**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2022**

Reporting from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

# INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE THIS PIR

# 1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

# 1.1. Project details

This entire table is to be prepared by Task Managers

1. IDENTIFICATION

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Identification Table | GEF ID.: *9668* | UN Environment Project ID: GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-015714 |
| Project Title | Enhancing National Development through Environmentally Resilient Islands (ENDhERI) |
| Duration months | *Planned* | 60 months |
| *Extension(s)* | *N/A* | *N/A* |
| Division(s) Implementing the project | UN Environment Programme |
| Name of co-implementing Agency  | *N/A* |
| Executing Agency(ies) | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives |
| Names of Other Project Partners | Housing Development CorporationBlue Marine FoundationSix Senses LaamuMinistry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and AgricultureNational Bureau of Statistics |
| Project Type | Full Size Project |
| Project Scope | National |
| Region | Asia |
| Countries | *Maldives* |
| Programme of Work | **PoW 2022 – 2025: (Sub-program) Living in Harmony with Nature:**The GEF project contributes to attainment of PoW:**Outcome 2.3**: *Productive land- and seascapes and fresh water are sustainably managed*.**Outcome 2.7**: *Natural assets are valued, monitored and sustainably manage*d**Outcome 2.8**: *A sustainable ocean and coastal economy contributes to prosperity and pollution-free development*. |
| GEF Focal Area(s) | Biodiversity |
| UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages  | **UNDAF 2016-2010**: the project contributed to its Strategic Priority Area 4: Environment & Climate Change Strategies, on its Output 4.1 By 2020, national and sub-national authorities have strengthened, effective knowledge-based mechanisms thatincorporate relevant sector data related to climate change, natural and human induced disasters and sustainable environmental management, and that are accessible for evidence-based, gender-sensitive decision making |
| Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s) | The project is primarily targeting at Goal 14 (life below water) through reducing threats to atoll ecosystems and especially marine biodiversity, it will contribute towards many of the SGDs, including 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships to achieve the goals). |
| GEF financing amount | US$3,532,968 |
| Co-financing amount | US$22,934,073 |
| Date of CEO Endorsement | 23 June 2020 |
| Start of Implementation | 22 October 2020 (signature PCA) |
| Date of first disbursement | 24 December 2020 |
| Total disbursement as of 30 June 2022 | US$*500,000.00* |
| Total expenditure as of 30 June 2022 | US$*159,786.96* |
| Expected Mid-Term Review Date | 23 June 2023 |
| Completion Date | *Planned* | 30th September 2024 (as in PCA); *yet actually 21 October 2025 (60 months duration)* |
| *Revised* |  |
| Expected Terminal Evaluation Date | July 2024  |
| Expected Financial Closure Date | 21 October 2026 |

# 1.2. Project description

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| This project aims to assist the government of the Maldives in its implementation of new environmental policies and transition towards national adoption of Green Growth atoll development that will sustain marine NC and strengthen the resilience and recovery of reef ecosystems. This will be informed by learning from atoll-wide integrated coastal zone management within a Managed Marine Area / Biosphere Reserve framework, and the application of innovative sustainability practices and standards in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and construction sectors as the basis for transforming the human ecological footprint in Laamu Atoll, and taking this up to national level through sector transformation, spatial planning and improved governance based on NC accounting. The intermediate objective of this transformation is to minimize the flows of pollutants from land-based activities into the adjacent marine environment, and reduce marine-based drivers of reef degradation including baitfish and reef fisheries. Overall, the project seeks to enhance reef ecosystem integrity and resilience through sustainable management, reducing development impacts and integrating NC accounting into national planning.Overall, the project will lead to enhanced conservation and sustainable management of the coral reef-atoll seascapes throughout the Maldives through an in-built design for scaling up from local experience to national change across its three components. Integration of the NC concept and approaches into business models, risk analyses and decision-making processes within government, private sector and financial institutions is expected to align national and local governance with the enhanced planning needs outlined in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.**Component 1:** **Green Growth development for Laamu Atoll in the fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors.** Increase the sustainability of marine and coastal resource management under a Green Growth Strategy for Laamu Atoll and achieve a reduction in stressors impacting Laamu Atoll reefs through increased Green Growth and Integrated Coastal Zone Management practices in key sectors.**Component 2:** **Building social capital for a green economy.** Will result in increased understanding of the values and dependencies on marine NC and biodiversity and ecosystem services that supports improved livelihoods and sustainable development on Laamu and among key national stakeholders. **Component 3**: **Mainstreaming natural capital accounting into fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors**. Aim to achieve increased institutional capacity, clarified mandates and integration of NC accounting in marine biodiversity conservation policy and programs; enhanced protection of coral reefs and other marine NC through actions by corporate sectors; and strengthened inter-sectoral coordination and spatial planning that  incorporates NCA support sustainable development in the fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors. **Component N: 4. Knowledge management and M&E.**  Support the implementation of Components 1-3 ensuring that information and lessons learned are shared between the different Components and stakeholders and that results-based management is informed by adequate M&E procedures. |

# 1.3. History of project revisions

To be completed by Task Managers

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Main changes introduced in this revision** |
| Rev0 (CEO ED) |  |  |
| : |  |  |
| : |  |  |
| RevN (latest version at the time of this PIF) |  |  |

# 2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

To be completed by UNEP Task Manager

* 1. 2.1. UNEP Subprogramme(s)

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| --- | --- |
| PoW 2022 – 2025: (Sub-program) Living in Harmony with Nature: | **Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s)Indicator (i)** *Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity* **Indicator (iii)** *Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas* |
| The government of Maldives has pledged to bring 1 island, 1 reef and 1 mangrove under a protected area regime and has committed to establish better management regimes for these areas which is also reflected in the present Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 and National Resiliency and Recovery Plan. In an effort to conserve key biodiversity habitats of Laamu Atoll for supporting development for better management and decision making, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology has designated 7 areas of Laamu Atoll as protected areas under the Environmental Protection and Preservation Act 4/93 on 23rd December 2021. The six protected areas in Laamu are:* L. Gan Boda Fengandu
* L. Gaadhoo (key habitats of turtle nesting beach, seagrass, mangrove, vegetation)
* L. Hithadhoo Kulhi
* L. Maabaidhoo Koaru
* L. Hithadhoo Gaadhoo Kandu (Marine)
* L. Fushi Island with Vadinolhu Kandu Olhi (Sandbank with marine area)

The declaration process included identification of ecological baseline of the environmentally significant areas identified by EPA and extensive consultative process with stakeholders and decision makers relevant to the proposed areas for protection. Further, preliminary resource use consultations were conducted to identify the resource use for the proposed protected areas. The project supported the government in identification of resource use and development of zonation maps as the process was already commenced by the MECCT by the time project implementation started.  |

* 1. 2.2. GEF Core Indicators (for all GEF 6 and later projects):

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| GEF Core Indicators | **Indicative expected Results** |
| The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets, as well as the GEF-7 Core Indicators. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The status of the GEF-7 Core Indicators will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR reports.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | Expected values at |  |
| Mid-term | End-of-project | Achieved to date  |
| **Indicator 0.1**:Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (ha; excluding PAs) ***[GEF Core Indicator 5\*]*** |  | **86,153 ha reef and lagoon habitats in Laamu Atoll under improved management**: included in Sustainable Development plans, and subject to MMA management plan implementation including zoning of land/sea uses, governance arrangements and staffing, sustainable financing and community engagement. | Project is currently working on identifying ecologically significant areas/ hotspots in Laamu Atoll,  to designate as priority sites for biodiversity conservation, protected areas and marine managed areas. Available literature are gathered and simultaneously conducting stakeholder consultations to identify areas of interest for each stakeholder group. Currently ESA list from EPA and list for proposed PAs under SAP 2019-2023 are considered.  |
| **Indicator 0.2:** Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) ***[GEF Core Indicator 2.1\*\*]*** |  | **5 five new protected areas proposed, with total area of 944.85 hectares** (through legal action by Atoll Council towards protection). Note: other core zone areas of proposed MMA / BR (zonation and areas to be confirmed during project implementation) | Six areas proposed by the Laamu Atoll councils are legally protected under Environmental Protection and Preservation Act (4/93) of Maldives. **Exact area yet to be measured**. Project is currently on the process of developing management plans for the Pas. |
| **Indicator 0.3:**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment ***[GEF Core Indicator 11\*\*\*]*** |  | a) **2,500 people (50% female)****b) 250 government and teaching staff (50% female)****c) 120 SME / corporate sector staff (50% female)** | Total 6 Project Staff, 4 PMU and 2 PIU at Laamu Atoll (50% women)**Project has yet to start tracking gender and number of beneficiaries.**- Capacity building and educational trainings are under development, to be implemented shortly. Which includes in the area of Environmental management, sustainable fisheries and agriculture, construction and tourism industry.- NCA development and Consultation covers the capacity building and training to government staff, educational institutions and students. The consultation hire is under progress.- Small Grants for different areas of environment conservation (under project work plan) are under development with the required training. Which is planned for the 2nd year of the project. |
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* 1. 2.3. Implementation status and risk

*[complete the fiscal year and select: 1st PIR; 2nd PIR; …. Final PIR; select HS; S; MS; MU; U; HU; unknown; not rated to rate the progress towards outcomes and outputs in third and fourth lines; select H; S; M; L; to rate risks for the fiscal year you are reporting in the fifth line. Add more columns if needed]*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FY 2022 | FY 20\_\_ | FY 20\_\_ | FY 20\_\_ | FY 20\_\_ |
| PIR # 1st | 1st  | 2nd  | 3rd  | 4th  | …. |
| Rating towards **outcomes** (section 3.1) | S |  |  |  |  |
| Rating towards **outputs** (section 3.2) | MS |  |  |  |  |
| **Risk** rating (section 3.3) | M |  |  |  |  |

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| **Summary of Project Progress:****Establishment of PMU:** The Project Manager, Project Assistant, Communication Specialist and Community Co Management Consultant recruited. The PMU functions as the administrative hub of the project.**Establishment of PIU:** Established Project Implementation Unit at Laamu Atoll. The unit comprises a Project Coordinator and a Project Administrative Assistant who are permanently based in Laamu atoll.**Project Inception Workshop:** Project held its inception meeting with all the stakeholders of the project. The meeting was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology Dr. Abdulla Naseer.**Project Steering Committee meeting:** The first meeting of the ENDhERI project’s steering committee was held. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Dr. Abdulla Naseer. In his opening remarks Dr. Naseer noted that projects such as this required close cooperation and participation of a large number of agencies, and highlighted the importance of discussions and deliberations that was made possible through the committee. (Annex 1)**KAP Assessment:** A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey on environmental awareness among the island communities of Laamu atoll was conducted. The survey covered 10 out of the 11 inhabited islands in the atoll, and interviewed over 1000 respondents. Information was collected on media consumption habits, level of knowledge on environmental affairs, attitudes concerning environmental conservation efforts in the country and respondent’s own practices that impact the environment. (Annex 2)**Baseline Study of Waste Management in Laamu Atoll:** The main aim of the report is to identify and assess the current waste management status of Laamu Atoll. The report is developed as a baseline for the implementation of waste management components within the ENDhERI project. The baseline will assist in Identification of current status of local waste management practices, priority areas and waste management needs for the Atoll. (Annex 3)**Project Sensitization at Laamu Atoll:** Project conducted the series of project sensitization in Laamu atoll, visiting all islands of Laamu Atoll to inform the councils, women’s development committees, local communities and schools about project objectives, scope and ongoing and upcoming activities. Environmental awareness sessions were held for students from grade 6 to 9 of three schools in Laamu Gan and Fonadhoo.**Resource Usage consultations regarding proposed protected areas in Laamu Atoll:** Meetings to obtain and gather information on the resource usage at the proposed protected areas in Laamu atoll were conducted in the islands of Laamu atoll Hithadhoo, Maabaidhoo and Gan. Discussions were held with the island councils, Women’s Development Committees, utilities, government institutions and NGO. Teams from ENDhERI and the EPA also visited L. Maavah to demarcate mangrove boundary and conduct stakeholder consultation regarding restoration and management of Maavah mangrove.Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Ecosystem Conservation and Management: A multi-stakeholder workshop on ecosystem conservation and management was held in Laamu to following the recent designation of six environmentally protected areas of Laamu Atoll. More than 50 participants from all islands of Laamu, representing the island councils, women’s development committees, civil societies, school management, law enforcement agencies and utility providers took part in this one-day workshop, where facilitators from MECCT and EPA conducted sessions such as ecosystem services and benefits to the local communities, relevant legal and institutional frameworks, enforcement, capacity needs and financing. (Annex 4)**Mangroves, Wetlands and Nature Parks Experience and Knowledge sharing Tour in Addu and Fuahmulah:** ENDhERI project hosted a contingent of island and atoll council members from Laamu Atoll on a tour of mangroves, wetlands and nature parks in Addu Atoll and Fuahmulah. This tour was arranged to facilitate the local government of Laamu to gain exposure and experience on established best practices of protected area management in the Maldives, and included meetings with Addu Atoll and Fuahmulah city councils as well as presentation from park staff and officials from EPA involved in the establishment of these Nature Parks.Small Grant Information workshop: A workshop was held to inform Women’s Development Committees, school management officials and civil societies from Laamu atoll about the small grants initiative that would be soon launched by ENDhERI project. Over 40 participants from islands of Laamu attended this workshop where information was provided on the intention and scope of small grants, small grant application process, and proposal evaluation criteria.**Challenges**The project cooperation agreement has been signed by GoM and UNEP on 22nd October 2020. However, the start of project execution has encountered a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was a delay in establishing the Project Management Unit, which the first recruitment finalized on 21st March 2021. The project Sensitization trips has also has face huge delay due to islands lockdown conditions due to convid-19, for which first in person sensitization meeting with Atoll and Island Councils of Laamu was held on 30th November 2021. Maldives face a serious lack of capacity in understanding and implementation of NCA. Since this is new area for us, apart from the institutional capacity, another challenge posed the country is the lack of local expertise, appropriate technology and equipment’s required for training and monitoring of NCA. **Main Achievements:**The project has achieved a satisfactory outcome rating based on advancing a number of key deliverables as against the stated indicators and their targets.Notwithstanding the long delays in the start of the project due to both contractual and recruitment challenges, as well as COVID impact to the Inception phase, the project has done very well by quickly starting and advancing a great number of activities. Project is at an average Medium risk of not attaining its set outcomes and results; mostly due to delayed in procurement of experts due to lack of local expertise in understanding and implementation of some of the project components. Project also has a serious delay in providing technical support and funding related to Knowledge Centre due to overall delay from HDC on the development of Cultural Island.**Summary rating on Outcomes**: the average rating is Satisfactory (S) given good progress has bene made on most of the indicators; albeit key ones such as using MMA and Green Growth Strategy approach not yet adequately build in the project activities; also more work needed to both start and integrate NCA in the project.**Summary rating on Outputs**: whilst the project has made excellent progress in setting up project management, finance and reporting; the development of safeguards, as well as stakeholder engagement in Laamu Atoll council, resource users and other communities (e.g. KAP survey, establishment of new PAs), much more integration is needed in the project with regards developing and using NCA, adoption of a Green Growth Strategy to e.g. development of the MMA, engagement with corporate sector as well as other related sector operations. The average rating on progress is Moderate Satisfactory.**Summary Risk rating**: Risk rating remains at M largely due to expected impacts to reef health due to CC and bleaching events; as well as challenges with the project to secure quality consultants and service providers on e.g. development of NCA. |

* 1. 2.4. Co-financing

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| --- | --- |
| Co-financing | **22,934,073** |
| **Cash** |  |
| Ministry of Environment | **4,000,000** |
| Housing Development Corporation | **16,500,000** |
| Blue Marine Foundation | **80,000** |
| Six Senses Laamu | **162,200** |
| *Sub-total* | ***20,742,200*** |
| **In-kind** |  |
| Ministry of Fisheries Marine Resources and Agriculture | **823,326** |
| National Bureau of Statistics | **218,547** |
| Ministry of Environment | **1,000,000** |
| UN Environment | **150,000** |
| *Sub-total* | **2,191,873** |

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| **Planned Co-finance****Total:**  USD 22,934,073 (total cash plus in-kind - details see above**Actual to date:**USD unknown - in process of compilation sources and contributions | Only Six Senses Laamu and Blue Marine Foundation has provided the financing commitment information on their co-financing contribution towards the project outputs for the year 2021-2022.Maldives Clean Environment Project (MCEP) project of Ministry of Environment Climate change and Technology contribute the waste management project of Laamu atoll and is currently working to develop Waste Management Centres at Laamu Gan and Dhanbidhoo Island. No financing contribution contracted yet.Housing Development Corporation has designed the concept of the Cultural island, which the project will work with HDC to give technical input to the Knowledge Centre. No cofinancing contribution contracted yet.Only in-kind co-financing to report during this project period is contribution from MECCT on their staff time and technical expertise towards the project outputs from different departments of the Ministry.  |

* 1. 2.5. Stakeholder engagement

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| **Stakeholder engagement** | Stakeholder engagement involves building and maintaining relationships. It also involves preserving the active support and commitment of the people to the implementation of change, through project delivery. The Project Inception Workshop, Steering Committee, Communication Force (local) comprise of a wide range of stakeholders including government stakeholders from all disciplines: environmental, social and economic.Project sensitization meetings and multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted with various stages of the first year of the project including the inception phase. The project has been proactive to include Government entities, Women’s Development Committee, NGOs, Schools and educational institutes and local communities. Most of the project Consultancies are from government agencies from various sectors, including fisheries, agriculture, waste management, tourism and construction. |

* 1. 2.6. Gender

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| **Gender mainstreaming** | Gender mainstreaming has been a priority in the project implementation with a view to promoting equality between women and men. The involvement of women has been ensured at all levels of the project, from project team to all the activities with the communities. The Project Manager, the Project Assistant and Community Co-Management Consultant are women resulting 50% of MNU consists of women. Project Steering Committee consists of …% women and Community Co-Management Consultant ensures integrating gender equality in all project activities.Outreach and education activities will ensure that more women and youth are participating in both decisions making and implementation of the activities. Intentional prioritizing of women for the project small grants will enable more women to participate on a leading role on a community level small project. |

* 1. 2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

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| **Environmental and social safeguards management** | ESMF of ENDhERI is formulated to ensure the implementation of project activities are conform with GEF policy on ESS Guideline on GEF policy on ESS and to conform with environmental and social legislative requirement of Government of Maldives - including its Grievance mechanism. |

* 1. 2.8. Knowledge management

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| **Knowledge activities and products** | Communication and Knowledge sharing is an integral part of this project as capacity and social capital development is the focus of all the subcomponents. A communication and Outreach plan have been established which will serve as a guide to plan and shape the communications and outreach efforts of the project going forwards. The communication plan is in turn informed by the preliminary scoping of existing projects and players engaged in similar efforts in the region, the findings from the KAP study conducted in Laamu, and baseline data gathered for fisheries, agriculture and waste management sectors.KAP Survey Report, Waste Management Baseline Report, L.Maavah Restoration Management and Restoration Plan and Zonation of the proposed Protected Area of Laamu has been published in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology Website (attached). In addition, project activities in line with the communities has been informed and published indifferent social media platforms use in Laamu Atoll. All the project workshops and knowledge sharing meetings including Community Sensitizing meetings and Multi-stakeholder workshop reports will be available on project site within the MECCT website for the public to view. |

* 1. 2.9. Stories to be shared

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| **Stories to be shared** | None yet[section to be shared with communication division/ GEF communication] |
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# 3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

*Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the* ***UNEP Task Manager****[[1]](#footnote-2) will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:*

1. *Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1*
2. *Implementation progress – see section 3.2*

*Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.*

* 1. 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Annex 6)

[copy and paste the CEO Endorsement (or latest formal Revision) approved Results Framework, adding/deleting outcome rows, as appropriate]

| **Project objective and Outcomes** | **Indicator** | **Baseline level** | **Mid-term target** | **End-of-project target** | **Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2022** | **Progress rating[[2]](#footnote-3)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective: To enhance reef ecosystem integrity and resilience through sustainable management, reducing development impacts and integrating natural capital accounting into development planning** | **Indicator 0.1**:Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (ha; excluding PAs) ***[GEF Core Indicator 5\*]*** | Total area of reef and lagoon habitats in Laamu Atoll = 86,153 haOf this area, only Six Senses Laamu Resort House Reef is managed for conservation |  | 86,153 ha reef and lagoon habitats in Laamu Atoll included in Sustainable Development plans, and subject to MMA management plan implementation including zoning of land/sea uses, governance arrangements and staffing, sustainable financing and community engagement | During this coming year project plans to identify priority sites for biodiversity conservation in Laamu Atoll for habitat and key species assessments, GIS mapping, management zonation and develop management plan for the identified priority areas. Baseline study has been established on Fisheries practices and key fisheries site, waste management and agricultural practices. | MU - (i) targeted indicator refers to improved management as recorded through SD Plans, MMA management plan etc. (ii) New PA (for BD conservation) have been established prior to conducting the inventories, stakeholder consultations, local negotiations about best governance arrangements, as well as drafting of MMA Plan; which is not optimal way to follow.  |
| **Indicator 0.2:** Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) ***[GEF Core Indicator 2\*\*]*** | No established PAs within Laamu Atoll, although five areas have been proposed by the Atoll Council to ME for protection[[3]](#footnote-4): a) Gaadhoo Island and adjacent reef and lagoon habitats as proposed Nature Reserve (623 ha)b) Fushi kandu channel as a Habitat/ Species Management Area (78.15 ha)c) Channel between Gaadhoo and Hithadhoo Island (Hithadhoo Kandu) as a Habitat/ Species Management Area (200 ha)d) Mangrove wetland on Maabaidhoo Island as a Natural Monument (40 ha)e) Bodufengandu (waterbody and mangrove forest) on Gan Island as a Natural Monument (3.7 ha) |  | Five areas proposed by the Atoll Council are legally protected; other core zone areas of proposed MMA / BR (zonation and areas to be confirmed during project implementation) | 3405 ha area of Laamu has been declared by the Ministry of Climate Change and Technology under the Environment Protection and Preservation Act (4/93) in December 2020. Under the protected area regulation, Clause 12, a management plan should be developed for each protected area. The project targets to develop Management plan and financing mechanism for the protected areas. | S - PA well established yet not as integrated part of a MMA /BR and its associated planning and consultation process.  |
| **Indicator 0.3:**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment ***[GEF Core Indicator 11\*\*\*]***a) No. of people on Laamu Atoll directly benefiting from ICZM, MMA and Green Growth-related activities (% female)b) No. of government and teaching staff benefiting from project supported training (% female)c) No. of SME / corporate sector staff benefiting from project supported training and TA (% female) |  |  | a) 2,500 people (50% female)b) 250 government and teaching staff (50% female)c) 120 SME / corporate sector staff (50% female) | This is still evolving and improving under the ongoing project activities:* (a & b) Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Ecosystem Conservation and Management – Total number of participants - 65 (48% female)
* (b) Mangroves, Wetlands and Nature Parks Experience and Knowledge sharing Tour in Addu and Fuahmulah – Total number participants 36 (44% female)
* (a) Small Grant Information workshop – Total number participants 46 (46% female)
 | *MS* |
| **Outcome 1.1: Increased sustainability of marine and coastal resource management under a Green Growth Strategy for Laamu Atoll** | **Indicator 1.1.1:** Area (ha) of Marine Managed Area (MMA)/ Biosphere Reserve delineated with agreed incentive-based co-management mechanisms | There is no existing MMA in Laamu Atoll; Six Senses Laamu Resort manages its House Reef, no co-management | Surveys, consultations and draft zoning towards proposed MMA/BR involving total area of Laamu Atoll including terrestrial land | Agreement on MMA/BR including zoning, governance and management - 88,463 ha (total area of Laamu Atoll including terrestrial land) | Baseline study has been established on Fisheries practices and key fisheries site, waste management and agricultural practices. Project is working with Councils and community to compile recommendations towards list for further inventories regarding sensitive and priority areas for MMA. Project is currently working on identifying ecologically significant areas/ hotspots in Laamu Atoll,  to designate as priority sites for biodiversity conservation, protected areas and marine managed areas. Available literature are gathered and simultaneously conducting stakeholder consultations. | *MS* |
| **Indicator 1.1.2:** Number of island communities with agreed roles in NC-based planning for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and actively participating in the co-management of a new MMA/BR | 0 | 1 | 3 | Project is in the process of hiring consultation for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll.The submitted proposal is under evaluation.  | *MU - whilst involving community participation, the work has not been targeting NC-based planning and, which is key element of participatory planning for MMA* |
| **Indicator 1.1.3:** Number of island community agreements with modified land-based production processes and sustainable fisheries for reduced impacts to reefs | 0 | 1 | 3 | Project has conducted number of meetings with Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture to conduct capacity building support to fisheries and agricultural communities.  | *MS* |
| **Outcome 1.2: Reduction in stressors impacting Laamu Atoll reefs (through implementation of Green Growth and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) practices in the fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors)** | **Indicator 1.2.1:** %age of annual solid waste load in targeted communities that is collected for recycling and sanitary disposal | Baseline to be established during year 1 | 80% of all domestic solid waste | 100% of all domestic solid waste | Baseline is established on waste management in Laamu atoll. Project is now working towards the activities related to waste management with the help of ‘Clean Environment Project’ at Waste Department of MECCT | *S - good start of needed work*  |
| **Indicator 1.2.2:** %age reduction in organic water pollution load at targeted sites (BOD/COD, Total N, Total P, conductivity) | Baseline to be established during year 1 | 10% over baseline | 30% reduction over baseline | Baseline Report on Agricultural Practices at Laamu has indicated excessive use of agrochemicals in agricultural islands of Laamu. Hence the project is working with Maldives Food and Drug Authority to conduct water quality testing during the 3rd quarter of 2022. Project is also working with Agricultural section of MFMRA on the training need. | *S* |
| **Indicator 1.2.3:** Percentage of households in targeted communities that have adopted codes of conduct for sustainable bait, reef and grouper fishing methods as a result of project activities | 0 | 20% | >50% | Project has conducted number of meetings with Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture to conduct capacity building support to fisheries communities an adaptation of sustainable fishing practices at Laamu. | *MS* |
| **Indicator 1.2.4:** Number of businesses adopting codes of conduct for sustainable practices in targeted sites and communities as a result of project activities: 1. Agriculture/Food
2. Tourism
3. Construction
 | a) 0b) 0c) 0 | 1. 1
2. 1
3. 1
 | 1. 3
2. 3
3. 3
 | A TOR is developed to hire Sustainable development Consultant to conduct training and awareness on sustainable tourism and construction practices to adopt codes of conduct in these sectors at Laamu. The project is also working on identification of issues, places and identify & engage with corporate actors, to be targeted for sustainable business practices to reduce impacts to the Atoll. Project with the coordination from Agriculture department of MFMRA are in the process of capacity building development of communities on sustainable agricultural practises on the islands  | *S* |
| **Outcome 2.1:**  **Increased understanding of the values and dependencies on marine natural capital and biodiversity supports improved livelihoods and sustainable development on Laamu Atoll and nationally** | **Indicator 2.1.1:** Increased knowledge and awareness levels of targeted sector industries, civil society and government on coastal and marine NC values[[4]](#footnote-5) and dependencies | Baseline KAP Scores for targeted groups to be determined in Year 1, disaggregated by group | - | 80% increase over baseline scores, (target audiences including >35% women & 20% youth) | KAP survey is conducted to establish a baseline of the current understanding of environmental knowledge and resource usage and conservation practices in the targeted island communities so that appropriate strategies can be formulated towards the project goals.  | *HS* |
| **Indicator 2.1.2:** Number of Laamu school students participating in field studies each year after teachers are trained by the project in delivery of coastal and marine biodiversity conservation | 0 | 450 students from 15 primary / secondary schools per year (at least 50% female) | 750 students from 25 primary / Secondary schools per year (at least 50% female) | Project sensitizing and environmental awareness training was conducted with Laamu Atoll with a total of 335 students (58% female) | *S* |
| **Outcome 3.1: Increased institutional capacity, clarified mandates and integration of NCA in marine biodiversity conservation policy and programmes** | **Indicator 3.1.1:** Enhanced national government institutional capacity and coordination for NCA as measured by: Number of government staff trained by the project with new NCA-related responsibilities (disaggregated by agency / unit) | 0 | 20:[ME/EPA 10; MNPI / NBS 10; Atoll/Island Councils 1] (50% female) | 40:[ME/EPA 20; MNPI / NBS 20; Atoll/Island Councils 1] (50% female) | Project is in the process of hiring consultant for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll.The submitted proposal is under evaluation.Capacity building will be conducted through the consultation | *MU - it’s not just the development of NCAs, yet also the establishment of government institutional partnership and NCA framework for e.g. Ocean Accounting, following international SEEA standards.* |
| **Indicator 3.1.2:** Number of national government policies and/or sector programmes adopted or modified to include NC considerations and targets based on NC Accounts | Existing policies and sector programmes do not specifically include NC considerations or targets based on NC Accounts | Environment[[5]](#footnote-6) – 1 | Environment -1Fisheries – 1Tourism – 1Agriculture - 1 | Project is in the process of hiring consultation the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll.The submitted proposal is under evaluation.Capacity building will be conducted through the consultation. | *not yet due* |
| **Indicator 3.1.3:** Number of new fiscal mechanisms benefiting marine/coastal NC, or reduction in disincentives related to NC | Baseline government budget benefiting marine NC includes MECT/EPA, MFMRA/MMRI and LGA/Atoll and Island Council budget portions.  | At least two new fiscal mechanisms operational – a) ME Green Fund; b) Laamu Atoll Conservation Fund | At least four new fiscal mechanisms operational - a) ME Green Fund; b) Laamu Atoll Conservation Fund; c) decentralised atoll budget[[6]](#footnote-7); d) Import Tax modifications[[7]](#footnote-8) | * Project is in the process of hiring consultation for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll.
* Capacity building, training of MBS, MEC and MoF staff on benefitting from and applying results of NCA will be conducted through the consultation, which will be a turning point on the budgeting and funding resources for the new PAs and LLMA of Laamu atoll.
* Project in the process of developing Management plans and Financial mechanism of the PAs of Laamu Atoll. Currently TOR is developed for this activity.
 | *MS - not yet due* |
| **Indicator 3.1.4:** Extent to which annual reporting for national (economic) accounts by the National Bureau of Statistics with support from MECT and other agencies integrates NC Accounting | NBS has piloted one NC account for water and waste management with UN ESCAP support; environmental data provision coordinated by ME. | NC indicators, methodologies and implementation plan for three NC accounts approved by ME and NBS | Annual reporting for national accounts by NBS, MECT and MFMRA includes NC accounts for freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems, and selected stocks of key marine species | * Project is in the process of hiring consultation for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll. During the consultancy, NCAs will be developed in collaboration with technical committee and MBS.

The submitted proposal is under evaluation.* Capacity building, training of MBS, MEC and MoF staff on NCA will be conducted through the consultation.
 | *Not yet due* |
| **Outcome 3.2: Enhanced protection of coral reefs and other marine NC through actions by the corporate fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors** | **Indicator 3.2.1:** No. of internationally agreed indicators showing progress towards SDG 14 *Life Below Water* targets | 0 | 2 | 6 | In the process of developing the Management plan for the 3 Marine Protected areas of Laamu, TOR is developed | *U - project work does not seem related to delivering on the SEEA-based indicator(s).*  |
| **Indicator 3.2.2:** Number ofcompany businesses or operational plans that integrate NC values and accounting, with | 0 | 1 | 3 | Project is in the process of hiring consultation for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll.On the process of NCAs development , project will focus on awareness and way to integrate NC value and accounting on operational plans of business. | *Not yet due; yet more needed to engage and facilitate real change with corporations.* |
| **Outcome 3.3:**  **Strengthened inter-sectoral coordination and spatial planning that incorporates NCA support sustainable development in the fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors** | **Indicator 3.3.1:** Percentage increase in the area of Marine Management Area (MMA)\* nationally for the sustainable management and protection of reefs and other NC through sector development | Baseline area of MMAs nationally includes:-49 PAs (incl. reefs, mangroves, wetlands and islands and core areas of Baa Atoll BR) totalling 27,256 ha. - At the end of 2018 there were 145 registered tourist resort islands that have its own lagoon and reef areas (areas N/A);- In February 2013 MoFA designated 5 marine areas protected for the sustainable management of groupers (areas N/A) | Globally significant biodiversity sites mapped nationally.  |  Proposals for new / extended MMAs covering 25% increase over baseline  | Since the design of the project:* 30 additional PAs have been established in the Maldives
* There are now a total of 74 PAs ((incl. reefs, mangroves, wetlands and islands and core areas), totalling 54,314.67 ha of the territory of the Maldives
 | *HS* |
| **Indicator 3.3.2:** No. of national technical inter-sectoral bodies leading the integration of an agreed SEEA-based methodology on Spatial Planning | 0 | - National Natural Capital Accounting Technical Committee | - National Natural Capital Accounting Technical Committee | Project is in the process of hiring consultant(s) for the development to pilot Natural Capital Accounting at Laamu Atoll. **Note UNEP:** *This will also have to include institutional set-up and methodology to be applied for Maldives on NCA; as well as towards its application on e.g. NC-positive budgeting, spatial planning, NC-monitoring, and other applications*Technical Committee and scope of NCA will be developed in Consultation with Consultants hire. | *MU - ToR needs to be expanded to meet other outputs and indicators related to applications on NCA* |
| **Outcome 4.1: Improved knowledge management and sharing of lessons learned on Green Growth between local and national levels** | **Indicator 4.1.1:** * Number of annual stakeholder forums held where lessons are shared;
* Number of articles on project-related websites;
* Number of stakeholders receiving copies of Project completion report disseminated online and in hard copy[[8]](#footnote-9)
 | 1. 0
2. 0
3. 0
 | 1. 3
2. 30
3. 0
 | 1. 5
2. 50
3. 500
 | * ENDhERI introductory meeting with Atoll Council and Sensitizations meetings with all islands of Laamu Atoll with Island Councils, WDC, communities and schools
* Multi-stakeholder Workshop on Ecosystem Conservation and Management conducted for all stakeholders of Laamu Atoll

Number of posts on project related website and social media – 64Number of publications/reports on project page on MECCT website - 3 | *HS* |
| **Outcome 4.2: Project monitoring system operates, systematically provides information on progress, and informs adaptive management to ensure results** | **Indicator 4.2.1:** Number of project management reflection meetings convened to integrate lessons learned into project workplans and strategies | 0 | 3 | 5 | * 1st PSC meeting was held on July 2021 and 2nd meeting scheduled for August 2022
* Regular monthly project work progress meetings are held with all the project staff including PIU of Laamu Atoll.
 | *S* |

* 1. 3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

| **/Activities[[9]](#footnote-10)** | **Expected completion date[[10]](#footnote-11)** | **Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%)** | **Progress rating justification[[11]](#footnote-12), description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay** | **Progress rating[[12]](#footnote-13)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COMPONENT 1: Green Growth development for Laamu Atoll in the Outputs fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors** |
| **Output 1.1.1:** Green Growth Strategy, Marine Managed Area/Biosphere Reserve and Sustainable Development Plans for Laamu Atoll and selected islands implementation advanced through capacity development, participatory planning and operational support | September 2023 | 20% | **Some of the baselines** established, meetings and way forward with the activities for capacity development discussed and TORs developed | MU - unfortunately new PA already established prior the the regional/Laamu Atoll MMA planning process; as well as prior to agreement on Green Growth Strategy |
| **Output 1.1.2:** Three SEEA-EEA based Natural Capital (NC) Accounts established and operationalized for Laamu Atoll (freshwater; marine & coastal ecosystems; key marine species) | September 2024 | 5% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA | Not yet due; not yet clear what institution(s) will lea don this and sustain the NCA program in Maldives |
| **Output 1.2.1:** Targeted island communities sensitized and increasingly apply eco-technologies for sustainable food production and disposal of domestic waste | October 2023 | 10% | Project Sensitization meeting completed with all islands of Laamu Atoll – with Island Councils, WDC, Communities and Schools. Baseline established for the agricultural practices of Laamu AtollMeeting with MFMRA was conducted and TOR developed for training | S |
| **Output 1.2.2:** Adoption of sustainable tuna baitfish and demersal reef fisheries in conformity with the draft Maldives Fisheries Master Plan | June 2024 | 5% | Project Sensitization meeting completed with all islands of Laamu Atoll – with Island Councils, WDC, Communities and Schools. Updated baseline yet to be established with regards sustainable tuna baitfish and demersal reef fisheries of Laamu AtollMeeting with MFMRA was conducted on way forward | Not yet due; yet reef related fisheries needs much more attention in the project |
| **Output 1.2.3:** Partnership, policy and implementation standards for Green Growth established with the Atoll Council, national construction firms and tourism operators on Laamu Atoll, and registered nationally | August 2023 | 5% | TOR developed on sustainable development consultation  | MU; more visibility and attention towards Green Growth Strategy needed through the project  |
| **COMPONENT 2: Building social capital for a green economy** |
| **Output 2.1.1:** Biodiversity conservation and Green Growth in Laamu Atoll and nationally supported by increased awareness among targeted groups and a National Biodiversity Knowledge Centre | September 2025 | 10% | Multi-stakeholder workshop conducted on Ecosystem Conservation Management in Laamu AtollSeveral meeting with HDC conducted on Knowledge Centre and its design progress.  | Not yet due |
| **Output 2.1.2:** Increased capacity for cross-curricular delivery of coastal and marine ecology and natural capital **in national schools, and incorporation of natural capital accounting in natural sciences and environmental management curricula** at MNU | November 2024 | 50% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA, under evaluation | MU - this consultancy and ToR on establishing NC accounts have little to do with this Output and delivery related to school and university curricula |
| **COMPONENT 3: Mainstreaming natural capital accounting into fisheries and agriculture, tourism and construction sectors** |
| **Output 3.1.1:** Institutionalized capacity programme implemented and national methodology on NC Accounting established – based on the SEEA-EEA framework, for national NC-responsive statistics, policies, plans and budgeting | December 2023 | 5% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA, under evaluation | MU - delayed yet due next year already |
| **Output 3.1.2:** NC objectives integrated into government finance, development planning and policy informed by datasets and valuation of development scenarios through the NC Accounts | September 2024 | 5% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA, under evaluation | Not yet due |
| **Output 3.2.1:** NC flows and values, footprint analysis, and biodiversity protection targets established and reported on for three sector businesses or operational plans | September 2024 | 5% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA, under evaluation | Not yet due |
| **Output 3.3.1:** NC-based spatial planning governance framework established | September 2024 | 5% | TOR developed to hire consultation for NCA, under evaluation | Not yet due |
| **COMPONENT 4: Knowledge management and M&E** |
| **Output 4.1.1:** Project lessons captured and disseminated to project stakeholders and to other GEF and non-GEF projects and partners | Throughout Project period | 20% | All the ongoing project works are captured and publicised on project page on website and on social media. | S |
| **Output 4.2.1:** Capacity established for participatory and efficient monitoring and evaluation and adaptive management | Throughout Project period | 10% | All the project staff are established and tasked with proper guidelines under project manager.  | S |

* 1. 3.3. Risk Rating

**Table A.** Risk-log

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Risk affecting:** | **Risk Rating** | **Variation respect to last rating** |
| Outcome / outputs | **CEO ED** | **PIR 1** | **PIR 2** | **MTR** | **PIR 3 (this PIR)** | **PIR 4** | **PIR 5** | **Δ** | **Justification** |
|  Risk 1: Possible shifts in government priorities and/or policy changes that may reduce project impacts, including the issue of decentralization of natural resource management governance | Outcomes 1-3 | L | L |  |  |  |  |  | = |  |
|  Risk 2: Under global climate change forecasts, increasing frequency of severe *El Nino* events is likely, resulting in repeated coral bleaching events that impact coral reef ecosystems and related uses of reef resources (tourism, fisheries) | Outcomes 1 and 2 | H | H |  |  |  |  |  | = | The 2015/16 *El Nino* caused extensive damage to coral reefs in the Maldives through bleaching. Rating remains the same (H) given, there is possibility that the recent 2022 bleaching events observed by CSIRO for the Great Barrier Reef in Australia will also (soon) apply to the reefs in the Maldives- yet that has yet to be confirmed. The project will reduce land-based and marine -based stressors and optimize environmental conditions in favor of healthy coral reefs so that they are more resilient to future bleaching events and more able to recover assisted by human intervention through marine zonation and protection, awareness building, adoption of more sustainable economic sector operations, as well as training on NCRM at Laamu Atoll |
|  Risk 3: Limited institutional and community understanding and capacity in Laamu Atoll to embrace changes towards more sustainable fishing, agriculture, tourism and other NRM practices including local management of marine resources and reef protection; potential difficulty in recruiting qualified local project staff | All Outcomes | L | L |  |  |  |  |  | = |  |
|  Risk 4: Continued uncontrolled exploitation of marine ecosystems / biodiversity by island communities, especially reef fisheries and bait fishing as common resources | Output 1.2 | L | L |  |  |  |  |  | = |  |
|  Risk 5: Program partners unable or unwilling to incorporate Biodiversity or NC criteria, targets and reporting in their operations | Outcome 3 | M | M |  |  |  |  |  | = | The project will undertake awareness raising and capacity building about the ways in which biodiversity / natural capital benefits are critical for most if not all productive sectors, in part by using targeted awareness raising tools, sector round tables and training directed at a range of government and civil society and industry stakeholders, hence existing local expert in this area in all sectors are limited. |
|  Risk 6: The project is very ambitious for a relatively limited budget and therefore vulnerable to delays or failure in co-financing delivery, partnerships and coordination with other initiatives | All Outcomes | M | M |  |  |  |  |  | = | The PMU as well as UN Environment Task Manager will monitor the delivery of cofinancing contributions on an annual basis and follow up through the Project Steering Committee as necessary to ensure timely and complete delivery. The Mid Term Review of the project will also assess cofinancing delivery performance and provide recommendations for project management as appropriate. |
|  Risk 7: Possible restrictions on access to land or use of resources that are sources of livelihood (ESERN Risk) | Outcome 1 | L | L |  |  |  |  |  | = | All the PA’s established are in consultation and full agreement with multiple stakeholders of the islands, atoll and local resource users |
|  Risk 8: The project may bring unequal economic and gender-based benefits to a limited subset of the target group (ESERN Risk) | All Outcomes | L | L |  |  |  |  |  | = | Project has developed ESMF which implement gender action plan and grievance mechanism |
| Consolidated project risk |  | n.a | M |  |  |  |  |  |  | Project is at a moderate Medium risk (of not attaining its set outcomes and results).; mostly due to delay in procurement of experts due to lack of local expertise in understanding and implementation of some of the project components, especially on establishing the national framework and NCA accounts. Project also has a delay in providing technical support and funding related to Knowledge Centre due to overall delay from HDC on the development of Cultural Island. |

**Table B.** Outstanding medium & high risks

List here **only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of M or worse** in the **current** PIR

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk**   | **Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)** | **Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period** | **Additional mitigation measures for the next periods** |
| What | When | By whom |
| ***See items in table above:***Risk 2:  |  | The project will reduce land-based and marine -based stressors and optimize environmental conditions in favor of healthy coral reefs so that they are more resilient to future bleaching events and more able to recover assisted by human intervention through marine zonation and protection, awareness building, adoption of more sustainable economic sector operations, as well as training on NCRM at Laamu Atoll. | NCRMF Training at Laamu Atoll | October 2022 to February 2023 | MMRI, Blue Marine Foundation and Six Senses Laamu with ENDhERI Project |
| Risk 5: |  | National Natural Capital Accounting Technical Committee will be established to facilitate the integration agreed SEEA-based methodology on reporting, with the help of Consultation firm. | Project will discuss its strategy with UNEP and other NCA specialised agencies to fast-track the development of NCA under the project.This will involve agree on methods, national partnership framework as well as initiating pilot testing of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting in Laamu Atoll. | December 2022 - start of NCA development program | MECCT, MBS, MED, Hired Consultants, in consultation with UNEP |
| Risk 6: |  | Project will be in coordination with several Co-financing partners in delivering the Project outputs in relation to co-financing partners.  | Meeting with co-financing partners on delivering of the Project outputs as per work schedule | Throughout the Project | MBS, MFMRA, Blue Marine Foundation, Six Senses Laamu, MECCT, HDC |
| Risk 7 & 8: ESERN safeguard risks |  | Formulation and awareness on ESMF | Project has formulated ESMF and shared with UNEP for comments.Next step is to translate the documents and conduct community awareness sessions on Environmental Social Management Ethics of the Project and to implement the grievance mechanism. | Next 6 months | Community Co-Management Consultant of the Project |
|  |   |  |  |  |  |

**High Risk (H):** There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
**Significant Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
**Medium Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
**Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

**SRIF (used former ESERN):** project was assed as Moderate Risk related to ‘... *project likely cause restrictions on access to land or use of resources that are sources of livelihood..*’

The declaration of protected areas (Dec 2021 ) will potentially restrict certain resource use, according to the criteria of designation of the protected areas, under the Protected Area Regulation. Currently, the project is in the process of formulation of management and governance mechanisms for the protected areas of Laamu Atoll through an external consultancy (to be awarded by end of Sept 2022). The formulation of management plans for the protected areas will include extensive resource user identification and mapping exercise which will facilitate the process of identifying potentially affected stakeholders (local right holders) by socio-economic types and incorporating their needs and roles into management plan to avoid or minimize any negative impact. The provision for extensive stakeholder engagement process in the formulation of management plans will ensure participation of resource users and local rights holders in the process of management of PAs, and guided by the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF project manual). Further, an Environment, Social, Impact Assessment (ESIA) as well as M & E plan will be developed under this consultancy, which would identify impacts and mitigation measures for the proposed management concept of each of the 6 protected areas; and M & E plan will ensure the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The additional PA financing plans and governance plans will ensure sustainability of the proposed management regime and provide alternative livelihood opportunities for the affected local communities.

In addition, under ESMF a Grievance and Redress Mechanism is to be implemented and grievances can be submitted via online forms and a registry for grievances will be managed by project PIU. ESMF trainings aims to support the responsible authorities for effective implementation of GRM as well.

**Project Minor Amendments**

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Results framework |
|  |  |
|  | Components and cost |
|  |  |
|  | Institutional and implementation arrangements |
|  |  |
|  | Financial management |
|  |  |
| ¨ | Implementation schedule |
|  |  |
|  | Executing Entity |
|  |  |
|  | Executing Entity Category |
|  |  |
|  | Minor project objective change |
|  |  |
|  | Safeguards |
|  |  |
|  | Risk analysis |
|  |  |
|  | Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% |
|  |  |
|  | Co-financing |
|  |  |
|  | Location of project activity |
|  |  |
|  | Other |

*[Annex document linked to reported minor amendment]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Minor amendments** | There is a slight delay in project schedule since the PCA in October 2020. The start of project execution has encountered a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was a delay in establishing the Project Management Unit, which the first recruitment finalized on 21st March 2021, and there was several restrictions on travelling to travel sites and conducting the required in-person meetings. |

**GEO Location Information:**

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79) or [GeoNames](http://www.geonames.org/) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as:[https://coordinates-converter.com](http://www.geonames.org/) Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Location NameRequired field | LatitudeRequired field | LongitudeRequired field | Geo Name IDRequired field if the location is not an exact site | Location Description Optional text field | Activity Description Optional text field |
|  Laamu Atoll - Maldives |  1.9333 |  73.4167 |  Haddhunmathi Atoll |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |

**Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. \***

*Project is in process of securing a improved and georeferenced Map*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Laamu Atoll Council with Council Decree QAR/2018/02 (dated 26 Dec 2018) endorsed five areas for designation as protected areas under the Ministry of Environment’s Pledge to protect one island, one reef and one mangrove/wetland within 100 days. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Includes coral reefs, lagoons, intertidal flats, seagrass beds, mangroves [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Environment – NC monitoring included in management plans for sites designated in policy for conservation one reef, lagoon and island in each atoll; fisheries sector policy for sustainable natural resource use includes targeted NC monitoring for designated areas (eg grouper spawning sites); agriculture/forestry sector policy of managing natural/naturalized forests/ coconut/wetland areas should include monitoring of NC status for such habitats; tourism sector- 4th Tourism Master Plan policy for inclusion of the reef area of tourist resort islands under a national system of MMA’s to be supported by NC monitoring of coral reefs under site management plans. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. A decentralised atoll budget is in the government agenda to be realised during the 5-year term of the new administration. It will be probably based on income from natural resource-based activities (eg a proportion of taxes on land and island leases for tourism, agricultural, industrial uses, etc). Details of how that will be implemented are not yet available. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Review and adjustment of Import Tax on imported goods and materials that negatively impact the environment and biodiversity. Single use plastic products such as plastic bags currently have 400% import tax. There is a need to extend control of plastic beverage bottles import and production in the country by applying tax on their use and instead facilitate alternatives. Insecticides, pesticides inorganic fertilizer have 0% import tax to promote local agricultural production without penalizing damaging chemicals in order to discourage their use. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. A readable publication on Green Growth in the Maldives highlighting project achievements in popular language with colour photos [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project log frame (and workplan) or in any updated project revision. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager [↑](#footnote-ref-13)