive economy and gender responsive local livelihoods catalysed across Maldives</b>			
<b>Output 2.2: Coral-positive business incubator financing mechanism for generating new businesses led by SMEs</b>			
<b>Activity 2.2.2: Establish separate window under Maldives GEF SGP for coral positive action and livelihoods in target LNOB atolls (Lhaviyani, Meemu, Shaviyani, Kaafu, and Raa Atoll are the most vulnerable according to MPI) and Addu and Fuvahmulah.</b>			
2.2.2.1 UNDP GEF-SGP project to issue at least 4 grants in phase 1 in Addu and Fuvahmulah, and release the full grant in the pilots. remaining tranches to be issued in Phase 2 and will be expanded to other LNOB atolls.	Q2 2024	Started	<p>Concept paper for call for proposals currently being drafted in collaboration and support from the Maldives GEF-SGP team.</p> <p>Milestone: At least 4 low value grants issued</p>
<b>Activity 2.2.3: Stakeholder engagement strategy development and deployed to ensure effective participation of LNOB atolls.</b>			
2.2.3.1 Consultant (including travel costs) to develop and coordinate the implementation of stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure wide outreach and max inclusion of the most disadvantaged communities in pilot atolls and other LNOB atolls.	Q2 2024	Not started	Milestone: SES developed for the project
<b>Activity 2.2.4: Development of Toolkits for coral positive blue economy business coaching services by BCC</b>			



2.2.4.1 Grant to BCC to engage a technical expert for the development of a toolkits to provide coral positive blue economy business coaching services by BCC to grant and loan recipients.		Not started	Milestone: Grant issued to BCC
<b>Output 2.3: Exploration of coral-positive private sector investment opportunities</b>			
<b>Activity 2.3.1: Identification of blue pipeline projects</b>			
2.3.1.1 Issuance of an expression of interest and market outreach to identify specific firms/companies which are considered investment worthy within the sectors identified in existing investment and private sector mapping. The costs will cover ads on newspapers, and online portals to cast a wide net and leverage interest in the EOI.	Q4 2024	Not started	Milestone: 1 portfolio of SDG Linked blended finance investment opportunities identified
<b>Outcome 3: Increased capacity for coral R&amp;D and monitoring within Maldives.</b>			
<b>Output 3.1: Enhanced coral reef monitoring capacity nationwide through a citizen science approach in partnership with tourism industry.</b>			
<b>Activity 3.1.1: Sustainable financing for coral reef monitoring nationwide through a scalable citizen science approach.</b>			
3.1.1.1 Costs for MMRI to develop training course materials (videos, printing material, etc.) and certification process for the regular collection of coral reef monitoring data using the national protocols. Materials will enable MMRI to upscale the delivery of training and increase capacity across Maldives to regularly collect harmonised monitoring data. Training course will be used to certify focal points in pilot atolls and eventually throughout the	Q3 2024	Not started	Milestone: Coral Reef Monitoring Training Manual and other resources developed



wider MPA network. In-kind technical support and review of contents to be provided by MarHE Center.			
<b>Activity 3.1.3: Innovative approaches and ICT for Coral reef Monitoring</b>			
3.1.3.1 Consultant to explore the feasibility of specific remote technologies that could be used to support the expansion and efficiency of coral reef monitoring efforts across Maldives atolls.	Q4 2024	Not started	<p>Milestone: At least 1 remote technology for the expansion and efficiency of coral reef monitoring identified</p> <p>Milestone: GFCR Fund and Maldives GFCR programme baseline data collected</p>
<b>MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION</b>			
<b>Collection of baselines, development of M&amp;E Strategy, Results Framework</b>			
Atoll-wide ecological surveys to infill information gaps on the ecological and socio-economic status of both pilot atoll ecosystems	Q3 2024	Not started	<p>Ongoing discussions with MMRI and MCCEE to identify survey sites and identify the current monitoring plans of MMRI and scoping of logistical arrangements, technical and human resource capacities required</p> <p>Milestone: GFCR Fund and Maldives GFCR programme baseline data collected</p>
Technical support from a competitively selected NGO to provide trained and qualified researchers to work with MMRI specialists to support data collection on the sites, analysis and report writing.	Q3 2024	Not started	Milestone: GFCR Fund and Maldives GFCR programme baseline data collected
Travel costs to pilot locations for baselines, surveys, and regular monitoring	Q3 2024	Not started	



Purchase of water quality probe for the analysis of water samples on site, camera, light and temp logger	Q3 2024	Not started	Milestone: Equipment procured and provided to MMRI
Consultant to develop an ESMP to manage safeguards risks, as per moderate risk rating of the SESP screening. The ESMP will include targeted climate scenario analysis and the development of a Livelihoods Plan.	Q2 2024	Not started	Milestone: Programme ESMP, M&E strategy and gender strategy in place
One Impact Measurement Expert NPSA9 or IC (100%) to provide technical guidance on collection of baseline data, develop an M&E strategy for the programme, and guide technical impact monitoring and data collection throughout the programme, including baseline data for the certification of blue financing instruments and blue impact of funded project pipelines. The expert will also provide advice on context monitoring and data collection through the dialogue platforms established across the programme to leverage stakeholders' generated data.	Q4 2024	Not started	Milestone: One impact measurement expert hired



## IV. Programme Progress Overview

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### A. Outcome and Output Progress and Challenges

Delays in implementation associated with Presidential Elections held in September 2023 resulted in most of the work in the 2023 period being focused on building partnerships and revalidating the needs identified during the project development stage. Although no significant progress was made in terms of activity level implementation, the UNDP Maldives CO team was able to collaborate with key government partners and have engaging conversations around priority activities in Phase 1.

The project Inception Workshop served as a platform to familiarize key partners with the overall programme and identify priority interventions needed specifically in areas of protected area management and financing coral positive blue economy initiatives in local communities. The lack of technical expertise and human and financial resources in areas of conservation and blue economy were noted by partners.

As M&E is an integral part of the GFCR programme, partners highlighted the existing challenges in data collection and reiterated the importance of citizen science for continued monitoring efforts in light of inadequate resources currently available. The challenges are reinforced by the fact that Maldives is a SIDS with several significant coral reefs dispersed across the country.

Taking into consideration the above, UNDP Maldives CO reiterated its commitment to working closely with partners to identify the gaps and needs and address challenges through the programme activities and interventions.

### B. Monitoring and Evaluation

As the 2023 period did not have any significant project activities being implemented, there were no specific M&E activities carried out. However, setting the baselines as stipulated in the Programme Document is crucial to inform the planning and implementation of programme activities in Phase 2 and beyond.

In the reporting period, with the completion of the programme inception workshop, the Results Framework was presented to key stakeholders for initial review and comments. With no major changes suggested, the Results Framework is to be presented to the Project Steering Committee for final review, approval and endorsement in 2024.

In addition, continuous discussions were held with MMRI on conducting the atoll-wide ecological surveys in the priority sites of Addu and Fuvahmulah to establish the necessary baselines and gather coral data through citizen science. In this regard, key activities have been identified to ensure existing capacity is enhanced and capacity building activities targeted to the island communities are carried out within the initial stages of the programme.

### **C. Protected Areas Management Effectiveness**

Although no PAME Assessments were conducted in the reporting period, potential avenues for collaboration were identified in close coordination with partner agencies. With prior experience in conducting PAME assessments in the Maldives, OCPP team presents a unique and specific set of skills and expertise in conducting PAME assessments in the Maldives. In this regard, the target for 2024 is to engage with OCPP to identify the potential of conducting the PAME assessments in the priority sites of Phase 1.

### **D. Enabling Policy Environment**

Alignment of programme activities were discussed with key stakeholders to ensure alignment with government priorities. Through the inception meeting and the discussions held in the lead up to and after the inception meeting, the UNDP CO was able to collaboratively work with key government agencies such as MCCEE and MMRI on activities such as establishment of OECMs, alignment with Protected Area Management policies and conservation trajectory of the government and the GFCR programme. Although the new administration was established in November of 2023, in close coordination with line ministries, we revalidated the proposed programme activities. The most significant changes with the new government included:

At the time of project formulation, the mandate for fisheries and ocean resources management was with the former Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture (MFMRA). With the changes in the administration following the 2023 Presidential Elections, the mandate for marine resource management lies with the newly formed Ministry, Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MFOR). Despite such changes, the mandates of key agencies remain largely the same and is not expected to affect the overall coordination mechanism within and government with regards to the implementation of the programme. The programme will continue monitoring partners and stakeholders for any further mandate changes and/or possible implications to the programme

### **E. Complementary Initiatives**

Potential partnership with the Ocean Country Partnership Programme was identified during the reporting period. Their previous experience in conducting PAME assessments in Maldives was identified as a potential avenue for combining efforts to enhance the programme output.

### **F. Gender Mainstreaming**

A gender analysis was developed and included in the programme document, including a background analysis of the gender parity statistics in the Maldives and acknowledgment of gaps in data especially in terms of gender disaggregated information that highlights women's participation in and contribution to environment-related sectors such as marine biodiversity, conservation, blue economy and related livelihood activities. The programme would therefore include a dedicated gender analysis to identify gender inequalities of Maldives within the scope of the programme outcomes, which would then be further focused on the geographic areas of Addu and Fuvahmulah atolls. With the delays in establishing a dedicated PMU, we consequently had significant delays in implementation of programme activities and as such this task has been delayed. We are targeting for establishment of the PMU and baselines assessments to be completed in Q2, 2024. As the overall programme pays a keen interest to gender

inclusivity, the programme actively aims to include gender responsiveness in programme activities. A dedicated Gender Action Plan will guide these efforts through prioritizing supporting women-led initiatives and aims for at least 40% female representation. The GAP will encompass outreach efforts which will specifically target women's groups, and data collection will be disaggregated by sex to monitor the programme's impact on both genders. These steps ensure women have opportunities to participate and benefit equally.

In addition, there is high potential for the programme to directly contribute to women's empowerment within Addu and Fuvahmulah atolls in Phase 1 and in other atolls in later phases. All efforts have been taken to ensure gender responsiveness has been taken into consideration during the consultations supporting programme development. The programme team will ensure that a gender-responsive lens is applied throughout programme implementation and sufficient resources are allocated towards this end.

A dedicated Gender Action Plan/Gender Inclusion Strategy is planned to be developed in Q2 of 2024 and every effort will be made to support and encourage the women and women-led associations and enterprises in programme activities, with an aim to achieve a minimum of 40% representation throughout the project. Programme sensitisation efforts will specifically engage women's associations and networks. Baseline studies will collect sex-disaggregated data to enable monitoring of the effects of the project on women and men. The baseline studies are planned to be established during Q2 of 2024.

During programme implementation, qualitative assessments will be conducted on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated to the programme. This will be incorporated in the annual Programme Implementation Report, Mid-Term Report, and Terminal Evaluation. Indicators to quantify the achievement of programme objectives in relation to gender equality will include men and women who had access to affordable solutions, number of men and women employed from the jobs created by the programme, training opportunities, knowledge management and information dissemination.

The checklist for gender mainstreaming is identified as follows:

- Data (gender library on intranet)
- Analysis of the impact on women and men. The analysis will aim to identify the bottlenecks and challenges faced specially by women
- Ensure activities to change the status quo and confront structural and normative inequalities
- Gender-sensitive and responsive indicators that monitor change
- Ensure UNDP gender team are involved
- Consult with state gender machinery and women's organisations
- Ensure the programme is in line with UNDP gender strategy, UNDP Maldives Gender Strategy and GFCR Gender Policy
- Allocate budget for gender-specific and mainstreaming activities
- Assign gender marker on output level
- Gender-sensitive communications
- Gender-sensitive Programme Management Unit

The UNDP gender marker assigned as a minimum requirement for this programme is GEN2.

Following the approval of the Executive Board in March 2023, programme implementation officially began in Q3 of 2023, once the funds for Phase 1 were received by UNDP Maldives CO. Considering delays in implementation, the Gender Action Plan for the project has not yet been developed. However, the project GAP is to be developed by Q2 2024.

## V. Programme Governance & Management

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### A. Programme Governance

At the country level, a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will be established in early Q2 of 2024 to oversee the overall implementation of the GFCR joint programme, and this will be co-chaired by the UNDP Maldives Resident Representative as Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, Climate Outcome group, and the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, as Government Co-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, Climate Outcome group. The Programme Steering Committee will meet one time annually at a minimum to provide guidance and strategic direction to the joint programme. The PSC is responsible for making management decisions by consensus when required, including the approval of joint programme plans and revisions above the agreed programme manager's tolerances.

The primary governance and management roles of each of the other members of the Steering Committee will be aligned to UN programming standards. Under these arrangements: PSC will be inclusive, transparent, and accountable, and, as such, observers will be welcome. The observers may include state and non-state actors, the private sector, NGOs, CBOs and protected area community representatives and conservation groups.

With the objective to maintain the programme governance arrangement as lean as possible, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be established (within Q2 of the ongoing year) to assist the PSC in ensuring technical review and advice. The TAC will include technical experts drawn from the government representatives with interest in the programme, such as the Environmental Protection Agency in addition to the technical officers from the government entities in the PSC. In addition, the TAC will include independent experts from civil society organizations, think tanks and universities, such as BCC, Wallacea Trust, IUCN and MaRHE Center will be invited to provide technical and scientific advice, when needed, and to agree on selection criteria, vet pipeline opportunities, review and approval of incubation (grant and/or loans) proposals, technical review of outputs and capacity building material, etc.

During the reporting period, following the approval and signing of the programme document, the core TWG members were identified in July 2023. With several key activities planned for Phase 1 of the project in areas of protected area management and establishment of baselines, the core TWG consists of technical personnel from MCCEE and MMRI. In the lead up to the inception workshop, key discussions were held with the core TWG and priority activities for Q1 of 2024 were identified.

### B. Programme Management

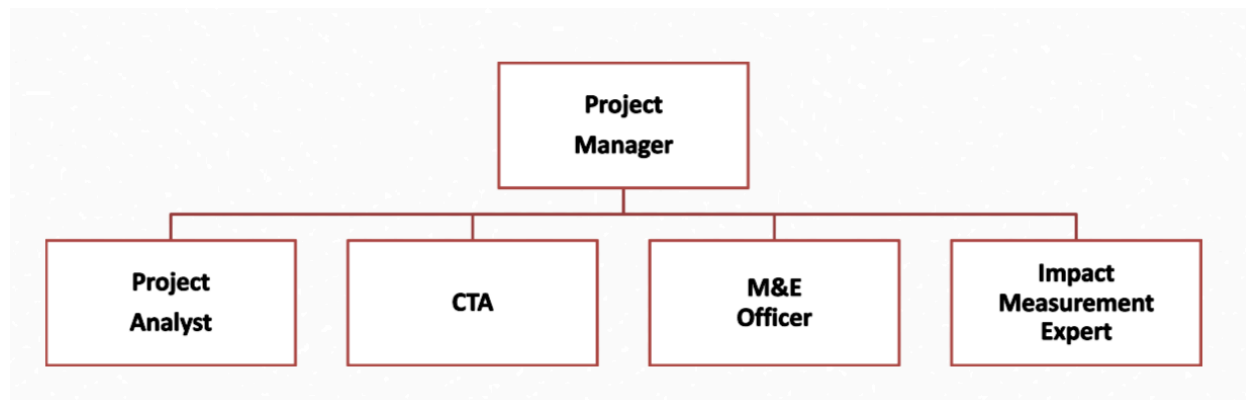
The necessary TORs required for recruitment of the programme management unit were finalised during the reporting period. The recruitment period has continued from the 2023 period to 2024 period.

The PMU is expected to be established in Q1 2024.

### C. Programme Operations

Programme operations in the reporting period were managed directly by UNDP Maldives CO. The recruitment of the PMU was carried out in parallel. The details of the team composition is included as part of the Annual Reporting Expenditures sheet.

Below chart indicates the PMU positions expected in Phase 1 along with the recruitment status:



Project Manager: Recruitment ongoing

Project Analyst: Recruitment ongoing

CTA: TOR finalized, recruitment to commence once national staff are in place

## VI. Resource Mobilisation

After the October 2022 submission of the Maldives proposal, one of the key feedback points received from the GFCR Executive Board was that the co-financing included did not qualify as true co-financing. The EB recommended to align activities directly to mentioned sources of co-financing, with provision of substantiated evidence for direct co-financing.

To address this, for the second EB submission in March 2023, the team, through engagement with additional partners, secured co-financing of \$24,557,705, with a mix of in-kind and parallel finance. This comprises mostly government contributions, close to US\$ 23 million. For Phase 1 (first 18 months), the co-financing total is US\$ 1,204,812.

On the basis of the leverage opportunities mapped in the programme and preliminary conversations with industry actors, the programme outlined an additional leverage of at least US\$ 50 million in parallel private or blended finance, once the feasibility of innovative financing instruments is established.

The existing co-financing and the potential leverage bring the overall co-financing aspiration to US\$ 74.5 million, against a GFCR grant contribution of US\$ 10 million. Each co-financing opportunity was defined in alignment with the relevant co-financing type, the related outputs and implementation phase. Details are presented in Annex C.

### **RESOURCE MOBILISATION EFFORTS – GRANTS**

With regard to the targets for the first two reporting periods, the co-financing plan for Phase 1 is detailed in the programme document. In the initial phase, the programme focuses on linking with similar parallel finance opportunities to contribute to the co-financing and parallel resources already identified. This will include linkages with the Joint SDG Fund (approx. US\$ 492,000), GEF biodiversity financing project (approximately US\$ 23,000), GEF SIDS Blue Economy project (approx. US\$ 235,000) and the UNDP Climate Finance Network project (US\$ 60,000). In addition, the Wallacea Trust agreed to assess the feasibility and test marine Biocredits in the two pilot atolls, with the potential to leverage resources for the implementation of the pilots, once the feasibility is confirmed. In Phase 1, the Government of Maldives, through the MMRI, MCCEE, and National Parks will provide a combination of in-kind (approx. US\$ 131,000). UNDP Maldives CO's direct support to the implementation of the UNDP component, including administrative and operational support, programme coordination, quality assurance and risk management, will be costed and computed as UNDP's co-financing contribution during Phase 1.

### **RESOURCE MOBILISATION EFFORTS – Revenue Generation**

The remobilization grants for the nature parks are intended to support the nature parks to revitalise their operations, this is in the form of equipment and/or renovations that are needed. The underlying purpose being, the nature parks to become an attractor of consumers which in turn catalyses investment and livelihoods anchored around the nature parks (local food vendors, souvenirs, tourism, etc...). This is where the business incubation support can come, in the next phase, to create and build investment-ready coral-positive businesses that can potentially tap into the 40 million dollar investment pot available to MALdives under the programme.

The baseline assessments will greatly contribute to the valuation of the biodiversity and biomes of the region to create a market around bio-credits, which is envisioned to be a source of conservation funding that can be extracted from the private sector.

### **RESOURCE MOBILISATION EFFORTS – Investment**

As highlighted above, the programme aims to establish the ecosystem for private investment to come in. The ecosystem includes strong attractors such as the nature parks, investment ready businesses that support the nature parks and/or coral conservation and a valued ecosystem that can attract conservation funding in the form of bio-credits. Additional through the process the program will result in frameworks for replication across the country.

## **VII. Risk Management and Mitigation**

With a specific outcome dedicated to R&D and M&E of coral reefs, the GFCR programme envisions and encompasses several M&E aspects into the overall programme implementation. Empowering communities through training and technology to collect coral reef data and fostering innovation through the integration of citizen science in the overall M&E efforts of the programme will be at the forefront in the upcoming years of implementation.

One key contribution to the overall monitoring mechanism is the development of the ESMP of the programme. As per Moderate rating of the SESPin the Programme Document, the GFCR programme will develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to mitigate the potential social and environmental risks the programme could raise. The ESMP will emphasize the need for stakeholder engagement, including potentially vulnerable groups like women and youth, throughout the project cycle.

With the implementation of the ESMP, the programme will closely monitor project activity progress to ensure alignment with the M&E framework. Risk management and appropriate planning will be undertaken through extensive stakeholder consultations with input from the TAC once established and through guidance and technical input from partner agencies.

The draft risk log is uploaded along with this report submission.

## VIII. Lessons Learned & Adaptive Management

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The most significant challenge during the implementation of the programme in 2023 was adapting the programme development process to align with potential new priorities that may have come with the new administration post the Presidential Election. The Maldives RREEF Programme proposal was approved by the EB in March 2023. Following this, UNDP Maldives CO continued the conversations with partners during the transition period of the government to ensure the programme activities were well aligned with the priorities of the new government.

In this regard, the technical working group established, including UNDP Maldives CO team, technical consultants and key Government partners MCCEE and MMRI, was a good practice to maintain continuous communication of expectations and changes, in order to reach a final programme document mutually developed to address the donor requirements.

The technical working group worked to integrate the changes made to the fourth and final version of the programme document, presented to the Executive Board via a second submission in March 2023. In addition to the input to the final submission to the Executive Board, TWG meetings were held on a needs basis to determine the priority activities for Phase 1 based on the current needs and information gaps.

Following the approval of the programme in 2023, the inception meeting was held in December 2023 with representatives from key partner agencies including government ministries, city councils, government agencies as well as the nature park personnel. The programme priorities were presented for a) streamlining the efforts of the programme with ongoing activities, and b) to revalidate the proposed interventions in the pilot sites identified for Phase 1. With no major deviations for the priority activities for the proposed activities, except for deviations in the implementation timeline, the programme activities were revalidated by relevant partner agencies with reassurance from partners on expediting the programme implementation which aligns with the government priorities of the new administration as well.



## Annex A – Data Update Excel File Guidance

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### **GUIDANCE**

This guidance document is crafted to streamline and standardize the process of tracking progress of Global Coral Reef Fund (GFCR) solutions and projects identified, supported and incubated by GFCR programmes. After filling out the excel sheet that has been provided, please send it as a separate document. This guidance text can be deleted once the Excel Sheet is complete.

A **GFCR Solution** is defined as an initiative implemented using funds from the GFCR that attracts reef-positive (sector) investments and/or generates sustainable revenue streams in line with the GFCR's blended finance investment principles and objectives. GFCR solutions include reef-positive businesses and financial mechanisms such as user fees, insurance, blue carbon and biodiversity credits, biodiversity offsets, water funds, endowment funds and more. Include a solution even if the Solution is in the "Feasibility" stage where a feasibility study is underway to determine the viability of the solution. Convening Agents should include not only solutions and projects that are actively receiving financial and technical support from the programme, but also shortlisted businesses and financial mechanisms that are expected to receive technical and/or financial support in the future.

The data update also seeks to collect information on incubators, technical assistance facilities and financing facilities. While these are not considered "GFCR solutions", they are mechanisms to identify, incubate and mature solutions.

This component of the annual reporting template, embodied in the Excel sheet, is designed to capture essential information of GFCR solutions and projects. From the developmental stages to the intricate details of funding, each column is a testament to the diverse aspects of our shared conservation, social and financial objectives.

*After filling out the excel sheet, please send it as a separate document.*

To guide Convening Agents to complete this component of the annual report, each column of the excel sheet, and the inputs required, are described below.

#### **1. Priority Coral Reef Country/Region:**

- This column typically contains the names of the specific country for each project. In most cases the Convening Agent will state the same country for all projects. However, for regional programmes, the country may be different for projects.

#### **2. Stage:**

- The "Stage" column indicates the current status or phase of the coral reef conservation project. Here's an explanation of each choice:
  - **Identified:** the solution has been identified and vetted for coral reef impact and revenue generating potential through an open call process, landscape assessment or other, but has not yet received technical assistance or financial support from the programme.
  - **Feasibility/Design:** The project is in the planning and design phase, with activities focused on project preparation. This stage involves the development of an initial idea or concept for the project for which a feasibility study may be needed. This may come after a positive assessment from a feasibility assessment



- **Implementation:** The solution is actively being supported through technical assistance or financial support.
- **Complete:** Programme support to the solution is no longer needed as it has achieved or is achieving financial and environmental objectives.
- **No Longer Pursued:** The solution is no longer pursued due to lack of viability in terms of coral reef and social impact, or financial viability.

3. **Notes on Stage:**

- This column should include 1-2 sentences explaining the specifics of the stage of the project.
- **Identification:** Provide details on how the project was identified
- **Feasibility/Design:** Provide details on what aspects of the are in the feasibility and/or design phase.
- **Implementation:** Provide details on the type of support the project is receiving. For solutions, note if the solution is revenue generating or ready for private sector investment.
- **Complete:** Provide details of when the project was deemed complete.
- **No longer pursued:** Provide details on why the project is no longer pursued.

4. **Convening Agent:** Please write the name of the convening agent.

5. **Category:**

- The "Category" column categorizes the type of activities or interventions related to coral reef conservation. Here's what each choice represents:
  - **Finance Instrument:** Projects that provide economic, market-based, or institutional means to generate, manage, and deploy capital and incentives towards achieving conservation outcomes. This may include insurance, credits, offsets, user fees, financing facilities, Trust Funds (including Endowment Funds)
  - **TAF (Technical Assistance Facility):** Initiatives providing support to non-profits or community-based organizations (CBOs) as well as individuals and businesses.
  - **Direct Conservation Activity:** projects and programmes whose primary objective is to achieve coral reef conservation and use a blended finance approach to achieve these outcomes (see sub-category below for the types of direct conservation activities).
  - **Indirect Conservation Activity:** address the goals of the Fund through targeting drivers of degradation through reef-positive businesses.
  - **Other:** Any other category not covered by the above options.

6. **Sub-Category:**

- This column further specifies the type of activity within the chosen category. For example:
  - Finance Instrument: Debt Conversion, Blue Bonds, Blue Carbon, Insurance products, Conservation Trust Funds, Incubator, Investment Funds / Incubator Funds, Sustainable livelihoods mechanisms, Pay for Success, Project Finance for Permanence, Biodiversity Offsets, or Others.
  - TAF (Technical Assistance Facility)
  - Direct Conservation Activity: Marine Protected Areas, Coral Ecosystem Restoration, and Invasive Species Management.
  - Indirect Conservation Activity: Sustainable fisheries, Sustainable mariculture/aquaculture, Ecotourism, Plastic waste management, Coastal Agriculture, Sewage and waste-water treatment, Other land-based pollutants

management, Green shipping and cruise ships, Clean Energy, Coastal Infrastructure, and Coastal Forestry

#### 7. **Solution Type:**

- The "Solution Type" column specifies the nature of the solution being implemented within the project. Here's what each choice means:
  - **Policy work:** Activities focused on policy development and advocacy.
  - **Pipeline preparation:** Activities related to project pipeline development.
  - **Pipeline incubation:** Initiatives aimed at nurturing and incubating specific projects and/or businesses.
  - **Other:** Any other solution type not covered by the above options. Specify in Column H if "Other" is entered.

#### 8. **Solutions (Intervention) Name:**

- This column provides the name or description of the specific intervention or solution being employed within the project. It can vary widely depending on the project.

#### 9. **Revenue Streams Category:**

- This column classifies the sources of revenue generated by the coral reef conservation efforts. Here's an explanation for each choice:
  - **Carbon Credits and Environmental Services:** Revenue from carbon credit trading and environmental services.
  - **Eco-Tourism and Wildlife Experiences:** Income from eco-tourism and wildlife-related activities.
  - **Marine Resource Sales:** Revenue from the sale of marine resources.
  - **Financial Instruments and Investment:** Income generated through financial instruments and investments.
  - **Fees and Payments:** Revenue collected through fees and payments for services.
  - **Conservation Funding:** Funding obtained from various conservation sources.
  - **Business Incubation and Investment:** Income generated through business incubation and investments.
  - **Miscellaneous and Varying Revenue Streams:** Diverse sources of revenue not covered by the above options.
  - **N/A (Not Applicable):** If revenue streams are not applicable to the project.

#### 10. **Area of Implementation:**

- This column specifies the geographic scope of the project's implementation with regard to the programme's priority sites. Please note the specific priority site, using the name of the specific locality or MPA when possible. If not site specific, here are the other the possible choices:
  - **National:** The project is implemented at the national level.
  - **Regional:** It covers a specific region.

#### 11. **Local Drivers of Degradation Addressed:**

Column L-S serve to identify and document the specific local factors or issues that a project aims to address or mitigate. These are the main local drivers that contribute to the degradation of coral reef ecosystems and are crucial to understanding the benefits of supported projects. Here's an explanation of each of the categories under "Coral Reefs Local Drivers of Degradation Addressed":

- **Land-Based Pollution:** This category refers to pollution stemming from activities on land that affect coral reefs. It may include industrial discharges, or improper waste disposal, leading to the introduction of pollutants and contaminants into reef environments.

- **Deforestation and Agricultural Conversion:** Deforestation involves the clearing of forests and conversion of land for agriculture. When this occurs near coastal areas, it can lead to increased sedimentation and runoff, negatively impacting coral reefs due to sedimentation and nutrient influx.
- **Aquaculture Practices:** Aquaculture involves the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish and shellfish. In some cases, poor aquaculture practices can lead to pollution, disease transmission, and habitat degradation, affecting nearby coral reef ecosystems.
- **Overfishing and Destructive Fishing:** Overfishing occurs when fishing activity exceeds sustainable levels, depleting fish populations. Destructive fishing practices can directly harm coral reefs by physically damaging or killing coral colonies.
- **Mangrove Deforestation:** Mangroves are critical coastal ecosystems that provide essential habitat for many marine species and act as a buffer against erosion. Their destruction through deforestation can lead to the loss of these important functions and can impact coral reefs.
- **Unsustainable Tourism:** Tourism can be a source of income but can also lead to environmental degradation if not managed sustainably. Unsustainable tourism practices, such as unregulated anchoring or improper waste disposal by tourists, can harm coral reefs.
- **Coral Reefs Restoration:** This category may indicate that the project's primary focus is on the restoration of coral reefs themselves. Restoration efforts can involve coral propagation, transplanting, and rehabilitation of damaged reef areas.
- **Wastewater:** Wastewater discharge, particularly untreated or poorly treated sewage, can introduce pollutants, excess nutrients, and pathogens into coastal waters, posing a significant threat to coral reefs.

12. **GFCR Funds Allocated (\$):**

- This column indicates the budgeted or allocated amount of funds from the Global Coral Reef Fund (GFCR) for the project. If no funds have been budgeted or allocated at this stage, enter TBD (To be Determined).

13. **GFCR Funds Spent (\$):**

- This column records the amount of GFCR funds that have already been used or spent on the project. Enter \$0 if no funds have been budgeted or allocated at this stage.

14. **GFCR Funds Left:**

- This column calculates and displays the remaining GFCR funds available for the project, which is derived from subtracting the Funds Spent from the Funds Allocated.

15. **Blended Finance Components?:**

- This column indicates whether the project involves blended finance components. The choices are typically "Yes" if blended finance is used and "No" if it is not. In the context of coral reef conservation or other sustainability efforts, this involves blending grants or commercial investments (i.e., loans and/or equity) with concessional finance (Concessional loans, recoverable grants, financial guarantee), which offers more favourable terms, such as lower interest rates or longer repayment periods. This approach leverages private sector resources to support socially and environmentally impactful projects that might otherwise be financially challenging. Indicate Yes, if the project is receiving finance in addition to grant finance.
- In the subsequent Column W, please add 1-2 sentences describing the type of blended finance instruments being deployed and how much.

16. **Marine Area Covered (in Hectares):**

- This column documents the zone of influence, or the area of marine ecosystems under the solution has an impact, measured in hectares. It's crucial for assessing the scale and impact of conservation efforts. If this field is not relevant to the solution, please leave it empty.

**17. Expected Milestones by end of phase 1:**

- Here, list the anticipated achievements or progress markers expected by the conclusion of the solution's first phase. These should match any solutions outlined in the programme document relevant to the specific project.

**18. Achieved Milestones:**

- Describe the baseline and the progress of the project/solution so far in few bullet points.

**19. Expected Milestones by the end of phase 2:**

- Similar to phase 1, this column specifies the goals and objectives planned to be achieved by the end of the solution's second phase.

**20. Expected Milestones by the end of programme:**

- This column details the overarching goals and significant achievements projected to be accomplished by the conclusion of the entire programme.

**21. Links to any related documents or websites:**

- This section provides hyperlinks or references to pertinent documents or websites that offer additional information or context about the projects, including media coverage.

**22. External Investors (if any):**

- Here, we list any external parties or organizations that have invested in the solution, highlighting collaborative efforts and support from outside entities.

**23. Amount of external investment (if any):**

- This column specifies the monetary value of investments made by external investors, offering a quantitative view of outside financial contributions to the solution. By investment, this should be in the form of loans or equity, not additional grant financing.

**24. Lessons Learned:**

- In this column, please write lessons learn from this solution, if any.

## Annex B – Results Framework

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### ***GUIDANCE***

As a separate document, provide the results framework of the programme.

## Annex C – Resource Mobilisation

### GUIDANCE

Please add a table listing the sources, status and amount of secured, anticipated, and sought co-financing. Provide a short narrative on the strategy for securing sought co-financing. Sum the totals of secured, anticipated, and sought co-financing separately and as a total.

	Phase 1 (US\$)	Total including Phase 1 contributions (US\$)	Type of financing	Confirmed (Yes/No)	Relevant outputs:
<b>GFCR Grant Fund</b>	<b>1,547,841</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>			
GEF Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS Blue Economy Project	234,535	639,361	Parallel	No	Output 2.1 & 2.3
UNDP Climate Finance Network Project	60,000	60,000	Co-finance	Yes	Output 2.3
Joint SDG Fund	492,523	492,523	Parallel	Yes	Output 1.1
GEF biodiversity finance project	23,000	119,000	Parallel	Yes	Output 3.1 in Phase 1 & output 1.3 in Phase 2 and 3
Wallacea Trust	200,000	200,000	Co-finance	No	Output 1.1
CORDAP	TBC		In-kind co-finance	No	Output 3.2
MaRHE	26,514	26,514	In-kind co-finance	Yes	Output 3.1
UNDP	36,616	36,616	In-kind co-finance	Yes	Whole programme
<b>Sub-total, non-government co-financing</b>	<b>1,073,187</b>	<b>1,574,013</b>			
MCCEE		22,287,192	Parallel	Yes	Outcome 1 and 2
Nature Park and Fuvahmulah Nature Park	127,500	680,000	In-kind co-finance	Yes	Output 1.1
MMRI	4,125	16,500	In-kind co-finance	Yes	M&E
<b>Sub-total, Government co-financing</b>	<b>131,625</b>	<b>22,983,692</b>			
<b>Total parallel finance and co-financing leverage (ratio)</b>	<b>1,204,812</b>	<b>24,557,705 (1:2.4)</b>			
Additional potential private or blended		50,000,000			

parallel finance to be leveraged (2023-2031)					
<b>Total financing leverage (ratio)</b>		<b>74,557,705 (1:7.4)</b>			

## Annex D – Communications and Visibility

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A communications and visibility plan was developed as part of the programme document, detailing how communications aspects are integrated within the components. These include a communications campaign to increase recognition for the coral reef protection efforts and new opportunities created by the programme (e.g., blended finance opportunities, the OECM concept, GEF-SGP window, BCC and SDFC support window and innovation challenge competition). A full communications strategy will be developed with roles, communication products, target outreach and platforms to be used. Moreover, the programme's M&E framework has been designed to align with the GFCR M&E framework, so that it supports fund-level monitoring and communication impact.

UNDP Maldives shared the official approval of the Maldives proposal in March 2023 on social media, via Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UNDPMaldives/status/1639182632717283330>

UNDP Maldives shared the updates of the GFCR Inception Workshop on UNDP Maldives' official website in Dec 2023:

<https://www.undp.org/maldives/news/inception-maldives-resilient-reef-ecosystem-and-economy-future-project>

Indicate:

- Key spokespersons /champions
- Target audience
- Key shareable communication products created and/or posted during the reporting period
- Primary communications platforms used
- Relevant analytics to reveal audience reach
- Link to primary and updated online programme overview page/website

### External Media Coverage

*None in the reporting period.*

### Published Programme Content

<https://www.undp.org/maldives/news/inception-maldives-resilient-reef-ecosystem-and-economy-future-project>

### Event Features

The Maldives GFCR programme was presented during the 37<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ICRI held in September 2023. Maldives was represented by the MMRI colleagues.

### Primary Creative Assets

Communications strategy to be developed in 2024.

### Reef Positive Solutions Case Studies

*None in the reporting period.*

### Speakers identified and featured as programme Champions

*None in the reporting period.*



## **2024 Communications Strategy**

A full communications strategy will be developed with roles, communication products, target outreach and platforms to be used. Moreover, the programme's M&E framework has been designed to align with the GFCR M&E framework, so that it supports fund-level monitoring and communication impact.