

## Coastal protection at Gn. Fuvahmulah, Maldives

The Republic of Maldives is composed of live coral reefs and sand bars forming 1,192 small, low-lying islands grouped in 26 atolls, forming a chain over 820 kilometres in length in the Indian Ocean. The islands are mostly flat, with very low elevation of hardly 1.5 meters above the sea level. They are surrounded by coral reefs which protect them from the impact of strong waves (UNDP, 2006).

The island of Gn. Fuvahmulah, an atoll type of coral island is one of the most southern islands of the Maldives, just south of the equator. It is a single reef-top island, formed on a raised oceanic atoll and is the third largest island in the Maldives. This rare combination means that Fuvahmulah is unique in the Maldives and supports a diverse range of habitats including tropical woodlands and wetlands, freshwater lakes, large areas of well-vegetated marshland with fertile soils and coralline sandy beaches.

The coast of Fuvahmulah is not protected by a large coastal reef flat where incoming waves are breaking. As a result, the coast of Fuvahmulah is heavily exposed to swell waves and is experiencing severe erosion and flooding problems.

A consortium of Royal HaskoningDHV and TechForce Innovations are developing solutions to ensure significant increased coastal protection at Fuvahmulah. The consortium is focusing on locations where the urgency is largest and where relatively limited measures can have a significant impact on the local protection against flooding due to possible sea level rise and the ongoing erosion.



The project is funded by the [Facility for Infrastructure Development \(ORIO\)](#) carried out by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A Grant Arrangement between the government of the Republic of the Maldives and the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been signed in December 2014.

TechForce Innovations is responsible for project structuring and development; writing and submitting detailed project plans; communication with project donor; developing a financing plan (including acceptable financing options for subsequent phases of the project); calculating financial analyses of the project; assist in overall project coordination between project partners and stakeholders; overall project administration.

For more information on this project, please contact Steven Gajadin, [s.gajadin@innovations.nl](mailto:s.gajadin@innovations.nl)

### News items on this project:

[Grant Agreement signed between the Government of Maldives and the Government of Netherlands](#)

[Netherlands Enterprise Agency publication: Coastal Protection at Gn. Fuvahmulah](#)

[Royal HaskoningDHV protects Maldives Islands against flooding and coastal erosion](#)

[Royal HaskoningDHV and TechForce Innovations contracted for coastal protection project in Maldives](#)

[TechForce Innovations interviewed by Netherlands Enterprise Agency \(Dutch only\)](#)



The project aims to provide the population on Fuvahmulah with a safe and healthy environment to live and work in and provide a sustainable stable basis for further socio-economic development, as without intervention, the island is threatened in its existence.