

## Outline Terms of Reference

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

#### INTERN

##### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Terms of Reference/Job description is to set out the responsibilities of

the Intern over the six month period of the internship at the Environmental Protection

Agency of the Maldives.

##### 2. BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of Maldives has received financing from the

International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Maldives

Environmental Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards an

Environmental Impact Assessment internship at the Maldives Environmental Protection

Agency. The Environmental Protection Agency is now seeking to engage an eligible

graduate enrolled in a university or institution recognized for excellence in the teaching

of environmental impact assessment, environmental auditing, environmental science,

earth science and/or similar relevant fields.

##### 3. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Maldives is a small island nation located in the Indian Ocean, southwest of

Sri Lanka. It is a coral archipelago consisting of 1,190 islands dispersed over a wide

geographic area and grouped into 26 coral atolls. Approximately 75% of the country's

population lives in the outer islands. Thirty nine percent of the islands have a population

between 1000 and 500. Only two percent of the islands have a population of over 5000

people. The atolls are ringed by coral reefs that are the seventh largest in the world and

among the richest in terms of marine diversity and aesthetic appeal. Nature-based tourism

is the main engine of growth and prosperity for the country.

The successful applicant will have an unprecedented opportunity to contribute to the

future of sustainable development in the Maldives. The successful applicant will be

provided with the opportunity to travel to inhabited islands and to collaborate with all

institutional stakeholders and beneficiary local communities.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS IN THE MALDIVES

The mandatory provision for EIA in the Maldives was first introduced in 1993 the

Environment Protection and Preservation Act (EPPA) of Maldives (Law No. 4/93) and

gave the Ministry of Environment the statutory power to terminate any project that was

considered to have an undesirable impact on the environment.

Even though the EIA provisions were in place in 1993, the process was not formally

adopted until 2007 when the Government of Maldives adopted the Environmental Impact

Assessment Regulation of the Maldives (EIA Regulation). The process of the EIA under

the regulation starts with screening of development proposals followed by scoping,

definition, reporting, review, and decision making.

Decision making for specific development projects occurs within the EIA process.

Proponents submit a development scoping application to the relevant line Ministry

which considers it with reference to specific legislation and plans and policies, before

referring it to the EPA. Once received by the EPA, the EIA & Resource Valuation

Section will call a meeting of all the major stakeholder Ministries etc to consider the

application with relevance to and consistency with cross cutting sectoral policies,

strategies, plans etc. If agreed upon, the EIA & Resource Valuation Section will prepare a

Terms of Reference taking account of the views and comments of the stakeholders for the

development of the EIA report.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now the agency responsible for administering

the EIA regulation on behalf of the Government of Maldives and has the mandate, along

with other activities, to carry-out monitoring of approved EIA activities during the

project lifecycle and thereafter. The EIA & Resource Valuation Section of the EPA is,

however, a very young team with limited capacity beyond processing the development

applications submitted under the process.

## 5. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MALDIVES ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Maldives Environmental Management Project has been divided into four (4) components

which include: (1) a regional solid waste management program for the North Province;

(2) capacity building for environmental management; (3) technical assistance for a pilot

regional strategic environmental assessment enhancing environmental management

through the collection and use of data, and (4) project management and project

communications.

One of the main development objectives of the Maldives Environmental Management

project is 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, and to design and implement responses to environmental risks.

Under component 3 of the Project it is proposed to develop a pilot regional strategic

environmental assessment (RSEA) for the North Province as a "directional policy" to

guide decision-makers about development in the North province. One of the main

impediments to introducing the RSEA is the absence of an integrated system which feeds

strategic decision made about development proposals at the national level through

concerned Ministries and then into the EIA decision making process.

It is proposed that the RSEA will primarily be a strategic development tool to assist the

National Protection Council (NPC). The NPC is the highest level of strategic planning

decision making in the Maldives and is assisted by the Department of National Planning

and its Spatial Planning Section. Under the MEM Project the capacity of the Spatial

Planning Section to provide the NPC with spatial planning inputs will also be supported.

Currently the feedback loops linking the NPC, line Ministries and EIA processes is weak.

Funding for the internship has, therefore, been made available under the Maldives

Environmental Management Project to support strengthening of the Environmental

Impact Assessment process (including the capacity of EPA and other relevant

Government Staff) generally and to strength arrangements for incorporating Strategic

Environmental decision making within the current EIA process specifically.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLACEMENT:

The overall objective of the internship is to:

- . support strengthening of the Environmental Impact Assessment process (including the capacity of EPA and other relevant Government Staff) and;
- . strength arrangements for integrating the Strategic Environmental decision making with the current EIA process.

#### 5. SPECIFIC TASKS OF THE INTERN

Under the direction and supervision of the Director General of the Environmental

Protection Agency or his designate the tasks to be undertaken by the environmental

impact assessment intern will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- . Study national strategic planning decision making processes and the EIA decision making process and propose procedures/ feedback loops to further strengthen inter-linkages between the processes.
- . Assist and guide the EIA & Resource Valuation Section in developing assessment level decision triggers which delineates between proposed development activities based on environmental risk and/ or national strategic concurrence.
- . Assist and guide the EIA & Resource Valuation Section in the development of

Terms of Reference which enables national planning objectives and decision as

well as sectoral policies, plans and objectives to be considered during project

scoping.

. Assist and guide the EIA & Resource Valuation Section in developing standard

and additional requirements for Terms of References based on the assigned assessment level decision.

. Assist and guide the EIA & Resource Valuation Section in developing standard

reporting templates for annual monitoring under EIA monitoring plans.

. Assist and guide the EIA & Resource Valuation Section in developing an EIA monitoring and auditing program (including monitoring and auditing protocols relevant to the assigned assessment level decision for approved development activities).

. Participate in and provide hands on training to field staff of the EIA & Resource

Valuation Section in carrying out environmental monitoring and audit activities.

## 6. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

To be eligible for consideration for this internship the candidate must demonstrate the

following eligibility criteria:

. A minimum university degree (or academic transcripts for mandatory degree study period completed) in Environmental Science, Environmental Management,

or comparable academic preparation;

. Have studied at a university or institute recognized for excellence in the teaching

of environmental impact assessment, environmental auditing, environmental science, earth science and/or similar relevant fields;

. An accreditation from a recognized institution in environmental auditing is highly

desirable but not essential;

. Ability to participate in field visits

. Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in a team environment;

. Fluent in written and spoken English; and

. A high level of computer literacy and knowledge of GIS, Word and Excel is required.

#### 7. DELIVERABLES:

. A procedure for delineating between proposed development activities based on

environmental risk and/ or national strategic concurrence and assigning assessment level decisions.

. Standard reporting templates for annual monitoring under EIA monitoring plans.

. An EIA monitoring and auditing program (including monitoring and auditing protocols relevant to the assigned assessment level decision for approved development activities).

#### 8. REPORTING

The environmental impact assessment intern is expected to work closely with the EIA &

Resource Valuation Section counterpart and will report directly to the Director General of

the Environmental Protection Agency or his designate during the period of the internship.

#### 9. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT:

The Environment Protection Agency will provide the intern with office space, office

facilities, a local counterpart at the Environmental Protection Agency's offices in Male',

local transportation (vessel), and dive and monitoring equipment as required during the

course of the placement.

The Environmental protection Agency will obtain, at no cost to the intern, a single entry

business visa/ work permit for the period of the placement.

The Environmental Protection Agency will assist the intern in finding local accommodation in Male' if required.

Although diving is not a specific activity required under this assignment diving will be

permitted with the concurrence of the EPA. Any relevant proof of qualifications and

experience relevant to the proposed diving activity must be presented to the Director

General or his designate in advance. Where EPA has agreed to the diving activity, EPA

will provide a "dive buddy" to accompany the intern during the approved diving activity.

## 10. REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSABLE

The inclusive monthly budget allocated internship is USD 2500.00.

The allocated budget is inclusive of local accommodation, meals, insurances and incidental expenses over the duration of the assignment. A onetime relocation allowance of USD 1000.00 (USD one thousand) and cost of travel (economy class return airfare) will also be paid from the allocated budget. The monthly stipend payment will be negotiated from the allocated budget after consideration of the intern's expenses.

The return airfares purchased by intern for the purpose of the assignment will be reimbursed at cost on production of receipts. The stipend and other local currency expenses will be paid by cheque, or alternatively salary may be paid into an international account by Telegraphic Transfer (T/T) on presentation of the necessary international banking details.

The intern may request an advance on salary not exceeding [1] month salary equivalent deductible over period not exceeding [6] months.

## 10. CONTRACT DURATION:

The contract duration is for a period of up to six (6) months. The successful candidate

must be available to commence the internship in August 2009.

Please send Expressions of Interest, <mailto:[sofoora.kawsar@mhte.gov.mv](mailto:sofoora.kawsar@mhte.gov.mv)> [sofoora.kawsar@mhte.gov.mv](mailto:sofoora.kawsar@mhte.gov.mv) and copy to <mailto:[pmu@erc.gov.mv](mailto:pmu@erc.gov.mv)> [pmu@erc.gov.mv](mailto:pmu@erc.gov.mv).