

	transport health education and research	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 6 500 000 (TBD – depends on possible co-financing) Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 6 500 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 6 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Maldives is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change due to its low-lying geography resulting in constant flood risk due to sea level rise. Sea temperature rise and acidification has resulted in coral reef bleaching and migration of fish stocks, having a direct negative impact on the two main sectors of the Maldivian economy – tourism and fisheries. Geographic dispersion of islands brings its own challenges, as service delivery is difficult, and there are limited opportunities for job creation and economic diversification. The Maldives is an ally to the EU on climate action and environment protection.

EU-Maldives cooperation has intensified recently, with the first country Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) since 2007. The MIP 2021 – 2027¹ provides the EU with a more structured approach and a framework for policy and strategic dialogue with the Maldives. The MIP delineates initiatives on two priority areas 1) Green Recovery and 2) Rule of Law, Local Governance and Security.

The Overall Objective of this Action which falls under Priority 1, is to contribute to climate resilient socioeconomic development in the Maldives. The Specific Objectives are to (1) improve marine resource management and biodiversity protection in the Maldives' protected areas (2) improve waste management at island and atoll level including segregation, collection, and reduction of single-use plastics and (3) strengthen institutional coordination on green economic policies/issues.

Policy-wise, the Action aligns with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016 – 2025)² and the Strategic Action Plan (2019-2023)³ which pledges to protect at least 10% of the Maldives' coral reef areas, 20% of wetlands and mangroves and other representative reef habitats from each atoll by 2023. It also builds on the 2010 Decentralisation Act⁴ and the government's decentralisation plan from 2018, which devolves authority for sustainable

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-8994-maldives-annex_en.pdf

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mv/mv-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

³ <https://presidency.gov.mv/SAP/>

⁴ <https://www.finance.gov.mv/decentralization-act> (full document is available only in Dhivehi); https://transparency.mv/v17/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RDFM_ENG_FINAL-for-Website.pdf