



WORKSHOP

**Sustainable Tourism and Fragile Environment
Sustainability and Development
in Small Island Communities**

Maldives

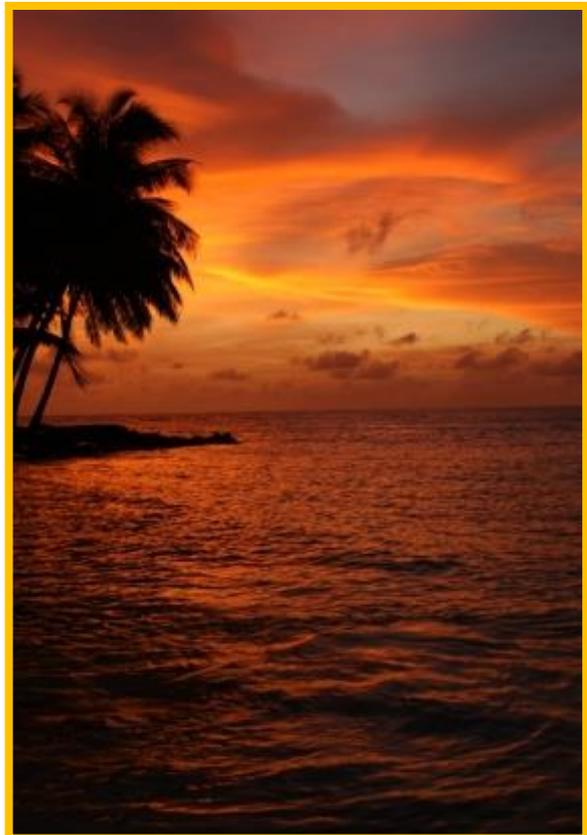
May 29th – June 5th 2015

*(the dates are indicative and may be modified due to Flights Schedules –
max +/- 2 days)*

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA
MaRHE Center – Faaf-Magoodhoo

WORKSHOP
Sustainable Tourism and Fragile Environment
Sustainability and Development
in Small Island Communities

Marine Research and High Education Center (MaRHE Center)
Università Milano-Bicocca
Faaf-Magoodhoo – Rep. of Maldives



Scientific Committee

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INTRODUCTION

The workshop takes place on Magoodhoo island, Faafu Atoll, Maldives. The logistic base for the activities is the Marine Research and High Education Center (MaRHE Center) of Milano-Bicocca University in Magoodhoo: field activities will be held on the island and in the sea nearby Magoodhoo.

The main purpose of the workshop is to study the Environmental, Social and Cultural characteristic of the Maldivian Tourism System. A specific focus is dedicated to the “One Island – One Resort” model and to the national policies concerning community-based and sustainable tourism. The course will be divided into a series of lessons and field activities (visits to resorts, “site inspections”, meetings with local management and small group activities) coordinated by Italian teachers, researches and experts of “luxury tourism”. Lessons will be held at the Marine Research and High Education Center. All field activities in the sea will be carried out in snorkeling and in any case it is not expected throughout the course that students plunge with diving equipment.

MaRHE Center is situated on Magoodhoo island in Faafu Atoll, one of the central atolls of the Maldivian archipelago. The island is located on the southern edge of the atoll and it covers around 22 hectares. Almost 700 peoples live in the small village behind the MaRHE Center. This close relationship with the local population allows guests of the centre to immerse themselves in the Maldives lifestyle.

In addition to providing a base of operations for laboratory research activities in the Maldives, the MaRHE Center is open to any marine research or education programs. The facility is located within easy access to a broad variety of habitats, including reefs, sea grass beds, and terrestrial communities

The island is 143 km far from Malè International Airport; it is reachable by speedboat in three hours and by seaplane in less than 40 minutes.

The workshop will focus on a set of main topics:

- The Cultural and Political Geography of the Maldives
- Tourism and Insularity
- The Maldivian Tourism System
- Tourism in Small Island Developing States
- Sustainable Tourism in the Maldives
- Pro-poor Tourism and Local Empowerment
- The “Maldivian Resort”: brand construction and site inspection
- Some key Environmental Issues: Climate Change, Waste Management and Energy Production
- Introduction to the main families of coral reef bony fishes: ecology and identification on field
- Coral Reef Conservation: introduction to the Ecology of Tropical Coral Reef Systems

Provisional program

Day 1

Departure from MPX airport to Malé, Maldives

Day 2

Morning

- Arrival to Malé International Airport, Maldives
- Transfer by speed boat to Magoodhoo Island
- Arrival in Magoodhoo island and accommodation
- First briefing

16,00-17,00

Where are we? A Geographical Introduction

17,00-18,30

Guided Tour of Faaf-Magoodoo

20,00 Dinner

Day 3

9,00-11,00

Island and Insularity

11,00-12,00

Dreaming “the Island”: Isolation as a Cultural Constriction

12,00-13,00

The Ecology of Tropical Coral Reef Systems – a brief Introduction

13,30 Lunch

14,30 – 16,00

Coral Reef System – practical activity (Snorkeling)

16,30-18,30

Beyond Google Maps – Mapping an Island

20,00 Dinner

21,00-23,00

Briefing and group activities

Day 4

8,30-9,30

The Maldives between Isolation and Globalization

9,30-11,30

Cultural and Social Geography of the Maldives

12,00 – 13,00

Coral Reef System – practical activity (Snorkeling)

13,30 Lunch

14,30-16,30

Environment and Climate Change

16,30 – 17,30

Environment and local scale (waste management and energy production)

20,00 Dinner

21,00-23,00

Briefing and group activities

Day 5

9,00-10,00

The Ecology of Tropical Coral Reef Systems

10,30-18,30

Field trip to Adanga (desert island)

- **Coral Reef System – practical activity (Snorkeling)**
Fishing and Local Practices

20.00

Dinner

21,00-23,00

Briefing and group activities

Day 6

8,30- 9,30
The Maldivian Tourism System

9,30 -10,30
The III and IV Maldivian Master Plans

10,30-11,30
Tourism and Local Empowerment

11,30- 18,30
Field Trip to Dhaal Atoll

- **Guided tour of Rin'budhoo**
- **Meeting with local management**
- **Snorkeling**
- **Field Trip to Doores "Nature Paradise"**

20,00 Dinner

21,00-23,00
Briefing and group activities

Day 7

09,00- 10,00
Luxury Tourism in the Maldives

10,00 - 11,00
Site inspections: Guidelines and Practices

11,30-18,30
Field trip to Filitheyo Resort and site inspection

20,00 Dinner

21,00-23,00
Presentation of group activities and final evaluation

Day 8

Transfer by speed boat to Malé
Departure from Malé

The program is indicative and may be modified due to weather, tides and other

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

DOCUMENTS

To go to Maldives is required a **valid passport** (valid for at least six months after the exit from the country).

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

The air temperature is around 28-29°C (Fig 2). The weather is always pleasant, even during the rainy months (Fig 3). Please note that most of the day will be occupied by field activities and seminars and exercises, it is therefore advisable to wear comfortable and sport clothes. It is recommended to avoid skimpy clothing, as Magoodhoo Island is not a tourist resort and local costumes are those of an Islamic country.

For field activities into the sea is necessary to have – in addition to bathing suit and towel - the following equipment:

mask; snorkel; fins (booties); short wetsuit

It's not possible to rent equipment on site, therefore you should make sure to have everything you need with you.

ACCOMODATION AND MEALS

The accommodation has been organized at the guesthouse of the Centre, in multiple rooms with bathroom, with full treatment (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Bed sheets are available, but towels are not provided. The food is prepared according to the local customs and consists, for the most part, of fish, chicken, rice and vegetables prepared in different ways.

HEALTH

In Maldives no vaccinations are required for travelers coming from London.

SAFETY

Any field activities present risks and dangers, and there are some basic rules to be observed in order to minimize these risks. In the water it is necessary to respect the buddy system: working groups will be established, and within the group will be defined working couples.

EXCHANGE

The Maldivian currency is the Maldivian Rufiyaa. Euro and dollar are accepted in any bank and exchange office.

1 euro = 18rufyiaa ;

1 dollar = 15 rufyiaa;

DETAILS

Dates

May 29^h – June 5th 2015

(the dates are indicative and may be modified due to Flights Schedules – max +/- 2 days)

Credits

Full Program: 6CFU info: stefano.malatesta@unimib.it

Duration

9 days

Tuition

- *All inclusive: € 1800,00* including: Flights Costs; Malé-Magoodhoo – Magoodhoo-Malé transfers Costs; Accommodation Costs (full board); Field Trips. *The international flights (Milano Malpensa – Malé – Malé – Milano Malpensa) will be booked by MaRHE Center*
- *Without international flights: € 1200,00* including: Malé-Magoodhoo – Magoodhoo-Malé transfers Costs; Accommodation Costs (full board); Field Trips. *Each student has to book his/her international flights*

For students of UNIMIB: 9 studentships (€ 400,00)

Info: stefano.malatesta@unimib.it

Location

MaRHE Center Faaf Magoodhoo (Rep of Maldives)

Application deadline

30th April 2015

Prerequisites

No prerequisites.

Official language: **English**

For further information, contact:

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