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CONTACT US

Website: www.climate.mv | www.fect.mv

Email: fectmv@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/fectmv

Twitter: [@fectmv](https://twitter.com/fectmv)

Address: G. Fus, Hadheebee Magu, Male’ 20098

Phone: +960 7530014 | +960 7788010 | +960 7627083 | +94-81-2300415



ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

We had a challenging, eventful and ultimately productive year at Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology, Maldives in 2020 – a year of consolidation in our 12-year informal history. We have kept up to the rising demands, projects have been completed, proposals developed and new directions established. Our operational monthly climate bulletin was circulated widely. Instrumentation for weather, air quality and soil moisture was maintained in Hulhule, Thinadhoo and Maathoda. We maintained our websites and disseminated real-time climatic data. We completed the STEM education project successfully. Here we summarize the events, programs, partnerships, personnel and outputs for the year.

Administration

Our administration is rising to the challenges of meeting regulatory challenges and reporting and on the new constituent organizations. We maintained filing systems, library catalogues, internal blogs, Kanban boards and wiki pages. Digital archiving remains a weakness along with Disaster Risk Management.

Publications

Some of our research papers on climate science, impacts, adaptations and disaster risk management are in progress for publications.

Conferences

Our staff participated and presented only at online at conferences in Sri Lanka, India and USA.

Programs

We had active programs on Air Quality, Instrumentation, Maldives, Operational Climate Services, Web *P r o j e c t* . We are close to completing the project on STEM education. We are undertaking projects on dengue and climate and air quality.

Proposals

We submitted responses to the request for information on Climate Change Adaptation Activity sponsored by USAID.

Operational Services

We disseminated our monthly climate reports for Maldives. Our website gave updated the current seasonal climate conditions. Data were continuously being obtained through our instruments and assimilated for climate analysis through the Data Library.

Instruments

We installed and maintained automated environmental observations systems for weather, soil moisture and air pollution in Hulhule, Thinadhoo and Maathoda.

Websites

Our website to promote STEM Education was active throughout the year. We maintained operational climate services, generating content, disseminating regularly, responding to queries.

Collaboration

We collaborated with Maldives National University, Renewable Energy Maldives, Land and Marine Environment (LaMER) and the Small Island Research Group (SIRC/G).

PUBLICATIONS

Papers in Progress:

- Zubair, L., Ahmed, N., Mohamed, M., Zahid, Climate Drives the Seasonal and Regional Variation in Dengue Incidence in the Maldives.
- Lareef Zubair, Ashara Nijamdeen, the 2014-2016 El Niño in Maldives: Climate, Impacts, Response.
- Gunathilake. C., A. Nijamdeen, L. Zubair (2020). A Decade of Climate Services for Water Management in Maldives.

Technical Reports:

- Wickramagamage P., Zubair L., Nijamdeen A., Hadgie T., Kailaivasan T., Gunathilake C., Shakira F., Sathyendra D., Athawuda A. (2020) Project Report, STEM Education and Capacity Building in Southern Maldives, Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology (FECT).

CONFERENCES

Abbreviations for Conferences Referenced below:

- ICCS: International Conference on Climate Services, Pune, India, February 2020.
- STEM: International Workshop on 'Policy Making for Transforming Silo-Based Education to STEM

Education for Developing Countries', Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10-12 June, 2020

- AGU: American Geophysical Union Fall meeting – Online presentations, December 2020.

Abstracts:

- Chayana G., Ruchira L., Nijamdeen A., Zubair L., Michael B., (2020) Provision of Climate Advisory for Maldives for Disaster, Health and other Sectoral Management, ICCS.
- Shifaz. M., et.al., (2020) Advancing STEM Education in a Middle and High School in Remote Islands of the Maldives. STEM.
- Zubair, L., et.al., (2020) STEM Education in the Far-flung and Vulnerable small islands of Maldives. Can the Work of Scientists be beneficially harnessed? STEM.
- Nijamdeen A., Zubair L., Wickramagamage P., Shifaz M., Hadgie T., Gunatillaka C., (2020) STEM Education in the far flung and vulnerable islands of Maldives: Can the work of Scientists be beneficially harnessed? AGU.

e-poster presentations:

- Nijamdeen A., Zubair L., Wickramagamage P., Shifaz M., Hadgie T., Gunatillaka C., (2020) STEM Education in the far flung and vulnerable islands of Maldives: Can the work of Scientists be beneficially harnessed?, AGU Fall Meeting, e-poster session, 11th December 2020 (Link to poster-<https://agu2020fallmeeting-agu.ipostersessions.com/?s=B1-F5-87-AD-AC-14-0C-8B-60-BC-15-E0-2F-C1-4C-1B>)

MEETINGS / DISCUSSIONS

Internal Meetings:

- January 2020 – Project Review Meeting at the Old Trinitians' Sports Club, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Professor Jude Fernando participated for this event as a guest.
- January 2020 – Communication Workshop at Digana Village Resort, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Especially Mr. Nalaka Gunawardhana, Dr. Lalitha Dissanayake and Prof. P. Wickramagamage participated in this workshop.

External Meetings:

- February 2020 – Chayana Gunathilaka, The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) has teamed up with the Climate Services Partnership (CSP) to organize the Sixth International Conference on Climate Services, Pune, India.
- March 2020 – Piushani Ellegala, International Visitor Leadership program, Washington, USA.

- September 2020 – Climate Change Adaptation Project meeting. USAID project management specialists along with representatives of FECTMV and MNU participated in an online meeting.

Concept Notes:

- Response to Request for Information USAID/Maldives Climate Change Adaptation Project Reference Number: 2021, FECT and Earth Institute at Columbia University.
- Response to Request for Information USAID/Sri Lanka & Maldives Climate Change Adaptation Project Reference Number: 2021/A Hudha Ahmed, Aishath Afaaf, Mizna Mohamed, Shazla Mohamed, Lareef Zubair, Foundation for Environment, Climate and Technology-Maldives and Sri Lanka and Maldives National University, Male.

OPERATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICES

Disseminated our monthly climate assessments for Maldives by email and via social media. Dissemination of drought monitoring and automated climate report generation for Maldives were continued. Monthly Climate Advisories services available via our blog <http://fectmv.blogspot.com> and via social media.

COMMUNICATION

We maintained websites, social media and mailing lists

Institutional Documents:

- The Annual Progress report for 2019 was issued.

Brochures/ Flyers /Posters:

- Prepared flyers and Posters for STEM Project.
- Distributed flyers and posters for STEM Projects via our stem.climate.mv website and physically.

We maintained websites, social media and mailing lists

- Websites:** <http://www.tropicalclimate.org/maldives> www.climate.mv/ was setup for representing our work in the Maldives. stem.climate.mv/ was setup as a resource for middle school students and their educators.
- Blogs:** <http://fectsl.blogspot.com> and fectmv.blogspot.com are being regularly updated. <https://maldivesclimate.wordpress.com>
- Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/fectmv>
- Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/fectmv>
- Mailing List:** Subscription: <http://www.climate.lk/subscribe.html>

INSTRUMENTATION

Weather Instruments

We operated two automated weather stations (AWS) at Maathoda Island in Huvadho Atoll and Thinadhoo School. Weather data at our offices were taken every half an hour. .Link: <https://www.climate.mv/weather/>

Soil Moisture Instruments

The Solar power automated Soil moisture instrument was maintained in the Observatory of the Maldivian Meteorological Service in Hulhule, Maldives.

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