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Meeting Minutes of National Coordinating Body

Date	26 January 2014
Time	11:00 – 13:00
Attendees (6 members)	Ibrahim Naeem (Chair), Mohamed Inaz, Moosa Zameer, Hussain Sinan, Mohamed Shumais, Khadeeja Naseem (NC), Muaz Adnan (PA)

1. Update on the SGP's.

Hiyahemi Home Sciences.

The NGO has submitted the final financial reports and progress reports. MFF team is currently verifying the financial report. This project was initially supposed to close in July, but the NGO cited political instability and difficult working conditions on the island in the last half of 2013 as the reasons for the delay. The NCB also requested the NGO to formulate a sustainability component that is to be handed over to the WDC of the island. The NGO is based in Male' and they formally communicated the sustainability component with the WDC through a letter. The sustainability component is the formation of a women's cooperative to continue selling and marketing products made from recycle material. This component is not something that was included in their proposal. The official closing of the project has been delayed because the budget for 2014 was not approved until the third week of January. The NCB highlighted its concerns on closing the project without deeply engaging the community on the sustainability component, but also acknowledges that this activity was already conducted outside their original workplan. The members agreed to close the project but to continue providing support to the community by engaging them in capacity building workshops and assisting them in establishing networks. The NCB also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the benefits of SGP's trickle down to the community before closing projects.

Guraidhoo Watersports -Waste Management Project

There has been no progress on this project since April 2013. The first phase of the project was completed successfully in March 2013. The NCB decided in September 2013 to call the grantee and clarify the type of assistance and support they needed from MFF team and the NCB in implementing their workplan. The grantee had requested resource persons for waste management training but the training. However, the training was delayed and the grantee cited issues between the grantee, the island council and the community over political differences as one of the obstacles in implementing their workplan. The grantee attended the National Waste Management Workshop held in Alif Alif Ukulhas from 23-25 November 2013. The NCB members and the SGO met with the grantee to discuss the status of the project and to find solutions for a way forward. The grantee expressed interest in reviving the project and formally requested MFF for project extension. The grantee agreed to send in the revised workplan for the first quarter of 2014 by the end of December but to date, has failed to send it in. The NCB members highlighted the importance of implementing the project instead of terminating it. However, significant challenges remain, as a significant portion of the workplan needs to be implemented between now and April.



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The NCB requested to organize a meeting with the grantee before the end of the week in order to discuss a way forward. NCB member Sinan highlighted the issue of monitoring the SGP's closely and proposed monthly follow up on the projects and to report to the NCB if a lag in implementation is noticed, in order to take immediate action. In lieu of this experience, he also suggested creating a dropbox folder and to prepare an excel sheet to record progress that can be viewed by all members. He also requested the NC and the SGO to encourage the grantees to share difficulties and challenges they face in order to mitigate them in a timely manner, to avoid situations like the one faced by Watersports,

Red Productions update and location change.

The documentary on waste management situated in Ali Alif Ukulhas has been sent to UNDP regional office for comments in November. The video will be finalized once the comments are received and the appropriate changes are made. It will then be aired on all TV channels. NCB member Sinan shared that TVM is interested in showing informative videos such as this one for free of charge. The grantee has requested location change for the second phase of the project from Sh.Kanditheemu to Raa. Ungoofaaruu. The NCB has no issues with this change but would like to clarify if any communications were exchanged between the Kanditheemu community and the grantee in order to avoid any miscommunications and to ensure that no issues will rise up due to this decision. The population of Ungoofaaruu is higher and a new waste management facility is almost ready in the area, therefore, the NCB is of the opinion that this change of location will add to the grantees experience in documenting complex issues surrounding waste management while reaching a larger audience. NC has been requested to follow up with Red Productions on communications between grantee and the Kanditheemu community.

Velidhoo coral propagation project.

First payment has been made and coral frames have been prepared. The project manager has left the island and the MFF team is planning a monitoring trip to Velidhoo in early February to track progress and to discuss a way forward. NCB members will participate in the monitoring trip and a monitoring plan for the SGP's is to be shared with the NCB

2. Amendment of the CSA-extension until April 30 2014 and its implications on budgeting for the first quarter and implementing planned activities for the period

The NC briefed the NCB on the status of the CSA between IUCN and UNDP. The CSA was formally extended until 30 April 2014 and was signed on 19 January 2013. A budget of USD 60,000 along with the workplan was submitted to UNDP. The workplan included DRR workshop, study on agricultural markets (two items that were pushed for the first quarter of 2014 from the 2012-2013 workplan by the NCB), and communication material, monitoring SGP and funds for SGP's. The NC raised the issue of producing communication materials towards the end of the CSA period because the messaging and priorities of the next CSA might differ.



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Furthermore, the raised the need to use other budget lines for capacity building and outreach activities of MFF. The NCB advised to carry out these activities in order to maintain the delivery targets.

3. NSAP Review and country priority areas for 2014 (grants, KMC, capacity building)

The NC briefed the NCB on the request from the MFF secretariat to review the NSAP of the Maldives and to identify key priority areas for 2014, as requested by the KMC coordinator of the MFF secretariat. The NCB suggested a separate meeting to discuss these points in the first week of February. The NC agreed to send the summary of phase 3 proposal and relevant documents to the NCB in order to prepare for the meeting.

4. Any other matters.

The NC recapped the Sri Lanka Maldives Learning Exchange and went over some of the key learning points from the meeting. These included :

- Exchanging the MFF monitoring formats that are used in Sri Lanka to assist the Maldives in establishing a formal process in conducting monitoring. In addition, quarterly field visits are important in order to verify monitoring reports submitted by the SGP's.
- Sri Lankan NCB advised the Maldives in strengthening the way in which NCB members interact with each other and bring specialized input from their respective fields –how to interact with each other and how you use their authority to solve issues that are faced by the SGPs.
- Sri Lankan NCB also advised that it is easier to monitor projects by calling for proposals in specific zones rather than the whole country and it is cost effective to cluster projects
- Sri Lankan NCB highlighted the importance of visiting the sites to check on the capacity before the grant is awarded.
- Sri Lankan NCB noted that capacity assessment is done for all concept notes that are submitted and the entire process of awarding the projects are treated as capacity development activity.

The NCB chair also highlighted the importance of recapping the previous meetings as a first agenda point in order to ensure that all action points are followed through. In this light, previously agreed scouting for new NCB members were discussed. The MNU has been contacted and Mizna is interested in joining the NCB. Discussions were held on why the NGO nominees were not contacted. The UNDP senior management have previously expressed concerns about having the same board members on various boards of UNDP projects. The NCB however requested the MFF NC/SGO to contact Ecocare, Coastguard and Bluepeace to join the NCB.