



Next Steps

Atoll Nations

Representatives of Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu identified the following eight main priorities for adaptation in atoll countries, based on the earlier atoll dialogue in Suva, Fiji and deliberations in Maldives during the *Resilient Atolls in Productive Oceans* knowledge sharing event. This was presented by Ywao Elanzo, Assistant Secretary of Finance, Marshall Islands and included the following:

1. **Adaptation and resilience building efforts and investments need to accelerate.** The rapid change evident in climatic conditions and events require that adaptation and resilience-building efforts and investments in atolls should accelerate; technical support and expertise and financing for adaptation investments are urgently needed.
2. **Planning efforts should be expedited.** Atoll nations need support for practical adaptation roadmaps and project planning; they cannot afford to spend many years developing extensive adaptation plans; spatial planning is an important tool that should be utilized.
3. **Coastal protection is a top priority.** Building coastal resilience is a top priority, including hard measures and structures, planned reclamation and elevation, and nature-based solutions and other innovative systems such as submerged breakwaters where feasible.
4. **Innovative climate financing should be pursued.** Atoll adaptation will be costly; innovative financing modalities and solutions, especially for large-scale adaptation projects, are needed; the approach of bundling adaptation and/or conservation projects for blue/green bond financing should be pursued with partners.
5. **Expedite Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and other baseline data collection.** Better baseline data collection facilitates better adaptation planning and project designs. Atoll nations need support with data stock-takes to identify data gaps and LIDAR and other data collection methods to fill the most critical gaps. Down-scale modelling of climate variables, including wave energy and impacts, is also needed.
6. **Address solid waste management.** Integrated, climate-proofed waste management systems are needed in atoll nations; this is an important related area of building resilience; the ADB-supported waste management project in the Maldives serves as a useful example.
7. **Continue collaboration and knowledge sharing.** Atoll nations, through CANCC and with support from partners, should continue to coordinate and collaborate; the concepts of a Center of Excellence and a small CANCC Secretariat should be explored, as well as the suggestion from Maldives for an institutional framework agreement among the atoll nations. Efforts to raise global awareness on the exceptional challenges faced by atoll nations should continue.

8. **Leverage expertise and develop adaptation capacity.** A pool of multidisciplinary atoll adaptation experts (national and international) should be developed, and expert visits to atolls for short-term advisory support should be facilitated (e.g. coastal protection and waste management experts).

ADB

After thanking the government of Maldives and the country delegates for their support, time and expertise, Bruce Dunn, Director Safeguard Division and Chief Environment Thematic Group, ADB, shared how ADB is committed to provide further adaptation support to the atoll nations including:

1. **Awareness raising and further dialogue.** ADB can work with the atoll nations on a broader global scale to promote the urgency of the issues being faced by atoll nations. The recent suggestion to provide support to the CANCC and international dialogue is something ADB can explore further, including at COP 25.
2. **Atoll country strategies and programs.** ADB has existing country strategies and programs for Maldives and the Pacific. The Pacific Approach involves all the atoll Pacific nations which ADB is planning at a regional level, including strategies and financing to support country programs. ADB also welcomes feedback from atoll country ministries of finance and others to identify areas for further strategic support by ADB.
3. **Climate strategy and finance.** As part of ADB's strategy 2030, ADB has made commitments to scale up climate finance to \$80 billion cumulatively between now and 2030. This provides opportunities to mobilize resources from ADB as well as from other partners. ADB welcomes close collaboration with the atoll nations on identifying the best use of these resources.
4. **ADB's Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies.** The action plan is aligned with issues of climate resilience which include the blue economy, ecosystem management, pollution control and sustainable infrastructure. ADB aims to bring that program forward to explore how to mobilize blue finance and new initiatives such as sustainable tourism and nature-based solutions for resilience.
5. **Disaster risk management.** At the regional level in the Pacific, ADB has an ongoing technical assistance that focuses on climate change and disaster risk management. There is also work in the pipeline to undertake a literature review on the current science around SLR. Moving forward, ADB will look to convene a panel of experts to analyze the projections and the appropriate scenarios needed in our planning processes.
6. **Solid waste management.** At a regional level ADB is developing technical assistance to look at marine pollution around plastics, but more broadly around integrated solid waste management. Atoll nations have a unique situation amongst the SIDS. ADB will explore mobilization of technical or financial resources to meet these coral atoll issues.

7. **Coastal resilience.** More work is needed around coastal resilience, coastal protection and nature-based solutions. It is critical that ADB supports this adaptation pathway, where the risks are analyzed, and planning frameworks are brought in to prioritize investments. ADB will look to include support for integrated approaches and nature-based solutions for coastal resilience in its regional pipeline.