



Baa Atoll
Biosphere Reserve since 2011
Man and the Biosphere Programme

Minutes of 4th meeting of Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Advisory Board

Meeting No: 04

Date: 12 August 2014

Time: 11:00 am

Venue: Ministry of Environment and Energy

Minutes of the Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve Advisory Board was attended by 9 participants from 8 stakeholder organisations (Annex 2).

The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Mr. Ibrahim Naeem.

In his opening remarks he welcomed all members who attended the meeting and briefed the participants on the agenda items for the day (Annex 1) and apologised for the delay in convening the meeting.

Agenda, Item 2

Presentation of BR Workplan 2014

The Biosphere Reserve Office Workplan 2014 was presented to the Board as the second Agenda item.

This presentation was given by Mr. Abdulla Shibau from Baa Atoll Conservation Fund. In his presentation he outlined the activities of the 3 programmes of the Biosphere Reserve Office, namely Conservation, Outreach and Livelihoods Programmes and provided the activity details of the 3 programmes. He also stated that although we are counting the third quarter of 2014, work of BR Office is being undertaken in 2014 as per the Workplan being presented in the meeting.

The BR Office Workplan was presented together with the budget for the activities of the 3 programmes.

With regards to the Workplan 2014 the following were discussed by Board members:

RESORTS REPRESENTATIVE

- Resorts are willing to undertake training to Rangers and other staff of BR Office.
- The Outreach Programme needs to function more as it is the activities of this Programme which is mostly required to be conversed to the communities.
- Schools and NGOs need to be more active.

BR OFFICE

- Staff of BR Office has been busy with day to day running of the BR vessel, hence the Livelihood Programme and Outreach Programme has not been functioning up to the required standards.
- This has been solved now, with dedicated staff to run the vessel being available now.
- School programme needs to come with the required safety measures.
- BR Office has undertaken school programmes in the past and more are planned for 2014.

RESORT REPRESENTATIVE

- Assessment of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve needs to be undertaken working with UNESCO by EPA and BR Office.

EPA

- It was agreed by EPA that they will contact UNESCO and get clarification on what needs to be undertaken in terms of assessing the status of Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve.

INDEPENDENT EXPERT

- In terms of training to include the possibility of working with
- Dive Training, by the resorts,
- Seek the possibility of what Maldives Red Crescent can offer in relation to training.
- Seek the possibility to involve Transports Authority's Maritime Safety Institutions on what assistance they can provide.
- Need to produce Annual Report for Hanifaru season, with details on visitors and issues addressed.

BR OFFICE

- In terms of training agreement has been reached with the Resorts to start training of BR Office staff once Hanifaru Season 2014 is over.

RESORT REPRESENTATIVE

- There are issues with availability of Hanifaru tokens (what to do with purchased tokens in bulk and how it can be used the following year).

- Need to distribute brochures and leaflets amongst resorts and dive schools.
- Consider advertising space available on all platforms.
- Need to have consultations with Maldives Tourism Promotion Board on advertising Baa Biosphere Reserve.

BR OFFICE

- Work is at present ongoing to improve the visibility of the Biosphere Reserve
- Billboards are to be erected as per the Workplan on all inhabited Islands, Dharavandhoo Airport.
- In talks with TMA and Flyme to make available Biosphere Reserve Brochure in the seat pockets.
- Arrangements have been made with Maldivian to have Biosphere Reserve Brochures in the seat pockets.

BACF

- BACF to bring the issue of promotion of Biosphere Reserve internationally with Tourism Promotion Board.
- All purchased tokens are accounted for.
- Have had consultations in the past with dive schools on purchased tokens and it has been agreed that they cannot be used the following year as the Token has an expiry date and has to be used within the specified period.

RESORT REPRESENTATIVE

- How were projects selected for grants from BACF?
- When were the discussions undertaken?
- Board should endorse all projects shortlisted.
- What are the projected figures for 2013/2014 of BACF.

BACF

- Projects were shortlisted as per the advice given by BACF Board.
- The Projected figures would be available for the next BACF Board meeting.

LAM

- What are the possibilities of arranging for tokens to be made available on site.
- To look in to the possibilities of having a KIOSK on Hanifaru Island where tickets would be available.
- Easy for Liveboards and others as well, rather than going up to Eydhafushi or Male' to purchase tokens..

BACF

- Difficulty in logistics to undertake this on board a vessel due to weather constraints and other issues.

- Working with BML to make tokens online through website

BR OFFICE

- Work is at present ongoing to erect a small hut on Hanifaru for the Rangers to be stationed but this place cannot be used to for the sale of tokens.
- Agree that it would not be possible to manage the sale of tokens at Hanifaru.
- Once tokens are available online this issue would be resolved.

The following decisions were taken by the BACF Board in relation to issues discussed:

1. To circulate all relevant documents to Board members.
2. Schedule the next meeting towards the end of the following month.

The 4th meeting of the BR Advisory Board came to a close at 12.45pm.

Annex 2

Participant's List

	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Ibrahim Naeem	Director General	Environment Protection Agency
2.	Mohamed Adil	President	Baa Atoll Council
3.	Peter Gremes	General Manager / RBR	Resort Representative
4.	Abdulla Azmeen	Assistant Director	LGA
5.	Ismail Shahid	Vice President, LAM	LAM
6.	Husen Zahir	Independent Consultant	
7.	Shaafee Ali	Outreach Officer	BR Office

Other Participant's

	Name	Designation	Organization
8.	Abdulla Shibau	Fund Manager	BACF
9.	Mariyam Rifga	Environment Analyst	Environment Protection Agency