

ASM-01544 - SESP (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure)

Procedure Year: 2023

Procedure Status: Confirmed by PAC/Board

Procedure Type: Design

Record Owner: Aysha Solih

Created by: Aysha Solih,31/10/2023, 14:44

Procedure Rating:Moderate

Procedure Name: ASM-01544

Procedure Department: CO - Maldives - Male

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RELATED PORTFOLIO MYWPS/PROJECTS(1)					
NAME	DEPARTMENT	STATUS	ATLAS PROJECT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE
01000608	CO - Maldives - Male	On Going		01/04/2023	31/12/2025

RELATED QAS(1)		
PARENT PROCEDURE	PROCEDURE TYPE	PROCEDURE YEAR
ASM-01543	Quality Assurance - Design	2023

Triggered Requirements:

Assessment

Status: Incomplete

Is assessment required? (Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk portfolio MYWPs/projects)

Targeted assessment(s) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status of required assessment(s)?

Comments (for instance, please indicate the assessment type) (10000 Characters maximum)

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Management Plans

Status: Incomplete

Are management plans required? (Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk portfolio MYWPs/projects)

Targeted management plan(s) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status of required management plan(s)?

Comments (for instance, please indicate the type of management plan) (10000 Characters maximum)

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) required?

No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Identified Risks & Treatments:

Principle & Standard: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Risk Significance:  Moderate

Triggered Principles: 

Risk Significance:  Moderate

Event:

Different manifestations of gender inequalities may become exacerbated within specific outcomes in the project implementation.

Causes:

This is because of pre-existing gender inequalities within the industries on the atolls, several of

which are primarily male-dominated, and they may crowd-out women in accessing project resources and outcomes.

Impact:

Gender inequalities may not be addressed/may be exacerbated

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)			
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS
A separate and specific strategy is to be developed for each outcome. This includes the identification and explicit targeting of women engagement in each activity to increase women participation, enable more opportunities and increase gender empowerment,		31/12/2025	Ongoing

Principle & Standard: Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Risk Significance:  Moderate

Triggered Principles: 

Risk Significance:  Moderate

Event:

Climate related hazards such as extreme rainfalls, storm surges, swell waves, droughts, and damaging winds.

Causes:

Climate change

Impact:

The project sites are situated in the southern Maldives, and these atolls are more exposed to wind and waves than those to the north.

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)			
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS
The anticipated significance of			

climate risk to the pipeline of investable opportunities will be assessed, and scenario planning around potential climate change impacts may need to be built in to inform and guide future developments.		31/12/2025	Ongoing
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Questionnaire:

Step 1 - Integrate the SES Programming Principles

Status: Complete

QUESTION 1: How Does the Portfolio MYWP/Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project mainstreams the human rights-based approach (32000 Characters maximum)

The project seeks to bring together local communities and governmental partners in conserving and effectively managing natural resources within the target Atolls. During this process, extensive local consultation and participation is envisioned to capture the requirements of local communities in informing all the systems and processes that are to be developed. LNOB – equal opportunities – reducing potential for increased inequalities – whole of society approach in the roll out of the project – consultative approach.

The project seeks to strengthen LNOB principle and the rights of persons with disability, women and children, above all others through the following activities:

- Activity 2.2.2 Establish separate window under Maldives GEF SGP for coral positive action and livelihoods in target LNOB atolls (Lhaviyani, Meemu, Shaviyani, Kaafu, and Raa Atoll are the most vulnerable according to MPI) and Addu and Fuvahmulah
 - o Atolls identified with the highest indicators for multidimensional poverty are also noted to have the least capacity and technical skills to initiate reef positive blue economy activities in spite of the introduction of financing windows under the GFCR programme. Under the principles of Leave no one behind (LNOB) which is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda, a small grants scheme is to be introduced to these LNOB atolls with the intention to ensure that the people of those atolls have unconditional access and opportunity to grant assistance. The rationale for these grants is to enable these local communities to learn skills practice entrepreneurship and identify opportunities that can be taken up for financing through the SDFC-GFCR financing window. Without such a grant scheme, the GFCR's interventions may deepen the divide between atolls that are further developed and those that are still lacking in the knowledge and skills required for entrepreneurship.
- Activity 2.2.3 Stakeholder engagement strategy development and deployed to ensure effective participation of LNOB atolls.
 - o Following the Activity 2.2.2, the outreach and information dissemination strategies and tools of the UNDP's GEF SGP model, reliable and timely information will be provided to the residents of the LNOB atolls on the purpose, availability and benefits of the SGP programme in their respective atolls. These will include sensitization sessions for interested entrepreneurs with special focus on attracting youth, women and PWDs, concept/proposal writing workshops and mass messaging through social

media, tv and radio. Information and analysis would be collected on local livelihood activities with the potential for reshaping into coral positive entrepreneurial opportunities.

o Cross atoll learning would help promote and develop networks (working groups, NGOs, cooperatives etc.) and will bring together local communities, organizations and individuals with relevant experience, capacity, and substantial commitment, increasing and enhancing learning opportunities. The sharing of lessons learnt by various groups would enable risk mitigation at an earlier stage. Hence, the supportive network would help implement projects successfully and would assist identify scalable projects that have the capacity to apply for the next phase i.e. loans.

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment (32000 Characters maximum)

The project, spread across the four GFCR outcome areas, places emphasis on addressing existing gender disparities within the respective areas of project implementation.

The management of protected areas would include plans for the sustainable usage of some areas – which are directly linked to the livelihoods of local communities and women in particular. The management plans to be developed will incorporate, by design, gender sensitivity conditions and identifies explicit strategies to increase opportunities for women in developing the management strategies.

Furthermore, the support to be provided through SGP window and BCC, and the subsequent accessibility of finances for local communities to undertake coral-positive enterprises would specifically seek to address gender inequalities in financial availability and commerce. To this end, the outcome further seeks to specifically identify a viable pipeline of investment ready reef-positive sustainable businesses and projects with an emphasis on employing local community members, especially women and youth. This is also envisioned increase opportunities and economically empower women within the atoll.

- Outcome specific
- SGP and loans will prioritize women and home-based workers
- Making sure their voices are counted in community consultations

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project mainstreams sustainability and resilience (32000 Characters maximum)

Phase 1 of the Maldives GFCR programme will work with local and national government authorities, and the private sector, to support improvements in the management of the coral ecosystems. Phase 1 of the GFCR programme will work within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves of Addu Atoll and Fuvahmulah Atoll, the core areas of which correspond to nationally gazetted protected areas, which include coral reef. The buffer zone and transition zones relate to the other areas within each Atoll. The management of these two UNESCO Biosphere Reserves has only recently been delegated to the local authority, which has limited experience in protected area management. The GFCR programme will build on the achievements of the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve to increase local management capacity for the pilot sites while also leveraging private sector support. This will require mainstreaming of environmental considerations into island development plans, at the local level, while also ensuring that appropriate enforcement mechanisms and monitoring frameworks are in place. The GFCR programme timing is an opportunity to bring these elements together, integrating the Biosphere Reserves into atoll level planning, addressing the local drivers of degradation, while building the coral-positive blue economy.

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project strengthens accountability to stakeholders (32000 Characters maximum)

The GFCR grant will support assessments of the feasibility of other finance mechanisms, including a potential 'coral impact' bond, a bilateral debt for nature swap, and thematic debt (blue bond) -

depending on Maldives' economic status – in Phase 1. In parallel, the GFCR Programme will demonstrate how the tourism sector can directly contribute to the expansion of the protected area estate on Addu through other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) working initially with the tourism resorts on Addu Atoll before scaling up to other atolls. The two Biosphere Reserves supported during Phase 1 will thus serve as model atolls for testing approaches to strengthen the financing of protected areas nationwide, working in close collaboration with a wide range of marine resource users and stakeholders including women and men in local communities, private sector, island and atoll council and civil society organizations. Given that there are a large number of international and national actors currently operating in the marine conservation space within Maldives, and to support coordination and visibility of these efforts, the GFCR programme will also establish a partnership platform to convene and facilitate knowledge and information sharing about coral reef resilience, conservation and restoration efforts across the atolls. Collectively, the activities in Phase 1 will lead to the establishment of a new gender responsive sustainable financing mechanisms for the broader Maldives MPA network for replication in Phase 2 and 3.

Under Outcome 1: Sustainable Financing Mechanisms supporting improved management effectiveness of the Maldives MPA network

- Feasibility assessment inclusive of strong stakeholder engagement on the issuance of thematic debt (Blue bonds, impact bonds, Debt swaps, Debt for SDGs) and reef insurance.
- Issuance of nature-based financing instruments and establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms to support MPA management network, including legal, policy, stakeholder, financing structures.

Under Activity 2.2.3 Stakeholder engagement strategy development and deployed to ensure effective participation of LNOB atolls.

- Following the Activity 2.2.2, the outreach and information dissemination strategies and tools of the UNDP's GEF SGP model, reliable and timely information will be provided to the residents of the LNOB atolls on the purpose, availability and benefits of the SGP programme in their respective atolls. These will include sensitization sessions for interested entrepreneurs with special focus on attracting youth, women and PWDs, concept/proposal writing workshops and mass messaging through social media, tv and radio. Information and analysis would be collected on local livelihood activities with the potential for reshaping into coral positive entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Cross atoll learning would help promote and develop networks (working groups, NGOs, cooperatives etc.) and will bring together local communities, organizations and individuals with relevant experience, capacity, and substantial commitment, increasing and enhancing learning opportunities. The sharing of lessons learnt by various groups would enable risk mitigation at an earlier stage. Hence, the supportive network would help implement projects successfully and would assist identify scalable projects that have the capacity to apply for the next phase i.e. loans.

Step 2.1 - SES Risk Screening Checklist (Programming Principles)

Status: Complete

Human Rights

P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?

No

P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the portfolio MYWP/project?

No

P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. persons affected by programming activities) do not have the capacity to claim their rights? No

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4 Adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups? No

P.5 Inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? No

P.6 Restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? No

P.7 Exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to affected communities and individuals? No

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)? Yes

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.9 Adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls? No

P.10 Reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits? No

P.11 Limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? No

P.12 Exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? No

Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below
Accountability

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.13 Exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them? No

P.14 Grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders? No

P.15 Risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project/portfolio? No

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

1.1 Adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	No
1.2 Activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 Changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods?	No
1.4 Risks to endangered species?	No
1.5 Exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 Introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 Adverse impacts on soil?	No
1.8 Harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9 Significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 Animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11 Significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?	No
1.12 Handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms?	No
1.13 Utilization of genetic resources?	No
1.14 Adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No

Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

2.1 Areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2 Outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters	Yes
2.3 Direct or indirect increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)?	No
2.4 Increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No

Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

3.1 Construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)?	No
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3.2 Air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3 Harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the programming activities (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4 Risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5 Transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.6 Adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7 Influx of portfolio MYWP/project workers to targeted areas?	No
3.8 Engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support portfolio MYWP/project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	
<i>Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
4.1 Activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2 Significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3 Adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: portfolio MYWPs/projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4 Alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5 Utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	
<i>Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
5.1 Temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2 Economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions - even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3 Risk of forced evictions?	No
5.4 Impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	
<i>Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
6.1 Areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No

6.2 Activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3 Impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the programming activities are located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?	No
6.4 The absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5 The utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6 Forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7 Adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8 Risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9 Impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No

Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to portfolio MYWP, project and contractor workers)

7.1 Working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2 Working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3 Use of child labour?	No
7.4 Use of forced labour?	No
7.5 Discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6 Occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the portfolio MYWP/project life-cycle?	No

Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

8.1 The release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2 The generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No

8.3 The manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4 The use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	No
8.5 The application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6 Significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Approval History

Approval Date:

Approved By:

Confirmed Date:

Connfirmed By:

PAC/Board Date:

PAC/Board Meeting minutes uploaded: ☐

STEP NAME	DATE	STATUS	ASSIGNED TO
Confirmed by PAC/Board	2023-11-01 15:53:30	Approved	Pek Chuan GAN
Cleared for PAC/Board	2023-11-01 15:51:50	Approved	Pek Chuan GAN
Approval Request Submitted	2023-10-31 17:25:46	Started	Aysha Solih