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2022 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF)

Day 1 – 01 August 2022 ✨ Kurumba, Maldives

Purpose: To increase understanding of climate security challenges for defense forces in the Indo-Pacific and discuss potential regional solutions. To introduce the Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) working groups—Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy—and develop Three-Year Plans for each working group.

Highlights

- Over 145 participants from 23 countries and organizations were in attendance for IPESF Day 1.
- The IPESF was opened by BG Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef, Vice Chief of Defence Force, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), BG Gavin Gardner, Director of Logistics and Engineering, USINDOPACOM, and H.E. Faisal Naseem, Vice President of Maldives.
- USINDOPACOM moderated the *Climate Security Challenges and Defence Forces* theme, with presentations delivered on climate change, climate policy, and climate security risk management.
- Mr. Christopher Sholes, USINDOPACOM J445, introduced the Working Group Three-Year Plan development sessions as part of the Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP).
- Participants contributed to Three-Year Plans for the Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy Working Groups.
- MNDF hosted an evening Icebreaker led by Chief of Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal.



Vice President of the Maldives His Excellency Faisal Naseem provides inaugural remarks (top left). Brigadier Todd Ashurst (Australia) delivers a presentation on climate change challenges for Defense Forces (top right). Maldivian dancers perform at the opening ceremony (bottom right). IPESF participants watch the opening remarks from Brigadier General Gavin Gardner (bottom left).



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2022 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF)

Day 2 – 02 August 2022 ✨ Kurumba, Maldives



Purpose: To raise awareness of environmental security concerns specific to small island states and best practices being executed in the Indo-Pacific. To highlight environmental security considerations and projects within Maldives, which can be applied in partner nations.

Highlights

- Brigadier General Wais Waheed, Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), led the *Small Island Nations Concerns* theme.
- The morning sessions featured multiple speakers focusing on protected areas, waste management, youth environmental education, and fire management.
- The Under-Secretary at the Maldivian President's Office, Dr. Aishath Shafina, spoke on the changing role of women in environmental management, leading toward full involvement in decision making.
- Participants engaged in a lively panel session on the day's topics, to include Women, Peace and Security.
- Participants toured K. Huraa island to visit sites projects addressing environmental security: Mangrove Area Protection, Waste Management, Eroding Coastlines, and Power & Desalination Plant operations.



Ms. Celina Agaton discusses Open Knowledge Kit; locally led solutions to gender, jobs and climate challenges



Ms. Muhsina Abdul Rahman speaks about protected areas in the Maldives – opportunities & challenges



Group Photo

Participants view the waste management area (L) and water treatment at K. Huraa (R)



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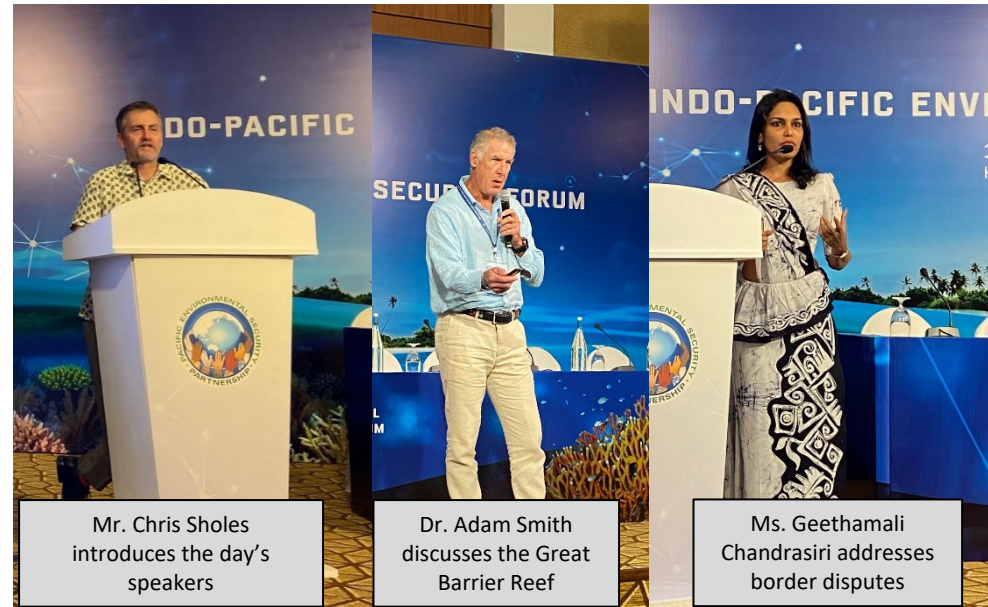
2022 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF)

Day 3 – 03 August 2022 ✨ Kurumba, Maldives

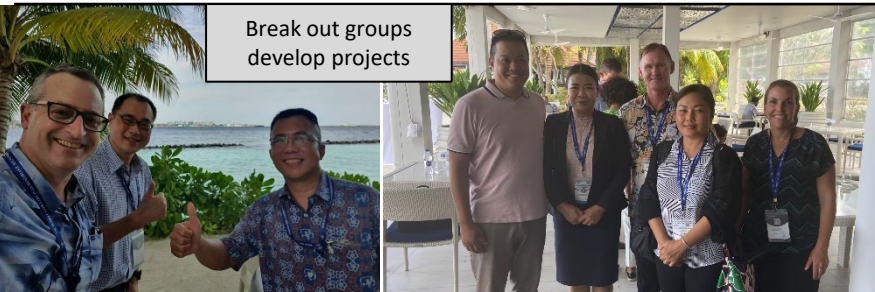
Purpose: To feature multilateral approaches to achieving ocean and water security in the Indo-Pacific and discuss enhanced regional collaboration to tackle myriad threats, including ocean pollution, climate change, and overfishing. To allow participants to submit environmental security project concepts.

Highlights

- Mr. Christopher Sholes, USINDOPACOM J445, led the *Ocean and Water Security* theme.
- Presenters delivered multilateral perspectives to the plenary, including Australian National University, MNDF Coast Guard, Reef Ecologic, Coral Triangle Center, Sri Lanka Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Arizona State University, and IPB University.
- Facilitators met individually with each country for Working Group Project Development Sessions.
- Countries and organizations submitted future environmental security project ideas for consideration.
- The Minister of Defence, Uza. Mariya Ahmed Didi, hosted an Official Dinner for all participants.



Break out groups develop projects



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2022 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF)

Day 4 – 04 August 2022 ✨ Kurumba, Maldives

Purpose: To showcase climate change solutions from around the Indo-Pacific region, share 3-year Working Group Plans with all participants, and allow participants to deliver after-action review comments on the 2022 IPESF.

Highlights

- State Minister Khadeeja Naseem, Maldives Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology, led the *Climate Change Impacts and Solutions* theme.
- NGOs and military agencies presented innovative climate change solutions in Maldives, Bhutan, US, and regional initiatives, followed by an interactive panel discussion.
- Education, Policy, Networking, and Mitigation Working Group Leads presented their revised Three-Year Plans.
- Sri Lanka presented their proposal to host the 2023 IPESF.
- Participants submitted 2022 IPESF After-Action Review comments, and complete the survey.
- The IPESF closing ceremony was led by Minister of Environment Ms. Aminath Shauna and Mr. Gabriel Grau, USAID Mission Director for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.



Dr. Lee Bint and WGCDR Trev Hammond discuss the carbon footprint of the IPESF and carbon offset initiatives



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2022 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF) 01-04 August 2022 (Summary)

Purpose: To advance environmental security in the Indo-Pacific region, while sharing environmental best practices and lessons learned, shaping bilateral and multilateral cooperation, identifying future environmental security projects, and developing Three-Year Plans for the four Working Groups under the Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP).

Highlights

- The IPESF was successfully executed in partnership with the Maldivian Defense Force (MNDF). Attendees included 140 participants from 22 countries and 18 organizations.
- Speakers from military, civilian, and non-governmental organizations presented on regional topics under four main themes: *Climate Security and Challenges for Defense Forces*; *Small Island Nation Concerns*; *Ocean and Water Security*; and *Climate Change Impacts and Solutions*.
- The four Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) working groups (Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy) incorporated participant feedback into 3-year plans, which are aimed at continual participant engagement throughout the year.
- A list of over 44 environmental security projects was formulated and will be considered for support under the PESP. To make the 2022 IPESF a carbon neutral event, INDOPACOM agreed to fund a project in the Maldives, to which a mangrove restoration project was proposed.
- Maldives highlighted their extreme vulnerabilities to climate change.
- The Sri Lanka Navy presented their proposal to host the 2023 IPESF.



BG Gardner and BG Ashurst present gifts to the K.Huraa 7th graders



H. E. Faisal Naseem, Vice President of Maldives delivers opening remarks



PESF Partners listen to a presentation

Partners engage at the ice breaker



Panelists answer questions on Day 3



Partners focus in a breakout group



IPESF Group Photo