

Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in numbers

Maldives

September 2026

The OCPP programme provided tailored support in the Maldives to help manage the marine environment more sustainably. This included strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and managing tools, and creating educational resources for coastal communities.

Seeking long-term change to the Maldives's marine environment

The overarching intended impact for OCPP was to deliver activities which supported partner countries to effectively manage human activities that place pressure on the marine environment and ensure that all of their citizens can benefit from its long-term sustainable use.

The OCPP identified the following areas in which the programme could deliver change in the way these issues are addressed in the Maldives through the generation and use of scientific knowledge to better inform policymaking and action:

- **Marine knowledge and capacity:** providing expertise towards sustainable marine ecosystem science and better marine environment monitoring.
- **Policies and guidelines:** supporting the creation of evidence-informed policies, frameworks and plans for sustainable marine ecosystem management, governance and budgeting.
- **Education and awareness:** piloting models and approaches towards community engagement and raising awareness on marine-related topics.

The programme supported a number of stakeholders to achieve these objectives. These include:

- Government ministries involved in marine governance, climate, and economic development
- Local councils
- Fisheries
- Tourism industry
- Dive industry
- Local environmental NGOs, research bodies and consultancies

OCPP in Maldives demonstrated consideration of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** in their input to the 30x30 Ocean Action Plan.

The Western Indian Ocean Emergency Response Symposium, held in Zanzibar in January 2026 included a GESI session introducing key concepts and terminology. Participants worked in mixed-country groups to design disaster response plans that account for vulnerable and marginalised groups. Mauritian delegates shared how they had engaged local communities through beach clean-up and building site-specific knowledge through a participatory approach.

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). OCPP was delivered by three British government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

More information on OCPP can be found at:

[DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents](#)

The data shown covers OCPP activities between 2023–2026 only.



Key achievements in delivery

Outcome

The programme supported the implementation of the Conservation Action Plan and the Research and Monitoring Plan in Hanifaru MPA which has resulted in improved management effectiveness. The largest improvements were made in the Planning and Process elements due to the development of the Hanifaru MPA Conservation Action Plan and Research and Monitoring Plan, which together provide a robust framework for adaptive management of the site.

Furthermore, surveillance and monitoring took place in the South Ari Atoll Marine Protected Area to observe and manage interactions between tourists, operators and whale sharks and ensure rules and regulations are adhered to.

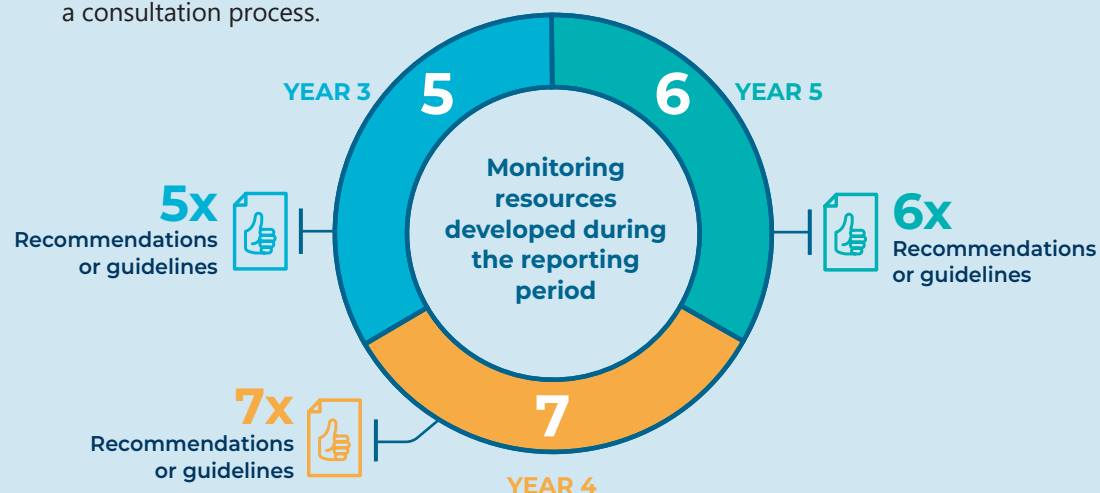
Marine knowledge and capacity

The programme worked to strengthen the capacity and capability of Maldivian stakeholders in marine science, management and governance. Of those surveyed, 85% of participants reported increased knowledge and capacity.



Policies and guidelines

In the Maldives, the programme proposed or developed policy and regulatory recommendations. 94% of the products developed were reported to have included a consultation process.



CASE STUDY

OCPP worked extensively, both remotely and in person, with staff and Ministers from the Maldives Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Environment protection Agency (EPA) to develop guidelines on a Management Framework and Plan for the Maldives.

The development of a National Management Framework was proposed by the OCPP in agreement with the Government of the Maldives to support the effective management of the network of Protected and Conserved Areas (PCA) across the Maldives. The guidelines for a National Management Framework developed by OCPP were created as an example of what a National PCA Management Framework could look like and the types of content that it could include.

This document was published in March 2024 with the '[Maldives National Management Plan Guidance for Protected & Conserved Areas](#)' published in August 2024.

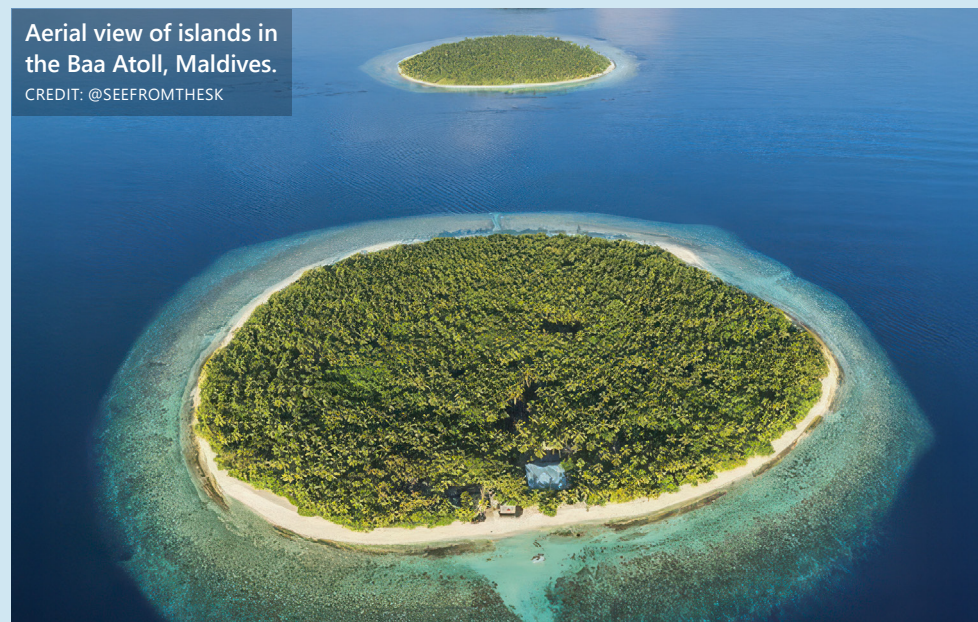
CASE STUDY

OCPP worked with a shark expert to support Fuvahmulah City Council and Maldives Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MCCEE) in reviewing shark diving practices in Fuvahmulah. The review was led by the shark expert, but decisions on content and approaches were made in collaboration with the Council and MCCEE.

The expert revised the content following stakeholder feedback. Final approval was received from Maldives partners. Community stakeholders were interviewed in person to gather information for the review. The review also gave them a platform to raise issues and suggest ideas for future management options. They were also given the opportunity to review the final output and raise any concerns about the content.

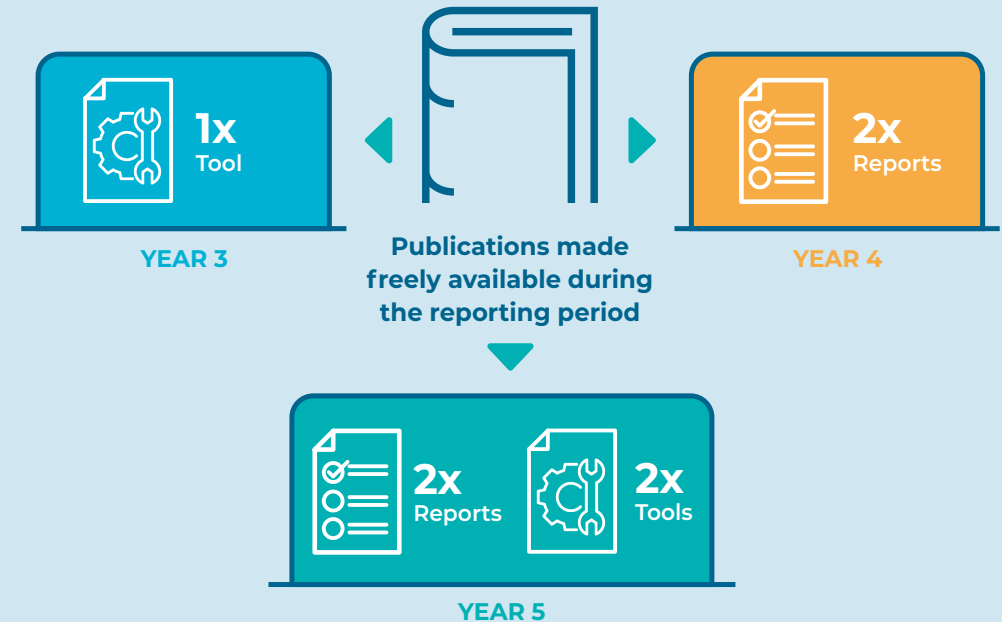
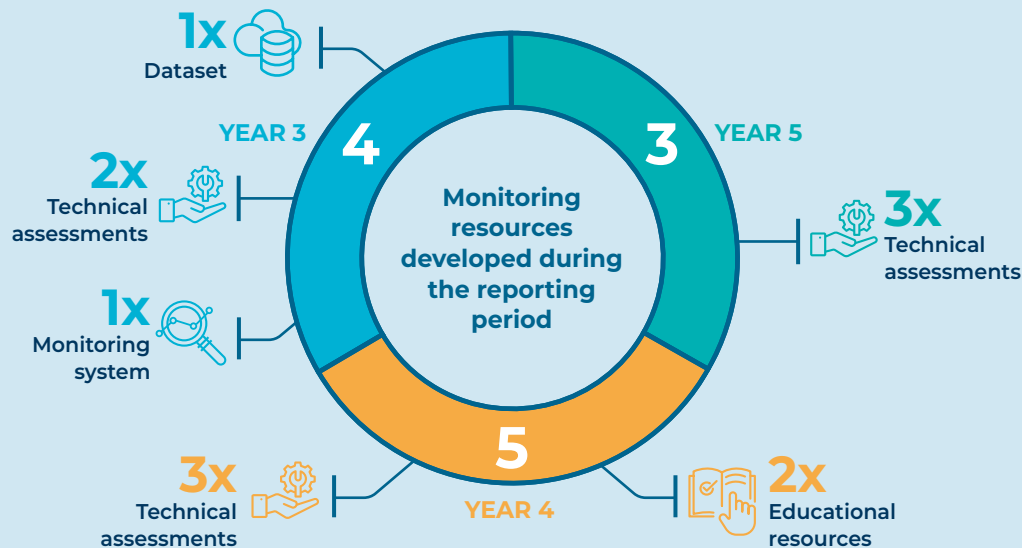
Aerial view of islands in the Baa Atoll, Maldives.

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Education and awareness

The OCPP took steps to enhance education, awareness and the exchange of scientific, technical knowledge and data in the Maldives on a variety of topics concerning the marine environment.



CASE STUDY

One of the publications produced during the reporting period was the '[Maldives Circularity Assessment](#)'. This assessment was completed for the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy and provided key findings that highlight opportunities for government, business and communities in the Maldives.

CASE STUDY

In January 2024, a '[Protected Area of Maldives Handbook](#)' was published comprising the rules, management approaches and useful guidelines regarding the Maldives protected areas. The handbook was developed by in-country authors.

Networks and partnerships

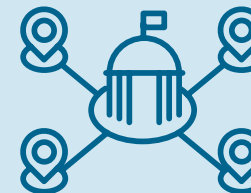
The OCPP worked with the Government of the Maldives to develop and support active ocean-science related knowledge networks and partnerships – either as UK-partner country or in-country coalitions.



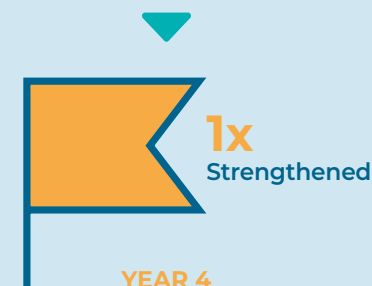
Number of public-private sector or business partnerships mobilised



YEAR 5



Number of coalitions, governance structures, networks established, engaged or strengthened



CASE STUDY

In 2025, Hanifaru MPA launched its 2025-2030 Conservation Action Plan and Research and Monitoring Plan, setting out an evidence-based, collaborative approach to MPA management. A Hanifaru MPA Research and Monitoring Working Group (RMWG) was created to support their implementation through research, monitoring and evidence to inform recommendations and adaptive management decisions. The RMWG also fosters collaboration, coordination and knowledge-sharing among Hanifaru MPA partners, and supports transparent communication, data exchange and long-term relationships across Baa Atoll.

CASE STUDY

In March 2025, the Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Advocacy Network was established. The network brings together organisations committed to advancing GEDSI and eliminating SEAH, and serves as a collaborative platform for knowledge-sharing, joint advocacy, capacity-building, and coordinated action in the Maldives.