



TASK FORCE MALDIVES

In cooperation with



First meeting of the task force “The island resorts: how to become a green destination and reduce costs, while engaging local communities. The Maldives’ case study”, organized in cooperation with MITDC.

Details

Date: November 9, 2020

Participants:

- **Mohamed Raaidh** - Managing Director, MITDC
- **Mr. Mohamed Waheed** - Council President, Hoarafushi island
- **Mr. Hassan Mughnee** - Managing Director, STELCO
- **Mr. Bruce Bromley** - Chief Financial Officer, SONEVA
- **Gianni Chianetta** - GTI Director
- **Carmelo Tortorici** - GTI Coordinator for Maldives
- **Francesco Luise** - GTI Observatory Technical Coordinator
- **Angelo Nogara** - GTI Senior Strategy Development Manager

Minutes

Key inputs for the task force to focus on:

- Economic recovery through cost reduction;
- Energy for inclusive growth, RES penetration;



- Engagement of local communities;
- Preservation of the environment;
- Sustainable transition's aesthetics and RES acceptance.

Opportunities:

- Good practices already existing in the Maldives:
 - ice production plants;
 - water bottling plants;
 - PV plants;
 - organic insects control.
- RES, especially PV, are relatively cheaper now;
- Organic architecture and pleasant RES integration are quickly developing and can provide innovative solutions to address both spatial and acceptance issues.
- Fresh air and clean space are the real luxury tourists seek.

Challenges:

- Covid-19 impact:
 - pre-pandemic tourism's share in Maldivian GDP was 75%, this income is currently greatly reduced;
 - small local businesses are particularly hit.
- Common to all Maldivian islands:
 - transport & logistics issues;
 - spatial issues;
 - limited access to capital;
 - waste management (domestic/endogenous and foreign/exogenous);
 - water consumption;
 - ineffective electric boats;
 - young local tourism industry;
 - environmental issues:
 - inadequate wind profiles;
 - PV counteracts with untouched nature.
- Economies of scale are hardly achievable for public islands with very few inhabitants;



Next Steps:

- To develop a practical business model for sustainable tourism in Maldives, engaging both resorts and guesthouses, fostering resiliency, responsibility, sustainability and self-sufficiency of islands;
- To encourage government de-funding of fossil sources and higher funding of RES to support public islands' transition;
- To exploit the **upcoming workshop** of the GTI e_Convention to deepen these topics, establish a stable dialogue with the Maldivian government and disseminate the potential of best practices;
- To define a **2021 plan** for the GTI task force, involving the participants to the November 9 meeting and eventually others, as GTI Observatory members, in pursuing the targets discussed in the meeting.

