



Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Facilitating a conducive business environment

SDG: 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Project Area

Strengthening Support for Financing of Private Sector – Maldives Fund Management Corporation

Project Scope

Maldives Fund Management Corporation (MFMC) is an initiative of the Government to facilitate access to finance to the local private sector. MFMC has recently been established under Presidential Decree as a 100% state owned corporation.

A number of innovative business ideas and infrastructure projects remain at a standstill given obstacles to accessing funds through the conventional banking system, owing to high collateral requirements and other such regulatory conditions.

MFMC aims to launch investment funds for key sectors with developmental potential and facilitate financing of projects in these sectors. Through development of a portfolio of viable projects and project finance structures, the funds will seek investments from institutional investors and high net worth individuals both locally and abroad to buy stakes in the funds. Potential funds include:

- Maldives Tourism Development Fund
- Maldives Renewable Energy Fund

- Maldives Private Equity Fund
- Maldives SME Development Fund

The project seeks assistance in the initial set-up of the MFMC structure, developing business models/ project finance structures, providing technical support (fund managers) towards the launch of MFMC's initial funds through to securing funding. The project also seeks assistance in undertaking a review of the legal framework governing fund management and development of the necessary laws and regulations that are needed for efficient functioning.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Economic Development
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Maldives Fund Management Corporation
4. Maldives Monetary Authority
5. Capital Market Development Authority



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Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Establish key strategic infrastructure that will drive business growth and economic diversification.

SDG: 11.3 by 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Project Area

Addu Development Project



Project Scope

Addu City is the second-largest population base in the Maldives, located in the southernmost atoll of the country.

The city has 6 districts namely, Hithadhoo, Maradhoo-Feydhoo, Maradhoo, Feydhoo, Hulhudhoo and Meedhoo. The districts in Addu City are well-connected to one another through land links and/or regular ferry services.

Government intends to develop Addu City as the key trade and development hub in the south of the country, by supporting the development of key social and economic infrastructure.

The project includes the following key components:

- Reclaiming land for residential, commercial and industrial use (approximately 203 hectares)
- Reclaiming land (est. 25 Hectares) from 4 lagoons for expansion of tourism in the region.
- Constructing new roads, resurfacing and repair of current

road infrastructure and developing storm water drainage systems.

- Upgrading and increasing the capacity of Hithadhoo Regional Port.
- Upgrading the harbors of Maradhoo-Feydhoo and Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo
- Constructing housing units.
- Expanding the existing fisheries complex in Hulhudhoo-Meedhoo, upgrading the ice plant in Hithadhoo and establishing fish processing facilities
- Developing sports and social infrastructure such as youth centers, stadiums, rehabilitation center and Islamic center.
- Upgrading the powerhouse and power grid and increasing the share of renewable energy.
- Developing a convention center in Gan
- Constructing a Government office complex.
- Developing an Addu Nature Park and gardens
- Establishing a Climate Research Facility
- Developing a museum and Cultural Village

Total project cost: USD 414 Million

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Economic Development
2. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
3. Addu City Council
4. Ministry of Housing and Urban Development



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Expand and develop the renewable energy sector

SDG: 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially, the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Project Area

Solar PV-Battery-Diesel Hybrid Electricity for Small Islands

Project Scope

Maldives almost entirely depends on imported fossil fuels for its energy generation. About 10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is spent on fuel imports, which is not sustainable in the long term, and which results in reallocation of resources from more productive investments.

In its plans to achieve a low emission development future, Maldives is focusing its efforts in reducing its Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the energy sector by targeting to take action to reduce unconditionally 10% of GHG emissions (under a Business as Usual [BAU]) by the year 2030. Towards this plan, the Government

has adopted targets to install renewable electricity generation that meets up to 70% of daytime peak load in all inhabited islands.

As of now, 46 islands have

renewable electricity generation setups in place, and the proposed project aims to install Solar PV-Battery systems and connect to the existing power grids in additional 100 inhabited islands, across 12 atolls.

Total project cost: USD 110,100,100.00

The Government is open to consider the project on contractor financing and/or Power Purchase Agreement business models.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Maldives Energy Authority
3. FENAKA



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Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Adopt ecosystem based conservation approaches for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

SDG: 11.B By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Project Area

Strengthening Climate Resilience- Coastal Protection

Project Scope

Given the low lying archipelagic nature of the country with average elevation in most islands of approximately 1.5 meters above mean sea level, Maldives is among the most susceptible to impacts of climate change.

Sea swells and storm generated waves, the frequency of which has increased over the last decade has resulted in severe coastal erosion, impacting the livelihoods of many communities. In many of the islands, most of the human settlements and critical infrastructure are found within 100 meters from the shoreline.

The project aims to build resilience to climate change and its impacts to livelihood and economic activities, by developing coastal protection measures in selected islands, surveyed to be most vulnerable.

The project involves two key components:

- Climate change adaptation in islands facing land scarcity (25 islands) – USD 42.5 Million
- Establishing coastal protection measures on larger islands (9 islands) – USD 36.8 Million

Total project cost: USD 79.5 Million

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
3. National Disaster Management Authority
4. Atoll and Island Councils



Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Ensure proper management of waste with a key focus on prevention and reusing

SDG: 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Project Area

Environmentally Sustainable Waste Management System – Huvadhoo Atoll

Background

In line with global trends, waste has been growing in high volumes in the Maldives as well. Effective waste management is especially challenging in the Maldives given the large spread in islands, while the impacts are acute for the environmentally dependent

tourism and fishery industries.

Government is currently pursuing a model of regional waste management whereby a regional center is allocated in each region to which waste from individual islands are transferred for treatment and

disposal. Currently, there are 3 regional waste centres in operation.

The proposed project aims to strengthen the Government's RRR approach (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse);

sort waste locally and transport to regional waste centres and continue the move to implementation of minimal use of plastic products, especially single-use bottles.

Project Scope

Key components of the project include:

- Design and build a regional waste management facility for final treatment of waste from islands in Huvadhoo atoll
- Establish a transport link between the islands in the

atoll and the regional facility

- Awareness and educational programs
- Assistance for developing a nationwide strategy, policy interventions and action plan to reduce single-use plastic

Total project cost: USD 24 Million

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO)

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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Promote entrepreneurship and human capital development

Improve access to finance for MSMEs

SDG: 8.3 promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services

Project Area

Strengthening the MSME Sector

Background

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the key to creating jobs, especially in the outer atolls, leading to more inclusive and broad based growth. Creating a supportive enabling environment for SMEs is a priority of the Government.

In order to encourage entrepreneurs to open vibrant new businesses and generate jobs, the SME sector requires a strong ecosystem that combines adequate business support, market access facilitation, enabling regulatory

environment and SME friendly finance.

Existing support system for SMEs include:

- SME Development Finance Corporation
- Business Centre Corporation (BCC) – managing 7 regional Business Centre's (BC) established across the country. The BCs provide business advisory support to SMEs.
- A central department established under Ministry of Economic Development driving SME policy

Project Scope

The proposed projects aim to strengthen the mentioned ecosystem through the following initiatives:

SME Development Finance Corporation (SDFC) – Facilitating access to finance

The Government recently established SDFC, as a specialized financial institution providing financial products and ancillary services to MSMEs and entrepreneurial start-ups. SDFC targets to lend to the MSME sector at more attractive terms than what is offered through the existing banking system.

SDFC is seeking assistance in the following areas as it works towards strengthening its operations and enhancing its financing capacity:

- Strengthen credit management framework
- Capacity development of staff in meeting the specific needs of the target customer base
- Develop an IT infrastructure to tap into web-based and mobile based services
- Capital injection of USD 50 million to expand business services

SME Industrial Park

The project aims to develop a facility providing the following services. The facility will be managed and run by the Business Centre Corporation, with the objective of generating revenues for the BCC to carry out its SME development initiatives in a sustainable manner.

- Factory set-ups for the manufacture and production of specialized

commercial products (crafts, and specialist Maldivian products with scaling up potential)

- Warehousing options for SMEs involved in wholesale/retail trade
- Packaging centre for value addition activities (especially in the food and beverage sector)

Estimate cost: USD 2.5 million

SME Office Complex

The project involves development of a designated office complex to house all SME support services, as a one-stop-shop for all SME services. The facility is proposed to be located in Hulhumale' and will be managed by BCC.

The facility will house the following services:

- Business Centre Corporation office
- Small office spaces for rent to SME businesses
- Conferencing facilities
- Business incubation set-ups
- Showcase centre of SME products

Estimate cost: USD 6.5 million

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Economic Development
2. Business Centre Corporation
3. SDFC



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Ensuring economic diversification and sustainable growth of marine biodiversity of Maldives supported by research to development of new methods in aquaculture and marine resource development.

SDG: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Project Area

Financing Grow-Out Farmers

Project Scope

Maldives is believed to have massive potential for the development of a mariculture industry and it is a key priority sector for diversification of the fishery industry.

Under assistance from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a hatchery is being developed, which will produce fingerlings of key fishery species.

The proposed project aims to link up potential businesses to the hatchery and ensure successful take-up.

Under the project, Government is seeking partners to establish a financing mechanism for grow-out farmers (farmers who will rear hatchery-produced aquatic organisms to market size) as well as provide necessary technical training to the farmers to rear the organisms and bring them to the market.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Increase access to safe and affordable water supply, and improved sewerage services for all citizens.

SDG: 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Project Area

Design and Build of Water Supply and Sewerage Networks

Background

Fresh water resources in Maldives are scarce. There are no surface sources for portable use. The available sources are groundwater which is a thin lens between 1m and 1.5m below the surface and rainwater.

This project proposal identifies a list of 28 islands across the country to which the project funding will be allocated for the design and build of

water supply and sewerage systems.

The objective of the project is to improve the water supply and sewerage facilities in the islands by installing a proper water supply distribution network ensuring protection of groundwater aquifer and sustainable water resource management, and hence improving the health and wellbeing of the people.

Estimated cost: USD 56,279,209.81

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Ministry of Environment
4. Environmental Protection Agency
5. Island Councils



Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Modernize government services through digitalization for data-driven policy making and efficient delivery of information and services.

SDG: 9.B Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Project Area

Strengthen and Expand the Existing National Computer Network (NCN)

Background

Maldives being an island nation faces several challenges in service delivery owing to its geography. Currently, the government depends on two international ISPs for connectivity needs, which adds onto the recurrent costs every time expansion of services is required.

Digitalization of government service delivery and open data governance is a key priority of the Government,

and there is dedicated focus to expand investments into the sector. The existing National Computer Network connects all government agencies at the central level to atoll level councils. Any connectivity beyond this to the island level or any additional links to the system, need to be met through ISPs, which is costly and not sustainable in the long term.

Project Scope

This project therefore looks into setting up a fully government owned fibre network to provide connectivity to all the islands.

Key components:

- Development of overall concept and business model for NCN expansion

- Detailed feasibility study for the project
- Laying of undersea fibre cable
- Establishing island landing points
- Development of the municipal fibre network

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology
2. National Centre for Information Technology



Large Projects: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Trade Facilitation and Transport network

SDG 8,9,11

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Project Area

Construction of Bridges to link Male' city and Greater Male' Industrial Zones

Project Scope

To create land links between Male' City, Villimale', Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

This proposal seeks to construct bridges to facilitate interconnectivity between Male' City and the industrial zone in Greater Male' region: Government is seeking to relocate the Male' Commercial Port to the industrial island of Gulhifalhu

and Thilafushi, and therefore the enhancement of transport will bring better economies of scale. Through this project, the Government aims to ease transport connectivity; create a push factor to move warehousing out of Male' residential zone; create better infrastructure for movement of bulk cargo within Greater Male' region and the rest of the country.

Estimated cost: USD 488,000,000.00ⁱ

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
2. Greater Male' Industrial Zone Limited
3. Maldives Port Limited
4. Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation

ⁱ Reference to TA-8070 MLD carried out by Asian Development Bank for the bridge project.



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Improve provision of water supply and sewage services through capacity building, and research and development.

Increase access to safe and affordable water supply, and improved sewerage services for all citizens.

SDG: 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Project Area

Development of a Regional Laboratory set-up and Establish Training for Water Quality Assurance

Project Scope

Provision of safe water is a constitutional right mandated upon the Government.

While the government is continuing its efforts to provide access to water in islands across the country, currently, there

exists only one facility to carry out quality assurance tests for water supplied for consumption.

This proposal aims to establish and operationalize 5 regional laboratories and train laboratory technicians to run the facilities.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Maldives Food and Drug Authority



Policy Priority

Adopt sustainable and cost-effective models for the provision of water and sewage services

SDG: 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Project Area

Feasibility Study, Concept Design and Detailed Design for Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant in Male' City

Background

The current sewer system in Male' was developed in 1988 using conventional sewerage treatment methods. Since then, Male' City's population has expanded exponentially and the resulting sewage is discharged to sea without proper treatment. It is estimated that 15,000 cubic meters of sewage is discharged to sea every day.

Out of the 66 sewer systems currently established in the country,

only 23 include sewerage treatment plants (STPs); however, due to lack of technical expertise and costly operations, none of these STPs are utilized. Waste water produced is bypassed untreated directly to the sea through the marine outfall, subject to recommendations from Environment Impact Assessment reports.

The Government gives utmost importance to preservation of the environment and protection of marine life.

Project Scope

Through this proposal, the Government seeks to undertake feasibility studies, develop concept designs, and detailed

designs, for best suited technologies in treatment of sewage including viable alternatives, for the country's largest city, Male'.

Total Budget: USD 280,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Achieve nationwide connectivity through a sustainable and efficient transportation network

SDG: 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Project Area

Strengthening the Transportation System

Project Scope

Establishment of 30 shore-based VHF listening stations in the Maldives

Maldives is an island nation that relies heavily on marine transport. At any given time, majority of the 15,000 marine vessels registered in the Maldives are at sea.

With adverse weather

developments on the rise owing to climate change, number of accidents with casualties have been increasing, owing to ineffective communication between vessels and shore. Currently, only vessel-to-vessel communication is available in times of distress, with just one shore-based facility.

The proposal seeks to establish 30

shore-based VHF listening stations to communicate effectively with vessels operating in the territorial waters of Maldives, thereby

improving the response time to vessels during times of distress, and contributing to overall safety of marine transportation.

Total Budget: USD 247,419.00

Technical Support for a National Air Transport Plan

Given the dispersed nature of the country, the need for efficient connectivity across all modes of transport is important.

On the air transportation front, numerous requests are being received to the Government from both tourism stakeholders and local communities for development of regional airports. Given the capital intensive nature of airports as well as its impact to the environment, Government recognizes that aviation planning

needs to be strategic and done with due consideration to its business sustainability as well as environmental impacts.

The proposal seeks support in the following areas:

- Review the air transportation infrastructure and forecast air traffic activity for the international and domestic market based on current development plans
- Propose a developmental masterplan for air transportation
- Propose business models for successful management and operation of regional airports

Total Budget: USD 383,200.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
2. Maldives Coast Guard
3. Marine Police Stations



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Achieve nationwide connectivity through a sustainable and efficient transportation system

Increase concerted efforts to reduce congestion in Male'

Strengthen regulatory framework of environmental protection and sustainable practices

SDG: 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Project Area

Implementing Sustainable and Low Emissions Transport in the Maldives

Project Scope

Maldives is fully dependent on imported fossil fuel for energy supply with an annual rate of increase of 11% annually. Power generation and transportation for land and sea transport are the main source of emissions, greenhouse gas and as well as air pollution. As such, the two projects under this theme are focused on minimising emissions and sustaining a low carbon footprint into the future, while at the same time, making efficient the public transportation system.

Integrated Sustainable and Low Emissions Transport in the Maldives:

According to the Ministry of Environment, the transport sector alone accounts for 31 per cent of overall energy consumption in the country. The transport sector is expected to account for a larger share of Greenhouse Gas

(GHG) emissions and air pollution as motorisation and urbanisation continues to rise in the country. In the Male' region, air pollution is becoming a serious concern.

Through this project which is planned to be delivered in a five year period, the Government seeks promote an integrated, sustainable and low emissions transport system and reduce fossil fuel consumption, GHG emissions and air pollution from the transport sector through establishment of low emissions technologies for transport, framing the policy framework to aid delivery, and knowledge management and public awareness campaigns geared towards achieving this.

The project seeks to deploy electric vehicles and establish charging facilities, strengthen national air quality monitoring, and enforce vehicle emission standards.

Total Budget: USD 10,440,000.00



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Establishment of a Greater Male' Land Transport Network:

This project seeks to address the need for a connected Greater Male' Land Transport Network, which has increased since the inauguration of the Sinamale' Bridge on the 30th of August 2018. Reliance on private or own transportation solutions have worsened the traffic congestion and increased carbon emissions in the region.

Through this project, the Government seeks to provide a public transport service which the customers can rely on and are satisfied with and provide the regulatory bodies with more control over the transportation infrastructure. The system is to be designed to cater for transport services in Male', Hulhule', and Hulhumale' (inclusive of Phase 1 and 2). In this regard, the Government aims to implement mini-bus services with the target of reducing emissions in the process.

Total Budget: USD 8,217,242.54

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Environmental Protection Agency
3. Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
4. Maldives Transport Authority
5. Ministry of Health
6. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
7. Health Protection Agency
8. Local Government Authority
9. Maldives National University
10. Housing Development Corporation
11. Maldives Transport and Contracting Company
12. STO Fuel Supply
13. Vehicle Importers
14. Male' City Council
15. Maldives Police Service



Policy Priority

Strengthen Halal Certification Mechanism

Project Area

Establishment of a Halal Science Laboratory



Project Scope

The global halal market is a thriving industry, and Maldives has huge potential to tap into this market.

However, at current time, there is no testing facility for Halal certification and the authorities are required to outsource testing, which results in unnecessary delays and difficulties.

The proposed project seeks assistance in the following areas, towards establishment of a National Halal Laboratory, which will function as the one-stop centre to test export products to internationally accepted Halal standards.

- Laboratory design and planning
- Development and establishment of halal analysis methods
- Halal management system and sub-contracting of halal analysis

As Maldives strives to explore new and diversified markets for its fishery exports, the relevance of such a facility becomes more significant. Furthermore, considering the growing Halal market globally and the strategic location of Maldives to the South and South East Asian markets coupled with the 100% Muslim nature of the country, Maldives has potential to become a regional hub as well.

Total Budget: USD 600,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Islamic Affairs



Policy Priority

Diversify the tourism sector and identify approaches to strengthen human resources

SDG: 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Project Area

Strengthening Capacity in the Field of Tourism

Project Scope

Tourism is the key industry contributing to economic growth of the country. Given the lucrative nature of the industry, key development projects are largely led by the private sector with Government's role focused in providing a conducive regulatory and management/monitoring framework.

The project seeks to strengthen the regulatory and management responsibilities of the Tourism ministry by supporting the following areas:

Capacity building

- Capacity building and exposure to Ministry staff in best practices for monitoring adherence with regulatory framework governing the sector

Strengthening Regulatory Framework

- Review of the existing regulatory framework and propose amendments to existing regulations and laws with the aim of providing a business friendly set of laws and regulations for the sector – for both tourist resorts and guest houses

Tourism Information Management System (TIMS) Enhancements

- TIMS aims to provide online services to the tourism related stakeholders in submission for permits and other operational licenses/approvals for

development and operation of tourist establishments. The system remains partially developed, with the Ministry looking for assistance in development of the remaining modules to launch the system.

Formulation of the 5th Tourism Masterplan and Review of the 4th Tourism Master Plan

- The most recent tourism master plan (TMP4) ended in 2017, and the Ministry seeks assistance in identifying and developing the strategic direction and action plan of the sector for the next 5 years, which will guide the immediate and long-term growth trajectory of the sector.

Total Budget: USD 300,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Tourism



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Increase the role of locals in the tourism sector and expand the role of councils in ensuring safety and security of tourists.

SDG: 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Project Area

Tourism Industry Water Safety Program – Inhabited Islands

Project Scope

Being a small archipelago nation with every island surrounded by the Indian Ocean, income derived from water based activities is undeniably the soul of the Maldivian Tourism experience. Hence, safety in conducting water based activities has become the responsibility & top priority of every individual relevant to the Maldivian Tourism Industry.

With the increase in fatal incidents involving swimming, snorkelling, and other water related sports/ activities in the country especially since the beginning of 2019, there is a need for concerted efforts in making the industry safer for everyone involved.

Therefore through this project, the

Government seeks to address the concerns of the increasing number of incidents related to water-based activities to ensure safety and explore effective safety and security strategies to reduce the number of incidents, thereby making safety for visitors and those employed in the industry the utmost priority of the industry.

In this regard, the Government aims to formulate water safety maps for inhabited islands, acquire equipment and materials required for lifeguard and rescue operations, and carry out water safety and lifeguard trainings. It seeks to do this through an initial selection of 19 inhabited islands within the first year with the remaining islands phased out for the next five years.

Total Budget: USD 6,679,636.84

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Tourism
2. Maldives Police Service
3. Maldives National Defence Force
4. Ministry of Health
5. Local NGOs
6. Local/City Councils



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Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Modernise the public service to ensure effective and efficient delivery of services to citizens

SDG: 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Project Area

Strengthening the National Statistical System of the Maldives

Project Scope

Access to relevant, reliable and timely data is key to effective policy making. At current time, the National Bureau of Statistics, established under the Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure, faces a lack of qualified staff trained on data management, dissemination, coordination, ICT, and data mining, which are key to evidence based policy making.

The proposal seeks assistance to the National Bureau of Statistics in the following areas:

- Strengthen administrative data systems
- Capacity building and targeted trainings to its staff
- Modernization of the statistical system and adoption of innovative approaches to data collection and use

Total Budget: USD 733,025.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
2. National Bureau of Statistics



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Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Recognize and encourage women's contribution to fisheries sector

SDG: 5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Project Area

Masveri Kabalun - Fisher Women

Background

Despite the high social importance of fisheries within Maldivian culture, there is only limited understanding of women's contribution to the sector.

A recent research in Lh. Naifaru indicated that women are very active in one-by-one supply chains, taking responsibility for processing and selling tuna products. In comparison to this vital role that

women play in the tuna fisheries, they face substantial challenges in terms of poor access to market information, unreliable buyers, and limited institutional support. They also face financial instability, a lack of transparency in tuna markets and a lack of visibility as key agents of development. They are often forced to handover their products to be sold by an intermediary at a reduced rate.

Project Scope

The project aims to streamline efforts to strengthen women's role in the fishery industry through assistance in the following areas:

- Design and implementation of gender responsive solutions to the

needs of female tuna producers

- Create a gender sensitive ICT platform to enable women tuna producers to engage fully in the market place.

Total Budget: USD 850,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
2. Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services
3. Ministry of Economic Development



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Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Strengthen research capacity and evidence-based policy making.

SDG: 14.A Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

Project Area

Transforming Marine Research Centre to Maldives Marine Research Institute

Project Scope

Marine Research Centre was founded in 1984 as the research arm of the then Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, to carry out key research on fisheries and other marine resources to facilitate informed decisions on their rational and sustainable utilisation.

With development of the tourism and fisheries industries, direct and indirect utilisation of the country's natural marine resources continues to grow. The need for science-backed, cross-sectoral and ecosystems-based management of our marine resources has increased over the years.

This proposal is for the elevation of MRC to become a semi-autonomous "Maldives Marine Research Institute" to better address the current marine and fisheries research needs of the country. The proposed transformation is conceived as a single agency having

a research and development capacity in respect to living marine resources of the Maldives.

This proposal seeks to increase human resource capacity to address the growing research needs, and enhanced understanding of our marine resources, establish institutional administration and budget to support more efficient day-to-day administrative and logistical operations, enhance capacity for knowledge management and dissemination, and facilitate research collaborations in the fields of fisheries research, marine ecosystems research and maricultural research and development.

The Ministry also proposes to establish a complex where Fisheries, Agriculture and the proposed Marine Research Institute would be housed, to better utilise the limited land resources and to allow for better engagement with the public

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
2. Marine Research Centre



Maldives
Partnership
Forum 2019

Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Increase concerted efforts in reef preservation focused on sustainability

SDG: 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Project Area

Nationwide Reef Rehabilitation and Restoration Programme

Project Scope

The Maldivian reefs are facing threats of climate change and stresses from anthropogenic development projects. Natural events such as elevated sea surface temperatures have caused Maldivian reefs to suffer great mortalities in the recent past. Since a massive bleaching event was recorded in 1998, the frequency of these extreme events has increased. It is extremely important that adequate conservation and management interventions be taken soon in order to preserve the coral reefs for the future generations.

In addition to the extreme natural events posing threats to our coral reef systems, Maldivian reefs are also under constant threats from coastal development projects, which

impedes the reef's recovery rate.

This restoration programme focuses mainly on passive restoration options to allow the natural recovery of reefs from extreme weather events, and piloting selected active restoration programmes to assess their scalability in a national context, and potentially incorporating such active restoration works to rehabilitate selected reefs that show little natural recovery.

The proposed programme specifically aims to achieve the assessment of Maldivian reef systems to identify hope-spots, and developing strategies for their protection, assessment of the effectiveness of protected hope-spots in rehabilitating adjacent reefs, and piloting selected active rehabilitation methods to assess their scalability for nationwide rehabilitation programmes.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
2. Marine Research Centre
3. Ministry of Environment



Technical Assistance: **Economic**

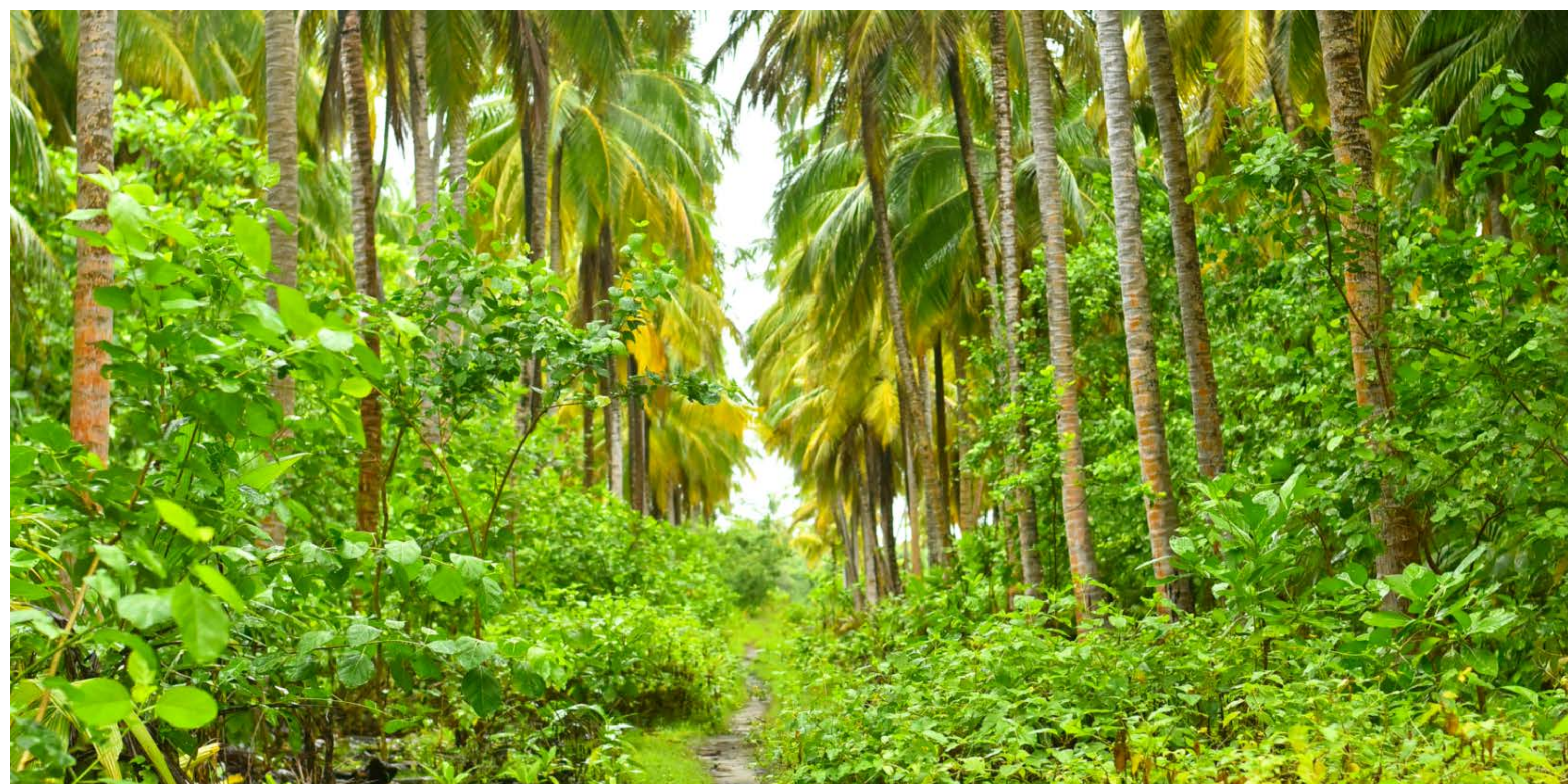
Policy Priority

Improve conservation efforts to preserve biodiversity of Maldives and ensure maximum ecosystem benefits.

SDG: 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Project Area

Management of Natural Resources for the Benefit of Present and Future Generations



Background

The current government is in the process of declaring 1 island, 1 reef and 1 mangrove as a protected area from each of the 26 administrative atolls of the country.

This process requires effective management plans for each of the protected areas to ensure

meaningful conservation. While there are many protected areas, at the moment only 4 areas have effective management plans.

The aim of this project is to establish sustainable management regimes in at least two significant protected areas in the Maldives.

Project Scope

- Conducting ecological and socioeconomic surveys
- Drafting of management plans
- Training and capacity building for key stakeholders
- Development of an institutional framework to

govern implementation and recommendations on sustainable financial mechanisms to govern the management plan.

- Establishment of management facilities

Total Budget: USD 2,500,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment



Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

**Establish good and safe agricultural practices.
Strengthen chemical waste management practices.**

SDG: 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Project Area

Sound Management of Chemicals in the Maldives



Background

Currently, Maldives does not have a proper regulatory framework to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The widespread use of pesticides to manage pests and diseases that impacts agricultural crops have contributed to environmental degradation and the incidence of chemical related diseases.

With limited capacity to monitor chemicals, there remains a knowledge gap in chemical management and sound management of hazardous waste. The Maldives also does not have proper interventions for sound management of carcinogenic chemicals, and also lacks the means of analyzing environmental parameters such as air and soil quality.

Project Scope

This proposal aims to improve technical capacity for sound chemical management through the following key components:

- Strengthen the institutional capacity to implement chemicals related conventions at the national level
- Identify sources of pollution

and waste, and establish a robust chemical import registration system

- Develop national legislation on chemical safety
- Develop an inventory on carcinogenic chemicals in the Maldives, and establish a facility for recovery of chemicals and related waste.

Total Budget: USD 10,000,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
3. Maldives Food and Drug Authority



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Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Establish digital infrastructure, platforms and ecosystems that are capable of providing ICT solutions that are more efficient, secure, and consistent.

SDG: 9.B Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Project Area

National Data Centre

Project Scope

The existing National Data Centre was established 15 years back. The data centre needs to be upgraded to today's standards to which would facilitate decentralized governance and transform data management to provide government owned cloud services for government agencies.

Furthermore, given the current direction of government to

embrace digitalization in service provision, this upgrade has become all the more important.

This project aims to provide necessary infrastructure for the government to host automation solutions, online services and file storage services, and consolidate and strengthen human resources required to manage the government IT network.

Key components:

- Requirement analysis and design study
- Construction of the Data Centre building
- Procurement of

necessary equipment

- Commissioning of a Tier 3 Data Centre
- Capacity building and training of staff

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology
2. National Centre for Information Technology
3. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure



Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Establish digital infrastructure, platforms and ecosystems that are capable of providing ICT solutions that are more efficient, secure and consistent

SDG: 9.B Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Project Area

Male' Disaster Recovery Site for the National Data Centre

Project Scope

As the new National Data Centre is set up, an offsite backup facility needs to come into existence to address recovery issues in case of disaster.

Currently, there is no off-site backup facility of the existing data

centre. Both the live and backup systems are housed in the same building, which fails to serve the purpose of having a disaster recovery setup in place. In the event of disaster, there is no solution to safeguard the systems and its accompanying data. Further, a number of data-

centric systems are currently in the design stages and in the pipeline for development, which further emphasizes the critical need for an offsite backup mechanism.

This project aims to provide necessary backup infrastructure for the government to host automation solutions, online

services and file storage services and consolidate and strengthen human resources required to manage the government IT network.

Key components:

- Requirement analysis and design
- Development of backup facility
- Procurement of equipment

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology
2. National Centre for Information Technology
3. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure



Maldives Partnership Forum 2019

Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Establish digital innovation and create a conducive environment for business to thrive in a digital economy.

SDG: 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors

Project Area

Feasibility Study to Develop a National Technology Institute and Technology Park

Background

The ongoing technological transformation at the global level has the potential to boost more inclusive and sustainable growth by spurring innovation, generating efficiencies, and improving services.

This is clearly evident in the Maldivian context where the demand for IT services in both the

government and private sector has been increasing rapidly. However, ICT remains a field that has not been given adequate significance. There is a large talent pool in the country and a significant percent of brain drain has already taken place, given the unavailability of options for further growth and development for individuals trained in this sector.

Project Scope

In this respect, Government is seeking assistance to develop conceptual proposals and feasibility studies for the following IT related infrastructure:

- Establishment of a world class technology and

STEM education centre

- Establishment of an IT Park - mix of infrastructure, superstructure, support services, real estate, office spaces, innovation hubs – attract major IT brands to establish regional officer

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology
2. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure



Maldives Partnership Forum 2019

Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Improve regulatory and monitoring framework of the construction industry

SDG: 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Project Area

Quality Assurance and Capacity Building of the Ministry of National Planning in Regulating the Construction Sector

Project Scope

Strengthening construction sector safety:

Multiple challenges exist for the regulatory body – Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure in terms of

capacity required to execute its duties most effectively. Insufficient numbers of trained personnel and retention of staff is extremely challenging for the organisation.

This proposal seeks a ssistance in the following areas:

- Drafting regulations under the Construction Act
- Targeted awareness programs on regulatory framework to both

- public and sector professionals
- Capacity building to undertake regulatory and monitoring functions under the Construction Act
- Formulate a building inspector program and carry out TOT trainings

Total Budget: USD 2.5 million

Establishment of a Material Testing Laboratory:

The construction industry in the Maldives currently lacks a proper governing structure required in terms of quality assurance of materials used for construction. This challenge arises because government lacks a material testing laboratory facility. As a result, the field remains largely unregulated, inundated with goods of low or undetermined quality.

The laboratory once set up, would act as the monitoring body, which would resolve discrepancies that arise in quality and safety of construction materials used.

This proposal seeks to establish the laboratory facility and to conduct required trainings to build human resources in the field to sustain service delivery.

Total Budget: USD 2,610,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
3. Construction Industry Association
4. Maldives Qualifications Authority



Maldives Partnership Forum 2019

Investing in a Resilient & Sustainable Maldives

Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Promote innovative climate and disaster resilient technologies and practices towards building sustainable island communities

Enhance island and atoll level preparedness and response capacities to manage annual hazards

SDG: 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Project Area

Enhancing Emergency Response Capacity in the Maldives

Project Scope

The Maldives is vulnerable to multi-hazard risks including those resulting from storm surges, cyclones, strong winds, flooding and tsunami. The Maldives Disaster Risk Profile reveals that country is high vulnerabilities and exposures to hazards due to geographical, topographical and socio-economic factors.

Dangers posed by climate change exacerbates the issues further. The latest IPCC report released on October 2018 indicates that a rise in 1.5C to 2C temperatures will have hue impacts on health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, the biggest impact would be on coral reefs.

The projected rise in temperatures are forecasted to kill roughly 80%

of all coral reefs. This immediate impact of climate change will have a severe impact on the Maldives especially the island populations as coral reefs are the

source of natural protection of the island towards erosion, food security through the marine ecosystem and livelihoods through the tourism sector.

Projects are proposed in the following areas:

1- Enhancing Emergency Response Capacity:

This project seeks to focus on the strengthening of the National Disaster Management Authority to exercise its role as the focal national agency for emergency coordination in the country, develop standard operating procedures and guidelines for response and relief operations at island and atoll level, build capacity at the atoll level, strengthen and roll out National Emergency Response Plan, and conduct annual regional level hazard specific emergency drills to foster a culture of preparedness.

2- Mapping Hazards and Climate Induced Disaster Risks at the Local Level:

This proposal takes into consideration mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into local development planning of corresponding regulations and building standards to make a difference in how extreme weather events impact an island community.

Therefore, this project aims to strengthen island based risk assessment processes, and establish a GIS integrated Disaster Risk Management Information System, with the overall ambition of formulating island level Disaster Management Plans for knowledge management and information dissemination.

Total Budget: USD 435,000.00

Key Stakeholders

1. National Disaster Management Authority
2. Maldives National Defence Force
3. Maldives Police Service
4. Maldivian Red Crescent
5. Local Councils
6. Local Government Authority



Policy Priority

Value-chain coordination: Ensure that the competitiveness of the agriculture sector is promoted, improved and sustained in both domestic and international markets

SDG: 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.C Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Project Area

Establishment of Regional Agricultural Markets

Project Scope

The dispersed landmass and long distances between suppliers and markets inhibits the production of marketable quantities of agricultural products in some atolls. Transport of perishable products over long distances reduces quality and profit. It is estimated that about 25 percent of total production value is lost as post-harvest spoilage.

Furthermore, the high cost and unreliability of transport, particularly in rough weather; uncertainty of load space; poorly organized marketing system, and poor market information available to farmers, contributes to undermine agricultural trade.

Given the wastage of postharvest and dispersed manner of the

islands it's crucial that interventions need to address to facilitate ways in which farmers can sell there produce in a more profitable manner, thus elevating the living standard of the island communities.

Through this project which is to be implemented over a period of two years, the Government intends to establish market infrastructure with proper facilities to ensure regional food security, develop suitable storage facilities which would address issues of food safety and hygiene, reduce waste and improve profitability along the agricultural value chain, improve food security through increased accessibility to safe food, and develop new agribusiness initiatives and market linkages.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
2. Local Government Authority
3. Ministry of Economic Development
4. City/Island Councils
5. Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
6. Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation



Technical Assistance: **Economic**

Policy Priority

Ensure ecological resilience through climate-smart and sustainable practices

SDG: 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Project Area

Solar Powered Climate-Smart Irrigation for Small-scale Farmers

Project Scope

Water is a limited resource in the farming islands and the demand for low cost irrigation techniques is high. Current irrigation techniques used by farmers are risky due to over pumping that results in water lens depletion and ground water contamination.

Additionally, farmers do not have access of basic utility services such as electricity and water, as farm lands are usually far away from residential areas. Farmers have to excessively spend to get electricity to generate irrigation and other essentials for post harvesting facilities such as storage and processing facilities.

Through solar powered irrigation, farmers would be able to effectively increase their output and equally safeguard the vulnerable groundwater lens. Further, there is a possibility to use solar energy for other uses to enhance farming productivity.

Through this project, to be implemented over a period of three years, the Government aims to implement a sustainable water management system to be adopted by farmers, which

would in turn increase the general agricultural productivity of the country.

The Government undertakes this project with the goals of reducing the energy cost and water usage in irrigation practices, improving groundwater quality through sustainable use of water resources, increasing number of farmers who adopt climate-smart irrigation techniques, and improving the overall livelihood of farming communities through increased productivity.

Key Stakeholders

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture
2. Ministry of Environment
3. Maldives Energy Authority
4. Environment Protection Agency
5. Local Government Authority
6. Maldives Food and Drug Authority
7. Atoll/Island/City Councils
8. Civil Organisations