

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation

TRANSFORMING URBAN TRANSPORT IN THE MALDIVES

Sustainable Solutions to Urban Challenges

16th Regional EST Forum 10th to 12th December 2024



National Context and Strategic Importance

GEOGRAPHY- A UNIQUE CHALLENGE:

As a dispersed archipelago, the Maldives faces distinct mobility challenges, with Malé serving as the epicenter of economic and social activity .

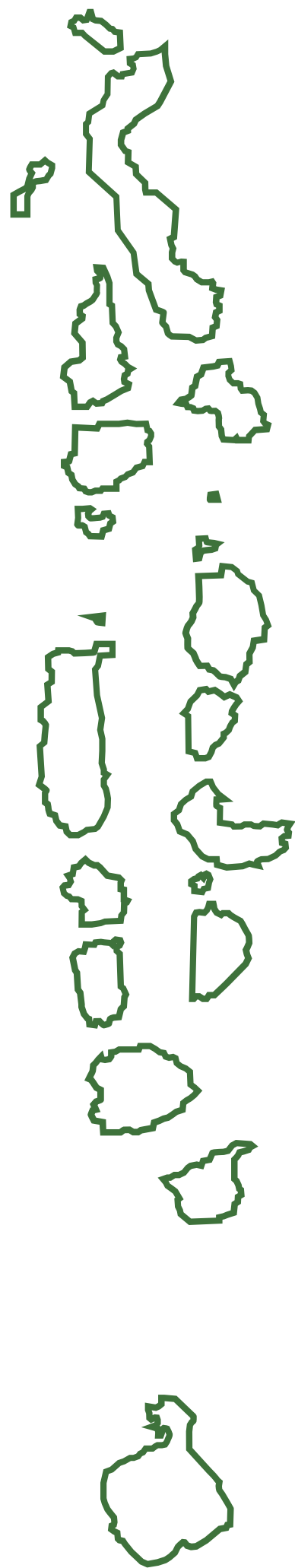
MIGRATION PATTERNS- URBANIZATION AND CENTRALIZATION :

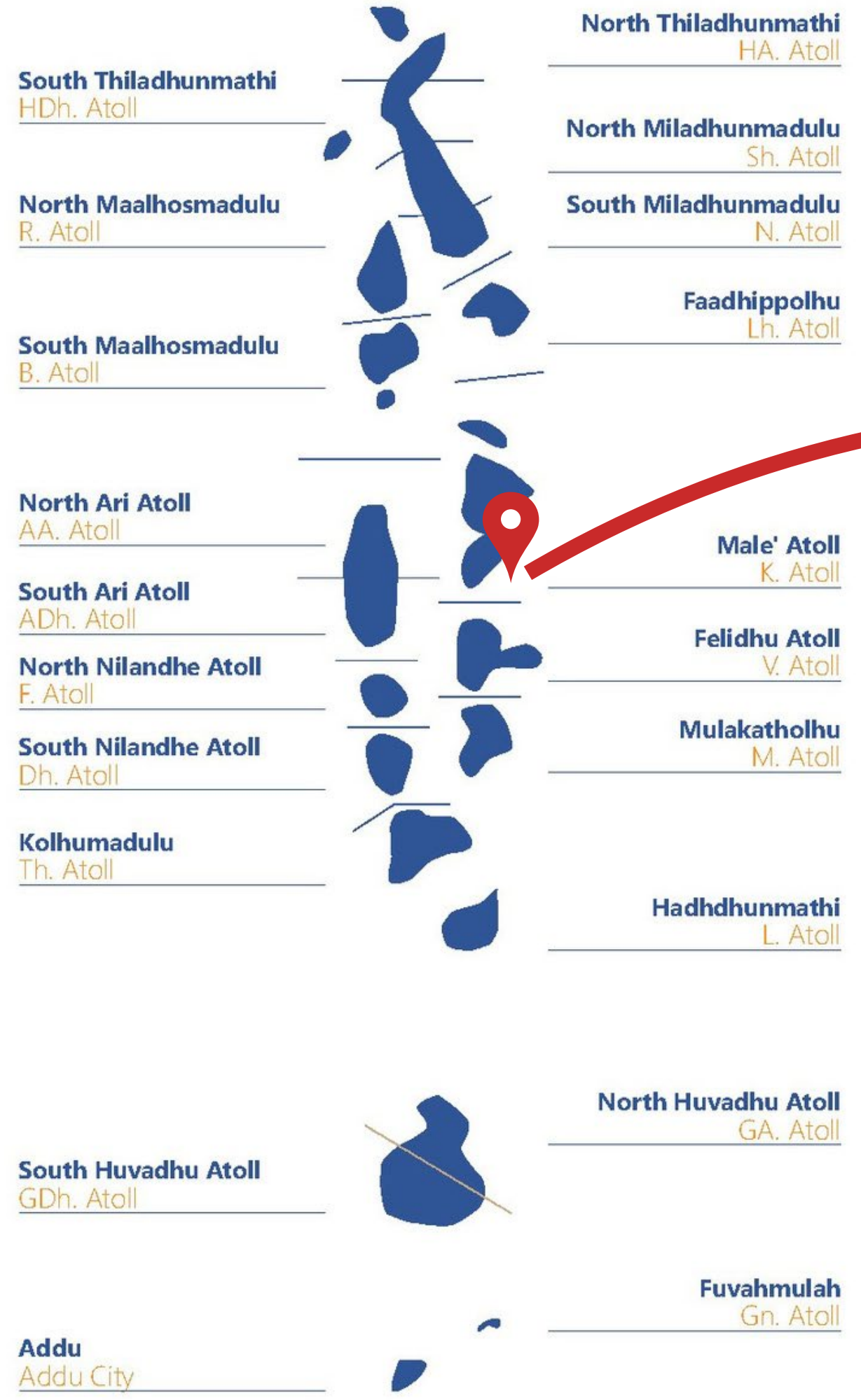
Migration from outer islands to Malé for better opportunities has created an over-reliance on the central region.

This centralization has strained urban infrastructure and service delivery, particularly in transport systems.

A HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENT :

The Government of the Maldives has prioritized sustainable transport solutions as a cornerstone of its national development strategy.

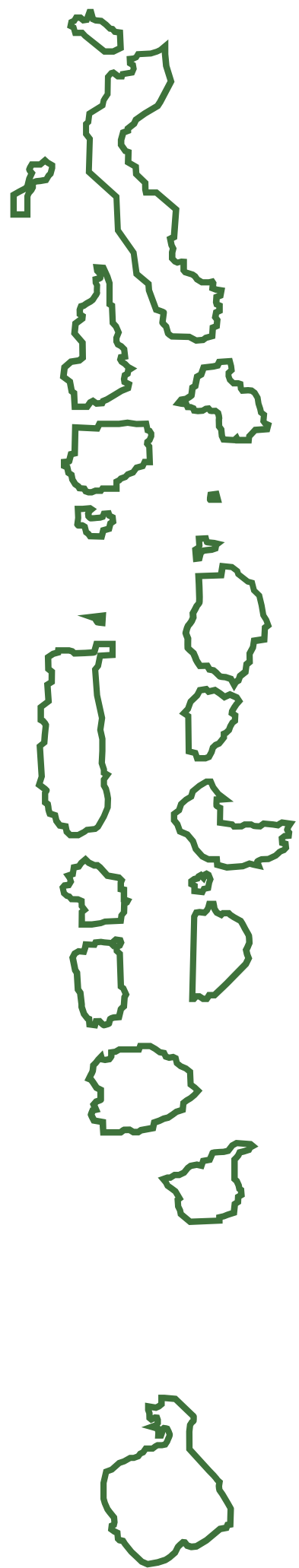




Male - The Capital



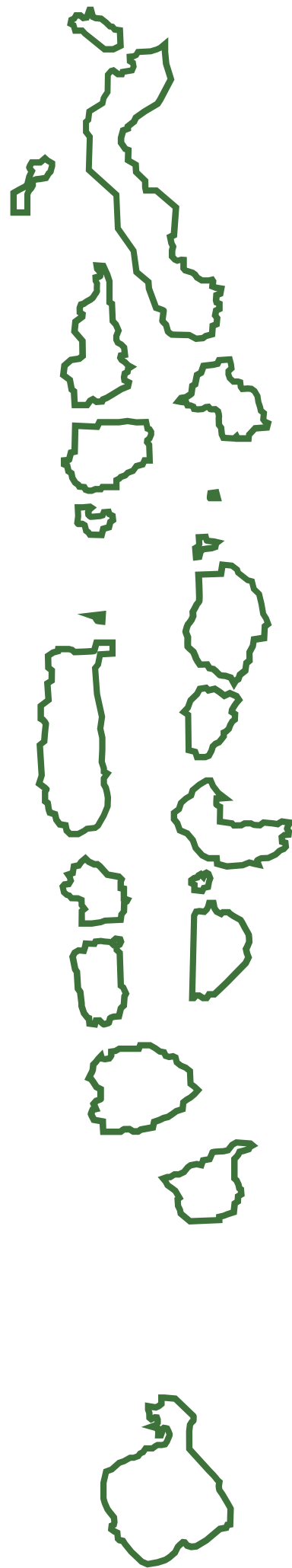
Most of the population and infrastructure concentrated in Malé, the limited land area leads to traffic congestion, narrow roads, and increased reliance on two-wheelers and compact vehicles.



Data from the Maldives Bureau of Statistics indicates that 50% of residents in the Malé area are originally from other atolls and islands, contributing to increased congestion and overcrowding.



Fig1 : Maldives Bureau of Statistics, Census Publication 2022: Population living in Malé from Other Atolls



The total road area in the Greater Malé Region is 390,000 m², with 64% of it occupied by vehicles.

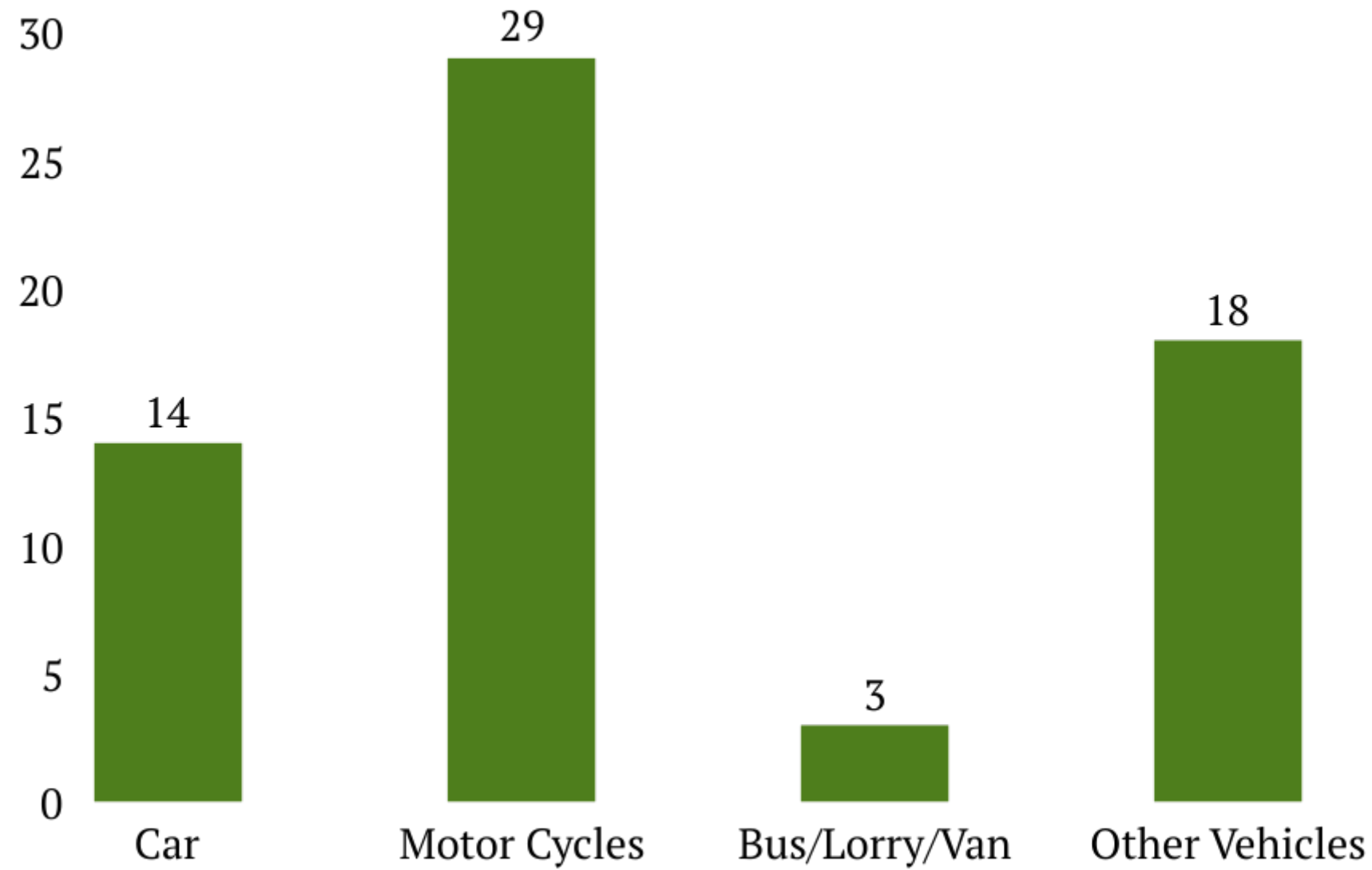
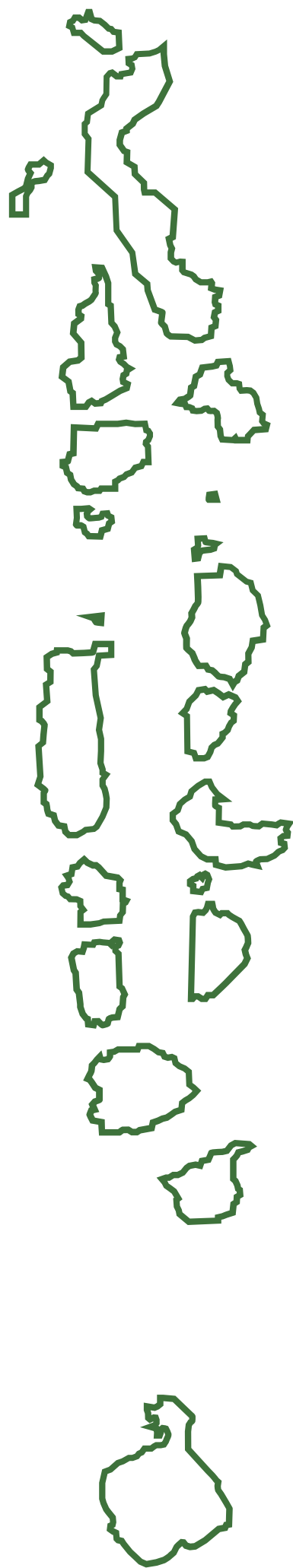


Fig. 2: Vehicle Type Occupancy of Road Area in the Greater Malé Region (Source: Malé Fahi Publication, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation)



MALÉ – THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF URBAN TRANSPORT TRANSFORMATION

POPULATION DENSITY AS A DRIVER OF REFORM:

Social housing projects in the central area have been necessary to address housing demand but have intensified congestion due to inadequate transport planning .

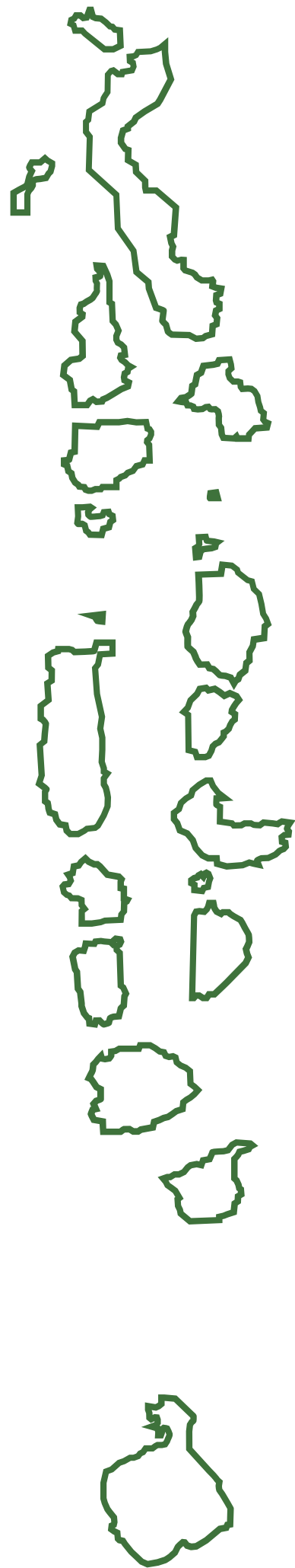
CRITICAL TRANSPORT CHALLENGES:

Public Transport Accessibility :
Insufficient fleet capacity and service inefficiencies .

Vehicle Density : Over 65% of Malé's land area is occupied by vehicles, a significant contributor to congestion and pollution .

Regulatory Gaps: The outdated Road Transport Act fails to address emerging urban mobility challenges.

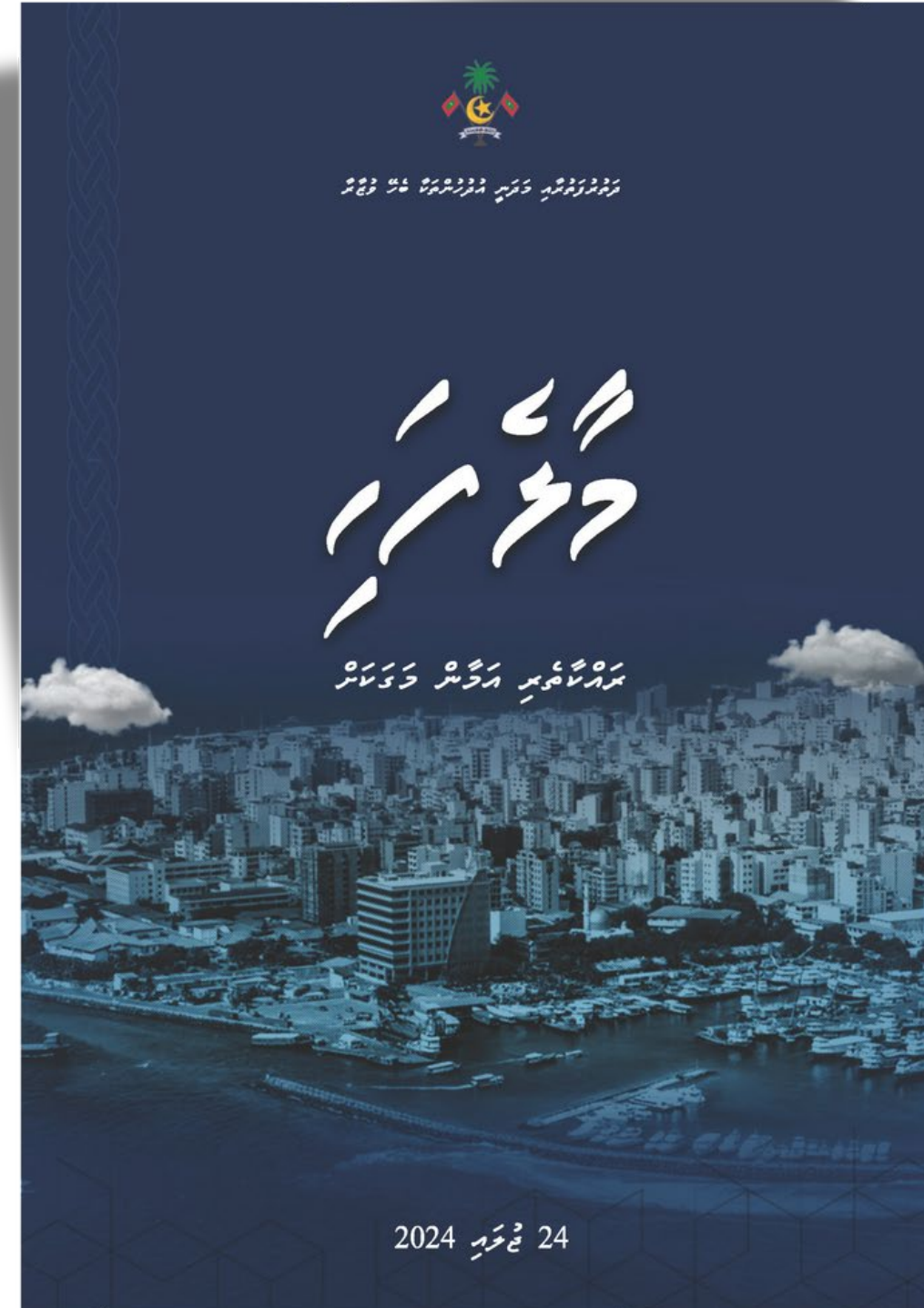




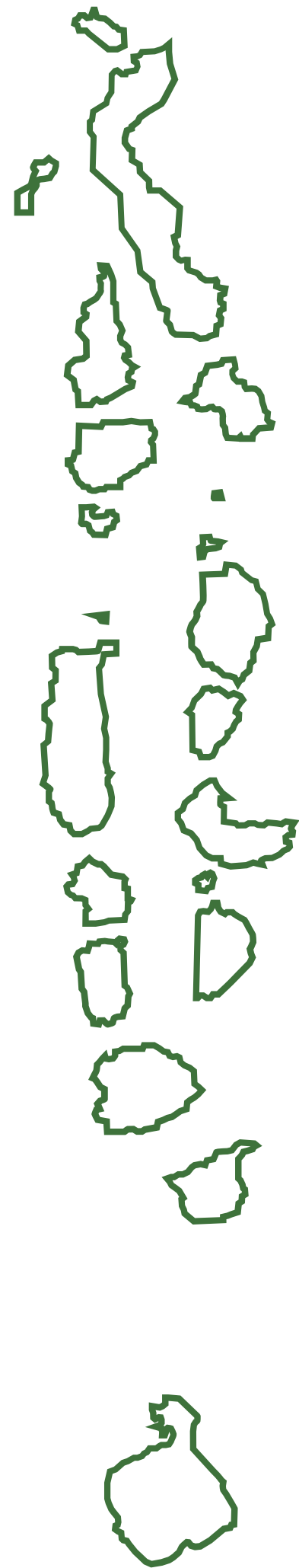
HIGH-IMPACT INITIATIVES FOR URBAN MOBILITY

COMPREHENSIVE URBAN DECONGESTION STRATEGY:

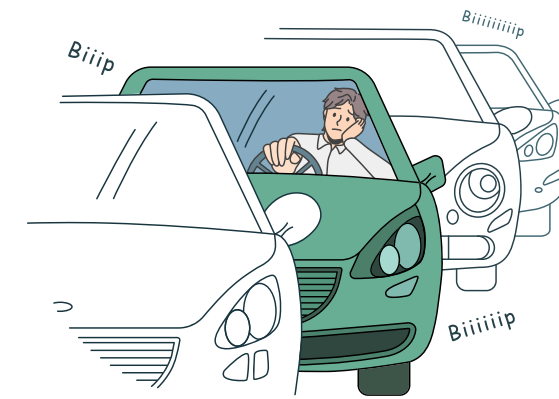
A multi-pronged approach focused on reducing congestion and enhancing mobility for all residents, including vulnerable groups.



HIGH-IMPACT INITIATIVES FOR URBAN MOBILITY



TRANSFORMATIVE VEHICLE CONTROL POLICIES
Carrying Capacity Declaration
Certificate of Entitlement (COE)



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENTS
Vehicles to reduce peak hour congestion and improve road access

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODERNIZATION
Transitioning to electric buses
Enhancing operational efficiency

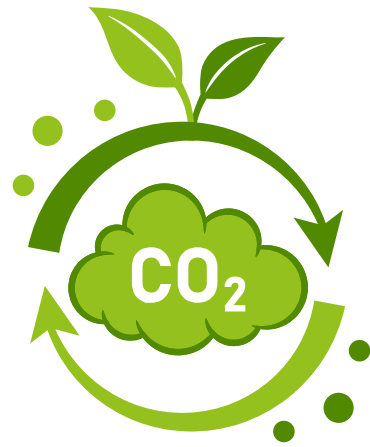


ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL VEHICLE SCRAPYARD
Environmentally responsible disposal and recycling of over aged vehicles

MODERNIZING LEGISLATION
To incorporate sustainable policies and innovative solutions.



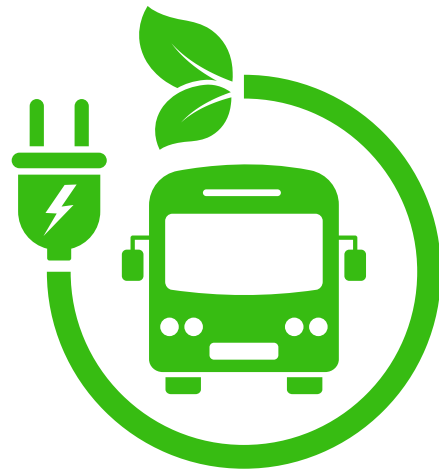
ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



EMISSION REDUCTION FRAMEWORK

Phasing out older vehicles through buy-back schemes and strict age limits.

Introducing mandatory emissions testing for imported vehicles.



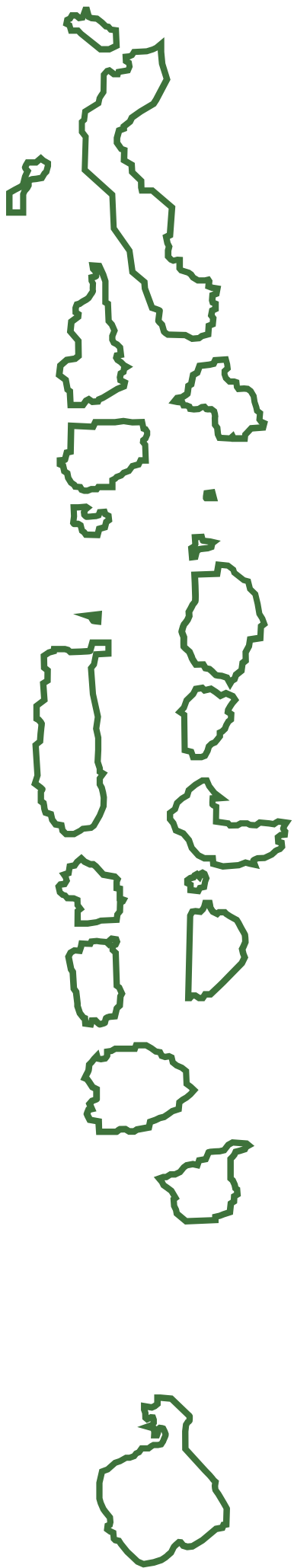
ELECTRIC PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRANSITION

Scaling up the adoption of electric buses to achieve long-term sustainability in urban mobility.

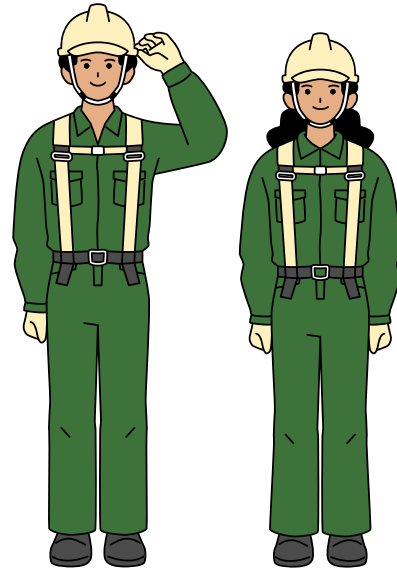


INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR VEHICLES

Operationalizing the national scrapyards to ensure safe recycling and disposal of obsolete vehicles.



DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



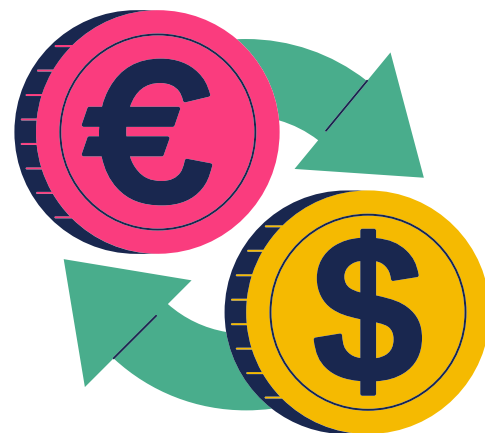
CATALYZING EMPLOYMENT

Infrastructure development, such as EV charging networks and scrapyards, is creating job opportunities .



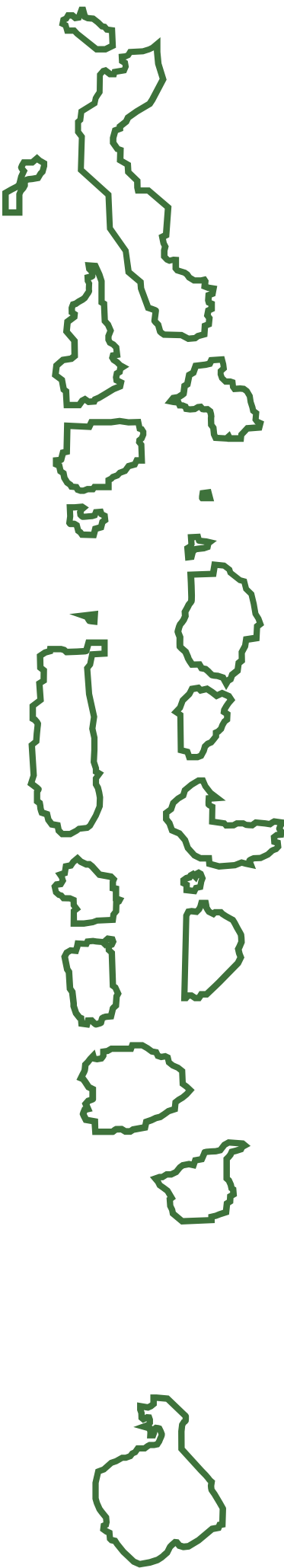
ESTRENGTHENING BUSINESSECOSYSTEMS

Enhanced urban mobility is improving logistics and access for local businesses



PRIVATE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Collaborate with private and foreign investors to fund public transport fleet expansion and develop essential ev infrastructure like charging stations .



CREATING INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE URBAN SPACES



REIMAGINING URBAN MOBILITY

Ensuring that public transport is reliable, efficient, and inclusive for all demographics.



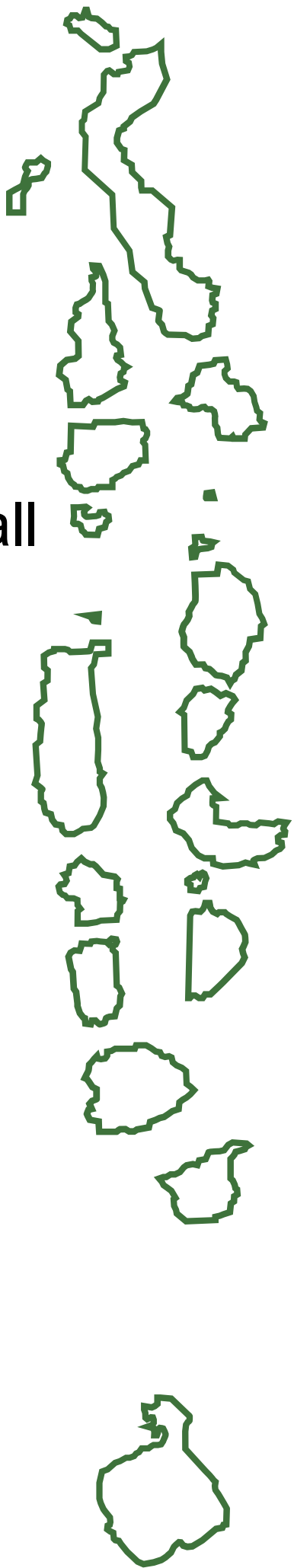
INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Prioritizing accessibility features in public transport for the elderly and persons with disabilities .



REDUCING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Limiting private vehicle use and enabling smoother, safer public and non-motorized transport .



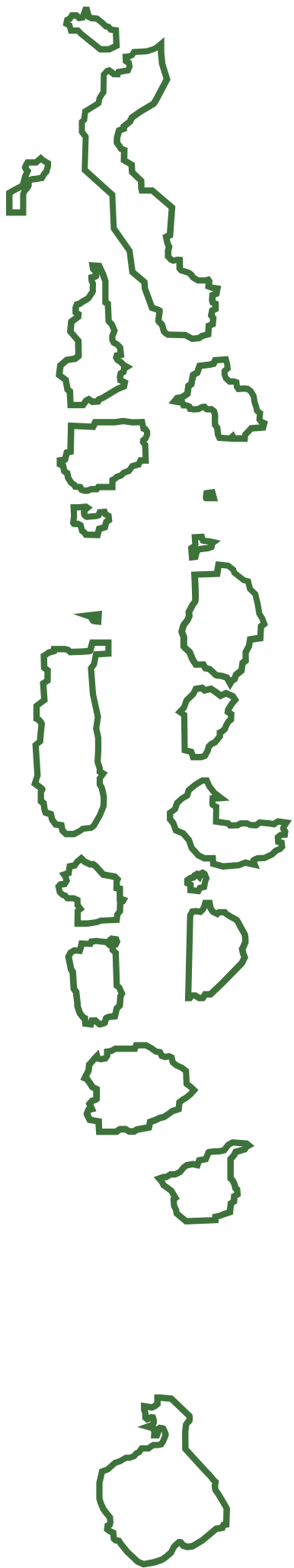
VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY - SHORT TERM

Implement Vehicle Control Policies : Fully operationalize the Carrying Capacity Declaration and introduce the Certificate of Entitlement (COE) system to cap vehicle registrations at sustainable levels by 2025.

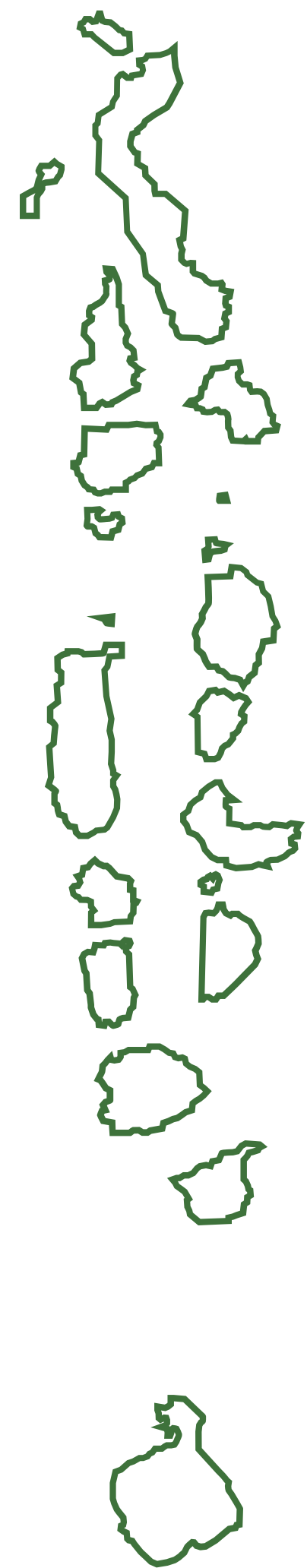
Develop Recycling Infrastructure : Establish the proposed national scrapyards with the capacity to recycle at least 80% of outdated vehicles removed through the buy-back program within two years.

Transition to an Electric Bus Fleet : Replace 50% of the existing fossil fuel bus fleet with electric buses by 2025 to reduce emissions, improve service reliability, and set the foundation for a fully electric fleet by 2030.

Reduce Road Coverage by Vehicles: Decrease vehicle-dominated land use in Malé to below 50% by improving pedestrian and public transport spaces.



VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY - LONG TERM



TRANSFORM MALÉ INTO A LIVABLE URBAN CENTER:

Reduce air pollution levels by 30% and traffic congestion by 50% by 2030 through integrated transport policies, greener public transit, and reduced private vehicle usage.



EXPAND AND MODERNIZE PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Fully transition to an electric bus fleet and increase service frequency to meet rising demand, achieving a 40% increase in ridership by 2030.



ENHANCE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY:

Ensure public transport services cater to 80% of demand by increasing bus routes, streamlining schedules, and introducing real-time tracking systems by 2027.



OPTIMIZE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT :

Introduce smart traffic management systems to ensure that goods and waste transportation do not interfere with daily public mobility by 2027.

REFERENCES

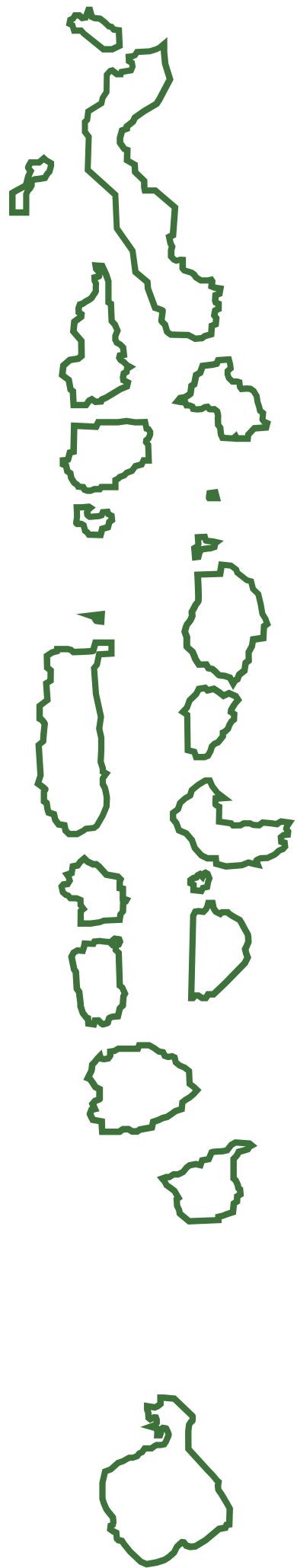
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MALDIVES

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