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Grants

supported by
UNDP in the Maldives



United Nations Development Programme

Empowered Lives. Resilient Nations.

UNDP is the United Nations global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to **help people build a better life**. We are on the ground in 177 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

In the Maldives, UNDP is committed to supporting national development priorities. We work with the people to build their capacity to reduce vulnerability and increase equity, to promote democratic governance, and to protect the environment. In all our work, we ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups and women are addressed.

For more information on our programmes visit,
www.undp.org.mv

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UNDP support to Grant Programmes

Empowering people to implement their own solutions

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Maldives extends supports towards grant programmes that finance projects which contribute towards empowering communities to achieve sustainable development in the country.

In the Maldives, UNDP hosts three grant facilities supported under the following;

- Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP)
- Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Grant Facility; and
- Small Grants Facility under the Integrated Governance Programme (IGP).

Each grant programme has its own set of objectives contributing towards development priorities of the Maldives, as outlined in the Country Programme of UNDP.

UNDP is entrusted with resources by development partners to ensure accountable and responsible use of these resources. Each facility has its own independent multi-partner evaluation and oversight body that guides the overall management and decision making for the grant.

Members of civil society are encouraged to submit proposals.

A global alliance dedicated to human development

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been designed to assist developing countries to deal

with five main environmental problems: global warming, pollution of international waters, destruction of biological diversity, depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, prevention of land degradation and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Under the GEF is the Small Grants Programme (SGP), launched globally in 1992, managed by the UNDP for developing countries. It supports small-scale activities that address the above-mentioned concerns initiated by community groups and non-governmental organizations.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Grants Facility

The Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative is a strategic and long term response to the continued degradation of coastal ecosystems threatening the livelihoods and security of coastal communities throughout the Indian Ocean Region.

MFF continues to work towards achieving the vision of a healthier, more prosperous and secure future for all coastal communities. Although the programme has adopted mangroves as its flagship ecosystem, MFF embraces all coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, wetlands, beaches and seagrass beds.

The Small Grants Facility under the Integrated Governance Programme (IGP)

The Small Grants Facility under the Integrated Governance Programme (IGP) of UNDP Maldives, supports initiatives that contribute to the development of civil society in the Maldives. The grants are facilitated under a project titled, *Support to Civil Society Development in the Maldives: Small Grants Facility (SGF)*, which was developed to help strengthen civil society through targeted support to NGOs.



Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme

The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and there are direct community benefits and ownership.

A National Steering Committee (NSC) provides guidance and technical oversight to the implementation of the SGP, based on a Country Programme Strategy (CPS). The CPS provides the framework on how the SGP is to be implemented in the Maldives. The SGP supports small scale projects relating to the above 5 areas.

Focus areas	Biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, protection of transboundary surface, groundwater and marine systems, prevention of land degradation and elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and other harmful chemicals through community-based approaches.
How much?	The maximum grant amount per project is US \$ 50,000 averaging around US \$ 25,000 for a duration of up to 24 months. Under special conditions planning grants of up to US \$ 2000 may also be obtained to enable grantees develop proposals that serve as precursors to full SGP projects.
Who is eligible?	Civil society organizations (CSOs) with priority for national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs).
When to apply?	Calls for proposals are made twice a year, at the beginning and towards the end of the year.

SGP Maldives was launched in 2010, with US \$ 150 000 in grant funds. In the current phase, US \$ 1.2 million will be spent over four years (2011-2014). To date it has funded more than 27 projects in 23 islands/atolls. Projects target conservation of endangered and protected species such as marine turtles and birds, and sensitive habitats such as mangroves, beaches and coral reefs. Establishing proper waste management in an effort to prevent pollution and degradation of these sensitive habitats is often a priority of many communities. Switching from chemical intensive agriculture to organic and more sustainable methods and improving livelihoods is another area of focus.

Funded by the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAID), the SGP also delivers a specific grant component with the objective to improve the adaptive capacity of communities and to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. The 'Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change Maldives Programme' targets adaptation of freshwater resources and coastal areas to climate change.

To find out more about GEF SGP, or to learn how you, your organization, project or community can participate, please contact;

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Woman cultivating reed used in traditional mat weaving under a GEF-SGP grant.



Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Grants Facility

Mangroves for the Future known as MFF, was initiated by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the Maldives, MFF is supporting the following areas:

1. Use of inland water bodies as reservoirs or recharge source of ground water;
2. Facilitate the co-ordination of NGO and public private partnerships with government programmes and actions;
3. Address key resource use problems, constraints and conflicts in general, and those related to mangroves in particular;
4. Facilitate a process of building knowledge, strengthening empowerment, and enhancing governance especially at community- and island-levels;
5. Facilitate the inclusion of new emerging issues and new approaches into Maldives coastal management;
6. Facilitate cooperation between Maldives and the wider international community;
7. Improving communication, awareness and education;
8. Developing standard valuation tools that can be applied in the Maldives context;
9. Improving governance (e.g., activities regarding the role of media and civil society);
10. Support coastal livelihoods initiatives that are both sustainable and help to maintain natural ecosystems; and
11. Increase awareness of the economic value of coastal ecosystems and use this to prioritize, promote and support coastal conservation and development actions.

MFF's work in Maldives is overseen by a National Coordination Body (NCB Maldives), which is composed of members from a range of governmental departments and inter-governmental organizations. A National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) guides the work of the NCB. Broadly, the Maldives NSAP falls into ensuring environmental sustainability, increasing economic opportunities, enabling private and civil society participation. There are two categories of MFF project funding, a Small Grant Facility (SGF) and MFF large projects. The MFF initiative has been funded in the Maldives by NORAD and SIDA.

Focus areas	MFF is helping to raise awareness of climate change impacts at the island level and promotes activities such as climate adapted agricultural practices that minimize soil and water use. Ensuring a safe and healthy island environment is another MFF priority, particularly by improving waste management practices and by educating communities about the importance of environmental protection.
How much?	MFF Small Grants Facility: The SGF projects are divided into two categories: i) less than USD 10,000, ii) between USD 10,000 - 25,000. Large projects: Large projects have a budget from USD 50,000 to a maximum of USD 300,000 per project.
Who is eligible?	Both small and large grants encourage locally led interventions, especially via support for local NGOs, who are often best positioned to work with local communities and have a good understanding of local ecological and social-institutional conditions.
When to apply?	Calls for proposals are made twice a year, at the beginning and towards the end of the year.



To find out more about MFF grants, or to learn how you, your organization, project or community can participate, please contact;

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Waste disposal is a key issue in the Maldives. MFF grants have contributed to implement proper waste management practices in islands.

Small Grants Facility - Integrated Governance Programme

The Small Grants Facility (SGF) under UNDP's Democratic Governance Programme was launched in August 2010 and has continued under the recently initiated Integrated Governance Programme (IGP) of UNDP Maldives. The grants are funded with support from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and further support has been pledged by the US Department of State.

Focus areas	The SGF of the IGP provides grants to civil society in the areas of good governance, human rights, development of women's rights, NGOs development, and to strengthen civil society engagement in the democratic process.
How much?	Grant amounts are approximately USD 80,000 to 100,000 per year.
Who is eligible?	All registered NGOs across the Maldives are eligible to apply.
When to apply?	The Call for Proposals for the SGF of the IGP are made twice an year on average.

The aim of the project is to help strengthen civil society through targeted support to NGOs and capacity building initiatives. It focuses on supporting the empowerment of civil society - particularly the smaller, remote island based organizations, to effectively organize themselves and advocate on issues of importance.

Specialized training through workshops and provision of grants for projects in the focus areas of the Small Grants Facility of IGP have enabled the concept of human rights and good governance to be taken to the forefront, both at local and national level.

Since its inception, the facility has overseen the disbursement of approximately USD 250, 000 worth of grants to 22 different NGOs within the atolls and in Male'. In addition, over 50 NGOs from across the country has taken part in capacity building programs undertaken by the project.

Now into the 3rd round of grants, the project have prioritized the need for more inclusion of the atoll based NGOs in the SGF. Almost 80% of the grants given were for NGOs based in the atolls, who have limited access to funding sources.

While continuing support for the small grants, the facility is also looking to revise the concept of the grant programme to provide longer-term financial and technical support towards capacity building of NGOs.

Supported by



To find out more about SGF of the IGP, or to learn how you, your organization, project or community can participate, please contact;

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An evening of festivities on an island, led by NGOs who participated in the nationwide NGO Forum, supported by UNDP.





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