

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Provision of Visual Documentation Services for Climate Change Adaptation in the Maldives

February 2026

Background

The NAP process is a strategic process that enables countries to identify and address their medium- and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change. Led by national governments, the NAP process involves analyzing current and future climate change and assessing vulnerability to its impacts. This provides a basis for identifying and prioritizing adaptation options, implementing these options, and tracking progress and results. Importantly, the NAP process puts in place the systems and capacities needed to make adaptation an integral part of a country's development planning, decision making and budgeting while ensuring it is ongoing practice rather than a separate ad hoc exercise.

The Government of Maldives, through the Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, is advancing national efforts to address the impacts of climate change through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, with technical and strategic support from partners including the NAP Global Network.

Climate change poses significant and increasing risks to the Maldives, particularly across priority sectors such as coastal protection, fisheries, health, water security, and livelihoods. At the same time, important adaptation and resilience-building efforts are underway at national and island levels. Documenting these impacts and responses in a clear, compelling, and locally grounded manner is critical to strengthening understanding, informing decision-making, and supporting national and international reporting and advocacy.

High-quality photographic documentation is an essential communication tool to visually convey climate risks, adaptation actions, and community-level resilience in the Maldives. Such visuals support policy briefings, technical reports, donor engagement, and public communication products related to climate change adaptation.

In this context, the Climate Change Department along with support from the NAP Global Network, seeks to commission a professional photographer to produce a curated set of photographs that capture climate change impacts and adaptation responses across priority sectors, for use in CCD and NAP Global Network briefings, reports, and knowledge products.

Objective

The primary objective of this assignment is to develop a comprehensive visual evidence base that illustrates the climate change landscape in the Maldives. The consultancy will focus on documenting:

- **Climate Realities:** High-resolution visual records of observed and emerging climate impacts across the archipelago.
- **Resilience in Action:** Strategic documentation of adaptation initiatives and resilience-building efforts currently being implemented across key priority sectors.

The photographs will be used to strengthen CCD and NAP Global Network communications, including policy briefings, reports, presentations, and knowledge products related to the NAP process and climate adaptation planning.

Scope of Work

The selected photographer will work closely with the Climate Change Department (CCD), the in-country advisor, and the NAP Global Network Secretariat (IISD) to plan and deliver a targeted photography assignment. The scope of work will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following tasks:

A. Assignment Planning

- Participate in an inception meeting with CCD to agree on the thematic focus, priority sectors, geographic coverage, and key messages to be captured through photography.
- Develop a short photography plan outlining proposed locations, themes, subjects, and a shooting schedule.

B. Photographic Documentation

Capture high-quality photographs that profile climate change impacts and adaptation actions in the Maldives, with a focus on priority sectors such as:

- Coastal protection and erosion management
- Fisheries and marine ecosystems
- Public health and climate-related health risks
- Water security and infrastructure
- Agriculture and food security
- Early Warning and Systemic Observation
- Livelihood based activities with cultural significance
- Community-based adaptation and local resilience initiatives
- Climate adaptive infrastructure including but not limited to:
 - Heat-resilient buildings and urban designs
 - Climate-responsive building designs
 - Adaptation of buildings to extreme heat

Photographs should reflect a balance of:

- Environmental and landscape imagery
- Infrastructure and adaptation measures
- Community members and local actors (with appropriate consent)
- Action-oriented visuals that illustrate resilience-building in practice

The photographer shall ensure informed consent is obtained for all identifiable individuals featured in the photographs.

C. Post-Production and Curation

- Edit and post-process selected photographs to professional standards.
- A curated set of 150 professionally edited photographs, with captions, meeting the technical specifications outlined in the TOR.
- All photographs shall be provided at a minimum resolution of 4000 pixels on the long side, suitable for use in both printed publications and digital media, in high-quality JPEG format with minimal compression.
- Provide accurate captions and short contextual descriptions for each final image, including location, sector, and relevance to climate adaptation.

Deliverables and Timeline

Deliverable	Description	Indicative Due Date
Photography plan	Brief plan outlining themes, locations, and schedule. If the photographs are from an existing archive of the photographer, must indicate location and date as well.	Within 1 week of signing contract
Draft Photoset	Initial selection of edited photographs submitted for review – thematically categorised	Within 4 weeks of signing contract
Final Photo Package	Final curated set of photographs with captions, incorporating feedback	Within 6 weeks of signing contract

Reporting and Coordination

- The consultant will work technically with the Climate Change Division (CCD) and the in-country advisor.
- For contractual and administrative matters, the consultant will report to the NAP Global Network Secretariat (IISD).
- Feedback will be consolidated and channelled through the project team to avoid parallel review streams.

Intellectual Property and Usage Rights

All photographs produced under this assignment will become the property of the contracting entity.

The Climate Change Department and its partners, including the NAP Global Network, will have full, non-exclusive rights to use the photographs for non-commercial purposes, including reports, presentations, publications, websites, and social media, with appropriate photographer credit where applicable.

Required Qualifications

- Proven professional experience in documentary, environmental, or development photography
- Experience working on climate change, environmental, or community-based projects (preferably in the Maldives or similar contexts)
- Strong ability to tell stories through visual imagery
- Technical proficiency in digital photography and post-production
- Ability to work collaboratively with government and development partners
- Ability to deliver within a short timeframe

Application Process

To apply for this consultancy, please submit the following materials to: info@napglobalnetwork.org

- A short cover letter outlining relevant experience
- A portfolio of previous photography work (links or PDF)
- CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Proposed fee for the assignment

In your application, please clearly demonstrate how you meet the qualifications listed above.

Application Deadline: February 16, 2026 (4PM, Male Time)

Location: The assignment will be based in the Maldives, with travel to selected islands as required.

Expected Start Date: February 20, 2026

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