



## **Noo Raajje Ocean Use Survey to Conclude At the end of the month**

**June 6, 2022, MALE:** *Noo Raajje's* ambitious nationwide Ocean Use Survey is set to conclude at the end of this month, providing one last opportunity for all Maldivians to participate and make their voice heard in determining the future of our ocean. The survey has already received more than 4,115 responses representing over 22,000 Maldivians, making it the largest Ocean Use Survey to date.

Over the past six months, 18 survey facilitators have been visiting communities across the nation to ensure participation from all 16 ocean use sectors identified for the survey. The survey is set to examine how local oceans are used by the Fisheries sector, local communities, individuals, the tourism sector and others.

Participants in the survey have drawn over 23,600 shapes on SeaSketch, to identify locations and how they use the Maldivian ocean space. Results from this survey will be published as heat maps that will be publicly available, and will inform the future Maldives Marine Spatial Plan.

The Ocean Use Survey is part of Noo Raajje's science based, community driven Marine Spatial Planning process that seeks to strengthen the government's blue economy initiatives by promoting sustainable fisheries practices and tourism activities. The results of the survey will also be used to help identify conservation areas to reach the Government's target of protecting at least 20% of the Maldivian ocean and its resources, to ensure sustainable development and advancement of blue economy strategy initiatives in the Maldives.

Noo Raajje is still seeking additional input through the end of the month on how the oceans are utilized by stakeholders around the country in order to ensure widespread representation. The team of facilitators will continue traveling throughout the Maldives in order to reach each inhabited island. Interested participants who want to influence the future of the nation's ocean can also schedule time with a facilitator or complete the survey independently. Visit [www.nooraajje.org/oceanusesurvey](http://www.nooraajje.org/oceanusesurvey) to learn more.

*Noo Raajje* is a program led by the Government of the Maldives, including the [President's Office](#) and the [Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture](#), and in partnership with government agencies including the [Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology](#), the [Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure](#), the [Ministry of Economic Development](#), the [Ministry of Tourism](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), and the [Maldives Marine Research Institute](#), and others.

International support comes from the [Blue Prosperity Coalition](#), including the [Waitt Institute](#), [National Geographic Pristine Seas](#), [Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#),



SeaSketch, Environmental Markets Solutions Lab at UC Santa Barbara, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, and others.

Learn more at [www.nooraajje.org](http://www.nooraajje.org) and follow along on the program's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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For more information, please contact:

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