

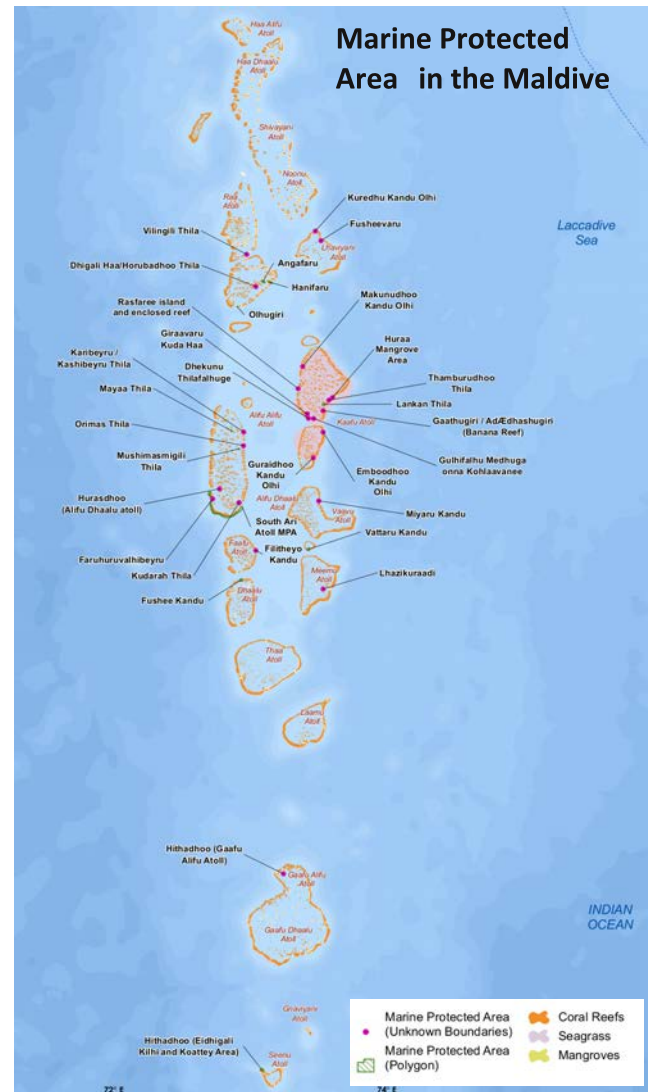


## Human impact lead to degradation and depletion of natural resource

- Increased demand for marine resources by a growing local population and tourists
- Poor waste management practices
- Poorly planned urban development projects – land extension, harbour and resort development projects which require intensive dredging and reclamation and which lead to siltation and sedimentation on nearby reefs

## Management of MPA face many challenge

- Dispersed nature of the islands and MPAs hinders effective monitoring, control and surveillance efforts
- Weak financial and human capacity (amongst all stakeholders) makes management and law enforcement within MPAs a challenge
- Jurisdictional conflicts of interest between lead governing authorities
- Conflicts between resource users e.g. fishers, dive operators, live-aboards etc
- Varying political will and priorities
- Lack of awareness among stakeholders of the importance and benefits of MPAs hinders cooperation on their establishment and management



## Government policies for MPA management

- Management policies for MPAs are moving towards a community-based, decentralized approach
- Broadening the criteria for selecting protected areas (conservation, fishery reserves, fish aggregation sites, breeding grounds etc.)
- Setting up networks of MPAs throughout the country
- Introducing an Environmentally Sensitive Areas list
- Introducing different management approaches and concepts, such as MMAs (marine managed areas), biosphere reserves and World Heritage Sites
- Establishing mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing for MPA management (Green Fund set up in 2013)

## Recommendation for improving MPA management and effectiveness

- Speedy decentralization of MPA management by fostering community involvement
- Institutional capacity building for implementation and enforcement of MPA management plans
- Harmonisation of laws and regulations to achieve MPA objectives
- Development of a regulation to manage protected areas
- Regular monitoring of resources within MPAs to assess the success of such areas
- Undertake monitoring and review of coastal development projects
- Improve the Environmental Assessment process
- Increase awareness among resource users on the importance and benefits of establishing MPAs



### For more information:

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