



## TAP Small Grants Scheme – Guidelines Tourism Adaptation Project

The TAP Small Grants Scheme is established under the Tourism Adaptation Project (TAP). The project is aimed at increasing the adaptive capacity of the tourism sector in Maldives to respond to the impacts of climate change and invest in appropriate, no-regrets adaptation measures. The project has 3 major outcomes;

1. Strengthened adaptive capacity of the tourism sector to reduce risks to climate-induced economic losses.
2. **Reduced vulnerability of at least 10 tourism operations and 10 tourism-associated communities to the adverse effects of climate change.**
3. Transfer of climate risk financing solutions to public and private sector tourism institutions.

The grant component, TAP Small Grants Scheme (TAP-SGS) is carried out under the second outcome of the TAP project. The grant scheme is founded on the belief that environmental problems can be addressed effectively, if people at the local level (communities and the tourism industry) work together and are involved in decision-making about sensible, no-regrets adaptation projects.

With appropriate funding, small projects at the grassroots level can make significant difference to sustainable livelihoods, the environment, and thus the continued success of Maldives tourism.

### Process

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Proposals are invited from Civil society organizations (CSOs) with priority for national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), registered tourism businesses (for example tourist resorts, tourist hotels, tourist guesthouses, independent dive operations, and live-aboard safari boats) and scientific/research community.

A private company may apply only to represent a tourism operator.

The duration of the proposed project should not be more than 12 months. Maldives Tourism Adaptation Platform (MTAP) will consider grants of US\$15,000 for each project. In cases, where co-financing and partnership commitments are more, budgets up to US\$33,000 may be considered if the project activities justify the same.

MTAP intends to support projects that take place/ are located in;

1. Registered tourist facilities, and
2. In tourism dependent local island communities

### Programme responsibilities

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Over time, MTAP committee may develop and refine the small grants programme within a firmer programme approach to tourism's adaptation strategies. The MTAP Committee is responsible for final approval of grants, helps undertake site visits and reviews, monitors, and evaluates. MTAP also takes responsibility for championing projects within institutional settings and in the media and social media spheres.

## Selection criteria

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Preference will be given to organizations and projects that:

1. Show a significant improvement to how your location adapts to climate change (rising sea water/ weather patterns/ energy use/ lifestyle changes etc.)
2. Enhance relationships between tourism businesses and communities, involve women, marginalized populations and communities as equal partners in project implementation.
3. Provide clear opportunities for local communities to benefit such as;
  - a. through commercial enterprise or spin off (i.e. where the project can be delivered as a for-profit business run by community members)
  - b. Generate micro/ small enterprise opportunities (addressing livelihood, equality and gender issues) whilst reducing climate risk
4. Tourism projects which offer opportunities to train local team members in the running of the project and those with an educational element for local communities are strongly preferred.
5. Demonstrate increased technical and wider capacity in tourism businesses and communities (i.e. benefits extend beyond the immediate project members).
6. Demonstration of technologies or techniques not yet tested in the Maldivian context but have been successful elsewhere
7. Proof of concept projects whose purpose is to verify that certain concepts or theories have the potential for real-world application (i.e. to determine feasibility)
8. Create impact by developing innovative community based initiatives to reduce local environmental risk thus generating local knowledge and involvement of communities in planning, implementing and monitoring further projects
9. Build local capacity to implement sustainable development strategies by creating local ownerships and institutional capabilities
10. Demonstrate co-financing and scaling-up potential
11. Foster public awareness on environmental issues as an integral part of climate adaptation and building resilience

In selecting projects, MTAP is willing to allow risk where the project is aimed at 'proof of concept' or as a demonstration of technologies not yet tested in the Maldivian context.

## Conditions for TAP Grants

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1. The proposed project must provide good visibility of TAP and use standard logo of TAP, UNDP & GEF in all project documents and materials donated sponsored or procured under the grant.
2. Applicants must have a written consent of a registered tourism operator in the Maldives. For Community based projects applicants must submit consent from the appropriate government authority.
3. Submit quarterly progress reports and financial reports
4. Good communications between the Proponent and MTAP Committee

## Application Procedures

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The application process follows these six steps:

1. The project proposer contacts TAP project management unit (PMU) in the Ministry of Tourism to receive project application guidelines and form.

2. Using MTAP Grant Application form, the applicant prepares a brief project concept and submits this to the TAP- PMU.
3. The PMU reviews and pre-screens the project description according to MTAP criteria.
4. If the project seems eligible, the proponent is invited to prepare a formal project proposal.
5. The MTAP Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC) reviews the proposal and makes a decision for the grant.
6. MTAP/PMU evaluates project progress during project implementation period.

In all cases, detailed feedback is provided so that proposers understand the rationale and reasoning behind decisions.

MTAP grants will be paid in two instalments according to the nature of expenses: for example, where equipment has to be purchased, an up-front payment to initiate the project would be made; and on satisfactory project delivery and final report. The grants are channelled directly to the implementing organizations by the UNDP.

### Project types

In the area of climate change, MTAP-eligible activities must demonstrate reduction of risk associated with climate change and the building of resilience. The impact can be direct or indirect.

Indicative adaptation options [content derived from TAP Building Partnership Forum (Bandos workshop) 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013]

Environment Issue	Adaptive areas
Sea level rise	Seawalls and breakwaters Natural sea defences (including mangroves) Relieve anthropogenic stresses on reef systems Beach nourishment/ renovation Sand mining control Adjust setbacks and enforce Enforce/ strengthen marine protected areas
Water sector	Desalination Water conservation Recycling grey water Water harvesting Low flush toilets Aquifer recharge Drip irrigation in gardens and agriculture
Solid waste management	Applying best practice from elsewhere Reducing bulk through composting, better waste separation, 'building with bottles' <sup>1</sup> , fuel from cooking oils,
Built environment	Design for efficient cooling Smart/ future proof design Retrofitting
Policy environment	Fiscal incentives Enhanced and enforced building codes

*Framework based on Trotz 2007 Stakeholder Workshop on Climate Change. Impacts and Adaptation in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States. 27-30 May, 2007*

<sup>1</sup><http://earth911.com/news/2009/06/10/building-with-bottles/>&<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUwUA4jLtb0>

## Impact and legacy

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It is intended that the small grants programme implements ideas, techniques, and technologies that will reduce risk and build resilience as they are replicated over time.

An important aspect will be the use of social media to communicate grant funded project progress, gather lessons from on-the-ground experiences, initiate knowledge sharing of successful community-level strategies and innovations throughout the industry and dependent communities.

Finally, through its activities including small grants projects, MTAP's legacy should be to build partnerships and networks of stakeholders to support and strengthen community and industry capacities to address environmental issues and promote sustainable futures.

## Example project ideas

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Topic	Description	Reference
Fuel from Waste/ Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)		<a href="http://www.ecomena.org/refuse-derived-fuel/">http://www.ecomena.org/refuse-derived-fuel/</a>
Mangrove restoration/ new planting	To increase beach/ seashore resilience	<a href="http://mangrovesforfiji.com/mangroves/tips-for-planting-mangroves">http://mangrovesforfiji.com/mangroves/tips-for-planting-mangroves</a>
Food digester	To reduce transport costs, reduce fertilizer costs, increase soil productivity	
Awareness	Community awareness of climate change impacts	How CC is impacting on resorts thus on livelihoods of communities
Fuel from waste cooking oil	Turning used/ waste oil into fuel for diesel engines	
Climate leadership/ capacity building	University? Hotel Tourism Faculty?	
Fish breeding	To reduce tropical fish harvesting from reefs	

## Grant Allocation

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Grants will be allocated for total 20 projects in the following manner;

1. 10 projects to be based on local islands to improve climate resilience of tourism associated communities.
  - Island community in partnership with tourism operators.
2. 10 projects will be granted for implementation by tourist facilities to reduce vulnerability of tourism operations to climate change.
  - Tourist resort island category
  - Hotel /Guesthouse category
  - Liveaboard vessels category
  - Dive centres category

## Date for Submission of Concepts

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First batch will identify 5 projects for tourism operators and 5 community based projects.

Application of Project Concepts: 27 March 2014

## Contacts

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For further information please contact the staff from the TAP project management unit at the Ministry of Tourism, Maldives.

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