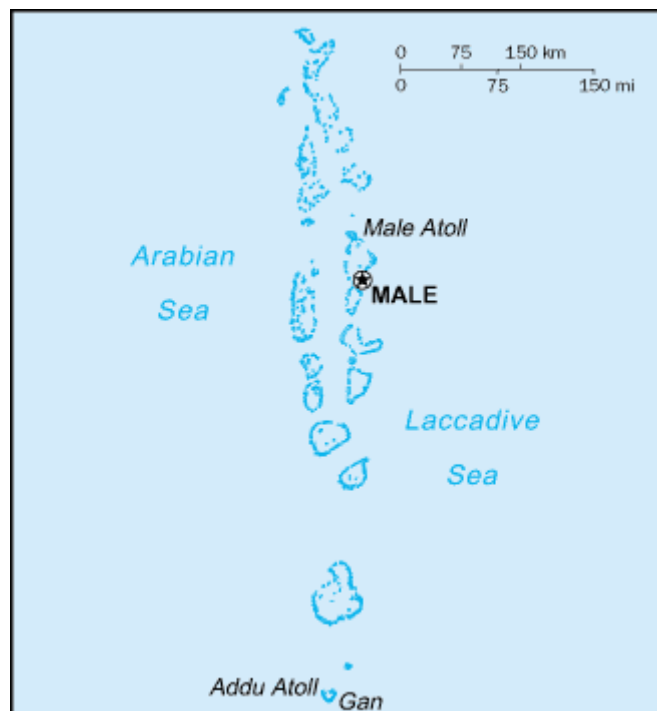


The Republic of Maldives (The Maldives)



Area	: Total: 300 sq km Land: 300 sq km
Population	: 369,031 (July 2007 est.)
Population growth rate	: 2.732% (2007 est.)
Languages	: Maldivian Dhivehi (dialect of Sinhala, script derived from Arabic), English spoken by most government officials
Religion	: Sunni Muslim
Ethnic groups	: South Indians, Sinhalese, Arabs
Climate	: tropical; hot, humid; dry, northeast monsoon (November to March); rainy, southwest monsoon (June to August)
Natural resources	: fish
Literacy rate	: Total population: 96.3% Male: 96.2% Female: 96.4% (2000 census)
Currency	: rufiyaa (MVR)

Time difference with Sri Lanka	: Subtract 30 minutes from SL's time
Main Cities	: Male (capital) 81,647 (2004)
GDP (PPP)	: \$1.25 billion (2002 est.)
GDP - real growth rate	: 18% (2006 est.)
GDP - per capita	: \$3,900 (2002 est.)
GDP – composition by sectors	: <i>Agriculture: 16%</i> : <i>Industry: 7%</i> : <i>Services: 77%</i> (2006 est.)
Exchange rate	: rufiyaa per US dollar - 12.8 (2006)
Major Industries	: tourism, fish processing, shipping, boat building, coconut processing, garments, woven mats, rope, handicrafts, coral and sand mining
Major Imports	: petroleum products, ships, foodstuffs, clothing, intermediate and capital goods
Major Suppliers	: Singapore 24.1%, UAE 15.7%, India 11.3%, Malaysia 7.2%, Sri Lanka 5.7%, UK 4.5% (2005)
Major Exports	: fish
Major Markets	: Japan 22.8%, Thailand 22.7%, Sri Lanka 16.4%, UK 12.6%, Singapore 5.8%, Germany 4.8%, France 4.3% (2005)