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 submits 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> sofoora.kawsar@mhte.gov.mv and copy to <mailto:pmu@erc.gov.mv> pmu@erc.gov.mv.