

Capacity Strengthening for Improved Transparency of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in the Maldives

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10317

Countries

Maldives

Project Name

Capacity Strengthening for Improved Transparency of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions in the Maldives

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

8/8/2019

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Akio Takemoto

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

PIF

Part I – Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. This project is aligned with GEF climate change mitigation strategy 3-8 "Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concern into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency".

Agency Response

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. Table B shows two project components, two project outcomes and nine project outputs including activities to improve GHG inventory system, enhance institutional mechanism and legal framework for data collection, track and report mitigation and adaptation actions as well as support for implementation, and promote partnership and knowledge sharing, which is aligned with objectives of the CBIT.

Agency Response

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. This project will receive \$484,000 of co-financing from the Ministry of Environment.

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. This project requests resources from the CBIT Set-aside in the GEF Trust Fund.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: This project requests resources from the CBIT Set-aside in the GEF Trust Fund.

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: This project requests resources from the CBIT Set-aside in the GEF Trust Fund.

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**Agency Response**

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: This project requests resources from the CBIT Set-aside in the GEF Trust Fund.

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**Agency Response**

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. This project indicates Core Indicator 11 "Number of direct beneficiaries dis-aggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment.

Agency Response

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Part II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

The Maldives established the long-term vision for climate change mitigation and adaptation in 2015, and set up a number of policies to achieve the goals under the long-term vision.

In order to effectively plan, implement and monitor the progress towards the goals and in general successful implementation of the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements, it is necessary to enhance Maldives' institutional, financial, human and technical capacities – urgently, and for the long term. This will also enable the country to track progress of and regularly update its NDC and ensure the most efficient use of existing resources. The NDC focuses on actions to strengthen the country's resilience to climate impacts and prioritizes mitigation actions in energy, transport, and waste sectors. Effective implementation of the activities within the different sectors requires coordination between line ministries and a robust system for monitoring, reporting and verification at the national level.

Agency Response

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

(GHG Inventory)

The Maldives have reported two GHG inventories to the UNFCCC. The second one was compiled for year 2011 and was reported in the second national communication in 2016. The GHG inventory compilation process is ongoing for the First Biennial Update Report (IBUR) that will include the first time series of GHG inventories (2011 to 2016) for the Maldives. There are several gaps and challenges on the existing GHG inventory system such as lack of permanent institutional arrangement for data collection, analysis, and reporting for the GHG inventory, lack of experts working on regularly, lack of national emission factors, and lack of mandates and data sharing agreements between different sectors and the lead ministry.

(Tracking mitigation actions)

BUR will be the first experience for Maldives on the assessment of mitigation actions planned and implemented. As a result of the assessment, the gaps were identified and can be categorized as 1) legal and regulatory, 2) institutional, 3) procedural, 4) availability and management of GHG data for MRV system and 5) indicators for mitigation actions.

(Tracking adaptation actions)

The Maldives started the process of establishing an institutional framework for the NAP process. The gaps and challenges identified are "the NAP will not focus on the monitoring and evaluating impacts of adaptation actions", "the NAP goals related to capacity building are largely focused on national actions and their institutions", "the NAP will not track actions carried out by the private sector such as the tourism industry."

(Tracking financial support needed and received)

The Maldives has a centralized system for registering MoU with donors to support developmental and environmental activities, but there is no specific system for either recording the project specific information nor a web-based system with well-defined information structure that could provide easy assessment of funding by type of activities supported.

National budget is not tracked with respect to allocations for climate change or other environmental problems. And there is no equivalent effort to create a climate change tagging system for the project.

There are inconsistencies between different publications / reports on climate finance, even some cases of the same institutions. This is due to no defined categorization of recording data related to climate finance. Recording and reporting of the private sector's climate change investments is a big challenge.

Agency Response

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes. This project will consist of 2 components, 2 outcomes and relevant outputs as follows;

Component 1: Maldives' GHG inventory system improvement

Outcome 1. Maldives regularly compiles consistent and accurate sectoral GHG inventory to regularly report to UNFCCC

Output 1.1: Institutional arrangements for cross ministry cooperation to synthesize data collection and processing for preparing GHG inventory.

Output 1.2: National GHG database inventory system established

Output 1.3: Country-specific emission factors developed

Output 1.4: Modalities and procedures for implementation of QA/QC designed and adopted

Component 2: Maldives transparency framework for mitigation and adaptation actions and resilience building, including tracking support for implementation

Outcome 2: Maldives tracks and report transparently its mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as support for implementation to UNFCCC

Output 2.1: Institutional mechanism and legal framework for inter-ministerial cooperation on systemising data collection and processing established and formalized

Output 2.2: Indicators for tracking mitigation actions, methods and tools for estimating indicators, templates and protocols for collecting data to estimate indicators, etc., including database storage and management system, developed and operationalized.

Output 2.3: Tracking adaptation actions: Metrics for monitoring the implementation of adaptation plans and, actions and assessing the impacts of these in addressing vulnerabilities both at national and local level developed.

Output 2.4 Tracking support for NDC implementation: Institutional arrangements, including methodology and tools for monitoring and reporting support and Web based reporting system developed and integrated in national financial systems

Output 2.5 Partnership and knowledge sharing activities on transparency in regional level established in coordination with the global CBIT project.

Agency Response

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

This project incorporates innovative element in establishing permanent Maldives institutional arrangement for transparency.

Institutionalization of the systems and process that will be achieved under the project such as institutionalization of MRV system has a potential for sustainability of the project.

This project aims to share its experience at the international level, in particular with neighboring SIDs countries.

Agency Response

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/2019: Not yet.

Annex A: Please attach a country map.

AT, 10/30/19: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 10/15/2019: The map has been added in the PIF.

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Not sufficiently.

Please add the private sector to the Table on the list of stakeholders, responsibility and their roles in the project in Part II, 2.

AT, 10/30/19: Comment cleared.

Agency Response UNEP, 10/15/2019: The requested information on the private sector has been added to the Table with the list of stakeholders in Part II, 2 (p.32).

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Please see the comment in the box "Stakeholder" above.

AT, 10/30/19; Comment cleared.

Agency Response UNEP, 10/15/2019: The requested information on the private sector has been added to the Table with the list of stakeholders in Part II, 2 (p.32).

Risks

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Not sufficiently.

The PIF indicates that "It is expected that some activities of the current project will be coordinated with the on-going GEF project and other relevant project. For instance, "Development of the Third National Communication and Preparation of the Initial BUR"", for which UN Environment is also the Implementing Agency. This project seems to be a part of "Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC (GEF ID 9442)". Please clarify this and describe the Maldives' national activities under this Umbrella Programme to confirm that it's complementary to the CBIT project.

Also please revise the Table 2 Overview of previous MRV capacity-building support projects in Part II, 1a. (2) The baseline scenario, because there is no information on the UNEP-GEF NC3 project (describing BUR1 project only).

AT, 10/30/19; Comments cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 10/15/2019:

The CBIT project as well as the TNC and initial BUR are executed by the same team in the Ministry of Environment, hence, ensuring full coordination between the CBIT and the two projects. Further, common execution team will ensure that the CBIT work builds on the work being undertaken in TNC and initial BUR. The CBIT project will learn from the arrangements built for TNC project and initial BUR project and built upon it to establish the institutional arrangements. The CBIT project will formalize the data management system for GHG inventory building on the data being collected for preparing the GHG Inventory under the TNC and initial BUR project. The assessment of MRV system under the BUR will form the basis of developing the MRV system for tracking NDC implementation. These elements have been detailed under the coordination section (p.35).

Information on NC3 has been added to the Table 2 (p.12).

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed "knowledge management (KM) approach" in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: Not sufficiently.

Please describe a plan on knowledge management to engage private sector to achieve the objective of the project. In particular, please mention how to enhance knowledge management for the tourism industry.

AT, 10/30/19: Yes. Comments cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 10/15/2019:

The section on knowledge management has been updated with information on how the project will engage the private sector, specifically tourism which is the largest private sector contributing to climate impacts and affected by climate change (p.35-36).

Part III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19:

The total Agency fee and total GEF financing amount to \$142,737, and \$1,645,237, respectively. Therefore, both numbers indicated in the OFP letter should be corrected accordingly and please submit the revised letter.

AT, 10/30/19: Comment cleared. However, it was an oversight to point out two issues for the LOE. Please address these comments and resubmit the LOE again.

- 1) "Source of Funds." should be "GET" (GEF Trust Fund). This source is not the CBIT Trust Fund for a GEF-7 CBIT project. Please revise.
- 2) There is an inconsistency between the subject of the LOE and project title in the PIF. Please match the LOE subject with the PIF project title.

AT, 11/22/19: Comments cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response

UNEP, 10/15/2019:

A new LOE with correct Agency fee and total amounts of GEF financing has been uploaded.

UNEP, 11/19/2019:

Our apologies for the oversight. A revised LoE (signed the 17th of November) indicating the GEF Trust Fund as the source of the project and with the PIF project title has been uploaded to the portal.

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 08/22/19: not at this time. Please address all comments stated above. In addition,

Rio Markers: Climate change adaptation should be '1' because this CBIT project will also address adaptation actions.

AT, 10/30/19: Comments on 08/22/19 have been cleared. However, more comments emerged on the OFP Letter of Endorsement. Please kindly address and resubmit the LOE.

AT, 11/22/19: All comments cleared. The program manager recommends the PIF for approval.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

	PIF Review	Agency Response
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval