

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: SAUD

<b>TA No. and Name</b> TA4614-MLD: Promoting Sound Environmental Management in the Aftermath of the Tsunami Disaster			<b>Amount Approved:</b> \$400,000	
<b>Executing Agency (EA), Implementing Agency (IA)</b> Ministry of Finance and Treasury (EA) Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water – Environment Section (IA)		<b>Source of Funding:</b> Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector	<b>TA Amount Undisbursed</b> \$38,280	<b>TA Amount Utilized</b> \$361,720
<b>Date</b>			<b>Completion Date</b>	
<b>Approval</b> 19 July 2005	<b>Signing</b> 24 Oct 2005	<b>Fielding of Consultants</b> 12 Dec 2005	<b>Original</b> 31 May 2006	<b>Actual</b> 31 December 2006
			<b>Closing Date</b>	
			<b>Original</b> 31 May 2006	<b>Actual</b> 30 August 2007
<p><b>Description.</b> The Maldives is a chain of 1,190 small low-lying coral islands grouped into 26 atolls in the Indian Ocean: about 200 islands are inhabited and around 100 of these house tourist resorts. The islands are mainly coastal entities, and their ecosystems are among the world's most vulnerable. As most of the population in the atolls is employed in tourism and fisheries sectors, protecting the fragile coral reefs and coasts, fisheries, and the marine environment from pollution is central to any poverty reduction strategy. The country's unique geography and vulnerability pose key development challenges. The effects of poor infrastructure and social services in the atolls were further heightened by the damage from the Indian Ocean tsunami that hit the Maldives on 26 December 2004 and ravaged existing infrastructure. The natural disaster led to a number of environmental and public-health concerns: while water supply and basic sanitation services were in urgent need of reconstruction or development, expediting adequate solid waste management practices and structuring of the sector for efficient operation was critical. The technical assistance (TA) highlighted that (i) institutional resources, were limited, and to most ministries, projects became more and more difficult to implement as their number increased with international support; (ii) no common strategy to water, sanitation or solid waste management was available neither in the country's development program nor in the face of the tsunami disaster, (iii) approaches to community participation, viewed as essential in the reconstruction process, had not been defined and (iv) there was need to develop widespread understanding of the interdependence and fragility of ecological systems and the natural resource base on which people depend for their well-being. Moreover, the TA also recognized the need (i) to integrate recovery and long-term development planning, (ii) to identify development outputs that are sustainable, and (iii) to link infrastructure development with capacity building and institutional development.</p> <p><b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs.</b> The impact of the TA was 'improved environmental sustainability in the Maldives', helping achieve the desired Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets. More immediately, its outcome was 'a developed and tested environmental management program for tsunami disaster reconstruction'. The TA was to achieve the stated goal and outcome by (i) formulating a strategy for rehabilitating and reconstructing the water and sanitation (WSS) sector; (ii) building capacity for environmental assessment; (iii) testing and promoting innovative environmental education and public awareness programs in environmental health and environmental management; and (iv) promoting community mobilization and organization for community-based management and O&amp;M of sanitation and solid waste management systems. The TA was prepared in close coordination with the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority and the Ministry of Environment and Construction, for technical matters, as well as the Ministry of Planning and National Development for matters relating to the overall reconstruction plan. As for all TAs in the Maldives, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury was the EA and, in an effort to align all ADB's tsunami reconstruction activities, the National Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Program Office was proposed to be the IA.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities.</b> A team of international and domestic consultants was selected and engaged by ADB. They provided a total of 44.5 person-months' (p-m) consulting services—20.5 p-m international and 24 p-m national— which is above the originally envisaged 30 p-m consultancy. The team included international experts in community water supply and sanitation, environmental assessment, environmental education, and community mobilization, and national experts in environmental awareness and communication, and social development. All services were rendered by the international non-government organization (NGO), <i>Live and Learn Environmental Education</i> (L&amp;LEE), which was selected through Single Source Selection because of the NGO's exceptional qualifications, experience and commitment. Changes in input provision were requested at the stage of</p>				

<sup>1</sup> The National Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Programme Office was initially appointed to be the Implementing Agency. However, this office was never formally set up and subsequently, at inception, the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water (created in late 2005) was assigned an implementing role under this TA.

proposal preparation (with a greater number of consultant's p-m proposed for the same existing budget) and, subsequently, minor changes during TA implementation were required to reorganize some of the field versus home inputs. Given the broad scope and deliverables of this TA, the economy and productivity of input provision is believed to have been optimized. The quality of the inputs varied from good to excellent. The consultant's performance was found to be satisfactory by both ADB and the Government. Three review missions were conducted over the 12 month TA implementation period (December 2005-December 2006). Contributions from the EA and IA were limited both in terms of support to the TA consultant's activities, however feedback was provided.

**Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome.** Deliverables were, in general, produced as per agreed Terms of Reference (TOR). Their quality was in all instances considered to range from good to excellent. During the first 3-4 months of implementation the following modifications were incorporated at the request of the Government: (i) given that extensive work had been undertaken by the WSS Government (post-tsunami) coordination group in relation to the formulation of an emergency WSS strategy (output 1), the output was reformulated to develop a community-based water quality monitoring and resource management program to be tested in selected pilot islands and also (ii) given the parallel development and delivery of environmental impact assessment materials and training by other organizations (UNEP and AIT), output 2 was partially revised to include (a) improved environmental assessment and environmental monitoring capacity amongst communities, (b) development and testing of a beach monitoring toolkit for island communities and (c) formulation of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations for application by the regulating agency country-wide. Most significant tangible outputs include: (i) community toolkits for solid waste management, beach erosion monitoring, water quality monitoring and community environmental action; (ii) rapid assessment of perceptions into environmental management and environmental education strategy for the Maldives and (iii) guidelines for community mobilization in the Maldives. Outputs formulated under the TA were prepared after extensive consultation with communities and Government agencies. Particular effort was placed in participation and consensus building stages. Non-government and community-based organizations, as well as locally represented donor agencies were invited to participate and provide comments, particularly at the stages of strategy development. Such activities are expected to provide greater ownership, accountability, as well as realistic implementation timelines. Although delivered a few weeks after schedule, the report produced on completion of the TA was considered to be comprehensive and of appropriate quality. The Government expressed its sincere thanks through written communication to L&LEE for outputs and contributions delivered under the TA.

**Overall Assessment and Rating.** Based on the feedback from Government agencies, and the above evaluation, including sustainability issues, the TA is considered successful bordering on highly successful. Its objectives have been fully met and the TA was implemented as per the revised scope. The TA provided, and field tested, several new models, approaches and techniques that are easily replicable in islands across the Maldives. Whilst the quality of the outputs is adequate, the success of the outcomes also depends on The Government's commitment to (i) adopt proposed strategies, and (ii) continue training and capacity development.

**Major Lessons Learned.** The major lessons learned are as follows

1. Objectives and scope of emergency loans and associated TAs should be developed considering maximum flexibility. The TORs should be adapted to enable easy adjustment as ground realities and needs evolve.
2. Although a comprehensive approach was developed and documented, there are no two islands where communities will behave in an exact manner. It is therefore essential to consider individual features in all cases and adequately adapt strategies to fit the community's needs.
3. Whilst TA outputs are localized and measurable, the outcome of this assistance will be largely influenced by the capacity of the Government to (a) sustain the interest generated, and (b) replicate its outcomes. This is particularly relevant to the implementation of the Environmental Education Strategy and associated environmental education and community mobilization campaigns.

**Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions.**

Materials prepared under the TA were conceived taking into consideration future use by island communities as well as practicalities associated with training replication. Materials and tools developed under the TA may be adopted (and modified as required) by MEEW as well as the Ministry of Atolls Development as part of island community strengthening programs. This is envisaged will be supported under ADB's Regional Development project, Phase II. The incorporation of a disaster management specialist may also prove useful in future TAs as a means to better prepare communities for disaster prevention and response.

