



Ministry of Environment and Energy
Republic of Maldives

Climate Change Adaptation Project (CCAP)
Maldives Climate Change Trust Fund
Grant No.: TF019383

Terms of Reference

Resort Liaison Officer

A. BACKGROUND

Maldives with great diversity of marine life occurring in the coral reefs that surround the atolls the reefs also are literally the basis of the country's life-support system, providing services, such as shoreline protection and goods upon which the economy is significantly dependent such as fisheries and tourism.

The biodiversity-based sectors contribute to 89 percent of the country's GDP, 98 percent of its exports, and 71 percent of employment. Agriculture and fisheries, that are both dependent on the country's unique natural resources, account for 3.4 percent of the GDP and 10.6 percent of employment. Nature-based tourism is the engine of economic growth, accounting directly for about 28 percent of the country's GDP. About 800,000 tourists visit the country annually (2008–2012) for its un-spoilt marine environment. Degradation of coral reefs and marine biodiversity will adversely impact the tourism sector, including related services, as well as transport and telecommunications sectors. In 2012, economic growth moderated to 3.4 percent due to a slowdown in the tourism sector because of political instability in the country and a decrease in the number of tourists from Europe.

The coral reefs of the Maldives are the seventh largest in the world and very rich in terms of species diversity and aesthetic appeal. The reefs host over 1,900 fish, 187 corals, and 350 crustacean species. The coral reefs are the first line of defense for the Maldivian islands against storms and sea-level rise. They decrease wave energy by an average of 97 percent and wave height by an average of 84 percent.

Sea surface temperature rise will likely result in increased coral bleaching and reef degradation. Ocean acidification causes corals to invest more energy in building their calcium carbonate skeletons thus reducing the energy they have to manage other stresses. Given the dependence of island communities on coral reef ecosystems for a range of services (including coastal protection, subsistence fisheries and tourism), coral reef ecosystem degradation will negatively impact island communities and livelihoods.

The lack of baseline data and sparse information on coral reef ecosystems to inform policies to arrest degradation is a key impediment to coral reef management in the Maldives. Therefore, CCAP aims to establish linkages and strengthen the activities of national monitoring and management program for coral reefs by Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture with an understanding that a pragmatic approach to evidence based monitoring and improved stakeholder capacities can be important tools to safeguard the natural assets of the country.

The overarching development objective of the project is to introduce evidence based management of coral reefs through improved monitoring and expanding the knowledge base on critical coral reef resources.

The following sections describe the objectives and components of the WCCM Project and details are provided in the WCCM Project Paper.

B. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The CCAP is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) under a multi donor Trust Fund Framework entitled the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) designed to support adaptation and mitigation of climate change in Maldives. There are 4 separate components of the project;

- I. **Wetland Conservation:** this component aims to establish a protected wetland management system for Hithadhoo Island and Fuvahmulah Island.
- II. **Coral Reef Monitoring:** aims to strengthen the Coral Reef Monitoring Framework developed under CCTF-I for improved decision making and management of coral reefs and related ecosystems
- III. **Development of island level integrated solid waste management system:** This component will help build the institutional capacity of Addu city and Gn. Fuvahmulah atolls/island councils to plan an atoll/island level integrated solid waste management program to minimize the environmental risks to marine and terrestrial assets
- IV. **Mainstreaming climate change into island development planning:** Provision of support for the mainstreaming of climate change into island development planning.

The primary objective of the Coral Reef Monitoring Component is to develop a stronger evidence base on the status of coral reefs so as to support ecosystems by involving private sector stakeholders (such as tourist resorts, Dive Centers, etc.) in coral reef monitoring.

The “Coral Reef Monitoring” component under CCAP aims to scale-up existing Coral Database and Coral Reef Monitoring Framework developed under CCTF-I; in which the users of resources are given the capacity to collect, and make available, information that is necessary to manage the resources they depend on in the face of projected climate change using a web enabled national geo-database.

A strong principle underpinning the “Coral Reef Monitoring Framework” is to use existing Maldivian private sector capacity to do the monitoring. The reason for this is that users of natural resources should be responsible for monitoring and assisting in the management of the resources that they use. Government should concentrate on setting standards and auditing compliance with the delivery of the standards. Manuals, training materials and training will be provided in support of each of the activities and relevant subordinate activities of the project.

This Terms of Reference (ToR) relates to the second component in the CCAP Project, namely “*Coral Reef Monitoring*”. Implementation of Component 2 will be facilitated by a Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Ministry of Environment and Energy.

C. OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT

The National Coral Reef Monitoring Framework comprise a set of monitoring sites, a set of data collection protocols and a web enabled database that will allow users to enter, maintain and use secure sets of their monitoring data.

The objective of this assignment is, in the context of applying National Coral Reef Monitoring Framework to:-

- Provide support to MRC in regards to database management, data collection, processing and presentation

D. SCOPE OF WORKS

This ToR should be read in conjunction with the CCAP Project Paper and the Environment and Social Due Diligence Document (ESDD). Both documents can be obtained from the PMU and can also be accessed through the World Bank Project and Operations Site¹. Additional guidance may be issued from the PMU from time to time.

- Liaise with participating resorts/dive centers and NGOs of National Coral Reef Monitoring Framework as a focal point for the CoralDatabase
- Assist the National CoralDatabase implementation agency, Marine Research Centre (MRC) in managing the database, data entry and processing
- Active participation of annual/biannual reporting on Maldivian coral reefs using the CoralDatabase by MRC
- Participate in data collection and monitoring assignments related to coral reef health and coralDatabase conducted by MRC
- Assist MRC and CCAP PMU with training staff from participating resorts/dive centers and NGOs

¹<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P153301?lang=en>

E. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Applicant should have the following minimum qualifications.

- At least a Bachelor's Degree in a related field such as Environmental Science, Environmental Management, Marine Science ...etc
 - Or at least a Diploma in a related field such as Environmental Science, Marine Science ...etc with minimum 1 year of experience in a related field
 - Or an A' level biology pass AND O' level English pass with 3 or more years work experience in a related field
- Certified Diver (PADI/SSI); preference will be given to experienced divers
- Reef check or Eco-diver certification and familiarity with coral reef surveying will be an added advantage
- Familiarity of using database software and information systems will be an added advantage

The applicant should possess:

- (i). Familiarity working in marine environment;
- (ii). Good communication skills; written and spoken English and Dhivehi
- (iii). A good attitude towards working in challenging environments and with groups of people from different backgrounds and nationalities
- (iv). Computer literacy and good word processing and e-learning skills
- (v). Willingness to travel (within Maldives) on short notice

F. SCHEDULE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Duration of the assignment is **11 Months** from the commencement of the assignment. During this period, Liaison Officer will report to MRC as a full-time staff.

G. FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT

The Liaison Officer will be administratively directed and supported by the PMU under the overall supervision of the World Bank. The PMU and MRC will coordinate closely with the officer during the process.

Administrative direction and support will be provided by a Project Manager, Finance Officer and Procurement Officer within the PMU based in the MEE in Male'. Technical supervision and support will be provided by MRC

The client will provide office facilities for the duration of the assignment.