



Building Climate Resilient Safer Islands in the Maldives

Summary of Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan



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Abbreviation

AE	Accredited Entity
EE	Executing Entity
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LGA	Local Government Authority
ME/ MEE	Ministry of Environment / Ministry of Environment and Energy
MGF	Ministry of Gender and Family
MGFSS	Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services
MLG	Ministry of Law and Gender
MLSA	Maldives Land and Survey Authority
MMS	Maldives Meteorological Service
MNPI	Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NDMA	National Disaster Management Centre
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PMU	Project Management Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSM	Public Service Media
SEO	Social Environmental Officer
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WDC	Women Development Committee

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1 Introduction

This Summary of Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared in support of a project proposal for “Building Climate Resilient Safer Islands in the Maldives (referred to hereinafter as “the Project”)” by the Government of the Maldives to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As this project is supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in its role as a GCF Accredited Entity (AE), this document has been prepared based on JICA’s Social and Environmental Standards Procedure (2014) and GCF’s guidance on stakeholder engagement (2019)¹.

1.1 Project Overview and Purpose

The Republic of Maldives consists of 26 atolls and 1,192 islands in the range of around 90,000 km² in the Indian Ocean, southwest of Sri Lanka. The Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed sovereign states as well as the smallest Asian country by land area and population. The total area of national land is 298 km², where the length of the coastline is 644 km. The population of the country is 451,738 people with a population density of 1,506 people/km². The islands of Maldives are classified into 1) inhabited islands, 2) resort islands, and 3) industrial islands. The number of these inhabited islands is 188. Around 44% of residential areas and 47% of infrastructure facilities are located within 100 m of the coastline. As of 2017, there are 135 resort islands out of 1,192 islands.

Under such circumstances, the Maldives are considered as one of the most vulnerable countries with regard to climate change. The issues on climate change in Maldives are the following; i) increase in coastal disaster risk and land loss due to acceleration of coastal erosion influenced by climate change, ii) accelerated coastal erosion by artificial change in coastal areas, iii) loss of natural beaches due to coastal protection measures by hard facilities and the deterioration of coast/reef environment due to the decrease of people's interaction with the coast, and iv) insufficient understanding, analysis, impact assessment regarding coast and reef environment data as well as a lack of information sharing among concerned stakeholders.

As of 2014, 116 islands out of 188 inhabited islands have coastal erosion and 38% of which were categorized as serious coastal erosion situations. Under RCP8.5 scenario, the smaller the island area, the greater the rate of area loss is. For example, Maamendhoo Island of Laamu Atoll, having a land area of 0.2 km², will lose 36% of the land in the year of 2100. According to the tide level observation records over the past 33 years on Gan Island in Laamu Atoll, the mean sea level (MSL) of + 0.84 m was observed as the highest tide level, and an average tide level of 3.2 mm/year was observed. It is higher than the average sea level rise (1.7 mm/year, 1901-2010) in the world. The high tide level will frequently occur in the future due to the sea level rise caused by climate change, and inundation damage caused by high waves will occur on a daily basis.

Under such situations, the project focuses on the following four components.

Table 1.1 Project Components

Component		Funded by
Component 1: Establishment of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)		
Activity 1.1:	Inventory study for risk assessment on present coastal and coral reef conditions	JICA
Activity 1.2:	Preparation of basic policy of the ICZM at the national level	JICA

¹ GCF, 2019: Sustainability Guidance Note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed projects

Component		Funded by
Activity 1.3:	Preparation of concrete ICZM Plan at representative Inhabitant Island as case study	JICA
Activity 1.4:	Capacity development and information sharing of the relevant organizations for establishment of the ICZM	JICA
Component 2: Implementation of coastal conservation/protection measures against coastal disasters		
Activity 2.1:	Detailed design of coastal conservation measures and capacity development of stakeholders	GCF, JICA
Activity 2.2:	Implementation of coastal conservation/ protection measures	GCF, Maldives's co-finance
Activity 2.3:	Implementation of beach maintenance, establishment of structure and capacity development of stakeholders	GCF, JICA
Component 3: Development of disaster warning and information dissemination		
Activity 3.1:	Installment of terrestrial digital broadcasting system	JICA
Activity 3.2:	Establishment of disaster early warning and information broadcasting system	JICA
Component 4: Development of basic data collection and sharing system related to climate change		
Activity 4.1:	Development of wave and sea level monitoring system	JICA
Activity 4.2:	Development of beach, coral reef, and land use monitoring system	JICA

Source: JICA (2019)

The proposed activities at each target area in the four components are shown below:

Table 1.2 Project Components at Each Island under Component 1

Atoll	Island	Project Component	Funding Source	Abbreviation
All	For all inhabited islands	Categorization into pattern by existing information and extraction of issues (Activity 1.1) Formulation of national-level ICZM (Activity 1.2)	JICA's co-finance	
-	6-9 islands (2-3 islands per pattern x 2-3 patterns)	Field surveys to grasp and confirm the current situations (Activity 1.1)	JICA's co-finance	
Laamu	Fonadhoo	Formation of island-level ICZM as the case study (Activity 1.3)	JICA's co-finance	L-FND
	Gan	ditto	JICA's co-finance	L-GAN

Source: JICA (2019)

Table 1.3 Project Components at Each Island under Component 2

Atoll	Island	Project Component	Funding Source	Abbreviation
Laamu	Fonadhoo	Beach nourishment and groins for the eastern coast (ocean side)	GCF fund	L-FND
	Maamendhoo	Beach nourishment and groins for the eastern and western side coast, and reclamation for the evacuation place at the north-western top	GCF fund	L-MMD
	Ishdhoo	Sea walls to protect historical sites at the ocean side coast at the north top	Maldives's co-finance	L-ISD
	Gan	Sea walls to protect the historical sites at the ocean side at the middle of the island	Maldives's co-finance	L-GAN
Addu	Meedhoo	Beach nourishment and groins for the northern coast (ocean side)	Maldives's co-finance	A-MED

Atoll	Island	Project Component	Funding Source	Abbreviation
	Above islands	5 Beach maintenance, establishment of structure and the capacity development of stakeholders (Activity 2.3)	JICA's co-finance	

Source: JICA (2019)

Table 1.4 Project Components at Each Island under Component 3

Activity / Facility	Quantity	Island / Atoll
Activity 3.1 (JICA's co-finance)		
Network operation center	1 atoll	Villingili (Male) (K)
Microwave relay stations	3 atolls	Maafushi (K), Feeali (F), Fiyoari (GDh)
Digital transmitting stations	18 atolls	Dhidhdhoo (Ha), Kulhudhuffushi (HDH), Funadhoo (Sh)*1, Manadhoo (N), Ungooaaruu (R), Eydhafushi (B), Naifaru (Lh)*2, Villingili (Male) (K), Felidhoo (V), Dhangethi (ADh), Nilandhoo (F), Gan (L), Guraidhoo (Th), Gadhadhoo (GDh), Thinadhoo (GDh)*3, Villigili (Ga), Fovammulah (Gn), Hithadhoo (S) <i>Note: *1: Funadhoo (Sh) was replaced with Maaungdhoo (Sh), *2: Naifaru (Lh) was replaced with Hinnavaru (Lh), *3: Thinadhoo (GDh) was cancelled.</i>
Activity 3.2 (JICA's co-finance)		
Establishment of disaster early warning and information broadcasting system	20 atolls	Ditto
Awareness raising on disaster warning and information	1 atoll	Gan (L)

Source: JICA (2019)

Table 1.5 Project Components at Each Island under Component 4

Atoll	Island	Project Component	Funding Source	Abbreviation
Haa Dhaalu	Hanimaadhoo	Installation of long-term monitoring and observation system of for waves and sea level	JICA's co-finance	
Male	Male			
Addu	Gan			S-GAN
-	Main inhabited islands	Introduction of beach profile, coral reef, and land use system (Activity 4.2)	JICA's co-finance	

Source: JICA (2019)

1.2 Stakeholder Engagement

This stakeholder engagement plan will apply to all components of the proposed project and all third parties are expected to adhere to this as they execute their assigned activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the stakeholder engagement plan are;

- To identify all project stakeholders including their priorities and concerns;
- To identify strategies for information sharing and communication to stakeholders as well as consultation of stakeholders in ways that are meaningful and accessible throughout the project cycle;
- To specify procedures and methodologies for stakeholder consultations, documentation of the proceedings and strategies for feedback;

- To establish an accessible, culturally appropriate, transparent and responsive grievance mechanism for the project; and
- To develop a strategy for stakeholder participation in the monitoring of project impacts and reporting or sharing of results among the different stakeholder groups.

2 Regulations and Requirements

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is developed as a result of the need to comply with the Environmental Protection and Preservation Act (Act No. 4/93), Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation (2012), Gender Equality Act (2016), and JICA's Environmental and Social Consideration Procedure (2014). All these instruments unanimously advocate for the meaningful involvement of project stakeholders in the decisions that affect them, in participatory planning, and in transparent grievance management mechanisms.

3 Previous Stakeholder Engagement

During the preparation of the feasibility study, many kinds of stakeholders were consulted through coordination meetings, public consultation meetings, gender assessment consultation meetings, and individual meetings in order to discuss the design and scope of the Project and in order to collect their opinions (see Table 3.1).

During the various consultations, the project objective and activities were briefly explained by the study team, and the following topics were addressed by the participants and the findings incorporated into the feasibility study:

- Situations: coastal erosion, disappearance of sandy beach, vulnerability to climate change, inadequate waste management, necessity of capacity development on coastal management,
- Measures: desire to recover the sandy beaches (beach nourishment), unnecessary of revetment along the coasts, land reclamation for evacuation
- Gender: voluntary coast cleaning (by women), involvement of women development group to the coastal monitoring and cleaning, inequity on access to the coasts (to vulnerable persons).
- Disaster prevention: insufficient information dissemination system on the disaster, difficulties to evacuate for the vulnerable persons (women, children, disables).

Table 3.1 List of Meetings with Various Stakeholders

Atoll	Meeting	Location	Date	Participants	Remarks
Laamu	Public consultation meeting	Fonadhoo	25/Feb/2019	15	
		Fonadhoo	15/May/2019	15	
		Fonadhoo	10/Sep/2019	16	
		Ishdhoo	-	-	
	Gender assessment Consultation meeting	Fonadhoo (Female)	10/Sep/2019	13	
		Fonadhoo (Male)	27/May/2019	7	
		Maamendhoo (Female)	28/May/2019	13	
		Maamendhoo (Male)	28/May/2019	7	
		Ishdhoo (Female)	10/Sep/2019	12	
		Ishdhoo (Male)	10/Sep/2019	7	
Addu	Public consultation meeting	Hithadhoo	14/Feb/2019	13	
		Hithadhoo	15/May/2019	8	
		Hithadhoo	29/Aug/2019	31	
		Meedhoo	29/Aug/2019	11	

Atoll	Meeting	Location	Date	Participants	Remarks
	Gender assessment consultation meeting	Hithadhoo (Female)	20/May/2019	6	
		Hithadhoo (Male)	21/May/2019	12	
		Meedhoo (Female)	11/Dec/2019	10	
		Meedhoo (Male)	11/Dec/2019	8	

Source: JICA (2019)

4 Project Stakeholders

4.1 Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder engagement is essential at all stages of project, programme and policy development when the planned activities aim to trigger a paradigm shift, thus having major impact on society. Stakeholders in this context include all individuals and entities that are directly affected by the proposed activities or that can have an impact on their successful design and implementation. Who they are depends on the planned activities and national circumstances, but they usually include the national and international organizations from government, non-government, academic, policy makers, private sector and civil society. The Maldives needs to identify key stakeholders and their potential roles within the GCF to receive support for scaled up climate action in order to contribute towards national climate change priorities. There are two levels of stakeholders: i) Affected or likely to be affected by the project (project affected parties); and ii) May have an interest in the project (other interested parties). Table 4.1 presents the key stakeholders of GCF and potential areas of their engagement and involvement in the GCF process.

Table 4.1 Stakeholder Analysis Matrix

Key Stakeholder	Key Characteristics	Potential Roles in the Project
Ministry of Environment (ME)	Overall responsibility for the management and development of environment and energy resources in the country.	Responsible for chairing the PSC. Main implementing agency (Executing Entity (EE)) of Component 2 in the project and Counterpart organization of Components 1, 3 and 4 in the project. .
Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure (MNPI)	Overall responsibility for the planning and development of infrastructure in the country.	Involvement in the project as PSC member. Main implementing agency (EE) of Component 2 in the project (Maldives co-financed portions) and C/P organization of Components 1 and 4.
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Responsible for processes of hazard identification and mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts, and recovery within a risk management context	Involvement in the project as PSC member. Supporting organization for Component 1 and C/P organization for Component 3.
Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS)	Responsible for the seismological and meteorological services in Maldives.	Involvement in the project as PSC member. Supporting organization for Component 1 and C/P organization for Components 3 and 4.
Public Service Media (PSM)	Responsible to provide television, radio and online	C/P organization for Component 3

Key Stakeholder	Key Characteristics	Potential Roles in the Project
	media services to the general public; along with creating media personnel.	
Maldives Land and Survey Authority (MLSA), MNPI	Responsible to centralize management of land Information and consolidate land research	C/P organization for Component 4.
Ministry of Home Affairs	Responsible for maintaining law and order in the Maldives at the national level	Jurisdiction authority of Public Service Media (PSM), which is the main C/P organization for Component 3.
Local Government Authority (LGA)	Administrative body for the local governments	Involvement in the project as PSC member. Supporting organization for Component 1.
Atoll Council	Administrative body for the atoll	Involvement in the project as PSC members
Island Council	Administrative body for the island	Involvement in the project as coordinators with PMU One of the main implementing agency of Component 1
Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MGFSS) ²	Overall responsibility for enforcement of laws and gender issues in the country	Supervision and management of gender action plan for the project
Local communities	All of the local communities are located along the coasts, so they are vulnerable to the climate change: coastal erosion. Such groups, who use coastal areas, as women, children, elders.	Direct beneficiaries and affected or likely to be affected by the project (project affected parties); Participation in developing proposals and implementation of the project.
Women Development Committee (WDC)	Important opinion leader and activities for women group.	Direct beneficiaries of short, mid and long-term coastal management, and affected or likely to be affected by the project (project affected parties); Participation in developing proposals and implementation of the project.
Non-government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups	Important opinion leaders on the community level	Involvement in opinion collection and sharing to the project
Private sector (fishery, tourism developers)	Sustainable production in the areas.	Direct beneficiaries of short-, mid- and long-term coastal management, and affected or likely to be affected by the project (project affected parties), if any.

² When the new (current) government formed its cabinet on November 2018, they reformed the Ministry of Gender and Family (MGF) (the former Ministry of Law and Gender (MLG)) to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MGFSS). <https://presidency.gov.mv/Government/Cabinet/16> (accessed on March 11, 2021)

Key Stakeholder	Key Characteristics	Potential Roles in the Project
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)		AE for the whole project. Main implementing agency (EE) of Components 1, 3 and 4 in the project, and one of activities in Component 2 will be implemented in line with Component 1

Source: JICA (2019)

4.2 Stakeholder Involvement in Project Management

Key stakeholders will be invited to the Project Steering Committee meeting for the Project, which will be held by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). In order for various agencies share the Project information and cooperate to strengthen the long-term and sustainable resilience of the national land against climate change, the PSC will be established in the Project thereby effectively implementing the components and facilitating discussions towards project replications in the country.

It is mandatory to involve all institutional stakeholders, according to their responsibilities, in the project preparation and implementation. The following strategic and operational stakeholders need to be consulted, involved, and represented in the coordination meetings for the Project:

- Ministry of Environment (ME) – Chairperson,
- Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure (MNPI)
- Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MGFSS)
- Local Government Authority (LGA)
- Laamu Atoll Council and Addu City Council
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Project Management Units (PMUs)

For the implementation of the Project, the Project Management Unit (PMU) that is responsible for the implementation of each component will be established. The PMU is reporting to the PSC that oversights the whole Project via each of the Executing Entity (EE) such as MEE, MNPI and JICA.

4.3 Stakeholder Involvement during Implementation

During the implementation of the Project, the Women Development Committees (WDC), Non-government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups, shall be consulted through public consultation meetings and/or individual meetings.

Since all Project activities will be implemented along the coasts in the target islands and would require the active participation of the beneficiaries (mainly residents), stakeholder involvement and engagement would have to take place in all islands and communities involved in Project activities.

5 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) for directly financed projects should have:

- A detailed process for effective engagement with communities and individuals, including vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals, who are affected or

potentially affected by proposed GCF-supported activities, including co-financed activities;

- A description of how information will be disclosed; the process by which meaningful consultation and informed participation will occur in a culturally appropriate and gender responsive manner; and, in certain circumstances, steps that will be taken to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples; and
- A process for receiving and managing concerns and grievances at the project level that has been designed in consultation with stakeholders and complements the AE's grievance redress mechanism and GCF Independent Redress Mechanism.

The stakeholder engagement plan will focus on throughout the project period, from the feasibility study of the project through implementation phase. The SEP should be confirmed together with the feasibility study, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Gender Assessment/Gender Action Plan, which elaborate on the interaction between the different institutions during the implementation phase. The SEP will mainly focus on project engagement with lower level stakeholders that are not part of the project organization; i.e., PSC and PMU. The main activities include the following:

- Mobilization of beneficiaries from the project commencement to implementation (information, sensitization, participation);
- Identification of critical issues (erosion, land, vulnerable groups);
- Grievance management;
- Supervision and monitoring during implementation stage; and
- Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework.

Engaging relevant stakeholders increases their ownership of the project, and can contribute to replicating and/or transferring actions, methodologies or technologies that are employed in the activity. From the proposal preparation stage, efforts are undertaken to engage stakeholders during project preparation and how engagement should continue during implementation. In order to achieve such continued engagement, feedback mechanisms can be built into the project design. In addition, MEE can play an important role in facilitating stakeholder engagement from an early stage.

Engagement of relevant stakeholders in all stages is key to successful design and implementation of activities.

5.1 Objectives of the SEP

The objectives of the SEP are:

- To offer opportunities for stakeholders to raise their concerns and submit their opinions.
- To create avenues for complaints handling and grievance management.
- To create opportunities for information sharing and disclosure.
- To create a mechanism for giving feedback to the stakeholders.
- To create an avenue for participatory project impacts monitoring.
- To foster strong project community relationships.
- To promote social acceptability of the project.
- To ensure meaningful consultation and the consideration of expectations and concerns into the implementation arrangements for the project.

5.2 Stakeholder Engagement Process

In order to conduct more meaningful stakeholder engagement, the following points are to be considered.

- Processes are designed to be flexible, adapting and responding to national and local conditions and activity requirements;
- Project budgets include resources for stakeholder engagement activities, including salaries or fees for qualified staff and/or consultancy expertise to carry them out;
- Engagement begins early enough to identify key issues and influence related decisions;
- Communication flows two ways, allowing all sides an opportunity to listen, exchange views and have their concerns addressed;
- Processes are inclusive; and should take into account that women, men and members of different ethnic groups may have different needs and perspectives, as well as different approaches to engaging and decision-making;
- Engagement activities are free from coercion or manipulation;
- Meetings are well documented to keep track of the information disclosed, the groups and individuals who have been engaged, when and where meetings took place, key issues raised, commitments and agreements, and how stakeholder concerns have been addressed; and
- Clear and mutually agreed processes are well prepared for timely reporting of actions taken, with clarification regarding upcoming steps.

Table 5.1 summarizes the stakeholders for the project and details of the stakeholder engagement plan including the type of stakeholder based on ESS10 classification, anticipated issues and interest, stages of involvement, methods of involvements, proposed communications and responsible party.

Table 5.1 Stakeholder Engagement

#	Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Anticipated interests	Stage of Involvement	Methods of Involvement	Proposed Communications/ Information Disclosure	Responsible Parties
1	Ministry of Environment (ME)	Interested Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance	- During project preparation - During site selection - While undertaking any feasibility studies - While preparing ESIA/ESMP - During project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with ME routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from ME	PMU, ME, JICA
2	Ministry of National Planning and Infrastructure (MNPI)	Interested Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance - Impacts on overall development policy of the government	- During project preparation - During site selection - While undertaking any feasibility studies - While preparing ESIA/ESMP - During project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with ME routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from ME	PMU, ME, JICA
3	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Interested Party	- Installation of necessary facilities - Development of necessary programmes	- During project preparation - During site selection - While undertaking any feasibility studies - While preparing ESIA/ESMP - During project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with ME routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from ME	PMU, ME, JICA
4	Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS)	Interested Party	- Obtain the necessary data - Installation of necessary facilities	- During project preparation - During site selection - While undertaking any feasibility studies - While preparing ESIA/ESMP - During project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with MMS routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from MMS	PMU, ME, JICA
5	Public Service Media (PSM)	Interested Party	- Installation of necessary facilities - Development of necessary programmes	- During project preparation - During site selection - While undertaking any feasibility studies - While preparing ESIA/ESMP - During project implementation	- Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with MMS routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from MMS	PMU, ME, JICA

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#	Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Anticipated interests	Stage of Involvement	Methods of Involvement	Proposed Communications/ Information Disclosure	Responsible Parties
6	Maldives Land and Survey Authority (MLSA), MNPI	Interested Party	- Impacts on land use	- During project preparation - While undertaking any feasibility studies - During project implementation	- Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with ME routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project. - Make arrangements to ensure that project information is available from ME	PMU, ME, JICA
7	Ministry of Home Affairs	Interested Party	- Installation of necessary facilities - Development of necessary programmes	- During project preparation - While undertaking any feasibility studies - During project implementation	- Consultative meetings	- Share project information through MMS	PMU, ME, JICA
8	Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Interested Party	- Environmental impacts due to the project	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP - During monitoring of ESIA/ESMP	- Consultative meetings	- Share project information - Submit to attain ESIA/ESMP approval - Submit ESIA/ESMP monitoring	PMU, ME, JICA
9	Local Government Authority (LGA)	Interested Party	- Impacts on councils (indirect)	- During site selection - During any project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with the ministry routinely -	PMU, ME, JICA
10	Atoll Council	Interested Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP - During any project implementation	- Project Steering Committee - Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with the council routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project.	PMU, ME, JICA
11	Island Council	Affected Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP - During any project implementation	- Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with the council routinely - Identifying a project focal point from the councils for easy communications regarding the project.	PMU, ME, JICA
12	Ministry of Gender, Family and	Interested Party	- Reduction of adverse impacts related to gender	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP	- Consultative meetings	- Project updates shared with the ministry routinely	PMU, ME, JICA

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#	Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Anticipated interests	Stage of Involvement	Methods of Involvement	Proposed Communications/ Information Disclosure	Responsible Parties
	Social Services (MGFSS)		by the project implementation	- During any project implementation			
13	Local communities	Affected Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance - Any additional direct and indirect benefits	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP - While undertaking any feasibility studies for the project - During ESIA monitoring - During any project implementation	- Public Consultation meetings	- Project Information Leaflets - Project information - Provide information regarding grievance redress mechanism - Awareness sessions on ICZM - Information sessions regarding the project	PMU, ME, JICA
14	Women Development Committee (WDC)	Affected Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Long-term maintenance - Any additional direct and indirect benefits	- During site selection - During preparation of ESIA/ESMP - While undertaking any feasibility studies for the project - During ESIA monitoring - During any project implementation	- Public Consultation meetings	- Project Information Leaflets - Project information - Provide information regarding grievance redress mechanism - Awareness sessions on ICZM - Information sessions regarding the project	PMU, ME, JICA
15	Non-government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups	Interested Party	- Contribution of the project to increase awareness	- During project implementation	- Provide project information and updates	- Project leaflets and newsletters sent to NGOs routinely	PMU, ME, JICA
16	Private sector (fishery, tourism developers)	Affected Party	- Reduction of threats from natural disaster - Any additional direct and indirect benefits	- During project implementation	- Provide project information and updates	- Project information - Provide information regarding grievance redress mechanism	PMU, ME, JICA
17	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Interested Party	- Proper project implementation	-	- Project Steering Committee	-	



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Source: JICA (2019)

5.3 Incorporation of Views of Vulnerable Groups

5.3.1 Definition and Identification of Vulnerable Groups

The people who are disadvantaged compared with mainstream population in terms of their share of the benefits or their burden of the costs from the project; e.g. elderly, women-headed households, the poorest of the poor, indigenous people, household with small children, people with disabilities, etc. are defined as the vulnerable groups.

5.3.2 Women

Traditionally, the communities of the Maldives have depended on natural resources, particularly marine resources, for their food and livelihood security. Maldivian men have proven their skills as fishermen, harvesting from the lagoons and oceans. Maldivian women have traditionally played a major role in agricultural, household production, childcare, drying and processing of fish, and producing handicrafts.

The project will assist women in order for them to benefit from the project activities either directly or indirectly. The project needs to take into account the situation of women in the Maldives. Through the Gender Assessment Consultation Meetings which was held for each target island, the project has found the various limitations that women experience as follows:

(1) Access to business opportunity

- Even in economic organizations, the involvement of men is greater than that of women. It was suggested that the reason could be that women are the primary care givers in the household.
- Regarding the community-based management of the site, the workload would increase for women in terms of maintaining the cleanliness of the area. Should the area be appropriate, there would be business opportunities which men would grab.

(2) Access to decision making

- In the family, women as well as men decide to buy what they need in case of those of inexpensive items by themselves, however, in case of buying expensive items, women do need to wait for the decision of men.
- One-third of the government staff are women. However, women make up only a few percentage of the local council representatives, and seats in national parliament.

5.4 Incorporation of Proceedings into Management Decisions

The results from the public consultation meetings, gender assessment consultation meetings and information sharing meetings will be shared with the project management organization (PSC and PMU) as background information to facilitate decision making. The information and comments from the target groups will be used as basis on which interventions will be developed or revised.

During project inception stage, project-related documents (annual plan, etc.), technical guidelines, and monitoring and evaluation system (complaints mechanisms, ESMF, Gender Action Plan, etc.) will be prepared or refined. Also, gender aspects shall be included while preparing the said documents.

6 Resources and Responsibilities

The SEP implementation is necessary for the implementation of the ESMF. As noted in the feasibility study of the project (Annex 2 of the Funding Proposal), the composition of the PMU personnel includes a Social Environmental Officer (SEO), who will manage overall environmental and social consideration issues, including gender-related issues and stakeholder engagement. The staff of the local councils will maintain close relationships with all stakeholders in each target area, including the directly affected communities.

As one social environmental specialist will be hired as one of the members of PMU, all the costs will be borne by the GCF funds. Due to the necessity, short-term consultants are to be mobilized to handle the stakeholder engagement and gender issues.

7 Timetable

The following table attempts to give indicative deadlines within which the SEP activities should be completed if it is to be effective.

Table 7.1 Time table for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

No.	Activity	Project Phase	Timeline	Responsibility	Location
1	Submission of ESMF report to GCF	Planning	2020	ME, JICA	-
2	Publication of ESMF on JICA Website	Planning	2020	ME, JICA	-
3	Conduct of detailed ESIs	Planning	2021	ME, JICA	-
4	Disclosure/publication of the ESIs	Planning	2021	ME, JICA	
5	Establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC)	Planning	2021	ME, MNPI, JICA	Male
6	Establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for GCF-financed project and Maldives co-financed project	Inception	2021	ME, MNPI	Male
7	Appointment of Social Environment Officer (SEO) for PMU	Inception	2021	PMU	Male
8	Mobilization of Atoll Councils/ Island Councils (through kick-off meetings)	Inception	2021	ME, PMU	Laamu/ Addu
9	Formulation of grievance mechanism	Inception	2021-2022	PMU	Male
10	Identification and training of target council officers being in charge of community mobilization	Inception	2021-2022	PMU	Laamu/ Addu
11	Identification of stakeholders and creation of stakeholder database	Inception	2021-2022	PMU (inputs from Councils)	PMU
12	Community mobilization and sensitization	Inception	2021-2022	PMU, Councils	Atolls/ Islands
13	Update of Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan	Implementation	2022-2027	PMU, Consultant	Male
14	Periodic stakeholder update meetings (for atolls)	Implementation	2022-2027	PMU, Councils	Atolls/ Islands
15	Periodic stakeholder meetings (for central)	Implementation	2022-2027	PSC, PMU JICA-1&4, JICA-3	Atolls/ Islands
16	Monthly grievance resolution sessions	Implementation	2022-2027	PMU, JICA-1&4, JICA-3, affected Councils	Atolls/ Islands
17	Quarterly monitoring of the Implementation of agreed upon strategies	Implementation	2022-2027	PMU	Atolls/ Islands

Source: JICA (2019)

Among the necessary activities for the SEP, the central-level stakeholder meetings will be held seven times during the project period as shown below.

Table 7.2 Detail plan of the central-level Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting	Timing (Tentative)	Discussion Topics (Tentative)
1 st Stakeholder Meeting	Q3 2021	Plan of the overall project, including ESIA's
2 nd Stakeholder Meeting	Q2 2022	Plan of detailed survey and design of Component 2
3 rd Stakeholder Meeting	Q1 2023	Result of detailed survey and design of Component 2 Plan of implementation of coastal protection/prevention measures of Component 2
4 th Stakeholder Meeting	Q2 2024	Results of the overall activities of Component 1
5 th Stakeholder Meeting	Q3 2025	Plan of community-based beach monitoring of Component 1
6 th Stakeholder Meeting	Q1 2026	Result of implementation of coastal protection/prevention measures of Component 2
7 th Stakeholder Meeting	Q3 2027	Result of overall project

Source: JICA (2019)

8 Grievance Mechanism

8.1 Grievance Mechanism

A grievance redress mechanism becomes integral part of stakeholder engagement process. The mechanism needs to take into special consideration vulnerable groups and how easy access to the grievance mechanism is ensured to such parties. Handling of grievance is the responsibility of PMU, EEs (JICA-1&4 and JICA-3) and the local councils.

The objectives of the grievance mechanism will be:

- To create a mechanism where affected people can address their grievances or complaints; and
- To create a mechanism through which the project will be able to pick-up all the complaints and grievances. The project will systematically, promptly and exhaustively respond to the peoples' complaints.

A three-tier system will be established under the project to ensure a fair process for addressing grievances. This Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is developed based on the experience of ME and JICA.

8.2 Complaints Handling Process (Project Management and Implementation)

Grievances related to project implementation should be resolved within the project implementation structure through a three-tier system. All affected stakeholders will be expected to submit their complaints to either of the following collection points as of Tier 1:

- Community leader
- Local councils (atoll/ island)

All the grievances or complaints by a group of people who have been directly affected by the adverse impacts through the failure of the project will be filed and registered in the PMU's database by the LGA officer. The concerned officers will then investigate the validity of the grievance and plan the way forward. A factfinding mission will be conducted together with the

complainant, community leader and a PMU officer (Atoll based officer/ SEO). Proposals on how the grievance can be resolved will be discussed and the complainant will be advised accordingly. The GRM information will be given to the stakeholders during the project consultative meetings. Furthermore, the GRM will be displayed in council notice board, website and a notice board highlighting the process will be installed in each project site.

Table 8.1 Three-tier Grievance Redress Mechanism

Tiers of Grievance Mechanism	Nodal Person for Contact	Communication and other facilitation by the project	Timeframe to address grievance
First Tier (Tier 1): (Atoll/City Council/ Island Council/ Community Advisory board)	Atoll Councils/ City Council will be the first point of contact for any grievances. Once the community advisory board is formed, complaints received by the Atoll/ City council will be sent to the community advisory board for advice.	- In the Council Offices and at the project locations, there will be an Information Board listing the names and contact telephones/emails. - Grievances can be addressed informally by contacting the Councils. - If the grievance cannot be resolved informally, an aggrieved party must submit a complaint on the Tier 1 Complaint Form. A copy of the form should be provided to the aggrieved party as evidence of receipt. The complaint form should be available from the website of MEE and from the Atoll/ City Councils. - For those who cannot write, a council staff will assist them to fill the form. - The council may pass the grievance to the Community Advisory Board for comments and input. - A meeting (if required, a public meeting) must be held by the Community Advisory Board to discuss a complaint submitted on a Complaint Form. - If the complaint is resolved within 15 days, the Atoll/ City Council must communicate the decision to the aggrieved party in writing. - The aggrieved party must acknowledge the receipt of decision and submit their agreement or disagreement with the decision within 10 days. - If no acknowledgement is submitted from the aggrieved party, then the decision will be considered as accepted. - If a complaint requires more time to address, this requirement must be communicated to the aggrieved party in writing and the aggrieved party must consent and sign-off the request for the extension to take effect. An extension can be made to an additional 15 days.	15 days
Second Tier (Tier 2): (Ministry of Environment)	Ministry of Environment y (ME), Social Environmental and Gender Office (SEGO) at the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be the focal point.	- If the grievance cannot be resolved through Tier 1, an aggrieved party must submit a complaint on the Tier 2 Complaint Form. A copy of the form should be provided to the aggrieved party as evidence of receipt. The complaint form should be available from the website of ME and the Atoll/ City Councils and from city council office. - ME will forward the grievance to PMU. - PMU will screen the grievance to determine if it is related to the GCF project. If it is unrelated, the aggrieved party must be notified in writing and the way forwarded must be outlined to them including the necessary government institutions to follow up, like the Police. - Social Environmental and Gender Officer at the PMU will be the contact person in processing a grievance through the Tier 2. - If required, the ME must arrange a public meeting to address the Tier 2 grievance and notify the nature of the grievance and the meeting venue to the aggrieved party.	15 days

Tiers of Grievance Mechanism	Nodal Person for Contact	Communication and other facilitation by the project	Timeframe to address grievance
		- ME may also visit the site and hold onsite discussions and meetings. - The PMU will be responsible to ensure that there is no cost imposed on the aggrieved person, due to the grievance mechanism at the second tier. - If the complaint is resolved within 15 working days, the PMU must communicate the decision to the aggrieved party in writing. - The aggrieved party must acknowledge the receipt of decision and submit their agreement or disagreement with the decision within 10 days. - If no acknowledgement is submitted from the aggrieved party, then the decision will be considered as accepted. - If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party within 15 working days of submission of the grievance to Tier 2 then the aggrieved party may notify the ME, in writing, of the intention to move to Tier 3.	
Third Tier (Tier 3): Judiciary Power / Assistance to Vulnerable Persons beyond the Project's Grievance Redress Mechanism	An individual has the option of going to established judiciary system of the country	- The legal system is accessible to all aggrieved persons. - Assistance from the GCF project is available only for vulnerable person(s) as per this grievance mechanism. - In cases where vulnerable person(s) are unable to access the legal system, the Attorney General's office will provide legal support to the vulnerable person(s). The PMU must assist the vulnerable person(s) in getting this support from Attorney General's Office. PMU must also ensure that there is no cost imposed on the aggrieved person if the person belongs to the vulnerable groups. The list of vulnerable groups is as defined in the footnote but may be further defined by ME. - The verdict of the Courts will be final.	As per the judicial procedure of the Maldives.

Source: JICA (2019)

9 Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful stakeholder engagement plans shall include a proper monitoring process to understand not only how well engagement activities are working and why, but also to respond to unexpected events that may introduce new environmental and social risks and impacts or elevate the level of risks and impacts.

Evaluation should be included as part of the overall engagement strategy, with monitoring activities being undertaken at regular intervals involving communities and stakeholders through participatory processes throughout the project life.

The approach of the monitoring of stakeholder engagement should align with key provisions of the GCF Environmental and Social Policy, Gender Policy, JICA's Environmental and Social Consideration Guideline, and the ESMF of the project.

Monitoring and evaluation of stakeholder engagement processes and outputs consider the following factors:

- Number and diversity of stakeholders participating in various engagements;
- Feedback from stakeholders on the effectiveness of the plan, satisfaction with the level of engagement and outputs, and disclosure and provision of information about the activity;
- Completion of agreements and commitments; and

- Extent of involvement of women, vulnerable or minority groups.

The monitoring of stakeholder engagement will be conducted jointly by the PMU, EEs and the beneficiaries of the project to assess to what extent impacts have incurred as planned and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Evaluation of the monitoring results will be conducted by PMU and EEs in accordance with the ESMF. The evaluation criteria include (a) which aspects of the engagement plan are contributing to success or failure, and (b) which aspects need improvement.

The design of the monitoring and reporting procedures, including the evaluation criteria, will be prepared in parallel with the preparation of the first annual work plan for the project.