

TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY INTERNSHIP

**Marine Research and High Education Centre
Magoodhoo Island - Faafu Atoll – Maldives**

Maldives

UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO BICOCCA
FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE MATEMATICHE, FISICHE E NATURALI

TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY INTERNSHIP

Marine Research and High Education Centre
Magoodhoo Island - Faafu Atoll – Maldives

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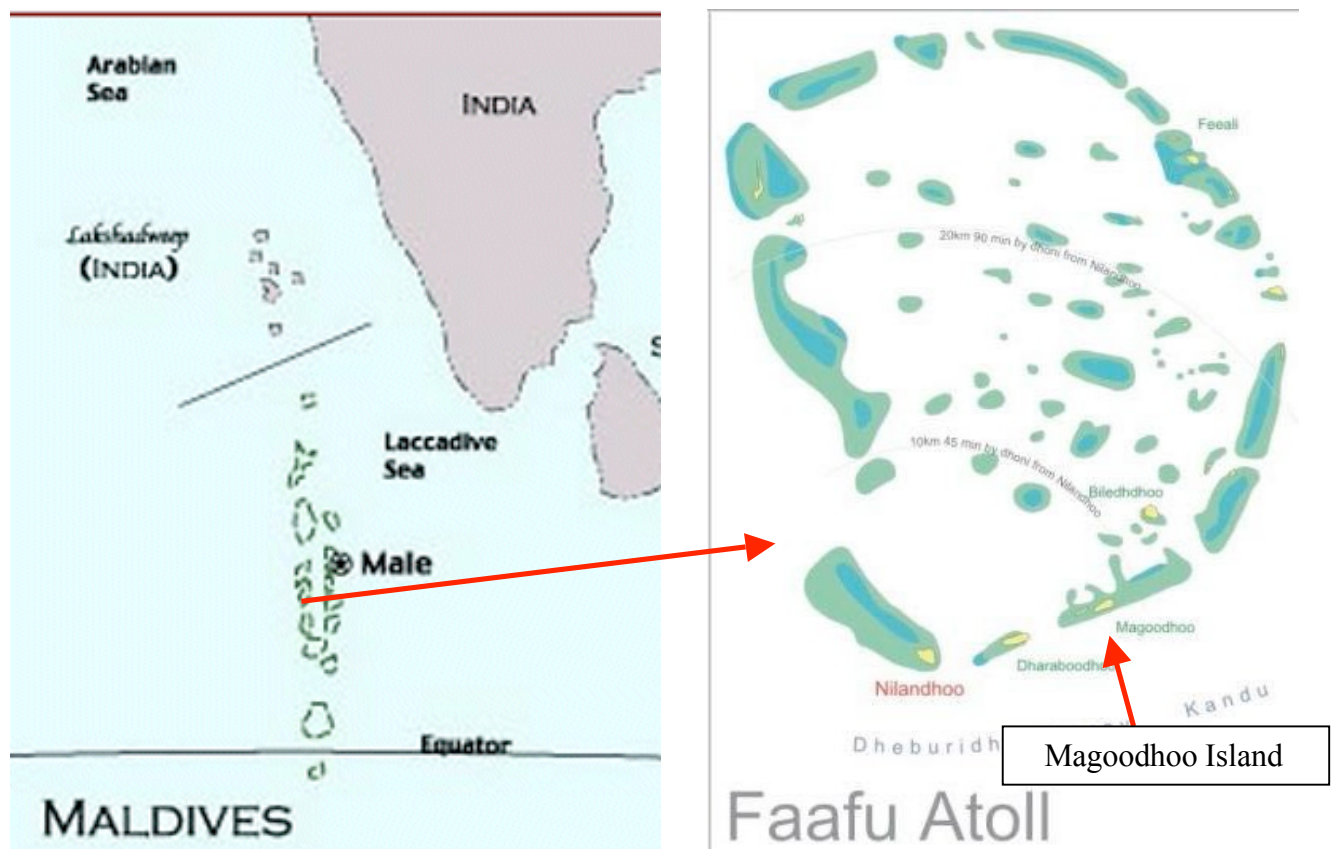


INTRODUCTION

The *workshop* will take place on Magoodhoo island, Faafu Atoll, Maldives, about three hours by speedboat from Malè airport. The logistic base for the workshop activities is the Marine Research and High Education Centre (MaRHE Centre) 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 provide a basic theoretical and practical training about some aspects concerning the formation and the ecology of one of the richest and most interesting tropical marine ecosystems in the world: the *coral reefs*. In addition, two other coastal ecosystems closely associated with coral reefs will be considered: sea grassbeds and mangroves.

THE TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY INTERNSHIP

The course will be divided into a series of lessons and field activities coordinated by well-known Italian researchers with work experience in the tropical marine field. Lessons will be held at the Marine Research and High Education Centre. All field activities in the sea will be carried out in *snorkelling* and in any case it is not expected throughout the course that students plunge with diving equipment.



TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

- Day 1** Departure from airport to Malé, Maldives
- Day 2** Arrival to Malé International Airport, Maldives
Transfer by speed boat to Magoodhoo Island
Arrival in Magoodhoo island and accommodation
Dinner
Briefing concerning the following day's activities
- Day 3** **9.00** Snorkelling and water skills test
10.30 *Briefing* concerning any possible problem or curiosity.
Discussion regarding the observations collected on field
12.30 Lunch
14.30 INSULARITY'S ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
16.30 SYSTEMATIC OF CORAL REEF ZOOBENTHOS
18.00 NONDESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING TECHNIQUES FOR THE CORAL COMMUNITIES SURVEY
19.00 Dinner
21.00 *Briefing* concerning the following day's activities
- Day 4** **8.30** Guidance and observations on the morphology, sediments and benthos of Magoodhoo coastal marine environment. Visual sampling along transects (BIONOMIC TRANSECT)
12.30 Lunch
14.30 Discussion and return of data collected on field
16.30 CORALS SYMBIOSIS
18.00 CORALS DISEASES
19.30 Dinner
21.00 *Briefing* concerning the following day's activities
- Day 5** **8.30** Visual sampling along transects (*POINT INTERCEPT TRANSECT* E LINE INTERCEPT TRANSECT)
12.30 Lunch
14.30 Discussion and return of data collected on field
17.00 BIOGEOGRAPHY OF REEF FISHES

18.30 INTRODUCTION TO THE MAIN FAMILIES OF CORAL REEF BONY FISHES: ECOLOGY AND IDENTIFICATION ON FIELD

20.00 Dinner

21.00 *Briefing* concerning the following day's activities

Day 6

9.00 Visual sampling along transects for the ichthyic fauna survey (*FISH BELT TRANSECT*)

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Discussion and return of data collected on field

16.30 CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

18.30 INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS

19.30 Dinner

21.00 *Briefing* concerning the following day's activities

Day 7

9.30 PRACTICE TEST ((Students, divided in groups, will perform independently, on the basis of the knowledge acquired, a task on field entrusted to them)

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Return of data collected and arrangement of results

18.30 Presentation of work done and final judgments

20.30 Dinner

Day 8

8.30 excursion to Adhanga island and its uncontaminated reef

17.1 Reentry

Day 9

Departure from Malè airport to Airport of final destination

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

USEFUL INFORMATIONS

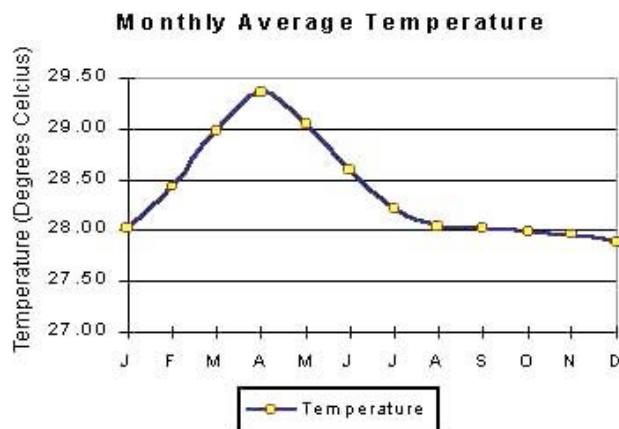
DOCUMENTS

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

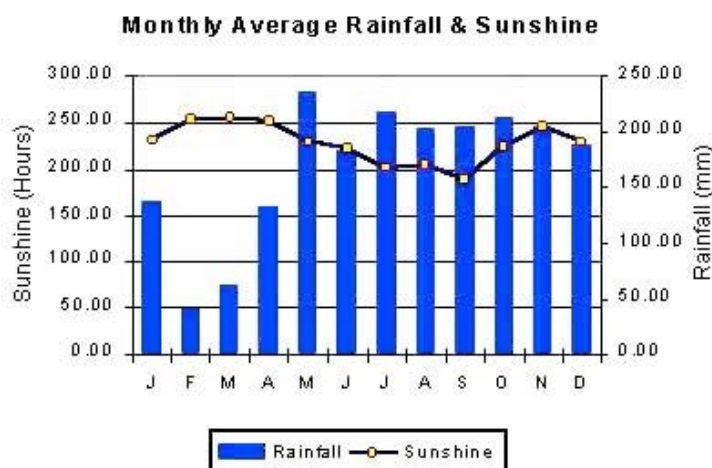
CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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.



Monthly air temperature (°C) recorded in Maldives



Monthly averages of sunny and rainy hours recorded in Maldives

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 = 16 rufyiaa ;

1 dollar = 13 rufyiaa;

10 rufyiaa = 0,6 euro;

100 rufyiaa = 6 euro;

10 rufyiaa = 0,8 dollars;

100 rufyiaa = 8 dollars