



NOO RAAJJE

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
8 SEPTEMBER 2021

Governance Committee Meeting Agenda

AGENDA

9:05-9:10 Noo Raajje Welcome by Minister Dr. Hussain Hassan

9:10-11:05 Presentations by Waitt Institute with Q&A

11:05-11:10 Closing Remarks by Special Envoy for Climate Change
Ms. Sabra Noordeen

Blue Prosperity Process

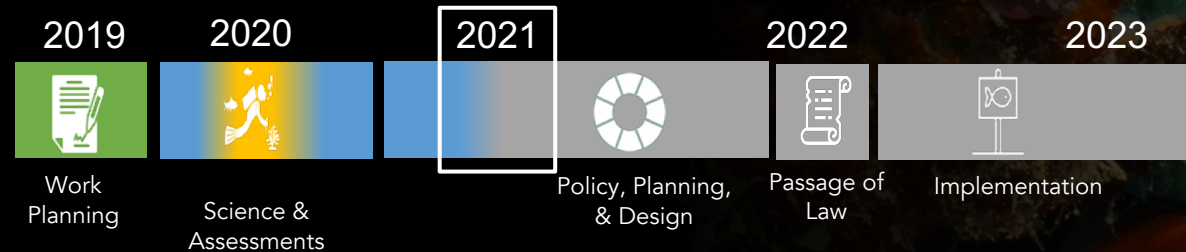


ONGOING SUPPORT

- Education & Outreach
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge Exchange
- Funding support



Noo Raajje Overview



2020-2021

- Publicly launched Noo Raajje program and website
- Executed 2 part Expedition
- Completed Legal Assessment
- Convened MSP Subcommittee (11 meetings)
- Reviewed 7 Fisheries Management plans
- Developed BE strategy with City Facilitators
- Administered the 5-module training program to develop site capacity

GOALS FOR REMAINDER 2021

- Legal: Policy Pathway Research
- MSP: Execute Ocean Use Survey and Develop 1st draft of Offshore MSP
- Fisheries: Scope Collaborators to tackle Fisheries Objectives
- BE: Implement BE strategy

Noo Raajje MOU:

The Parties therefore agree to:

Officially adopt a legally binding EEZ-wide Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) designed to sustain the marine environment while growing the blue economy, including designating at least 20% of The Maldives waters as fully protected marine protected areas based on best available science and meaningful community and ocean stakeholder consultation

- In undertaking this Blue Prosperity Program, the Parties agree to a three-phased approach:

2) Phase 2: Assessment and Policy Development -

Supporting legal analysis and drafting as needed to achieve MOU objectives;

Legal & Policy Framework Assessment Report

This assessment describes how existing legal authorities contribute to ocean management in the Republic of the Maldives (the Maldives), outlining the legal foundation for developing an enforceable, comprehensive, and sustainably financed marine spatial plan and blue economy strategy.

This is a public document, and its contents will be used to inform a broader conversation to identify what legal reforms may be necessary to support the objectives of the *Noo Raajje* Program.



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Drafting and editorial contributions: Bruce Myers, a public interest lawyer at Animals | Environment PLLC, and Vanessa Dick, Legal Director at the Waitt Institute.

The authors met via video-conference (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) with policy, legal, and other representatives of the following ministries and entities. Written comments were also collected.

- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Maldives Land Survey Authority
- Maldives Customs Service
- Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
- Maldives Transport Authority
- Local Government Authority
- Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage
- National Centre for Cultural Heritage
- Ministry of Defence
- Maldives Police Service
- Maldives National Defence Force
- Coast Guard
- Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
- Maldives Marine Research Institute
- Ministry of Economic Development

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Key Domestic Legal Instruments
Appendix 2: Key Treaties and International Arrangements to Which the Maldives is Party
Appendix 3: Protected Areas of the Maldives
Appendix 4: Protected Marine Fauna and Flora of the Maldives

Table 1. Selected Legal Authorities for Maldives Ocean Management and Blue Economy.

Subject	Key Law(s)
Governance	Constitution of the Maldives
	Act No. 7/2010 (Decentralization of the Administration Divisions of the Maldives Act)
Ocean Jurisdiction	Act No. 6/1996 (Maritime Zones of Maldives Act)
Environment, Conservation, & Protected Areas	Act No. 4/1993 (Environment Protection and Preservation Act of Maldives)
Fisheries & Aquaculture	Act No. 14/2019 (Fisheries Act of the Maldives)
Land Use & Planning; Tourism	Act No. 1/2002 (Land Act of Maldives)
	Act No. 20/1998 (Maldives Uninhabited Islands Act)
	Act No. 2/1999 (Maldives Tourism Act)
Maritime & Shipping	Act No. 69/1978 (Maritime Navigation Act)
Cultural Heritage	Act No. 12/2019 (Maldives National Heritage Act)
Public Finance	Act No. 3/2006 (Public Finance Act)

Questions?



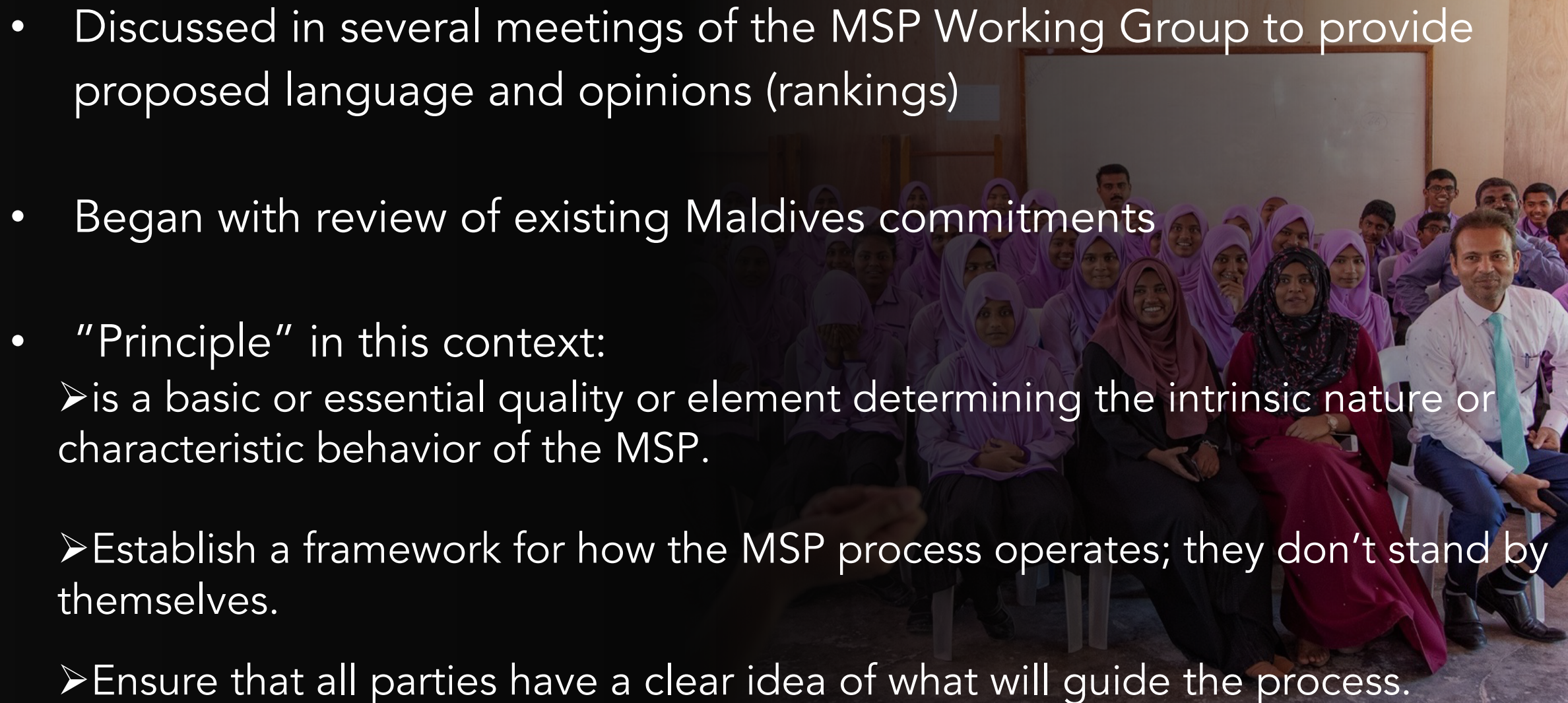


Marine Spatial Planning:
Offshore MSP Principles and timeline



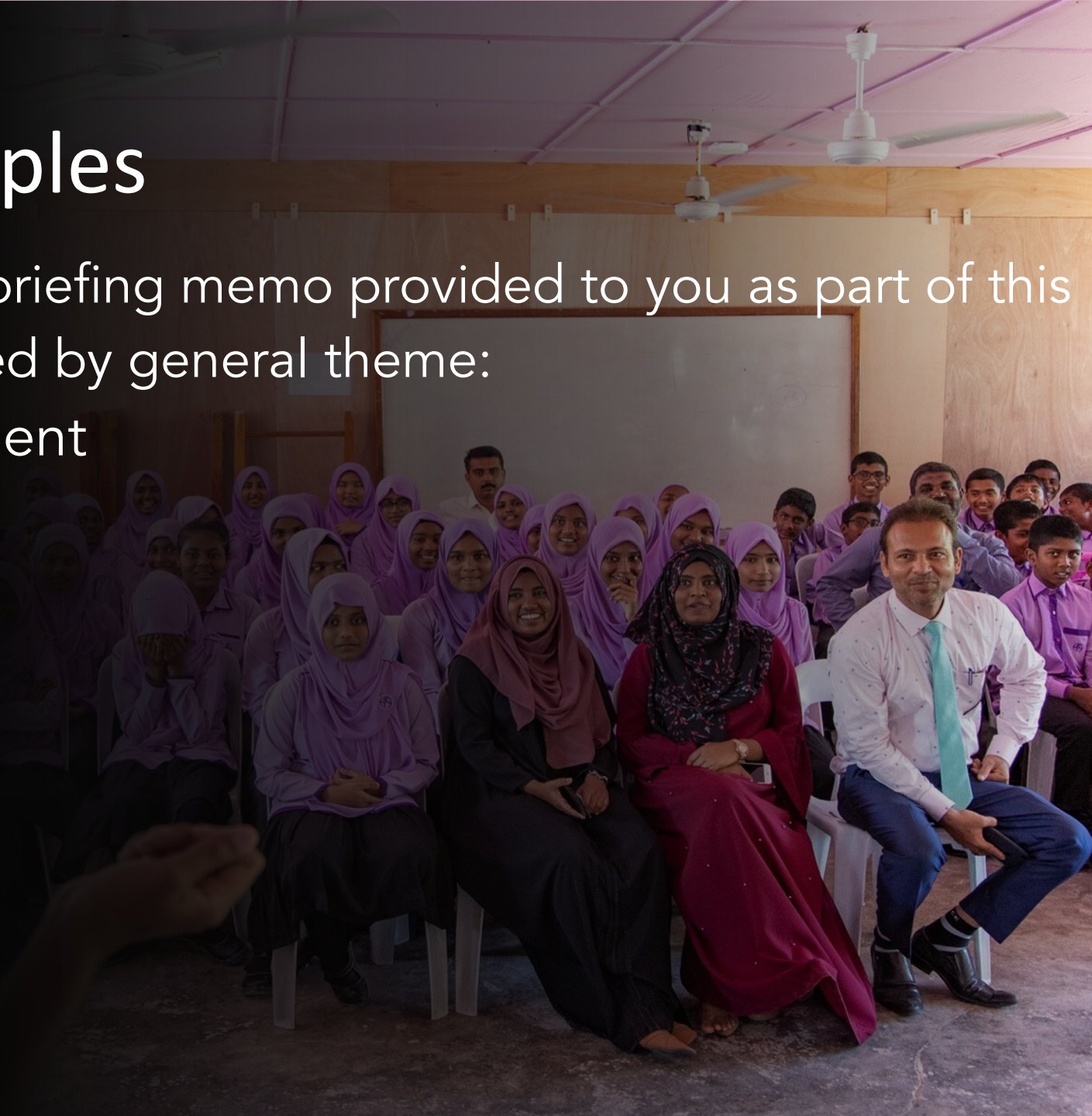
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Offshore MSP Principles

- Discussed in several meetings of the MSP Working Group to provide proposed language and opinions (rankings)
 - Began with review of existing Maldives commitments
 - “Principle” in this context:
 - is a basic or essential quality or element determining the intrinsic nature or characteristic behavior of the MSP.
 - Establish a framework for how the MSP process operates; they don't stand by themselves.
 - Ensure that all parties have a clear idea of what will guide the process.
- 
- A group of people, including men and women in hijabs, sitting in a room, likely attending a meeting or presentation. The room has a whiteboard and ceiling fans.


Offshore MSP Principles

- Principles are provided in the briefing memo provided to you as part of this meeting. They can be organized by general theme:
 - Governance and development
 - Ethical and social
 - Biophysical



MSP Principles

Governance & Development

1. Evidence-Based Decision Making:
 2. Public Trust and payment for Ecosystem services
 3. Decision Making Transparency
 4. Precautionary Principle
 5. Polluter Pays
 6. Public Participation
 7. Ecosystems based integrated management
 8. Effective communication
 9. Integrated environmental protection
 10. Reduce and eliminate unsustainable practices
 11. Environment impact assessments
- 

MSP Principles

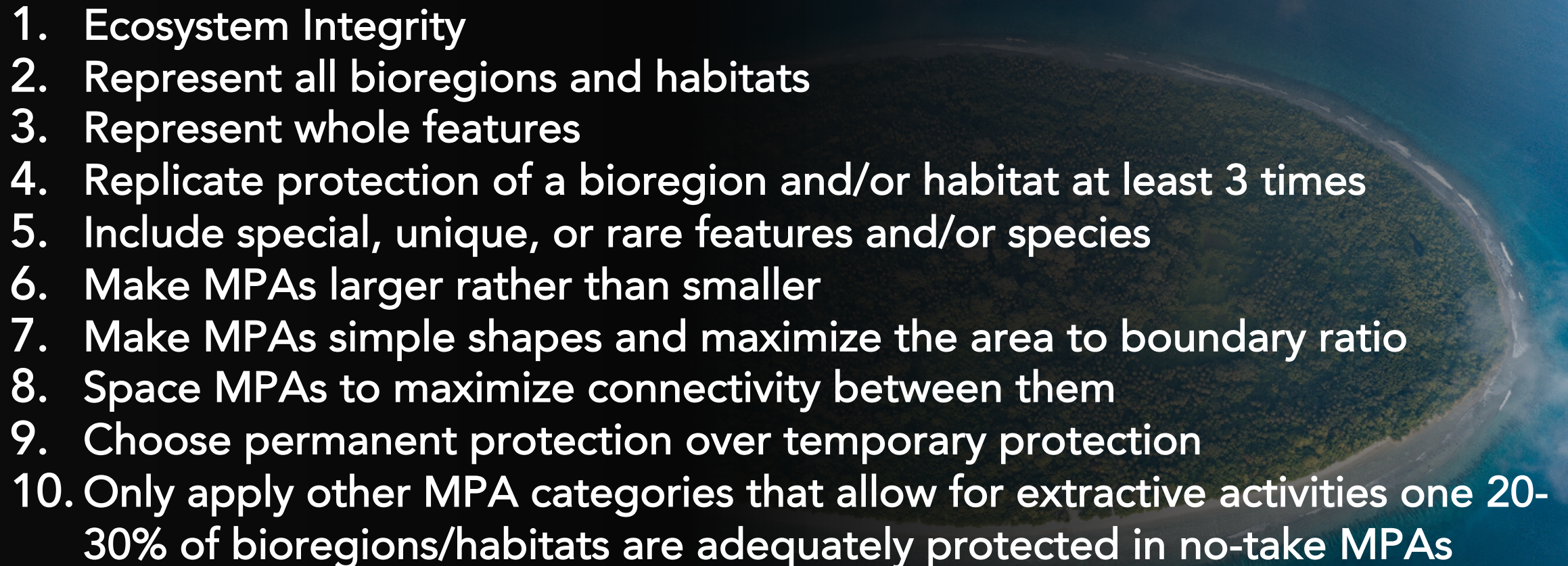
Ethical and Social

1. Interdependence
2. Good faith, cooperation and conflicts resolution
3. Inclusion and diversity
4. The people and values
5. Eradicate poverty



MSP Principles

Biophysical

1. Ecosystem Integrity
 2. Represent all bioregions and habitats
 3. Represent whole features
 4. Replicate protection of a bioregion and/or habitat at least 3 times
 5. Include special, unique, or rare features and/or species
 6. Make MPAs larger rather than smaller
 7. Make MPAs simple shapes and maximize the area to boundary ratio
 8. Space MPAs to maximize connectivity between them
 9. Choose permanent protection over temporary protection
 10. Only apply other MPA categories that allow for extractive activities one 20-30% of bioregions/habitats are adequately protected in no-take MPAs
- 

Marine Spatial Planning

Proposed Timeline



The MSP Subcommittee will review work products

● *Requires Approval from Governance Committee*

Questions?



Sustainable Fisheries Update

1. Fisheries Characterization: In review

Synthesis of current, publicly available data and information on the Maldives' fisheries

2. Seafood Markets Consultancy: Sep 2021 – January 2022

Opportunities to promote market access expansion and diversification of the current marketplace

3. Fisheries App: In discussion

Support fisheries-dependent data collection and fisheries management of small-scale fisheries

4. Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance: In discussion

Compliance and enforcement technology and strategic assessment



Questions?

