

Environmental Sensitivity Index – Scoping Mission

14-18 December 2014



Purpose: To prepare ESI maps and data near the 1.5 Degree shipping channel to better understand human, biological and coastal risk to a potential oil spill; to assist the Maldives Government and first responders prioritize disaster management efforts, clean-up requirements, and biological/human/coastal vulnerabilities; to prepare the Maldives Government with an environmental strategy to respond to an oil spill impacting the Laamu Atoll.

Highlights

- The project location, scope, timeline, and concept have been confirmed by the Maldivian Government.
- The project location will be Laamu Atoll.
- The Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Energy, National Disaster Management Centre and Marine Research Centre are all likely to contribute subject matter experts to support Phase II data collection.
- MNDF has confirmed it can provide logistical support.
- A draft Administrative Procedures Agreement (APA) has been prepared.
- Office calls were successfully conducted with a variety of stakeholders, and available data was collected or requested.

Way Forward

- Phase II data collection has been scheduled for 12-23 April 2015. Phase III project delivery has been scheduled for 6-9 December 2015.
- The draft APA will be reviewed by all parties, and then signed prior to the start of Phase II.
- A formalized ESI data dictionary will be prepared for field data collection. Input from Maldivian SMEs will be included.
- Satellite imagery for Laamu Atoll will be requested.
- Monthly Interim Progress Reviews will be scheduled with Maldivian stakeholders to prepare for Phase II data collection.
- Data collected during Phase I will be reviewed for its potential use on the project.



Lt Col Ahmed Ghiyas (MNDF) and Mr. Pummell (USACE) prepare to discuss the ESI concept



Representatives from MNDF and the Maldives EPA discuss the ESI project concept



Laamu Atoll features a unique ecosystem that will require extensive data collection to achieve project goals