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Ministry of Environment
Male', Republic of Maldives.

(IUL)438-HRU/438/2021/53

Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants Through Sound Management of Chemicals

POLICY COORDINATOR

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Maldives has received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the project “Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants through the Sound Management of Chemicals”.

The Republic of Maldives is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) which faces sustainable development challenges such as small but growing populations, land scarcity, vulnerability to climate change impacts (and other natural disasters) as well as economic development problems due to high transportation costs, lack of adequate infrastructure and lack of industrial development incentives. The Maldives is an archipelago comprised of 1,190 coral islands in 26 atolls over an area of about 750 km on a North-south axis and 120 km on an east-west axis. The land area of the Maldives accounts for about 1% of the Country’s territory. The Maldives islands are low lying land areas with an average height above sea level of 1.8 meters (m).

The country’s population of approximately 400000 people dispersed across 187 inhabited islands. An additional more than 166 islands have tourist resorts. Waste generation is estimated to be 324,000 tons annually with consisting of approximately 0.5 to 11% of hazardous chemicals and of approximately 3-9% of plastics depending on location and size of the island. The fact that (chemical) waste is being generated on 278 island presents the country with an incredible challenge, as land is very scarce, low lying and transportation of chemicals and waste from island to island is costly and complicated. The inadequate storage options and current



disposal practices of hazardous chemicals and waste, especially open burning of waste at dumpsites or disposal near the coastline, make it very likely that these toxic chemicals and waste will end up in the waters and oceans. In the Republic of Maldives, the tourism sector accounts for more than 28% percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy. Tourists to the Maldives are seeking a pristine environment, not one with polluted waters, degraded coral reefs, waste dumps which are openly burning or waste floating in the ocean. Therefore, the Sound Management of Chemicals and waste, especially the environmentally sound management of Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereinafter referred to as POPs) and hazardous waste, is an important element to achieving environmental sustainability. Further, given the economic importance of tourism to the Maldives, implementing environmentally sound chemical and waste management systems would help decouple growth in the tourism sector from environmental degradation.

To tackle these environmental and human health risks, the Government of the Republic of Maldives through the Ministry of Environment (MoEn) has already taken some steps to try to manage its growing chemicals and waste management problems. Maldives has ratified the Stockholm Convention (SC) on 17 October, 2006 and in accordance to Article 7 of the Convention has submitted its National Implementation Plan (NIP) to the Stockholm Convention Secretariat (SCS) on 18 July, 2017, which covers the initial POPs as well as the new POPs added at the 4th and the 5th Conference of the Parties.

According to this NIP the highest-ranking national Priorities are the following:

1. First Priority: The Implementation of measures to strengthen the institutional and regulatory framework; which includes the (i) developing legislation for chemicals management; (ii) strengthening institutional capacity; (iii) improving data collection and management systems and (iv) conducting research on the effects of POPs;
2. Second Priority: Developing an action plan to eliminate PCB-containing equipment and its waste by 2025, which includes the (i) identification, labelling and mapping where PCBs and equipment potentially-containing PCBs are located in the country); (ii) putting in place labelling mechanism for all PCB-containing equipment; (iii) establishing adequate storage facilities for replaced equipment containing PCBs; (iv) formulating guidelines for disposal of equipment-containing PCBs; and (v) disposing safely of equipment containing PCBs.



3. Reducing the incineration and open burning of wastes (including medical and hazardous waste), which is the source of 98.6% of U-POPs releases in the country- totaling 153.4 g-TEQ/year;
4. Raising awareness through the development of education curricula and targeted awareness campaigns;
5. Establishing a standard Chemical Management System, including chemical labelling in multiple languages.

In order to address the above-mentioned barriers the project will focus on addressing regulatory/policy barriers, technical and capacity and knowledge barriers so that the Maldives has a better foundation to establish a nationwide environmentally sound Management system to address POPs and highly hazardous chemicals, with the adequate coordination of key public, private and community stakeholders, regulatory departments, and centers of expertise, and the enhanced capacity of all involved, for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals.

The project is implemented by UNDP as GEF's Implementing Agency and MoEn as national executing agency.

The project is expected to support implementation of the developmental targets and priorities of the Government, set out in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for five-year period 2019-2023.

The Government of Maldives through the Ministry of Environment is seeking a full time Policy Coordinator for the implementation and management of component 1 of the project entitled "Strengthening the regulatory and policy framework and institutional and technical capacity for the sound management and disposal of POPs, chemicals and wastes."

2. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The key objective of this assignment is to ensure stakeholders coordination and provide policy coordination for the Eliminating Persistent organic Pollutants through Sound management of chemicals project.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES



The tasks to be undertaken by the Policy Coordinator are to be undertaken in close collaboration with the PMU, Ministry of Environment and relevant stakeholders as necessary, and include the following.

1. Provide overall coordination to the international consultant and legal firm hired under this project to develop chemicals management regulations
2. Liaise with relevant government entities on the implementation of project activities within the assigned project component
3. Provide support on salient features required for the proposed Chemicals Management Bill and identify the steps that to be adopted in the implementation phase of the Chemicals Management Law
4. Provide technical support to develop the Chemicals Management Bill to address gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies and other issues.
5. Organize and arrange required stakeholder consultation, workshops and policy level presentations prior to and after the completion of tasks by the international consultant and legal firm.
6. Support the translation of the regulations to English
7. Assist in the development and drafting of legal documents, policy papers and MOU
8. Draft and produce regular progress reports as requested
9. Any other work-related tasks assigned by the PMU/Ministry of Environment for fulfilling the component 1 of the project, 'regulatory and policy framework and institutional and technical capacity for the sound management and disposal of POPs, chemicals and wastes'.

4. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Policy Coordinator will report to the Project Manager. On a day-to-day basis, s/he will work in close coordination with the PMU team.

5. KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE



1. Must have minimum undergraduate qualification in a relevant field such as environmental management, Policy studies, International Relations, Public Administration, Project Management or in a related field
2. Minimum 3 years of experience working in the field of policy coordination, project management and regulatory policy revision matters
3. Experience of working in donor-aided projects is desirable;
4. Knowledge and understanding of technical, and legal aspects related to policy development, environment/chemicals management is preferred
5. Must be result oriented and proactive
6. Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues
7. Ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multidisciplinary team

6. SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

The duration of the assignment is 12 months from the commencement of the consultancy. The successful candidate must be available to commence the position in March 2021.

7. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The Client shall make available to the Consultant Office space and other facilities such as computers at the ME. Local transport for official travel between Male', inter-Atolls and inter-islands and food and accommodations for the trips will be provided from the project.

8. PAYMENT

Successful candidate will be paid an all-inclusive monthly fee of MVR 22,400

9. EVALUATION

Evaluation of candidates will be performed according to the criteria and scoring detailed below:

- Education (degree) - (20%)
- Relevant professional experience (level, number of years) - (30%)
- Technical/special skills - (15%)
- Experience of working in donor-aided projects - (5%)
- Interview - (30%)

