



TASK FORCE MALDIVES

In cooperation with



First 2021 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: February 23, 2021

Participants:

- **Mohamed Raaidh** - Managing Director, MITDC
- **Hathim Ibrahim** - Council President of Rinbudhoo island
- **Bruce Bromley** - Chief Financial Officer, SONEVA
- **Amjad Abdulla** - Head of Partnership at the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- **Ilham Atho Mohamed** - Assistant Director, Environment Department, Ministry of Environment Maldives
- **Afa Hussian** - Environment Department, Ministry of Environment Maldives
- **Ahmed Azleem** - Director Business Development, FENAKA
- **Hussain Aman** - General Manager, The Hawks Pvt Ltd
- **Gianni Chianetta** - GTI Director
- **Attilio Piattelli** - GTI Senior Technical Specialist
- **Carmelo Tortorici** - GTI Coordinator for Maldives
- **Angelo Nogara** - GTI Senior Strategy Development Manager
- **Francesco Luise** - GTI Observatory Technical Coordinator



Minutes

New key inputs for the task force:

- Foster PV penetration through policies incentivizing self-consumption with small scale installations;
- Engage local communities: awareness on renewables and behavioral change on waste management;
- Maldivian government objectives: reduce single-use plastic, sustainable waste management, net-zero emissions by 2030;
- Redirect central finance through local actions.

Inputs from GTI's first analysis of Rinbudhoo and Soneva Fushi questionnaires:

- RES development and energy efficiency are required but limited available area
 - PV appears the best solution: rooftop and floating - PV solutions with visual impact mitigation are available (e.g. coloured panels)
 - Smart grid implementation and storage systems necessary with high level of RES penetration
 - Management control system and energy storage can assist the diesel generators while reducing the provisional costs
- Pilot electric boat
- Energy audit is recommended on energy intensive plants

Opportunities:

- Unique cultural aspects, tradition, heritage, to be showcased in cooperation with the resorts;
- Some resorts in the Maldives do not have any RES system;
- Good practices already existing in the Maldives:
 - Soneva Namoonaa: reduced single-use plastic and enhanced recycling with reusable glass bottles and behavioral change through awareness and training;
 - Fenaka: rooftop solar program;
- RES, especially PV, are relatively cheaper now;
- Visual impact mitigation technologies are quickly developing for PV and can provide innovative solutions to address both spatial and acceptance issues;
- Addressing policies for changing behaviors and awareness program for residents on renewables and waste management;
- High percentage of power is generated with diesel: huge potential for renewables.





Challenges:

- Radical change of strategy is necessary to achieve the Maldivian government objectives: reduce single-use plastic, sustainable waste management, net-zero emissions by 2030;
- Public islands have limited access to capital;
- More awareness and involvement of residents is needed for waste management;
- Water management need to be improved;
- Access to funding: there is no facility for islands to get quick financing for short term payback projects;
- Local infrastructure needs to be upgraded;
- Existing electric boat pilots are inefficient;
- Local actions are necessary alongside central planning;
- Technical assistance is needed, in particular for energy efficiency.

Next steps suggested for Rinbudhoo

- Territory characterization / Inefficiency mapping:
 1. Estimation of production with energy efficiency and RES potential
 2. Comparison of estimates with the energetic needs of the island
 3. Energy audit for desalination plant and any existing energy intensive plant
- Potential fields of intervention:
 - PV on house roofs
 - High efficiency heat pumps
 - Investigate the most suitable water treatment systems for the island needs
 - Implement an efficient system for separate waste collection

Next steps suggested for Soneva Fushi

- Potential fields of intervention:
 - Management control system option to make generators more efficient
 - Floating PV, suitably distanced from the island and with visual impact mitigation
 - Deep analysis on how to increment energy efficiency on the island
 - Explore alternative solutions for a pilot project of electric boat

