

# CABINET APPROVES THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO DECLARE MALDIVES A BIOSPHERE RESERVE



The implementation plan to declare Maldives a biosphere reserve was approved by the Cabinet on 23 January 2013. This implementation plan was compiled in response to President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed announcing the whole country of Maldives to become biosphere reserve by 2017, at the 1st Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, RIO+20 meeting held in Rio De Jenairo, Brazil on 20th June 2012.

The Cabinet made this decision after discussing a paper submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The plan focuses on a Zonation Plan, Governance, Sustainable financing, Capacity building, Public Awareness and Outreach with advantages and disadvantages of becoming a biosphere Reserve. The implementation plan was compiled mainly based on the nationwide discussions during First National Stakeholder Conference on Declaring Maldives a Biosphere Reserve held at Bandos Island Resort on 8th November 2012.

If the whole Maldives is declared a biosphere reserve, Maldives would be the first country to become a biosphere reserve.