

MEMP 4427-MV Maldives Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Programme WOKSHOP 1: STOCKTAKING AND MEASURES

Coral Reefs: Monitoring Today for all our tomorrows!

1. MALDIVES ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Government of the Republic of Maldives has applied for financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Maldives Environmental Management Project.

This project has two development objectives. The first seeks to improve and develop a socially and environmentally sustainable system of solid waste management that reduces the associated environmental and public health risks and can be replicated and scaled up across the country. The second aims to strengthen capacity for environmental management in the Maldives, by addressing some of the human resource constraints and informational impediments to improved environmental management. It aims to have decision-making processes of relevant government agencies make use of trained professionals and scientific information to assess, design and implement responses to environmental risks.

Maldives Environmental Management Project has been divided into four (4) components which include: (1) a regional solid waste management program for the North Central Region; (2) capacity building for environmental management; (3) technical assistance for a Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) enhancing environmental management through the collection and use of data and (4) project management and project communications.

Regional Strategic Environmental Assessments (RSEAs) will facilitate the inclusion of environmental considerations into national development policies and spatial planning in a geographically prescribed area. To be credible and useful, the RSEA needs to be grounded in scientific information and evidence of trends. This component would support a parallel process designed to fill critical information gaps in terrestrial and marine environmental monitoring as prioritized by Government of Maldives.

Sparse information and the absence of baseline data remain one of the key impediments to stimulating discussions and policy deliberations that would lead to greater community awareness and better decision making.

Recognizing that there are insufficient resources in the project envelope to fill all the information gaps, this component selectively targets issues and information gaps where assistance is most urgently needed. This reflects the Government of Maldives' policy preference and the need to exercise economy.

Accordingly the project will fund a number of monitoring and research activities to assess the impact of human activities, global warming and other factors on the local environment in the North Province (Baa, Raa, Lhaviyani and Noonu atoll) of the country to gauge changes in key variables such as reef health, biodiversity, beach erosion. The evidence would allow an opportunity to adopt policies that may slow down or arrest processes that are destructive of the natural capital of the Maldives.

2. THE CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME

“The overall objective of the assignment is to: (i) strengthen Maldives’ existing national coral reef monitoring program by the inclusion of additional monitoring stations and parameters such as water quality and proxies for reef health, (ii) support the development of a community-based coral reef monitoring and community awareness program aimed at improving the understanding about the importance of coral reef systems to the integrity of the island and atoll ecosystem.”

3. STOCKTAKING AND MEASURES WORKSHOP

LOCATION: Maldives Centre for Social Education (MCSE), Seminar Room

DATE: 09th July 2009

TIME: 09.00-16:00 hours

CONTACT:

PURPOSE: Maldives Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring “policy” proposed (technical and community)

RESULT 3: Policy framework (why, what, where) proposed

RESULT 2: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to coral reef ecosystem monitoring in the Maldives

RESULT 1: Current status of coral reef ecosystem monitoring in Maldives presented.

3. OTHER KEY DATES

16th July: Indicators workshop – to decide, technically, what to monitor

23rd July: Protocols workshop – to agree, technically, how we are going to monitor

29th July: Community monitoring workshop – to propose what the “community” is going to monitor and how.

03rd-08th August: Workshop with communities in the islands to explore “what” and “how” in the real world.

4. WORKSHOP AGENDA

NO	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
01	09.00-09.10	Open workshop	Dignitary
02	09.10-09.15	Introductions by participants, workshop rules and appointment of timekeeper etc.	Facilitator
03	09.15-09.30	Refreshment break	
RESULT 1: STATE OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM MONITORING IN MALDIVES			
04	09.30-09.45	Global context and initiatives 2010 targets AIMS, Reef check, NOAA, SOCMon etc.	ARDS
05	09.45-10.05	15 years ago in Maldives (COT newsletter)	ARDS
06	10.05-10.15	Discussion and synthesis	Facilitator
07	10.15-10.35	Current ecosystem monitoring activities in Maldives (why, what, where, when and who).	H. Zahir
08	10.35-10.45	Discussion and synthesis	Facilitator
09	10.45-11.05	Current status of coral reef ecosystems in the Maldives based on the monitoring.	H. Zahir
10	11.05-11.15	Discussion and synthesis	Facilitator
RESULT 2: SWOT OF CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM MONITORING IN MALDIVES			
11	11.15-11.25	Why, what and who of SWOT ¹ ?	Facilitator
		SWOT objective: Maldives delivers an annual, evidence based, statement concerning the health of its coral reef ecosystem.	
12	11.25-11.40	SWOT working groups come up with a list of key Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to delivering this statement.	Each working group has an MRC facilitator
13	11.40-11.50	Synthesis of SWOT statements and finalisation of agreed SWOT statement for coral reef ecosystem monitoring in Maldives.	Facilitator
14	11.50-12.00	Summary of results 1 and 2.	Facilitator
RESULT 3: POLICY FRAMEWORK			
15	12.00-12.10	Developing policy: Why, where, who, what, when.	Facilitator
16	12.10-12.20	Working groups: Monitor – why?	Facilitated
17	12.20-12.30	Synthesis	Facilitator
18	12.30-12.40	Working groups: Monitor - where?	Facilitated
19	12.40-12.50	Synthesis	Facilitator
20	12.50-13.00	Working groups: Monitor - who will monitor	Facilitated
21	13.00-13.10	Synthesis	Facilitator
22	13.10-13.20	Working groups – What will be monitored.	Facilitated

¹ SWOT Analysis is a strategic planning method used to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats involved in a project or in a business venture. It involves specifying the objective of the business venture or project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving that objective.

23	13.20-13.30	Synthesis	Facilitator
24	13.30-14.30	Lunch	
RESULT 3: POLICY SYNTHESIS			
25	14.30-14.40	Synthesising policy: Purpose and results	Facilitator
26	14.40-14.50	Working groups: Purpose statement	Facilitated
27	14.50-15.00	Synthesis	Facilitator
28	15.00-15.10	Working group: Results statements	Facilitated
29	15.10-15.20	Synthesis	Facilitator
WORKSHOP CLOSING			
30	15.20-15.30	Summary and conclusions	Facilitator
31	15.30-15.35	Follow-up actions (next workshop etc)	Facilitator
32	15.35-15.40	Closing	