

Airport and Hotel Project Fainu Island, Maldives

SAVE MALDIVES 2020

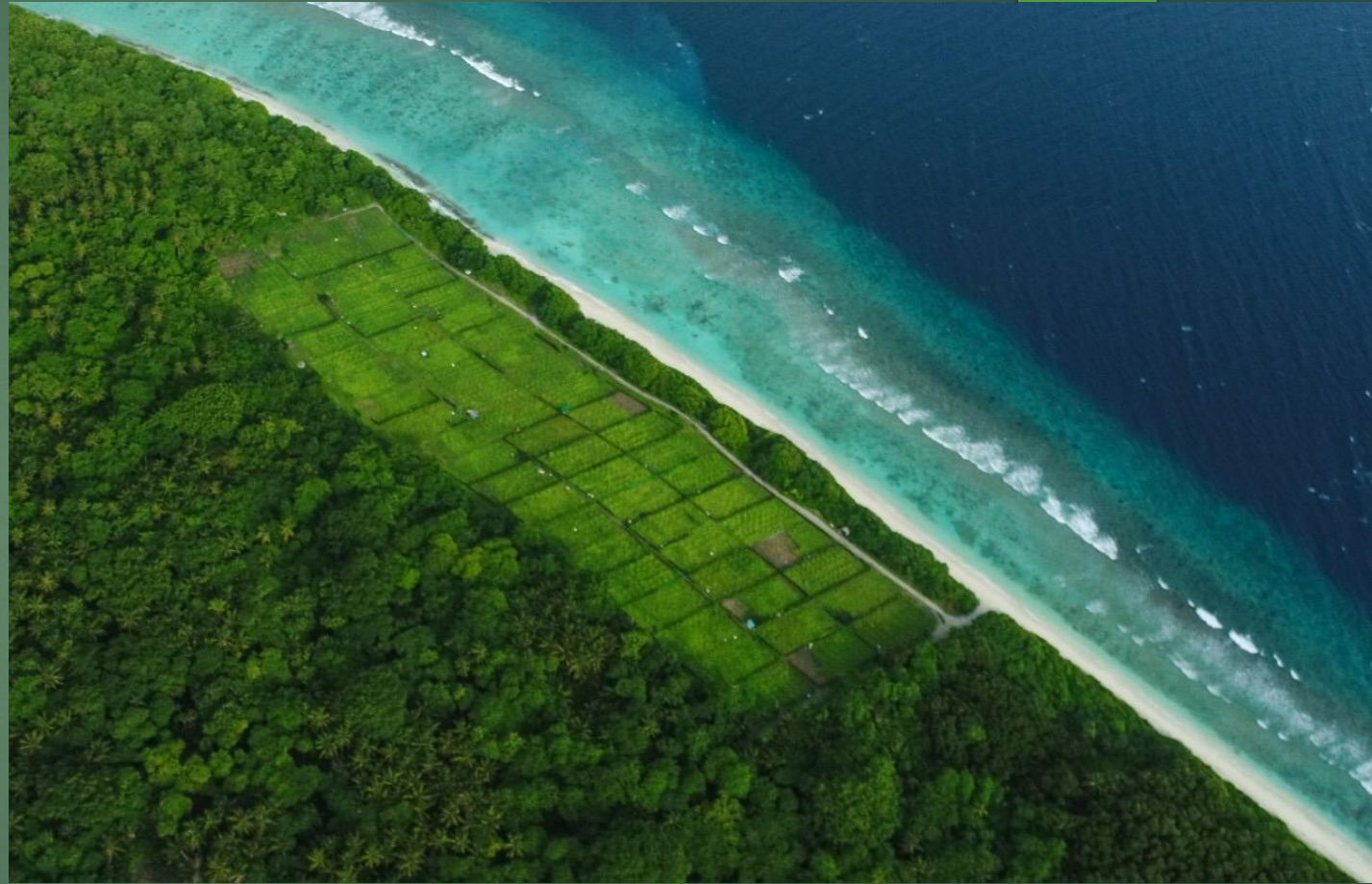




Image Source: Maldives Independent



Fainu Airport Concept Layout

Project Details

- ▶ Universal Enterprises, one of the largest hospitality companies in the Maldives operating several resorts in Raa Atoll, was proposed to finance Fainu Airport through bulk purchase of advance sales of air tickets.
- ▶ In May 2018 Island Aviation Services, owner and operator of Maldivian, the government-owned largest carrier in the Maldives, was awarded the US\$8 million contract to develop and operate the airport.
- ▶ Construction of Fainu Airport was scheduled to begin in August 2018. The three-phase construction project was scheduled to be completed in 12 months.
- ▶ The total cost of the airport is estimated at MVR 120 million.



Actions taken

- ▶ Petitions were filed and submitted to the tourism ministry, Universal Enterprises and Island Aviation, and Environment Protection Agency on 3rd July 2018
- ▶ Public demonstrations
- ▶ Street protests



Image Source: Dying Regime



Image Source: Dying Regime



Image Source: Google



Image Source: Navaani

Who gets benefited from airport projects?

- ▶ Tourism industry big businesses and airport developers, & political parties.

Who is affected?

- ▶ The islands communities

How is the conflict dealt with?

- ▶ No official mechanisms in place

Outcomes

- ▶ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) done for the project was rejected by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 14th November 2018
- ▶ The new government decided not to proceed with Faniu Airport Project.
- ▶ Meanwhile the new government started developing other questionable airport projects in HA. Hoarafushi, SH. Funadhoo, LH. Madivaru, GD. Maavarulu, GDH. Faresmaathodha