Legal & Policy Issues Impacting Data Sharing and Dissemination in the MALDIVES

Mohamed Shafee
Maldives Land and Survey Authority

About Maldives
- 1192 coral islands
- 26 geographic atolls
- 860 km long 120 km wide
- Area 300 sqkm
- Lowest country 1.5m above sea level
Functions of Maldives Land and Survey Authority

- Land management and Land Cadastre
- Cadastral Survey system and regulation
- National Mapping
- National Geographic Information System

Major Geospatial data creators in the government

- Maldives Land and Survey Authority
  - Topographic Maps, Land Cadastre, Imagery
- Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure
  - Infrastructure Project Surveys, Reclamation Surveys
- Ministry of Environment
  - Environmental Zoning, Marine Protected areas
Key policy issues impacting data sharing

- Data shared through bilateral agreements between agencies. Working on a common spatial data sharing policy
- Common metadata standards being worked out
- Data sharing platform needs to be expanded to include other agencies (NGIS)

Key legal issues

- Legal framework needed for geospatial data creation and sharing
- Privacy protection in relation to personal data
Challenges

- 190 separate islands. Data collection difficulty due to this

- Completing the national land cadastre. Hardcopy land registries, not consistent surveys carried out. Need surveying Precision requirement because of small plots and plots adjacent to each other.

- Integration of statistical data with geospatial information for decision makers and planners

Thank you