

BAA ATOLL CONSERVATION FUND BOARD/BR MEETING

Meeting No: 2

Date: 5 November 2017

Time: 11:30 am to 12.45 pm

Venue: Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Office

Minutes of the Meeting

Participants:

1. Mabrook Naseer, President , Baa Atoll Council
2. Federica Siena, Marine Biologist, Sonevafushi
3. Nina Rothe, Resident Marine Biologist, Milaidhoo
4. Tam Sawers, Project Leader, Manta Trust
5. Shafee Ali, Baa Atoll BR Office
6. Ahmed Shan, Baa Atoll BR Office
7. Abdulla Shibau, Baa Atoll Conservation Fund

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update of BR and BACF Activities
3. Discussion

The meeting was attended by 6 participants from 7 Organizations and was chaired by Mr. Abdulla Shibau, BACF Fund Manager.

1. Agenda Item 1 Introduction

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting and spelled out the Agenda Items for the day.

2. Agenda Item 2 Update of BR/BACF Activities

A presentation of the the BR and BACF Activities undertaken in July, August, September and October 2017 was given by Shafee Ali, Outreach Officer of BR Office. In his presentation he outlined the activities undertaken by the 3 areas of work of BR Office namely Conservation, Education, Awareness and Research and Livelihood Programs.

The main points highlighted in his presentation are:

- Details of Ranger Training provided to Protected Area Management Teams of Baa Atoll BR Office , Fuvahmulah and Addu Cities by representatives from Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia.
- Activities undertaken by BR Office working together with Baa Atoll Education Center in celebrating the Career Day.
- Activities undertaken by BR Office at Hanifaru and other PAs during the period mentioned.

- Participation at World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, Jeju, South Korea, 12 – 14 September
- Regional Waste Management Seminar for Noonu, Raa,Baa and Lhaviyani held in Eydhafushi from...
- Work undertaken in finalizing the management plan for Olhugiri Marine Protected Area.
- BR Office participation at World Youth MAB Forum held in Por Delta Biosphere Reserve , Italy, 18 – 23 September

Upon opening the floor for discussion the following points was also highlighted:

CHAIR

The necessity for amendments to be made to Hanifaru Management Plan as discussed in previous meetings and the need for these changes to be reflected in writing and to undertake implementation Angafaru MPA Regulations.

FEDERICA (RESORT REPRESENTATIVE)

Need to get together and get feedback from the rest of the resort community on this issue.

Angafaru Regulation was completed sometime ago and this too needs revisiting and to pass it around the resorts for their feedback, and to have those feedback by the end of January.

MANTA TRUST

TAM highlighted on the sightings of manta at Hanifaru for the season and also on the increase of whale shark sightings.

Mooring ropes at Hanifaru area are a bit light and the need for this be addressed and to make them shorter.

Discussion was also undertaken on Environment Day Celebrations or celebration of environment in 2018 and the following was discussed:

FEDERICA (RESORT REPRESENTATIVE)

To have simultaneous events on different islands

ATOLL COUNCIL

Atoll Council to inform and organize with Local Councils

An atoll scale activity can be achieved if it is pre-planned.

BR OFFICE

To work with Atoll Council together with the resorts in finalizing this.

The following conclusions were made after discussing amongst those present:

1. Proposed revisions to Hanifaru Management Plan to be sent to the Ministry of Environment and EPA by BR Office for further action in January 2018.
2. BR Office to coordinate with Atoll Council and Resorts in finalizing Environment Day Celebration activities..