

Implementation of SEEA Asset Accounts in Maldives

Maldives Bureau of Statistics & Ministry of Tourism and Environment

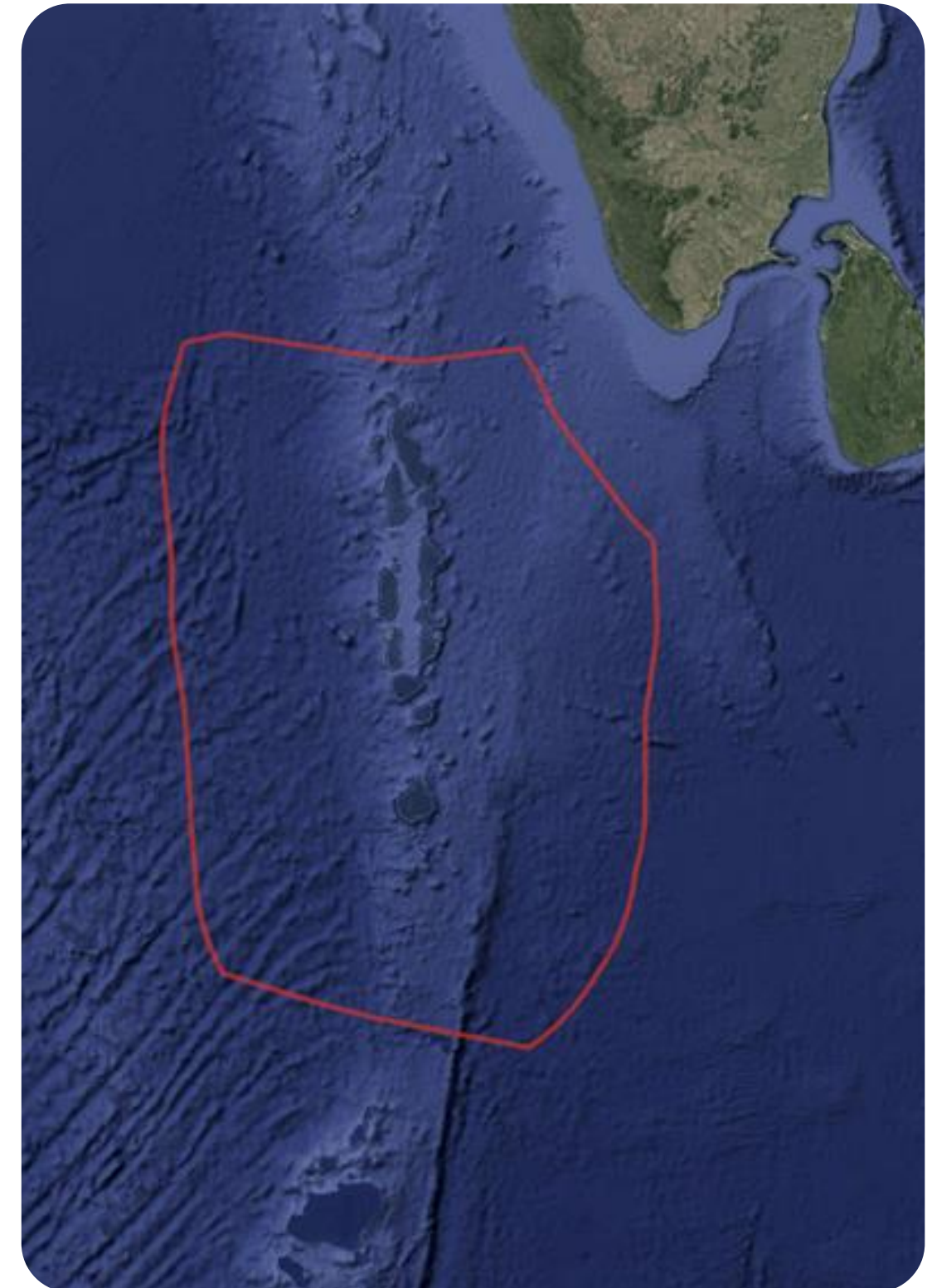
Regional Training Workshop on SEEA Asset Accounts for Sustainable Development

16-19 June 2025

Chiba, Japan

Country Profile

- Located in the Indian Ocean
- 26 natural atolls – 1192 low-lying coral reef islands
- Population around 540k, with ~1/3 residing in the capital
- ~99% of the country is Ocean
- Highly ocean-based economy: tourism and fisheries sector – half of the GDP and jobs



Overview of Maldives' National Statistical System (NSS)

- The National Statistical System (NSS) in the Maldives has evolved in a Decentralized Manner
- The Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) is responsible for core statistical activities
- Within the decentralized system, relevant agencies will be responsible for collection and compilation of related statistics – coordinated through a National Statistical Coordinating Committee with representatives from relevant agencies

Role of MBS:

- Coordinates NSS
- Conduct Population & Housing Census
- Conduct Household Income and Expenditure Survey
- Conduct Economic Survey
- Compilation of National Accounts
- Compilation of Price Statistics
- Collecting Poverty Statistics through major household surveys

Role of Other Government Agencies:

- Collects data on their respective areas through administrative channels, registers and related surveys approved by MBS

Completed SEEA Asset Accounts

Maldives National Waste Accounts 2018 & 2019

- Waste producers: industries (construction, transport, tourism, health), households, imports
- Waste categories and management methods derived from existing waste management practices and national policies
- Data sources: estimations using waste generation rates and waste composition reported in fragmented studies
- Data generally scarce – mostly available for tourism and households



Completed SEEA Asset Accounts

Maldives National Waste Accounts 2018 & 2019

- Challenges faced in terms of data availability & present-day updates:
 - Lack of record keeping – work is ongoing to standardize data collection and monitoring (e.g. installation of weighbridges)
 - Disbursed nature of Maldivian islands – efforts ongoing for improving waste transfer mechanism along with record keeping



Completed SEEA Asset Accounts

Maldives National Water Accounts 2018 & 2019

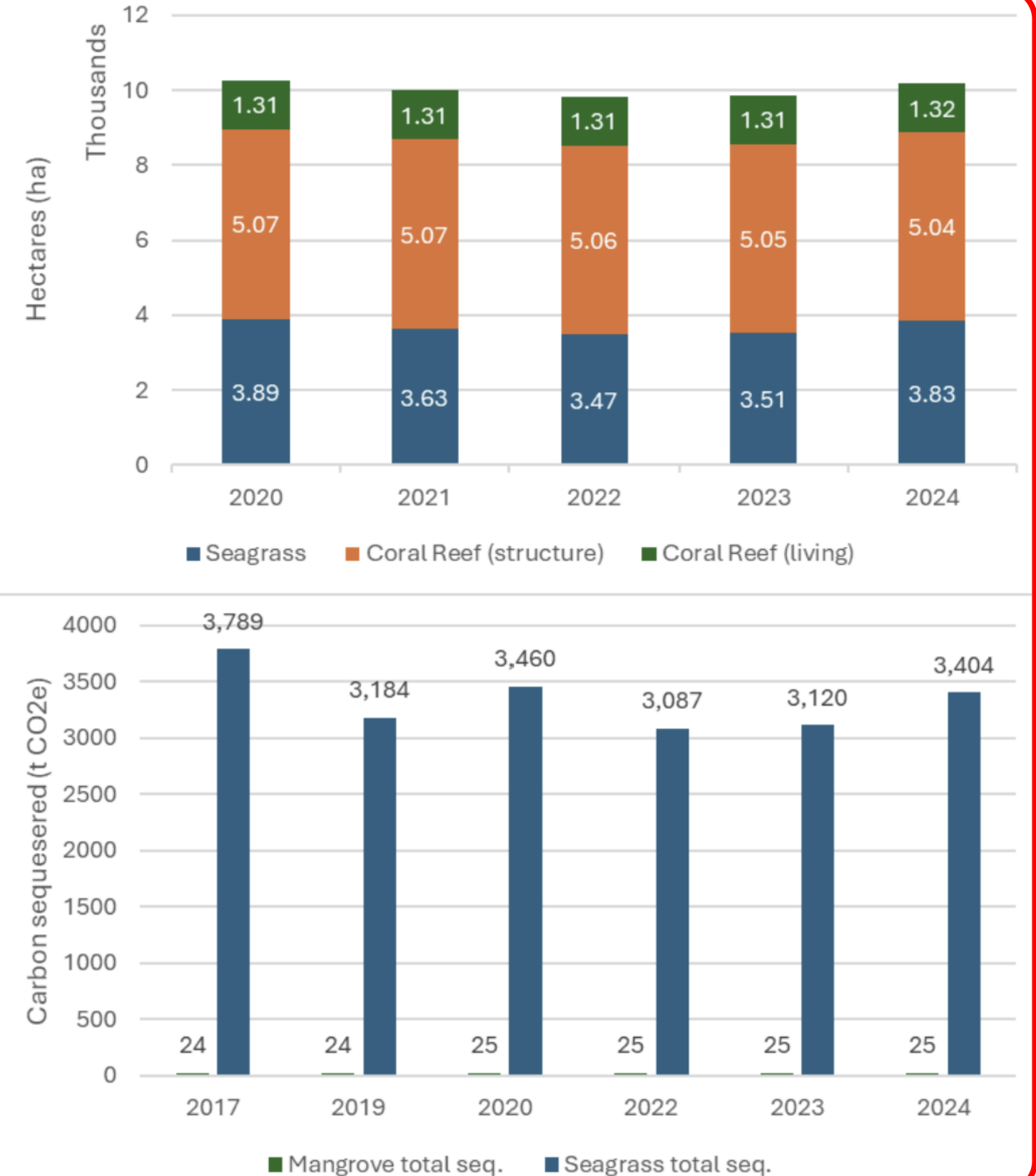
- Water Accounts for 2018 and 2019 were prepared with significant limitations in data
- Established data systems were mainly for billing purposes
- Supply of water was under-estimated due to no data on the flow of wastewater through the sewerage systems
- At present day, the Utility Regulatory Authority informs they are working with the main service providers to establish a system to collect wastewater generation data



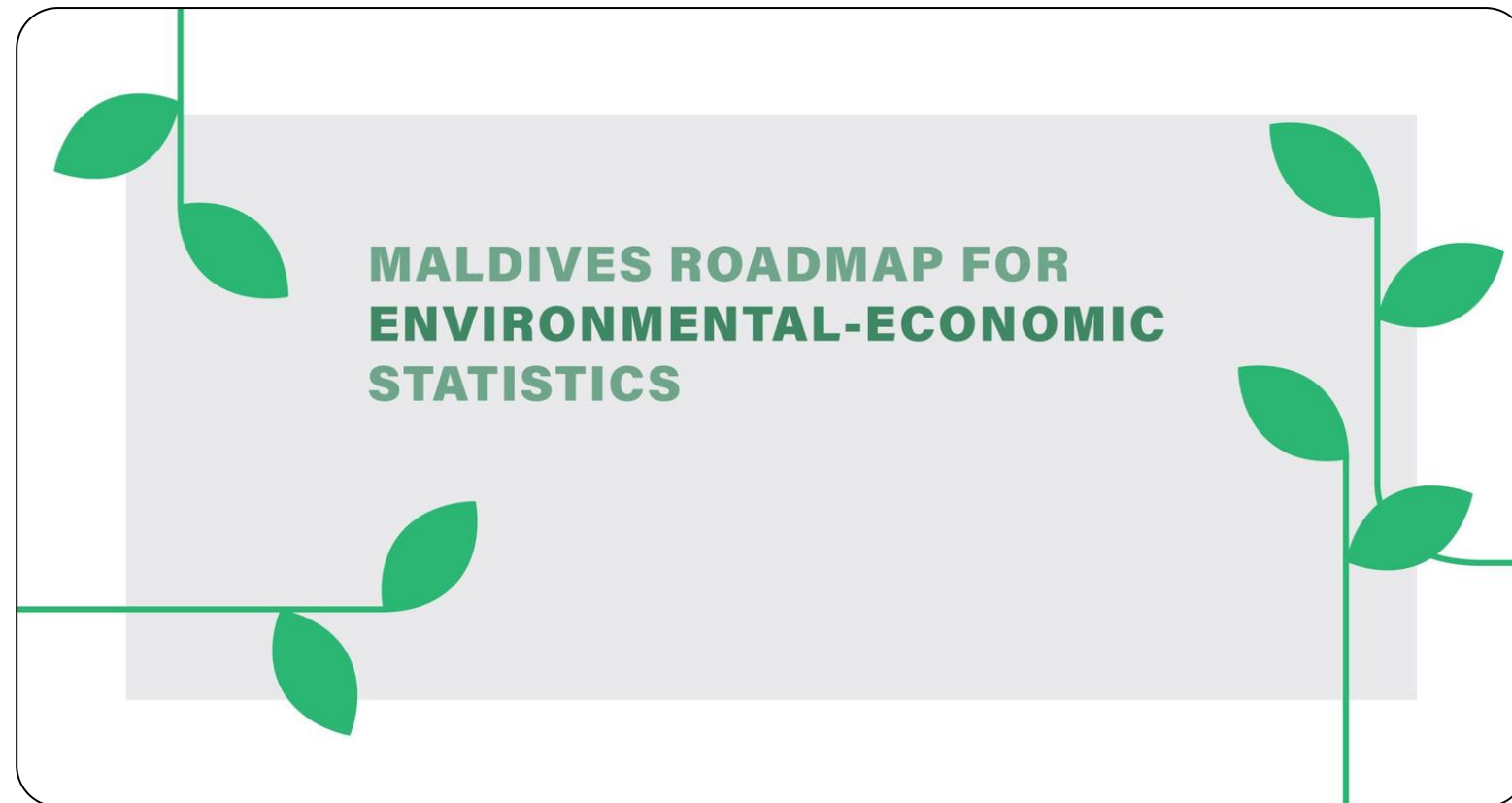
Completed SEEA Asset Accounts

Ecosystem Asset Accounts

- First implementation of SEEA-EA
- Asset accounts specifically for carbon stock change in mangrove and seagrass ecosystems from 2017 to 2024
- Focused on sectoral transformation for mainstreaming and scaling Ecosystem Accounts nationally: close coordination with MBS and other relevant institutions, training local NGOs and citizen scientists on data collection
- Technical foundations identified for:
 - Data collection and processing
 - Accounts structuring and compilation
 - Valuation methodologies



SEEA Implementation Roadmaps

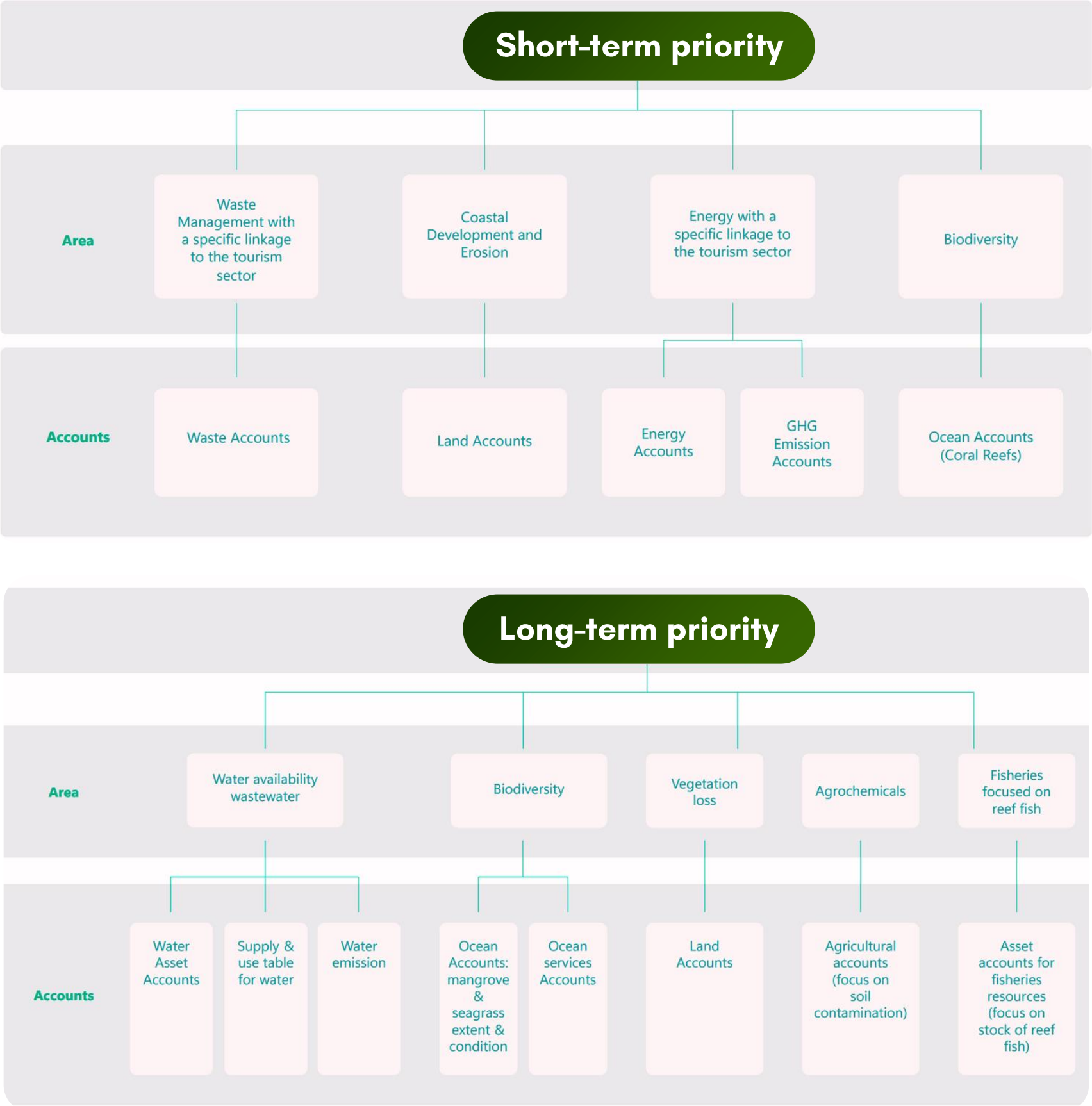
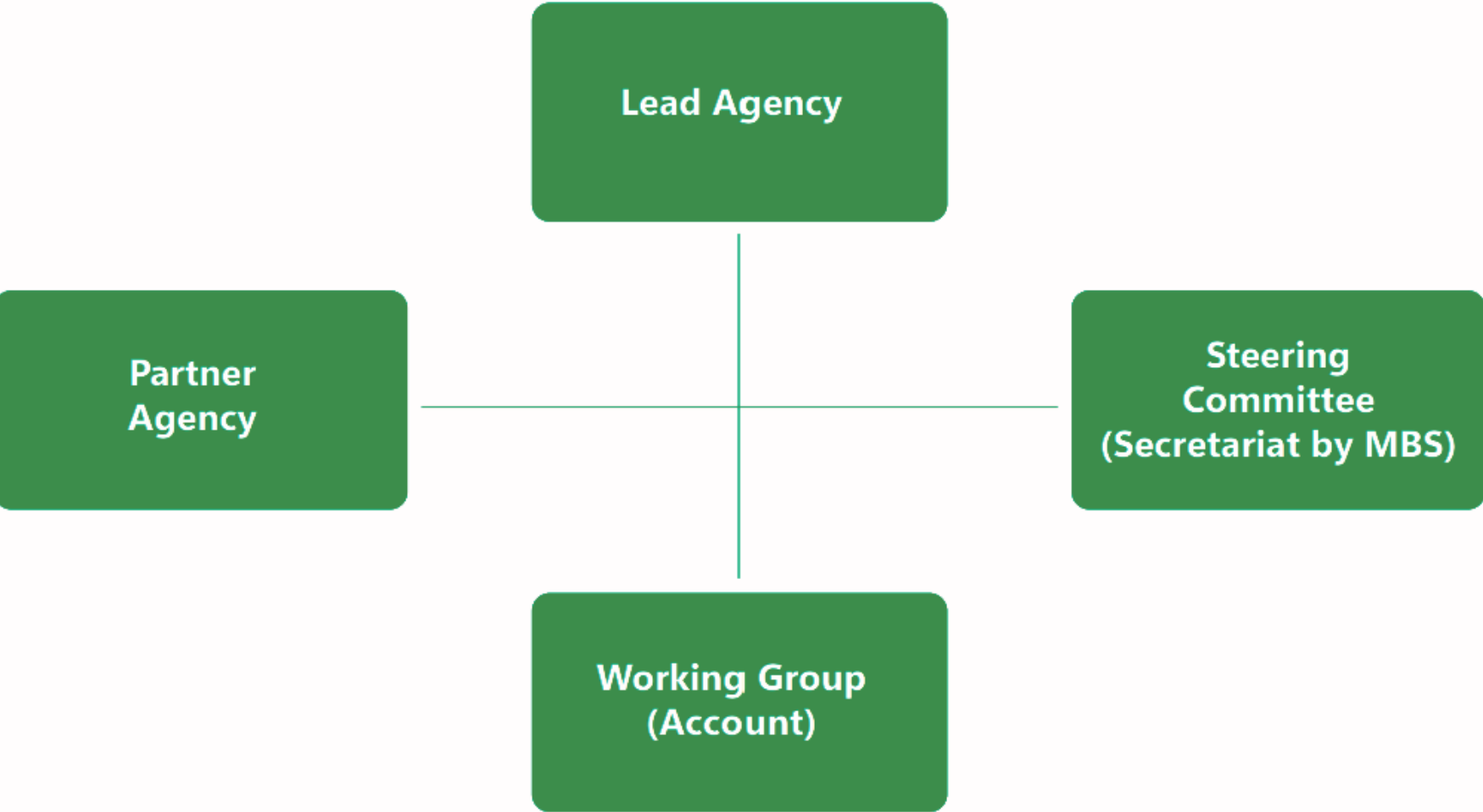


- Identifies **priority SEEA Accounts** and **institutional arrangement** for its development
- Prioritized based on:
 - Immediate data availability and level of constraints
 - National priorities
 - Reporting obligations

- Specifically for **coastal and marine ecosystem assets**. Identifies:
 - institutional arrangements
 - technical components for measurement (methodologies localized to the Maldivian context)
 - mechanisms for regional cooperation

Maldives Roadmap for Environmental-Economic Statistics: Priority Accounts

Institutional Setup



Maldives Roadmap for Environmental-Economic Statistics: Priority Accounts

Waste Accounts (Tourism Sector)

- Solid and hazardous waste management is recognized as a critical environmental issue.
- Waste generated by resorts is significantly higher than the waste generated by islands.
- The data of waste generated from resorts can be easily collected in comparison to local islands—efforts ongoing to improve waste management and monitoring
- Waste accounts to be produced will follow the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (SF-MST)



Maldives Roadmap for Environmental-Economic Statistics: Priority Accounts

Land Accounts (Coastal Development and Erosion)

- Land is the scarcest resource in the Maldives (< 1%), yet it is important to understand the changes in land area over time with increasing coastal development and climate change vulnerability.
- The whole land area can be considered as a coastal zone. Although, much granular land cover classes is also identified for Maldives with IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology (not mapped)
- Seasonal beach monitoring data are available—constraints remain with the small scale/fragmented land cover
- Need for sustained access to high resolution satellite imagery and improving GIS capacity within MBS



National Implementation Roadmap for Ocean Accounts 2025-2030

MAJOR ECOSYSTEM ASSETS



STRATEGIC GOALS & WORKSTREAMS

By **2026**,

Developing the **foundation**: focusing on **identifying priority indicators** for the OA modules (**Environmental assets**, flows, ocean economy and ocean governance)

By **2028**,

Iterative testing at national level for:

- **policy mainstreaming** of OA and decision support tools used
- **Dedicated dashboard**

By **2030**,

National system of OA established – **mainstreamed into decision making** – aligned with national priorities and development strategies

USE CASES

Strengthening biodiversity conservation and management

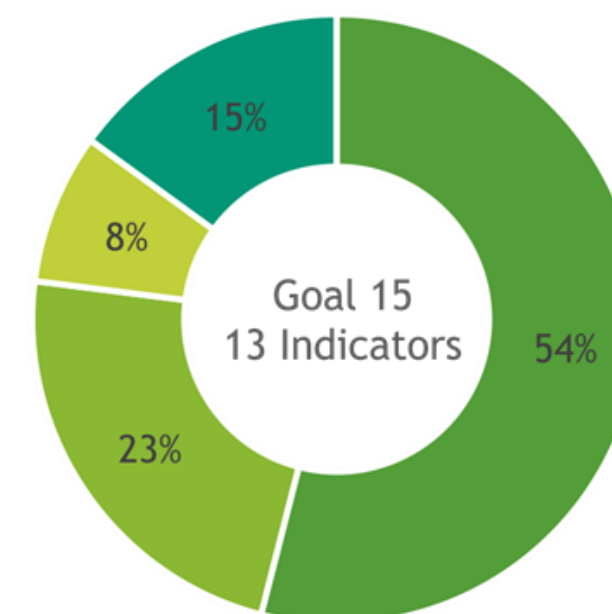
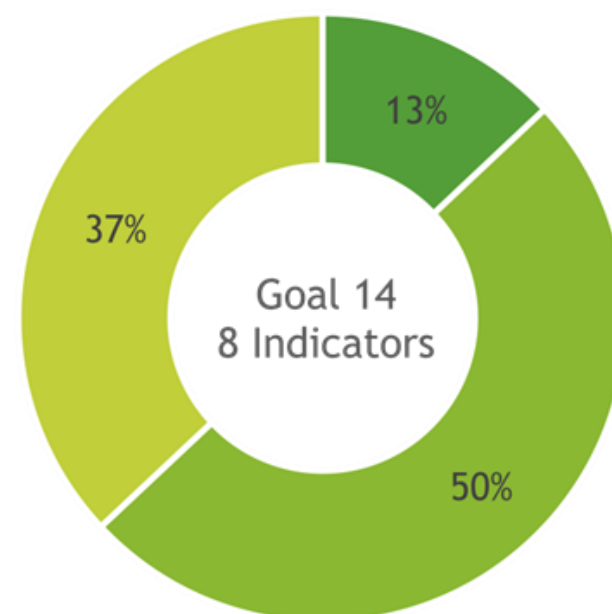
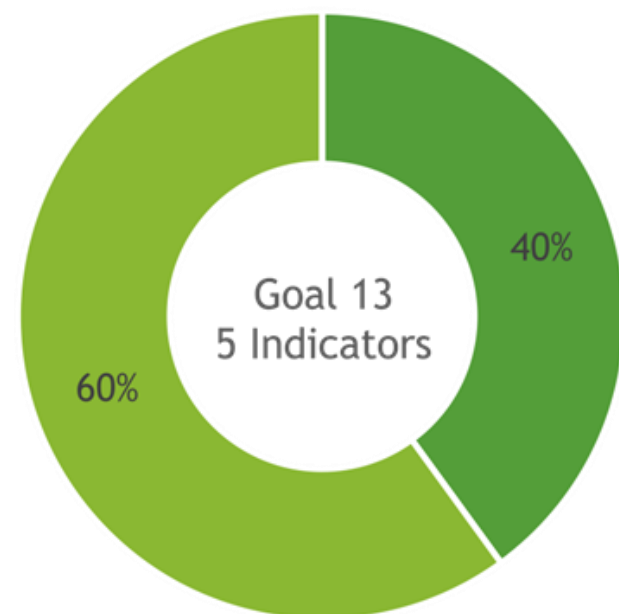
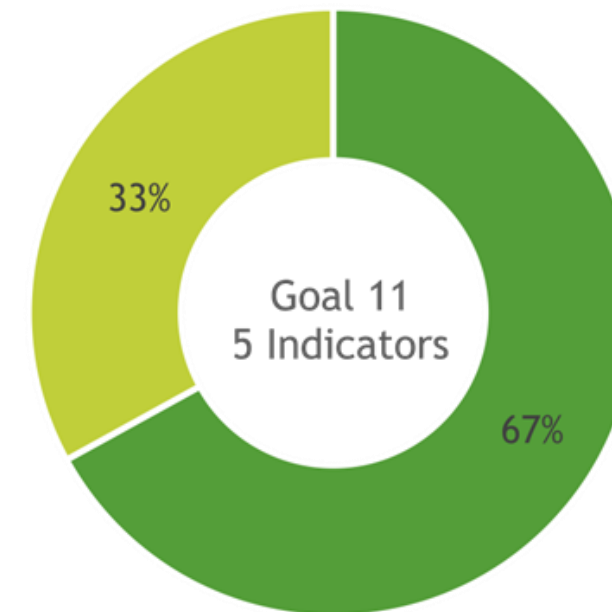
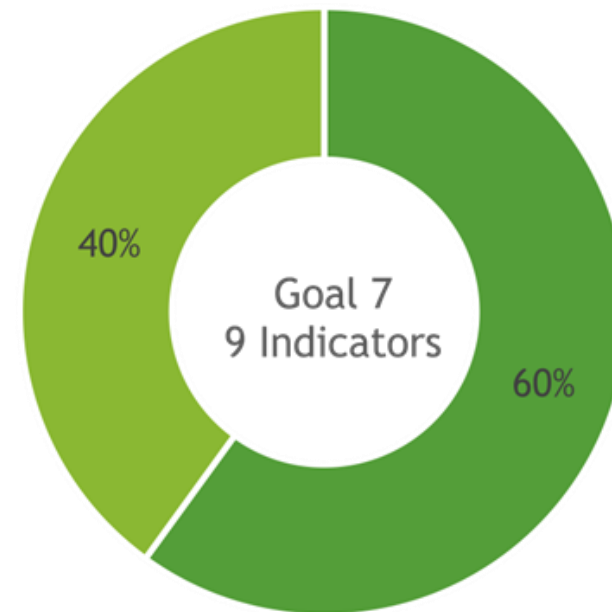
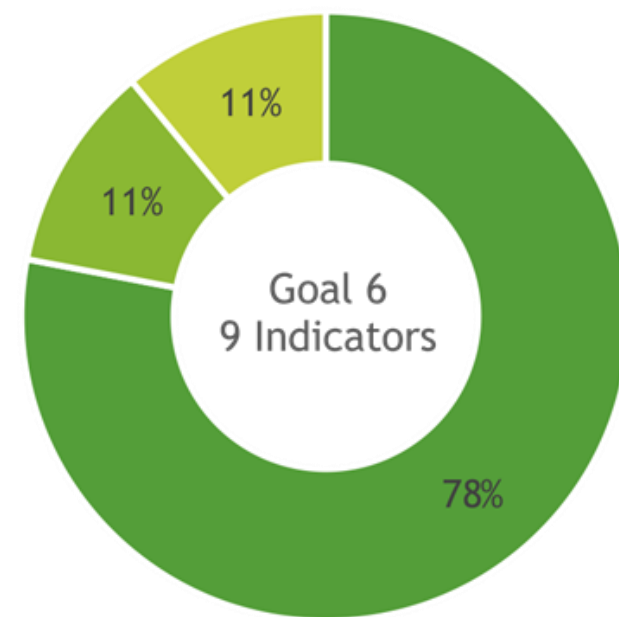
Enhancing Spatial Planning

Enhancing Tourism Development

Strengthening Climate Action

Enabling guiding sustainable finance and investment

Current Status in Monitoring Environmental Related Indicators Under SDG



- No mechanism
- Available in the system
- Need more effort
- Not Relevant

- Goal 3, 8, 9 & 12 so far no mechanism identified
- Goal 17 has one related indicator and it is available in the system

Persistent Challenges & Recent Advances

Persistent Challenges:

- Lack of disaggregated, periodic, and comprehensive data
- Geographical dispersion of the country – challenge for continued environmental monitoring
- Lack of internal data management system within institutions, coupled with human-resource limitations
- Fragmented or discontinuous data – often in the form of reports
- Weak inter-sectoral coordination
- Budgetary limitations and dependence on donor funded projects (often not resulting in long-term programs)

Recent Advances & Ongoing Efforts

- A data platform for climate resilience – intended as a central national data sharing platform concerning the environment sector – being developed (currently: implementation approach being identified)
- Partnerships with international organizations for continued technical support and capacity building

Thank You