



NOO RAAJJE

1st Steering committee meeting
11/24/2020

Agenda

Time	Details
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome by the Chair
09:10 – 09:25	Introduction of the Steering Committee members and program partners
09:25 – 09:40	An overview of <i>Noo Raajje</i> Program by Waitt Institute
09:40 – 09:50	An update on the ongoing program activities by Waitt Institute
09:50 – 10:00	An overview of the <i>Noo Raajje</i> Steering Committee ToR and Sub-Committees by the Program Secretariat
10:00 – 10:20	Discussion on the members for the Sub-Committees
10:20 – 10:30	Closing remarks by the Chair



Why are we all here today...

The Maldives is home to some of the most diverse marine life on the planet but ecosystems are fragile. **Ocean is key to**

Maldivian livelihood and economies

Provides world-class tuna and seafood

Brings tourists from around the globe



What would we like to achieve....

NOO RAAJJE is a 5-year program partnership between Government of Maldives and the Blue Prosperity Coalition focused on building a vibrant Blue Economy to achieve sustainable use of ocean resources to

sustainably grow economies

improve livelihoods & jobs

and protect and restore ecosystem health

in the Maldives.



How are you involved...

You are the technical experts, we need you to guide our marine spatial planning, blue economy, biodiversity conservation processes.

Subcommittee/Working Group Responsibilities

e.g. MSP Working Group

Review existing ecological data layers and identify data gaps

Create stakeholder registry

Create MSP Roadmap

Draft MSP



What is the Blue Prosperity Coalition?



NGOs



SCIENTISTS



FOUNDATIONS



GOVERNMENTS

A global network of NGOs, academic institutions, foundations, and other organizations working together to assist committed governments in developing and implementing sustainable marine spatial plans to **protect the environment and improve the economy *at the same time.***



Blue Prosperity Coalition Government Partners

Working to establish 20-30% protection of their total ocean space while sustainably building their Blue Economy



Who are our partners?



BLUE PROSPERITY
COALITION


VVAITT
INSTITUTE



 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
PRISTINE
SEAS

 **SCRIPPS** INSTITUTION OF
OCEANOGRAPHY



 **seasketch**



 **UCLA** IoES

NEKTON
DEEP OCEAN EXPLORATION

Who is the Waitt Institute?



The Waitt Institute is a founding member and the organizing body of the Blue Prosperity Coalition.

The Waitt Institute creates and implements sustainable ocean plans in partnership with committed governments and local stakeholders.



Kathryn Mengerink, JD, PhD
Executive Director



Robin Ramdeen
Program Manager



Ute Zischka
Program & Socio Economics Director



Andy Estep
Science & Field Director



Shayna Brody
Communications Director



Vanessa Dick
Program Director & Legal Lead



Angus Friday, PhD
Blue Economy Director



Balancing Economy & Environment

Blue Prosperity partners engage in a multi-year partnership with Governments to develop and implement **30% marine protection and establish a Blue Prosperity plan.**



Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

A holistic approach that uses spatial information about natural resources and human uses to develop a comprehensive management system.



Blue Economy

Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ecosystem health.



Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

A place in the ocean where human activities are limited. The most effective Marine Protected Areas prohibit all extractive use (fishing, mining, etc.).



Why Marine Spatial Planning?

Maximizing ocean health & resources through collaborative planning



KEY PRINCIPLES

- Best Available Science
- Participatory Process & Stakeholder Engagement
- Cross-Sector Planning
- Transparent Decision Making
- Balance Economy & Environment

BENEFITS

- Improves livelihoods
- Reduces user conflict
- Improves ecosystem health
- Establishes regulatory certainty
- Sustainably develops

Comprehensive Planning

Potential zone categories include fishing, tourism, SCUBA diving, snorkeling, offshore energy, aquaculture, recreation, shipping, boat moorings, etc.

Marine Protected Areas

No-take zones where all species and habitats are completely protected so ecosystems can be restored, and fisheries can be replenished.



Blue Prosperity Process



Who is the Noo Raajje team?



**Site Manager,
Fathimath Nistharan**



**Program Coordinator,
Moosa Zameer Hassan**

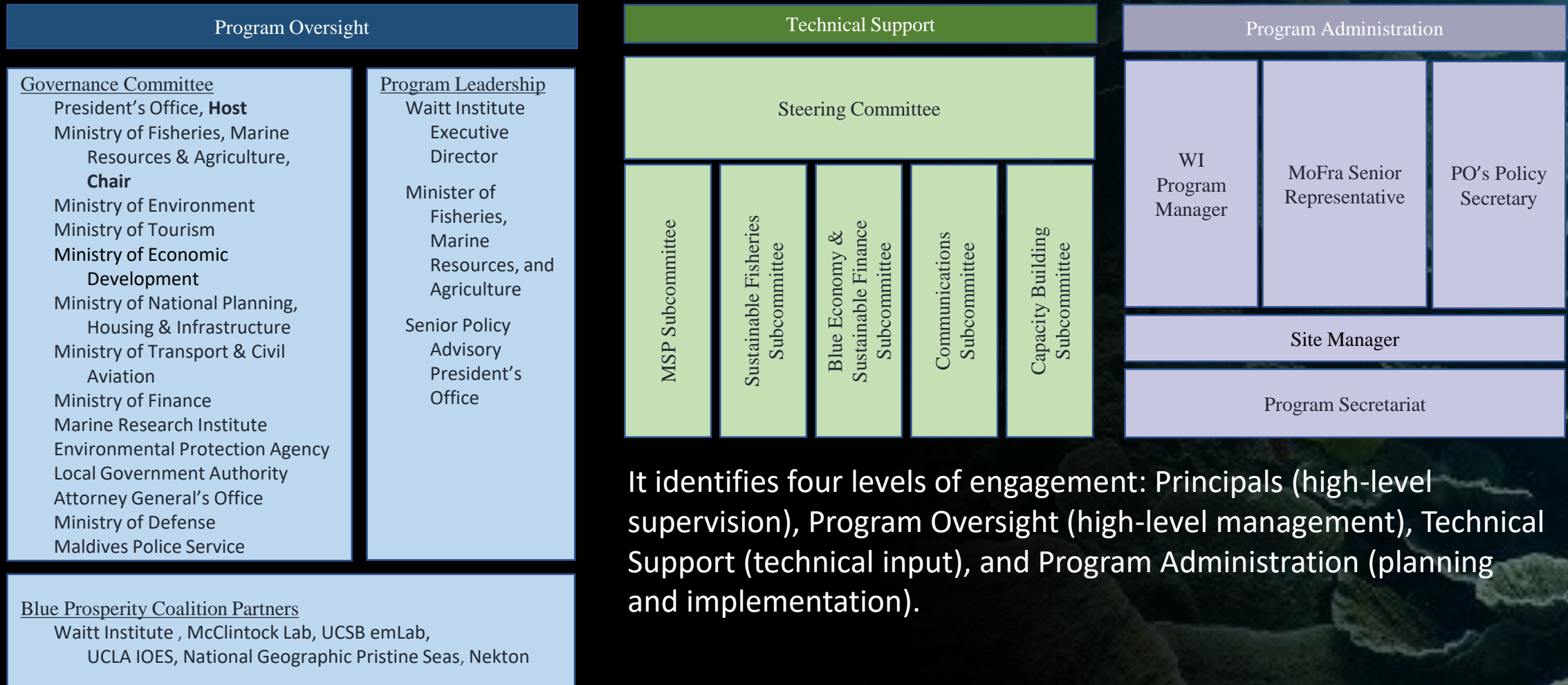


**Administrative Coordinator,
Maesha Mohamed**



Noo Raajje Program Governance

The governance approach for Noo Raajje program management, oversight, implementation, accountability, and workflow as it relates to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Government of the Republic of the Maldives (“Government of the Maldives”) and the Blue Prosperity Coalition.



It identifies four levels of engagement: Principals (high-level supervision), Program Oversight (high-level management), Technical Support (technical input), and Program Administration (planning and implementation).

Noo Raajje Program Progress

September 2019 - MOU Signed at UN General Assembly, New York, USA

- Underwater Research Expedition 1st & 2nd Legs complete
- Work Planning with Waitt Institute onsite
- Development of Terms of Reference Noo Raajje Governance structure
- Blue Economy Priorities discussed with President's Office
- Fisheries Management Plan work completed with MoFMRA
- Legal Assessment underway with local lawyers
- 3 new program hires join on as Site Manager & Program Secretariat
- Digital launch and Online program launch planned for December
- Marine science and stewardship training program begins in January



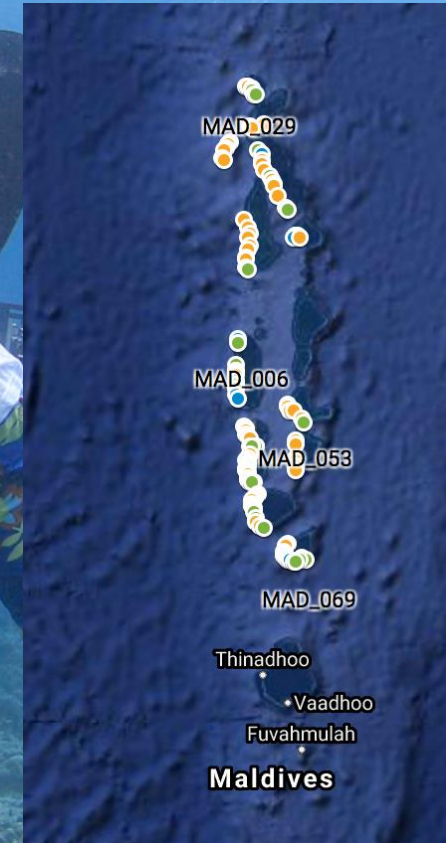
Noo Raajje Expedition

The first expedition, led by the Waitt Institute, the Maldives Marine Research Institute, the 100 Island Challenge from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and members of the Ministry of Fisheries, IUCN, and scientists, surveyed the health of coral reef habitats and fish populations across the Northern and Southern atolls.

- 20 Atolls Surveyed
- 978 Scientific Dives
- Studied coral reef composition & health, fish populations, water quality, and benthic communities.

Work Timeline

- 1st & 2nd legs Expedition report findings review by MMRI – Nov 2020
- Final report w input from MMRI and expedition scientists- Jan 2021
- 3rd & 4th legs Expedition planning underway- Dec-Feb 2021
- 3rd & 4th legs Expedition underway- March 2021

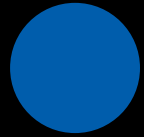


Noo Raajje Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

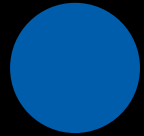
The process seeks to create a sustainable marine spatial plan that protects ecologically significant areas, reduces conflict among user groups, zones activities where they will have the greatest benefits with minimal negative impacts, and ensures that future development is considered in a holistic and sustainable manner

- **MSP Working Group to be established within Steering Committee will be responsible for reviewing available data layers, defining zoning criteria and creating draft plans**
- **Stakeholders are given an opportunity to provide feedback on draft plan**
- **Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of National Planning will be responsible to chair**
- **Governance Committee will be responsible for putting a final plan forward for legal adoption**

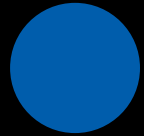
Noo Raajje Sustainable Fisheries



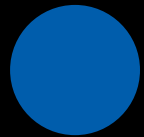
Fisheries scientists at the Environmental Market Solutions Lab at UCSB will work as our lead collaborators



Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee will help to identify priorities in keeping with the Maldives National Strategic Action Plan, help review research and provide guidance on the appropriate stakeholder consultation processes.



Subcommittee will also help to ensure stakeholder engagement in projects by identifying important public and private sector actors



Ministry of Fisheries will be responsible to chair Subcommittee meetings



Noo Raajje Legal

An evaluation of Maldives' laws and institutions to support the design and implementation of comprehensive marine spatial planning and blue economy process. Two local experts have been recruited to work alongside our inhouse legal experts.

Work Timeline

- Research on Maldivian laws, policies, and institutions **July-September 2020**
- In-depth interviews with various Ministries to understand present implementation of relevant laws and policies **October- December 2020**
- Share Legal Assessment Report findings with Steering Committee **March 2021**



Noo Raajje Communications

Objectives

- Increase public awareness, engagement, and support for Noo Raajje
- Highlight the importance of ocean management
- Encourage Blue Economy development
- Build a generation of "Blue Leaders"



Communications Subcommittee will help to provide expertise and guidance on effective public outreach



President's Office will be responsible to chair these meetings



Noo Raajje Communications

Work Timeline

- 1st & 2nd Legs of Underwater Expedition Press, Campaign, Local Outreach
Jan-Feb 2020
- Communications Plan Drafted and Socialized w GoMLE partners **July**
- Name & Logo finalized **July**
- Digital launch @NooRaajje **November**
- Virtual Program launch **December**

@NOORAAJJE



Noo Raajje Capacity building

This pillar focused on the advancement of Maldivian ocean science and stewardship through research, education and outreach.

UCSD Extension providing support with on-line training

Capacity Building Subcommittee will help to provide guidance to WI on existing skill Gaps and training opportunities

Ministry of Fisheries will be responsible to chair these meetings

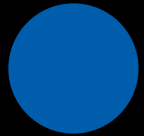
Work Timeline

- Maldives BPC Online Training Course design – Oct-Dec 2020
- Deliver 5 course Online Training program- Jan 2021
- Coral Survey Design I, Coral Survey Design II, MSP, Blue Economy, TBD

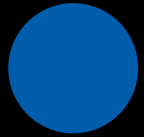


Noo Raajje Blue Economy

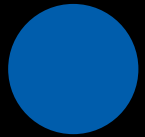
Focuses on advancing existing blue economy activities including sustainable fisheries and tourism.



Blue Economy & Sustainable Finance Working Group will help to identify priorities in keeping w Maldives National Strategic Action Plan, review research and provide guidance on the appropriate stakeholder consultation processes.



Economists at UCLA Institute of Environmental Sustainability will work as our lead collaborators



President's Office will be responsible to chair

Work Timeline

- **Drafting BE Action Framework w President's Office input– Oct-Dec 2020**
- SWOT Analysis and Identification of 3-4 BE ideas Jan-Feb 2021
- Prepare plans: Economic, Legislative, Business, Financial Mar-Sep 2021
- “Blue hub” Implementation Sep-Dec 2021



Noo Raajje Governance- Rules of Engagement

Annual work plan - identify who is responsible for each program activity as well as a timeline for activity completion

Four types of decision-making:

- (1) Governance Decision-Making as it relates to the Program;
- (2) Program decision-making among the Parties to the MOU;
- (3) Steering Committee decision-making that is relayed to Government or Parties to the MoU for further decisions; and
- (4) Subcommittee decision-making that is relayed to the Steering Committee for further decisions



Noo Raajje Governance- Decision Making

- The Government shall make decisions related to the *Noo Raajje* Program as part of the Governance Committee.
- Noo Raajje Program decisions shall be made by Program Administration in accordance with the agreed upon Annual Work Plan.
- Stakeholders with expertise in ocean use and management shall make decisions related to the Noo Raajje Program as part of the Steering Committee. Where possible, decisions should be made by consensus.



Noo Raajje Governance- Membership

- Governance Steering Committee and Subcommittee members are there as **representatives of organizations and not as individuals.**
- **Membership is transferable** to another individual of the same organization, provided that relevant information sharing has taken place organizationally, and the new members' participation is approved by Co-Chairs.
- Members are appointed for the duration of the program and involvement is **voluntary**



Noo Raajje Governance- Meetings

Program Leadership	4 Times Annually
Governance Committee	Established in accordance with the Work Plan
Program Administration	Biweekly
Steering Committee	Established in accordance with the Work Plan
Subcommittees	Established in accordance with the Work Plan



Noo Raajje Governance- Procedures

- **Minutes**

The Program Secretariat will keep minutes of all formal meetings

Minutes will be shared within 5 days of the meeting and approved by all partners in the subsequent meeting.

- **Information-Sharing**

Information should be provided to support the activities related to the objectives of the program. Parties should freely share all publicly available information relevant to the Program.

For confidential or sensitive information, information-sharing should be facilitated through specific agreements and completed in a timely manner.



Questions?

Volunteer for Subcommittees at the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KqCL7x6FjCV69rdl7sXUN5IWNxDI6x0grvt6axODVpl/edit?usp=sharing>



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