



Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities (TRACT)

Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning in Maldives

Annex 13a

Summary of Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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The content of this document has been redacted in accordance with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy, as names and contact details are confidential under the disclosure policy of the Accredited Entity.

1 INTRODUCTION

The GCF Funding Proposal “Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities (TRACT) – Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning in Maldives” has been developed by the United Nations Environment Programme at the request of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Maldives. The proposed project responds to national needs and priorities for climate information and early warning systems in Maldives, which have been identified through a process of extensive consultation and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders.

Meaningful consultation and engagement of stakeholders at all levels and throughout the project cycle – from development of the concept note to activity planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting – is critical to the project’s success and sustainability. Stakeholders have been engaged throughout the development of the TRACT funding proposal and will continue to be engaged for the duration of the project implementation and post-project evaluation. The process of stakeholder engagement has been informed by identified good practices, including the relevant GCF guidance.¹

The Summary of Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan consists of an analysis of key stakeholders for the TRACT project, reports on in-country and online consultations, and a table outlining the proposed engagement plan for all activities. In addition, this annex provides an overview of relevant regulations and requirements and outlines the principles of effective stakeholder engagement that the project will adhere to. Furthermore, the proposed monitoring and evaluation arrangements are outlined.

¹ GCF, 2022. Sustainability Guidance Note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed activities (Draft GCF documentation). Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/sustainability-guidance-note-designing-and-ensuring-meaningful-stakeholder-engagement-gcf> (Accessed: 16 December 2024)

2 REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1 GCF Requirements

The GCF upholds stakeholder engagement as a vital part of its financed projects and programmes. The requirement for Accredited Entities (AEs) to establish meaningful consultation and engagement processes is a strategic priority within the environmental and social management system of the GCF and is reflected in the following GCF policies:

- Revised Environmental and Social Policy (2021)
- Gender Policy (2019)
- Indigenous Peoples Policy (2018)
- Information Disclosure Policy (2016)

The GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy demands broad multi-stakeholder support and participation throughout the lifecycle of GCF-financed activities. This extends to include the development of measures to mitigate, manage and monitor environmental and social risks and impacts. The GCF maintains that the process to build support should be inclusive, gender-responsive, and culturally aware, and supported by the disclosure of relevant information in line with its Information Disclosure Policy. For AEs acting in an intermediary function, the GCF requires that AEs undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the Executing Entity/ies fulfil all activity-level stakeholder engagement requirements.

As part of its efforts to address and reduce gender inequality and deepen stakeholder engagement, the GCF's Gender Policy requires that equal and equitable opportunity is provided to women and men, including vulnerable groups,² to assume an active role in stakeholder consultations and decision-making throughout the project cycle.

2.2 UNEP Requirements

Stakeholder engagement plays an important role in contributing to the implementation of UNEP's mandate. Stakeholders provide expertise and knowledge, enable engagement with communities, and amplify the voices of those most directly impacted by environmental challenges and related policies.

UNEP's Handbook for Stakeholder Engagement³ outlines the nine categories of stakeholders represented by non-profit, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), recognised by UNEP: *i.e.*, farmers, women, scientific and technological community, children and youth, indigenous peoples and their communities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, NGOs, and local authorities. Stakeholders can provide inputs to the development of UNEP's medium-term strategy and programme of work and/or – as in this case – participate in project implementation.

In addition to the general principles described in the Handbook, UNEP requires that stakeholder engagement adheres to the criteria outlined in its Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF).⁴ Specifically, projects and programmes should include an analysis of all the involved stakeholders and a formal Stakeholder Engagement Plan to describe timing and methods of stakeholder engagement. The ESSF requires the involvement of stakeholders to commence as early as possible and continue throughout the duration of the programme or project. Stakeholder engagement should be meaningful, effective, and culturally appropriate. In adherence with the ESSF, records of stakeholder consultation should be kept.

The ESSF also includes guidelines regarding the access to information; stakeholders are to be provided with key aspects of the programme or project activities as early as possible. The information should include purpose, nature, scale, duration, potential risks and impacts, proposed stakeholder engagement

² "Vulnerable groups" refers to those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from and/or unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so.

³ UNEP, 2020. Handbook for Stakeholder Engagement. Available at: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32831/stakeholder_handbook_EN.pdf?sequence=11 (Accessed: 16 December 2024)

⁴ UNEP, 2020. Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework. Available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32022/ESSFEN.pdf> (Accessed: 16 December 2024)

plan, grievance redress mechanisms, and information on required reports. This should be understandable, accessible, culturally appropriate, and consider specific needs of groups with specific information needs (e.g., due to disability, literacy, gender, mobility, language, and accessibility).

Additionally, UNEP's Access-to-Information Policy⁵ sets out the organisation's commitment to making information relating to its work available to the public.⁶ Information that is not available on the UNEP website may be made available upon request.

2.3 National Requirements

Maldives has placed legal requirements in relation to stakeholder engagement and information disclosure in various national laws and regulations, of which the most relevant are summarised below.

The Constitution of the Republic of Maldives

Under Article 29, the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives guarantees the freedom of its people to acquire and impart knowledge, information and learning.⁷

Right to Information Act (Act no. 1/2014)

Article 07 of the Right to Information Act specifies the time within which to comply with requests for information.⁸ Where a request to access information is made under this Act, action on the request must be taken within 21 days of the request. Extensions in disclosing information for the period of 14 more days may be provided should the information be (a) a large quantity; (b) extensive research is required to collect and disclose the information; or (c) where the work needed to disclose such information would substantially hinder the normal operation of the State body. Information needed urgently to prevent a threat to life or freedom of a person must be disclosed within 48 hours at most. Upon failure to disclose the information within the periods stipulated, the law deems such requests have been denied.

Decentralization Act (Act No. 24/2019)⁹

As per Article 68 of the Act, for any development project undertaken in an island, consultation needs to be undertaken with the Council and other relevant authorities established on the island. The same article also states that any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports developed for any project need to be shared with the Council, including information on the impacts and mitigation measures.

As per Article 107 of the Act, the Council should hold meetings with the public regarding any important development activities undertaken on the island. The same article also specifies that the time and location of the public meeting should be announced five days prior to the meeting.

Women's Development Committees (WDCs) have been established as per Article 56 of the Act. As stipulated in the Act, one of the functions of the WDCs is to give input to the Council regarding various development activities undertaken within the island.

⁵ UNEP, 2024. Access to information. Available at: <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/policies-and-strategies/access-information> (Accessed: 16 December 2024)

⁶ Subject to confidentiality constraints

⁷ The President's Office, Republic of Maldives, 2008. Constitution of Maldives. Available at: <https://presidency.gov.mv/Pages/Index/15>. (Accessed: August 7, 2024).

⁸ People's Majlis, 2014. Right to Information Regulation. Available at: [https://icom.mv/uploads/Regulation%20on%20the%20Right%20to%20Information%20\(Second%20Edition\)%20English%20Translation.pdf](https://icom.mv/uploads/Regulation%20on%20the%20Right%20to%20Information%20(Second%20Edition)%20English%20Translation.pdf). (Accessed: 7 August 2024)

⁹ Note that no direct English translation of the Decentralization Act could be found. Information on the Act was therefore obtained from: Maldives Ministry of Finance, 2023. Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Available at: https://ewsdata.rightsindevelopment.org/files/documents/86/WB-P179286_WoFIPmy.pdf. (Accessed: 7 August 2024)

3 STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

3.1 Stakeholder analysis

Climate change adaptation and resilience building is a cross-cutting and cross-sectoral issue of relevance and interest to a wide range of stakeholders. Meaningful engagement and participation of stakeholders throughout the project cycle is essential to support more effective and impactful project outcomes. As can be seen in Figure 1, a stakeholder's influence can be placed on a scale alongside their interest in the project allowing for a visual representation of the most critical to the project's success, i.e., stakeholders that hold interest and influence. The placement of the stakeholders in the below graphic can also highlight vulnerable groups who may be very interested in and impacted by the project, but who do not hold the necessary power.

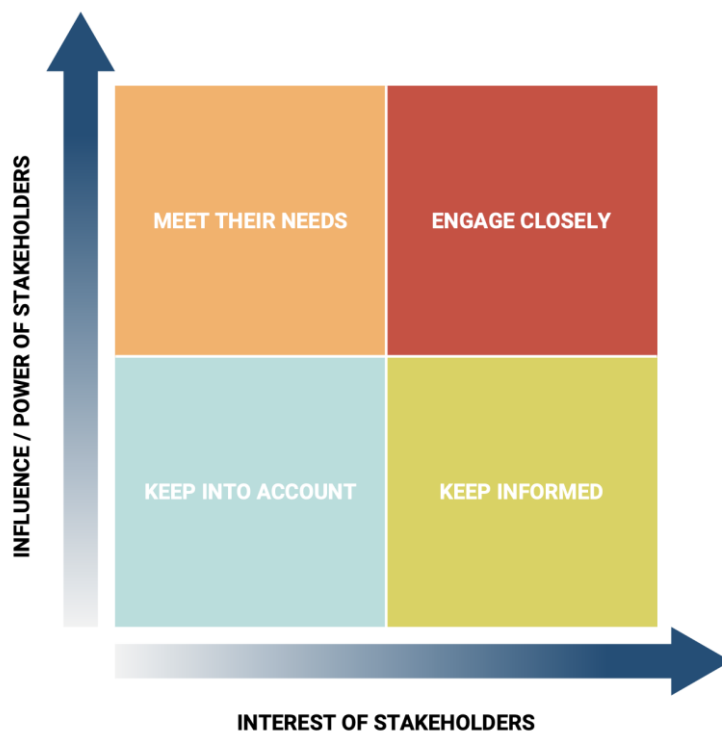


Figure 1. Stakeholder interest-influence grid

In this context, the term “stakeholder” refers to individuals, groups and entities who are affected by or are likely to be affected by the project activities or to those who may have an interest in or impact on the project activities. Table 1 presents an overview of the key stakeholders and their respective interest and influence in the project interventions. By analysing the stakeholders in this manner, the project team can gain a deeper understanding of the key stakeholders involved, better identifying their role and potential opportunities to engage within the project. It also allows for the identification of vulnerable and/or marginalised groups to ensure that their engagement in the project is optimised.

Table 1. Analysis and engagement actions for key stakeholders in the proposed project

Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>Government ministries, agencies, departments, and public bodies</i>					
Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE)	GCF National Designated Authority (NDA); Responsible for coordinating climate change adaptation and	High: Highest level of influence on the project in its roles as the NDA and	High	Engage closely	MTE drives the implementation of GCF activities in a timely and effective manner, resulting in increased resilience

	mitigation activities in Maldives	national Executing Entity			and adaptive capacity of Maldives
Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS)	Responsible for meteorological and seismological services in Maldives; Implicit mandate from the government to act as the agency providing official information on hazardous weather and climate conditions ¹⁰ ; National lead for Pillar 2 under the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative	High	High interest in the project as the primary national-level beneficiary	Engage closely	Support MMS' mandate and strengthen capacity to deliver reliable climate services and a people-centred impact-based multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) that is responsive to user needs
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Lead coordinating authority for disaster management; Responsible for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, hazard identification and mitigation, community preparedness, integrated response efforts, and recovery; National lead for Pillar 1 under the EW4All initiative	High	High	Engage closely	Support NDMA's mandate and strengthen its capacity to reduce disaster risks to Maldives and collaborate more effectively with MMS for the delivery of people-centred, impact-based MHEWS
Communications Authority of Maldives (CAM)	Mandated to regulate the communications sector, which includes telecommunications, post and Information Technology (IT); National co-lead for Pillar 3 under the EW4All initiative	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Capitalise on CAM's expertise in communications in the context of warning dissemination and communication
National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT)	Responsible for the development, promotion, and propagation of IT in Maldives; National co-lead for Pillar 3 under the EW4All initiative	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Capitalise on NCIT expertise in enhancing IT in the context of early warning dissemination and communication
Local Government Authority (LGA)	Responsible for regulating and overseeing the local governance system in Maldives; Mission is to empower citizens with community engagement	Medium: Strategic level	Medium	Keep informed	Support the mission of the LGA to empower local people through community engagement
Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSFD)	Responsible for gender mainstreaming and social protection services	Medium: Strategic level	Medium	Meet their needs	MSFD engagement in both the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and in the overall project

¹⁰ WMO, 2022. Future of National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services (WMO-No. 1294)

					activities results in higher political and local support and advancement of gender equality in Maldives
Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources (MFOR)	Responsible for safeguarding the productivity, sustainability, and resilience of fisheries and ocean resources through science-based management, effective regulation, and stakeholder engagement.	Medium	Medium: Priority sector under the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)	Meet their needs	Enhance sectoral data and knowledge sharing for the generation of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts
Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare (MAAW)	Responsible for ensuring sustainable development and to strengthen the agriculture sector and animal welfare sector of Maldives	Medium	Medium: Priority sector under the GFCS	Meet their needs	Enhance sectoral data and knowledge sharing for the generation of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Responsible for providing leadership and guidance to protect the health and wellbeing of the population of Maldives; Priority sector under the GFCS	Medium	Medium: Priority sector under the GFCS	Meet their needs	Enhance sectoral data and knowledge sharing for the generation of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts
Water and Sanitation Department (within MTE)	Responsible for providing safe water and sustainable, affordable, and environmentally friendly sewerage systems in Maldives; Priority sector under the GFCS	Medium	Medium: Priority sector under the GFCS	Meet their needs	Enhance sectoral data and knowledge sharing for the generation of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts
Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)	Responsible for defending the security and sovereignty of Maldives; Includes the Maldivian Coast	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Support MNDF's mandate in the context of safeguarding the Maldivian people

	Guard, whose roles include responding to maritime distress calls and conducting search and rescue operations				and territory in response to climate-induced hazards
Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT)	Responsible for policy development and implementation on trade, investment, and Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Enhance sectoral data and knowledge sharing for the generation of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts
Ministry of Tourism (MoT)	Responsible for developing tourism at the national level, and undertaking planning, development and regulatory functions to ensure a sustainable tourism industry for the benefit of the people of Maldives	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Support the mandate of the Ministry to increase the integration of climate information and early warnings to tourist and for a wider audience.
Ministry of Education (MoE)	MoE is the responsible government agency for setting and implementing the Education Act (Act No: 24/2020). Within its mandate, MoE outlines its agenda to include disaster information, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness into the school curriculum.	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Support the Ministry's mandate in relation to the inclusion of disaster information, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness into the school curriculum; Promote youth engagement, education and empowerment to act in their communities to adapt to climate change and associated climate extremes and reduce disaster risks. Including gender considerations ensures that education materials and disaster preparedness strategies are inclusive and relevant to the vulnerabilities of all youth.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>Local government institutions</i>					

Women's Development Committees (WDCs)	Established in each inhabited island and mandated to promote women's participation at the local level; Responsible for advising the Island Council on matters related to island development and municipal services, to ensure that community issues are addressed in an inclusive manner	Medium	Medium	Meet their needs	Support the mandate of WDCs in increasing engagement and participation of women at the local level, contributing to enhanced gender responsiveness of the project; Capitalise on the knowledge and perspectives of WDC members to support more inclusive project design and implementation.
Local Councils (City, Atoll and Island Councils)	Administrative bodies at the city/atoll/island level	Medium	Medium	Keep informed	Enhance inter-governmental coordination and support the mandate of Local Councils in disaster response; Capitalise on knowledge of local governments in terms of risks and vulnerabilities in their respective communities.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>State-owned enterprises</i>					
Public Service Media (PSM)	Provides television, radio and online media services to the general public; Responsible for creating awareness among the public by providing up-to-date news and fact-based shows	Medium: PSM can contribute to the success of the project by disseminating information and alerts to the general public.	Low	Keep into account	Partner with PSM as the main communication channel in Maldives and support their mandate to create awareness among the public through expansive information dissemination and up-to-date news – resulting in increased reporting on and dissemination of climate information and strengthened impact-based multi-hazard early warnings.
SME Development Finance Corporation (SDFC)	Specialised financial institution providing financial products and ancillary services to MSMEs and entrepreneurial start-ups with the aim of	Low: SDFC can contribute to the success of the project by facilitating engagement of MSMEs.	Medium	Keep informed	Collaboratively develop models and increase climate analytics to create customized green finance products. Enhance the

	easing access to finance for MSMEs				understanding and management of climate-related financial risks, targeting and mutually benefiting the tourism and fisheries sectors.
Business Center Corporation (BCC)	Implementing body of MSME development projects initiated by the Ministry of Economic Development, the BCC has relevance to integrate climate analytics into the design and delivery of green finance products for MSMEs.	Medium: BCC can contribute to the success of the project by facilitating engagement of MSMEs.	Medium	Keep informed	Enhance investment in weather and climate services. Expand sectoral data and information dissemination for the coproduction of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)</i>					
Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)	Mandated by law to act as an auxiliary to the state in emergency response; Priority areas of work include strengthening emergency response and disaster preparedness, undertaking risk and vulnerability assessments to inform resilience planning at island and city levels, and promoting an integrated approach to addressing climate change-related health risks; National lead for Pillar 4 under the EW4All initiative	High influence on the project as a key national stakeholder in disaster risk management, preparedness, and response. As the largest humanitarian organisation in Maldives, MRC has established networks and considerable reach within communities, including in remote islands.	High	Engage closely	MRC facilitates a high level of engagement of local communities and contributes to expanding the reach of knowledge products and campaigns, ensuring that climate information is widely disseminated and understood. The mutual benefits are increased buy-in, culturally relevant community partners and thus increased preparedness from climate hazards. This project will support MRCs mandate and strengthen capacity to reduce disaster risks to Maldives and collaborate more effectively with local communities for the delivery of people-centred, impact-based MHEWS.
Maldives Space Research	Focused on research and development of	Medium: MSRO has	Low	Keep into account	Support MSRO's capacity to deliver

Organisation (MSRO)	the Maldivian space sector, with the primary aim of using space to address climate change challenges	unique capacities and datasets relevant to climate risk analysis, monitoring, and forecasting.			reliable climate services and forecasts through data sharing and validation of climate observations and knowledge sharing.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>Academia</i>					
The Maldives National University (MNU)	MNU has a mission to create, discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and is the leading tertiary education facility in Maldives. MNU offers several courses in environmental science, climate change and disaster management, which are of relevance to this project in terms of learning opportunities, research and knowledge sharing. Moreover, MNU offers academic programs and initiatives that address gender-related topics, such as a course on 'Politics of Gender' and a mentorship program aimed at empowering women in tourism, which are aligned with the project's gender-responsive approach. ^{11,12}	Low	Low	Keep into account	MNU fosters engagement with society, increases national cooperation, empowers students and promotes gender inclusivity. Its engagement in the project facilitates strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors and academia, supporting the development of weather, climate and ocean services services informed by local scientific knowledge and expertise.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy
<i>Private sector</i>					
MSMEs in climate-sensitive sectors (e.g., agriculture, fisheries, tourism)	MSMEs are recognised as a critical component in creating a resilient and diverse economy for Maldives. ¹³	Low	Medium	Meet their needs	Enhance investment in weather and climate services (particularly in the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors) to build capacities for the management of climate related

¹¹ Course on 'Politics of Gender' is part of the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations at MNU. courses.mnu.edu.mv/course/136

¹² MNU offers a mentorship program to female students interested in the tourism sector.

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?id=100064888562518&story_fbid=783059707200308&utm

¹³ FJS Consulting Pvt Ltd., 2023. Climate Adaptation & MSMEs in the Maldives: Context Analysis for Tourism, Fisheries & Agriculture Sectors. USAID Climate Adaptation Project – Enterprise Development Program for Maldives

					risks. Expand sectoral data and information dissemination for the co-production of tailored climate information products and impact-based forecasts and warnings that support increased resilience of the sector to climate change impacts. Equal inclusion of women-led/-owned MSMEs in capacity building, networking, and training promotes gender equality, women's empowerment and fosters female entrepreneurship.
Insurance companies ¹⁴	Provide predominantly non-life (general) insurance in Maldives, with a penetration rate of 1.4% in 2021; Do not provide insurance solutions for key economic sectors such as tourism and agriculture, despite the identified need ¹⁵	Low	Medium	Keep into account	Establish capacity of MMS to generate climate risk analytics for the insurance sector, empowering insurance companies to accurately assess climate-related risks and design parametric insurance solutions tailored to stakeholder needs, including those of key climate-sensitive sectors (e.g., tourism, agriculture and fisheries), and provide opportunities for cost recovery of MMS services. Including gender considerations and gender-disaggregated data in the development of insurance products ensures their alignment with the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of women and women-dominated sectors in Maldives.
Stakeholder	Relevance, motivations, and interests	Influence on the project	Interest in the project	Action	Win/win strategy

¹⁴ The insurance industry of Maldives consists of five insurance companies

¹⁵ UNDP, 2023. Development of Inclusive Insurance and Risk Financing – Diagnostic Study

Community-level stakeholders					
Local communities, including marginalised and vulnerable groups	Key beneficiaries of the project, which has the overall goal of empowering communities to increase their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and climate-related hazards	High influence on long-term sustainability of the project as engagement of communities is important to build trust and acceptance of project activities, as well as strengthen local ownership.	High (if meaningfully engaged and project buy-in is obtained)	Engage closely	Engaging and involving local communities, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, helps create interventions that are relevant and effectively building resilience. Local communities contribute unique perspectives, skills, and knowledge to address climate change challenges. Meaningful engagement with local communities can significantly contribute towards the empowerment of communities to increase their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and climate-related hazards.
Faith-based organisations	Faith-based organisations are beneficiaries of the project, which will increase their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and climate-related hazards.	Low	Low	Keep into account	Engagement of faith-based organisations contributes to the development and implementation of more culturally-aware and inclusive interventions.

3.2 Vulnerable and marginalised groups

As highlighted in Table 1 above, the project has a wide-ranging array of stakeholders of differing interest and influence. An important consideration in any project is inclusion of vulnerable and/or marginalised groups and individuals whose voices may not hold as strong an influence, but whom the project results may impact. Key facts and considerations in relation to vulnerable and/or marginalised groups are provided below. Detailed analysis of the differential needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of these groups is provided in the Gender Assessment (Annex 4a). The Social and Gender Safeguards (SGS) Specialist hired under the TRACT project will be responsible for refining these considerations and their impact on the engagement of vulnerable and marginalised groups within the project.

3.2.1 Women and girls

Gender roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and separated in Maldives. Men traditionally take up dominant roles, while women are expected to be submissive and engaged in domestic work. The patriarchal society of Maldives emphasises the protection of women, particularly in public spaces. The

combination of protectiveness and the prevailing expectation that women and girls should focus on domestic engagements impedes the true participation of women and girls in the public sphere.¹⁶

3.2.2 Persons with disabilities

The prevalence of disability in Maldives is 6.9%. This corresponds to a total of 24,401 people. There are at least six types of disability documented in Maldives. The most common disabilities relate to difficulties in walking (3.2%), sight (2.7%), and memory (2.1%). Close to 20% of PWDs report dealing with two distinct disabilities concurrently.¹⁷

3.2.3 Foreign migrants

Maldives' relatively prosperous tourism, fisheries and construction industries have seen a progressive increase in migrant workers to the country over the last number of years. This group has typically migrated to the more economically productive islands like Male' or other tourism islands. The 2022 Census found that approximately 26% of the population of Maldives are foreign migrants. Almost 40% of the foreign population resides Male'. The demographic of the migrant population is swayed heavily towards males: 89% of foreign workers in Maldives are men. Bangladeshis represent over half of the foreign population, followed by Indians (25%) and Sri Lankans (9%).¹⁸

Foreign migrants can face multiple challenges in host countries. As Dhivehi is the most widely spoken language, followed by English, non-native speakers might encounter challenges in daily interactions; their understanding of information may be impaired, highlighting the need to develop tailored communication strategies. Furthermore, access to basic services like health care may be less easily accessible to non-citizens, making them more vulnerable to weather and climate-related hazards.

Maldives has a predominantly Muslim population (98.7% of the total population), with all Maldivian citizens being required by the Constitution to adhere to Islam. Other religious affiliations are minimal: Buddhism accounts for 0.65% of the population, while both Christianity and Hinduism each make up 0.29%. Additional minority groups include Baha'is (0.03%) and non-religious individuals (0.06%).¹⁹

National laws and the country's strict adherence to the Sharia Law prevent the propagation of any religion other than Islam; the direct involvement of religious minorities in the context of the project activities would be illegal. However, as migrants are the only group that might have other religious beliefs, engagement of this stakeholder group will provide for indirect involvement of non-Muslim individuals.

3.2.4 Indigenous Peoples

As recognised in the Gender Assessment (Annex 4a), Maldives does not have a declared indigenous population. Specific considerations for engagement of Indigenous Peoples are therefore not applicable.

¹⁶ UN Women / UNFPA, 2018. Research Papers on The Situation of Women in Maldives

¹⁷ Maldives Bureau of Statistics, 2022. Disability in the Maldives. An analysis from Census 2022

¹⁸ Maldives Bureau of Statistics, 2022. Population Movement & Migration Dynamics. An analysis from Census 2022

¹⁹ Johnson and Grim. 2022. World Religion Database. Available at: https://www.thearda.com/world-religion/national-profiles?u=140c#S_2

4 REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

4.1 WMO Stakeholder Workshop in Male' – 26-28 September 2016

At the invitation of the Government of Maldives, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) convened a stakeholder consultation workshop to provide guidance to the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) and other national stakeholders on impact-based forecasting in Maldives. In addition to MMS staff, the stakeholders who attended the workshop represented a variety of important user communities for the products and services of MMS, including disaster management, media, health, academia, agriculture, health, security, and tourism sectors. As the first activity of the workshop, a number of presentations were made by MMS and other stakeholders on the current status of operational warning systems for meteorological, hydrological and geophysical hazards (tsunamis, heavy rain, swell waves, and tidal waves), the challenges posed to those systems, and the disaster risk reduction activities.

Based on the outcomes of the workshop, a first draft project concept was prepared in early 2018 with the assistance of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES). The concept note was developed with inputs from institutions that are participating in the Monsoon Forum. Stakeholders of the proposed project are also key stakeholders of the Monsoon Forum, which MMS convenes.

4.2 Virtual Consultations – 2019-2023

The National Designated Authority (NDA) of Maldives requested in 2019 for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to serve as the Accredited Entity (AE) for the proposed project. Consequently, UNEP has undertaken systematic consultations with key stakeholders to support elaboration of the concept note and proposed activities. Limitations on international travel as a result of lockdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that all consultations were conducted virtually.

In addition to consultations with the NDA and MMS, initial consultations were held in April 2023 with the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) Development Finance Corporation (SDFC) in Maldives, which has confirmed interest in being involved as a key local private sector actor in the project.

4.3 Mission to Male' – 4-9 July 2023

Following clearance of the concept note for development into a Funding Proposal by the GCF Climate Investment Committee in May 2023, UNEP conducted a country mission from 4-9 July 2023. The mission was organised to coincide with the launch of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative in Maldives. The stakeholder engagement schedule is shown in Table 2 below. Reports of the proceedings of the National Consultation on EW4All can be found in Annex 13b.

Table 2. Stakeholder engagement schedule for UNEP mission to Male' from 4-9 July 2023

Date	Stakeholders
4 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. ***, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department
4-5 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participants in the National Consultation on EW4All – including representatives of government ministries, associated organisations and regulatory bodies; local councils and women's development committees; EW4All national pillar leads (Maldives Meteorological Service – MMS, Maldivian Red Crescent – MRC, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology – MECCT²⁰, National Disaster Management Authority – NDMA); local NGOs; private sector actors; and UN agencies (including UN Resident Coordinator).
6 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. ***, Director, Climate Change Department

²⁰ Following the change of Government in November 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology became the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MCCEE). Technology functions subsequently became the responsibility of the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology. In February 2025, MCCEE was merged with the Ministry of Tourism, becoming the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department
6 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Senior Coastal Analysts, MECCT Mr. ***, Senior Environmental Analyst, MECCT
6 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Deputy Chief Executive, NDMA Ms. ***, Director of Emergency Management, NDMA Mr. ***, Director of Policy and Planning, NDMA Mr. ***, Programme Management Officer, UNDRR Mr. ***, Programme Management Officer – CRM Coordinator, UNDRR
9 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Director General, MMS Mr. ***, Deputy Director General, MMS Mr. ***, Director of Meteorology, MMS
9 July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. ***, Secretary General, MRC

4.4 Mission to Male' – 24 April-2 May 2024

UNEP conducted another country mission from 24 April – 2 May 2024 to support further stakeholder consultations and elaboration of the Funding Proposal.

Table 3. Stakeholder engagement schedule for UNEP mission to Male' from 24 April - 2 May 2024

Date	Stakeholders
24 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Director of Policy and Planning, NDMA Ms. ***, Policy Manager, NDMA
25 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, MEDT Ms. ***, MEDT Additional representatives from MEDT
25 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. ***, State Minister, MSFD Ms. ***, Senior Political Director, MSFD Additional representatives from MSFD
25 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. ***, Secretary General, MRC Mr. ***, Manager, Programmes and Services, MRC Mr. ***, 2nd Vice President, MRC and Meteorologist, MMS
28 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department Mr. ***, National Climate Finance Advisor, The Commonwealth
28 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Dr. ***, State Minister for Homeland Security and Technology and Head, NCIT Mr. ***, Deputy Director, CAM Additional representatives from NCIT
28 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, SDFC Mr. ***, SDFC
29 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Deputy Director General, MMS Mr. ***, Director of Meteorology, MMS Additional representative from MMS
30 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. ***, Deputy Director General, MMS Mr. ***, Director of Meteorology, MMS Additional representative from MMS

30 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Deputy Director General, MMS • Mr. ***, Director of Meteorology, MMS • Mr. ***, Senior Scientific Officer, WMO • Mrs. ***, Scientific and Project Officer, WMO • Mr. ***, Consultant
30 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Assistant Director, Climate Change Department • Mr. ***, National Climate Finance Advisor, The Commonwealth
2 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Deputy Director, CAM
2 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, BCC
2 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Director of Policy and Planning, NDMA • Ms. ***, Policy Manager, NDMA • Ms. ***, NDMA

4.5 Gender Expert Mission to Maldives – 7-15 August 2024

The Gender Expert Consultant, Ms. ***, conducted a country mission to Maldives from 7-15 August 2024. The mission involved stakeholder consultations in Male', Hanimaadhoo and Addu City – respectively central, northern and southern Maldives – as well as key informant/group interviews and bilateral meetings. The purpose of the mission was to inform the preparation of the Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan. Further details on the mission and outcomes can be found in Annex 4a.

4.6 Mission to Male' – 1-7 October 2024

Once the Funding Proposal was close to initial finalisation, and in advance of the first submission to the GCF in December 2024, UNEP conducted a country mission to Maldives from 1-7 October 2024. The mission was organised to include both a national validation workshop, as well as various in-person meetings with key stakeholders to finalise implementation arrangements and budget allocation. The stakeholder engagement schedule can be found in Table 3. The National Validation Workshop Report is provided in Annex 13b.

Table 3. Stakeholder engagement schedule for UNEP mission to Male' from 1-7 October 2024

Date	Stakeholders
1 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE²¹ • Mr. ***, The Commonwealth
2 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from the NDA, EW4All national pillar leads (MMS, NDMA, MRC, CAM); relevant government ministries, associated organisations and regulatory bodies; local councils and women's development committees; civil society organisations.
3 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Director, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, The Commonwealth • Mr. ***, Deputy Director, CAM
3 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Director, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, MMS • Mr. ***, MMS • Mr. ***, MMS • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE

²¹ In February 2025, the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MCCEE) merged with the Ministry of Tourism, becoming the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, The Commonwealth
3 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Blind and Visually Impaired Society of Maldives • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, The Commonwealth
6 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, The Commonwealth • Representatives from Ooredoo
6 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department, MCCEE • Mr. ***, Climate Change Department • Representative from Dhiraagu
6 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. ***, MMS • Mr. ***, MMS
7 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. ***, MCCEE • Mr. ***, National Climate Finance Advisor, The Commonwealth

4.7 Economic Specialist Mission to Male' – 23-27 February 2025

The Economic Specialist Consultant, Ms. ***, conducted a country mission to Maldives from 23-27 February 2025. The purpose of the mission was to engage with national stakeholders through a workshop and several bilateral meetings to inform the development of the Economic Analysis. Further details on the mission and outcomes can be found in Annex 10.

5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Principles of effective stakeholder engagement

Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) should be underpinned and guided by the following five principles:^{22,23}

- **Transparency** – Ensure that stakeholders are consulted and engaged in decisions that impact project outcomes, and that relevant project information is disseminated to all stakeholders in an understandable format and provided in a timely manner to enable effective participation.
- **Accountability** – Ensure that clear governance structures and procedures are established, including for decision making and oversight; ensure that a process for receiving and managing concerns and grievances at the project level is established.
- **Inclusiveness** – Ensure that all relevant stakeholders have opportunities and capacity to engage and participate effectively and equitably, including both men and women, with special attention to the involvement of marginalised and/or vulnerable groups.
- **Non-discrimination** – Ensure that stakeholders have opportunities to engage and participate regardless of their economic status, gender, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexuality, or other types of social stratification.
- **“Do No Harm”** – Ensure that processes are in place to identify, prevent and mitigate negative, unintended consequences that may arise from the project activities.

5.2 Project implementation arrangements

The following outlines the implementation arrangements for the project, including the SEP, detailing the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved and the coordination mechanisms between them, which ensure effective execution and alignment with the project objectives.

Accredited Entity

UNEP will be the Accredited Entity (AE) for the project and will be responsible for overseeing the implementation, financial management, evaluation, reporting, and closure of the activities under the project. UNEP will monitor and supervise the execution of the project and ensure the proper management and application of GCF Grant Proceeds by the Executing Entities. UNEP will ensure that the Grant Proceeds are utilised in accordance with the terms of the Funded Activity Agreement, to be entered into between the GCF and UNEP, and the Accreditation Master Agreement. UNEP will also assume a limited role as Executing Entity, as described in the sub-section below.

Executing Entities

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE) will serve as the national Executing Entity (EE). MTE will be accountable to UNEP as AE for project execution at the national level and for the efficient and effective use of resources. UNEP will enter into a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with MTE for the execution of the project. The national EE will be responsible for establishing project implementation arrangements and facilitate cooperation and coordination among the national service providers.

Limited EE functions will be undertaken by UNEP. Through its Global Support Services Agreement with UNOPS and similar agreements with other UN agencies, UNEP is able to operate at the country level without necessarily having a national office. UNEP will execute the project in line with its programme manual and standard business procedures and will contract international consultants and Technical Partners to undertake relevant activities as appropriate.

²² GCF, 2022. Sustainability Guidance Note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed activities

²³ ICAT, 2020. Stakeholder Participation Guide: Supporting Stakeholder Participation in Design, Implementation and Assessment of Policies and Actions

Project Management Unit

MTE will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) in Male', Maldives. The PMU will be hosted by Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), with support from MTE where required. The PMU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project and will be accountable to the national EE. In addition, the PMU will assume liaison functions with national government entities and stakeholders and will coordinate with UNEP and Technical Partners throughout the project implementation and reporting, in line with their obligations under the respective legal instruments and will coordinate to ensure that reports are received. The PMU will consolidate all progress reports and financial management reports, including co-financing reports and annual audit reports, from the national EE and Technical Partners and submit these to the AE. The PMU will provide guidance and source expertise as needed on project management, financial management, procurement, and technical issues. It will establish contact with development partners working in Maldives to ensure that activities in related fields are complementary and to seek opportunities for collaboration. The PMU will also provide secretariat services to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).

Technical Partners

The project will benefit from the expertise of a coalition of Technical Partners who have long-standing experience and expertise on the ground, thereby ensuring coherence and complementarity. Technical Partners will be sub-contracted by UNEP in its capacity as EE, in line with UNEP's policies and procedures. Technical Partners will include the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In line with the priorities of Maldives, the Technical Partners will lead or provide support for the implementation of specific interventions that require highly technical or scientific expertise and are in line with the mandates and comparative advantages. Technical Partners will have no discretion in implementing activities, and any discretion, decision-making, and responsibility for delegated activities will be retained by UNEP as EE.

Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to provide high-level oversight and guidance towards achieving project objectives. The PSC is a consensus-based decision-making body within the project governance and will provide, review, and monitor strategic direction and policy guidance to the project team.

National Service Providers

National Service Providers will be engaged through relevant agreement modalities by the national EE. These will include *inter alia* Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC), and Maldives Business Center Corporation (BCC).

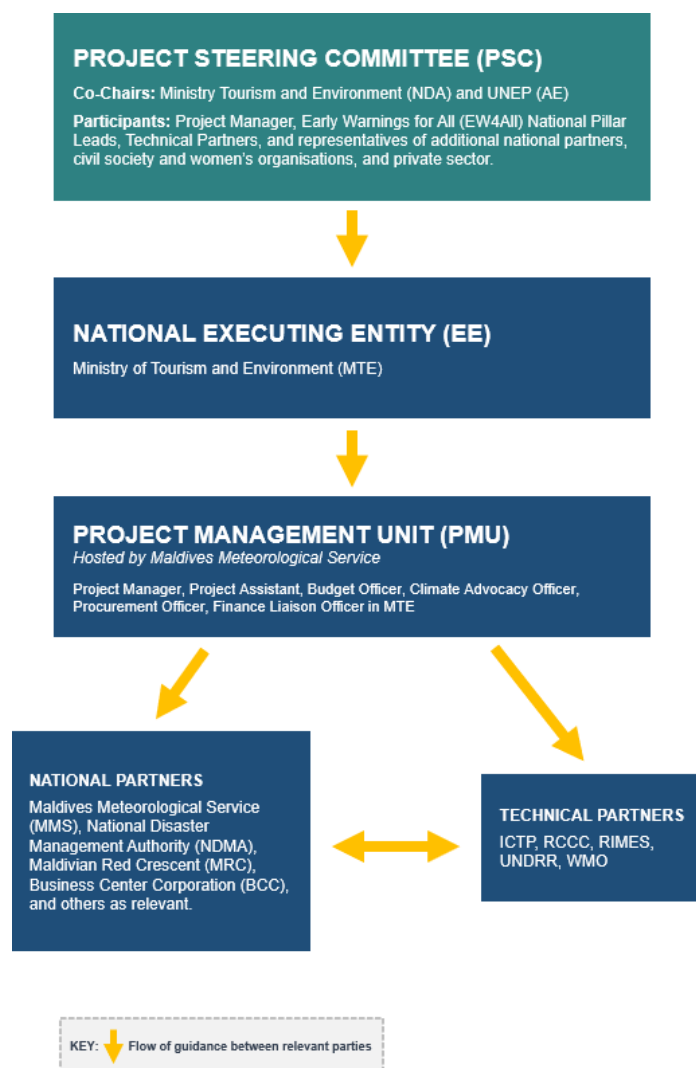


Figure 2: Project governance arrangements.
Yellow arrows indicate flow of guidance between relevant parties.

5.3 Levels of stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement can be classified according to five different levels: inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower. Table 4 below outlines the goal of each level, the nature of engagement, and key activities in relation to the level of engagement.

Table 4. Levels of stakeholder engagement (Adapted from IAP2 and UNEP, 2023²⁴)

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Engagement goal	Provide stakeholders with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions	Obtain stakeholder feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions	Work directly with stakeholders throughout the project cycle to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are considered throughout	Partner with stakeholders on all decisions, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution	Place final decision making in the hands of stakeholders

²⁴ UNEP, 2023. Investing in Walking and Cycling Policies in African Cities – Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Nature of engagement	One-way	Two-way but limited	Two-way or multi-way	Two-way or multi-way	Delegation of decision-making to stakeholders
Key engagement activities	1. Website 2. Public media / broadcasting 3. Social media 4. National newspaper 5. Community engagement (Public meetings with local leaders and groups)	1. Bilateral meetings 2. Consultation workshops 3. Focus group discussions 4. Surveys and questionnaires	1. Trainings 2. Co-development workshops 3. Scheduled meetings	1. Co-development workshops 2. Steering groups meetings 3. Joint committee meetings 4. Working meetings	1. Project Steering Committee 2. Community engagement (Public meetings with local leaders and groups)

5.4 Project-level Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Table 5 presents the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the proposed project. The SEP identifies the key stakeholders to be engaged in each of the project sub-activities and outlines the importance of stakeholder engagement as well as the proposed methods of engagement. It is recognised that subsets of stakeholders might have overlapping or interconnected interests and identities other than the primary reason for which they are engaged through the project, for example determined by gender, geographic location, socioeconomic status.

Table 5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the TRACT project

Sub-Activity	Title	Timing	Strategy for stakeholder engagement and anticipated benefits	Key Stakeholders	Methods of engagement
Output 1 – Strengthened delivery model and risk knowledge for climate services and a multi-hazard early warning system					
Activity 1.1 – Establish an institutional framework, legislation and delivery model for climate services and disaster risk management					
1.1.1	Develop a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)	Year 1-2	<p>Stakeholder engagement through workshops and discussion in various formats will help to ensure that the NFCS is developed with wide-ranging input from key national stakeholders and promotes coordinated and collaborative approaches from the outset. Engagement of multiple stakeholders is critical not only for the development of the NFCS, but also in its validation and implementation.</p> <p>Collaboration with and empowerment of MMS will be essential to ensure ownership of the NFCS, which will ultimately be implemented under MMS' leadership. Consulting with and involving sectoral stakeholders, which represent key climate services users, in both the development and validation of the NFCS will help to ensure that the NFCS is responsive to user needs.</p>	MMS, Representatives of climate-sensitive sectors (inc. agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, fisheries, health, tourism, water)	Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop, validation workshop, high-level launch event, bilateral meetings
1.1.2	Enhance inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordination for climate services and disaster risk management	Year 1-5	<p>Engaging with all relevant ministries and agencies from the outset will ensure that stakeholders can provide input from the earliest phases, thus increasing their commitment and compliance to enhanced coordination for climate services and disaster risk management. Collaborative approaches through consultations and technical advisory/training will facilitate that the coordination mechanism is aligned with and builds on existing structures, where relevant. Relevant</p>	MMS, NDMA, MRC, NCIT, CAM, Local communities	Stakeholder consultations, technical advisory, training/workshops, National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

			stakeholders will also be empowered through trainings and workshops to take ownership of the coordination mechanism beyond the project implementation period, which will contribute to long-term sustainability.		
1.1.3	Enhance the National Climate Outlook / Monsoon Forum	Year 1-5	The National Climate Outlook / Monsoon Forum is a critical platform to facilitate regular dialogue between producers (namely MMS) and users of climate information, which is essential to improve understanding amongst MMS staff of user needs, whilst simultaneously improving understanding amongst users on the application of MMS products and services. Multi-stakeholder engagement through this sub-activity allows the sharing of expertise and learning for national partners, especially from the outer atolls, and increases the alignment of MMS products and services with the needs of stakeholders.	MMS, Representatives of climate-sensitive sectors	Multi-stakeholder forum
1.1.4	Strengthen strategic partnerships and knowledge brokering through regional and international fora	Year 1-5	The focus of this sub-activity is to facilitate the involvement of MMS and representatives of key climate-sensitive sectors in regional/international events and for a that provide opportunities for knowledge exchange and learning. This in turn will enhance the ability of MMS to provide high-quality climate services and EWS aligned with international good practices, as well as increase appreciation and understanding amongst sectors on climate services applications.	MMS, Representatives of climate-sensitive sectors	Online / in-person meetings and fora
1.1.5	Establish a legal framework for enabling private sector investment in weather and climate services	Year 2	Collaboration with and empowerment of MMS to lead the establishment of the Meteorological Act will be essential to ensure ownership. Consultations with representatives of climate-sensitive sectors and the private sector will ensure that provisions relating to private sector engagement are appropriate and grounded.	MMS, MTE, Representatives of climate-sensitive sectors, Private sector (inc. MSMEs)	Stakeholder consultations, focus group discussions, bilateral meetings, validation workshop
1.1.6	Develop a financial framework and business delivery model for	Year 4-5	Collaboration with and empowerment of MMS to lead the establishment of the financial framework will be essential to ensure ownership and sustainability. Consultations with sectoral stakeholders will facilitate that the development of the financial framework and business delivery model is informed by expertise in climate-	MMS, MTE, Representatives of climate-sensitive sectors (including agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, fisheries, health, tourism,	Focus group discussions, bilateral meetings, launch/ sensitisation event

	weather and climate services		sensitive sectors – particularly those with potentially greater capacity to pay for commercialised services (e.g., aviation, insurance, tourism).	water), Private sector (inc. insurance companies)	
1.1.7	Establish National Guidelines for Integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into Disaster Management	Year 1	Involvement and collaboration of stakeholders involved and/or implicated in disaster management and PGI is essential to ensure that the voices of vulnerable and marginalised groups underpin the National Guidelines to be developed.	NDMA, MRC, MSFD, MoH, LGA, Local Councils, WDCs, Representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups (e.g., women, children and youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, migrants), Faith-based organisations	Inception workshop, focus group discussion, island-level stakeholder consultations, national-level stakeholder consultation workshop, validation workshop
Activity 1.2 – Strengthen climate and disaster risk data management, analysis and hazard mapping					
1.2.1	Develop and implement a National Climate and Disaster Risk Information Strategy	Year 2-4	Early stakeholder engagement with the government and partners will be crucial in forming the National Climate and Disaster Risk Information Strategy. Consultation, involvement and collaboration with multiple stakeholders will improve the overall quality of the Strategy and effectiveness of its implementation by facilitating the inclusion of valuable information from a variety of relevant sources. Involvement of key sectoral stakeholders will also be facilitated through the delivery of tailored technical assistance to the involved key sectors.	MMS, NDMA, MRC, NCIT, MTE, MSFD, MoH	Training and workshop
1.2.2	Establish institutional arrangements for data governance and sharing	Year 1-5	The successful establishment and implementation of institutional arrangements for data governance and sharing is dependent on the engagement and commitment of multiple sectoral stakeholders. This will be achieved through involvement and collaboration of relevant ministries and agencies on how best to establish the institutional arrangements.	NCIT, MMS, NDMA, MRC, Representatives from key climate-sensitive sectors	Multi-stakeholder consultations

1.2.3	Establish standardised multi-hazard risk assessments and mapping	Year 1-4	Multi-stakeholder co-development workshops will serve as a platform to collaboratively discuss how the results of the risk assessments and mapping can be utilised and how efforts can be sustained by relevant agencies.	MMS, NDMA, MLSA	Co-development workshops, online / in-person meetings
1.2.4	Strengthen local capacities to undertake climate-related risk assessments	Year 2-4	<p>Engagement of stakeholders through their involvement in hands-on trainings will enable capacity to be built within the relevant national institutions to sustain the implementation of multi-hazard risk assessments and mapping beyond the project implementation period.</p> <p>Successful stakeholder engagement during this activity will have a multiplier effect, in that the outputs of this activity will feed into Sub-Activities 2.2.5 and 2.2.6.</p>	MMS, NDMA, MLSA	Workshops/ trainings
1.2.5	Conduct Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA)	Year 1-4	Engagement with local communities, especially representatives of vulnerable and/or marginalised groups, will enhance the robustness of the EVCA process by providing contextually specific and nuanced inputs on the risks that they face. A gender-sensitive and intersectional approach will be essential to ensure that the project engages with and understands the differential needs, capacities and priorities of all subsets of identified vulnerable and/or marginalised populations. The EVCA process is intended to go beyond involvement and collaboration and serve to empower local communities with improved risk understanding, risk reduction, and resilience building.	MRC, NDMA, Local communities, Vulnerable and/or marginalised groups	Workshops/ trainings
1.2.6	Establish a national disaster risk knowledge platform	Year 2-4	Involving and collaborating with stakeholders will ensure that the process of establishing the platform is collaborative and user driven. Workshops conducted following the development of the platform will be important in ensuring the usability, manageability, and sustainability of the platform for the data providers and portal administrators, which is important for sustainability.	NDMA, MMS, MRC, Sectoral agencies (e.g., agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, fisheries, health, tourism, water), Community representatives	Co-design workshops, training
1.2.7	Establish a tracking system for hazardous	Year 1-5	Early stakeholder engagement will be essential during this sub-activity, as the tracking system will build on an existing system under development. Involving relevant	NDMA, MMS, MRC	Workshops/ trainings

	events and losses and damages		stakeholders through workshops and trainings will strengthen national capacities to collect, manage, and utilise data on past and current losses and damages from hazardous events, which will help to ensure the sustained operation of the tracking system.		
Output 2 – Strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and impact-based forecasting monitoring, modelling and impact-based forecasting					
Activity 2.1 – Enhance equipment and technical capacity for observations and monitoring					
2.1.1	Strengthen the hydrometeorological observation network	Year 1-4	MMS staff should be directly involved in enhancements to the hydrometeorological observation network to ensure local ownership and strengthen capacity for operation and maintenance. Since this sub-activity complements assistance received through the SOFF, coordination and consultation with the SOFF project team will be needed to maximise synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.	MMS, SOFF project team	Trainings
2.1.2	Enhance the ocean observation and monitoring system	Year 1-3	MMS staff should be directly involved in enhancements to the ocean observation and monitoring system to ensure local ownership and strengthen capacity for operation and maintenance. Members of the fisheries sector should be informed of the sensors to be deployed on existing fisheries buoys to ensure that they are aware of the value of the sensors and establish buy-in to ensure the protection of the sensors. Since this sub-activity complements assistance received through a JICA-led project, coordination and consultation with the JICA project team will be needed to maximise synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.	MMS, Fisheries sector, JICA project team	Trainings
2.1.3	Establish a Training Institute to build and sustain meteorological capabilities	Year 1-2	MMS should be empowered to lead the establishment of the Training Institute, which will be housed within MMS and operated by MMS staff. This is essential to support long-term sustainability.	MMS	Meetings
2.1.4	Build capacity for Internet of Things (IoT) and	Year 1-5	Collaboration with MMS is needed to determine suitable locations for the IoT-enabled weather stations to be deployed. Additional local stakeholders may need to be informed and consulted where the location of equipment	MMS	Workshops, training

	wireless technologies		is not proposed to be on MMS-owned land. MMS staff should be involved in the deployment of equipment and receive hands-on training to ensure the establishment of local capacity to operate and maintain the IoT-enabled weather stations, which is critical for long-term sustainability.		
Activity 2.2 – Strengthen weather, climate and ocean modelling and impact-based forecasting					
2.2.1	Establish e-infrastructure for integrated observing and high-resolution forecasting	Year 1-3	Involvement of MMS staff in trainings will ensure that staff have adequate knowledge and skills to use the upgraded data management system. Since this sub-activity complements assistance received through the SOFF, coordination and consultation with the SOFF project team will be needed to maximise synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.	MMS, SOFF project team	Training
2.2.2	Undertake climate data rescue and digitisation	Year 1-3	Involvement of MMS staff in trainings will ensure that local capacity is available to sustain data rescue and digitisation activities beyond the project implementation period, should further analogue data be discovered.	MMS	Training
2.2.3	Enhance downscaled weather, climate and ocean modelling and high-resolution forecasting	Year 1-4	Involvement of MMS staff in the deployment of new/upgraded modelling and forecasting systems and associated trainings will ensure that staff have the capacity to operate and maintain the systems beyond the project implementation period, which is essential for long-term sustainability.	MMS	Training
2.2.4	Develop and sustain core competencies for user-centred climate services	Year 1-5	Engagement in the form of training will enable staff in MMS and sectoral agencies to acquire the qualifications and competencies to provide and/or use targeted, user-driven climate services.	MMS, Sectoral agencies (e.g., agriculture, disaster risk reduction, energy, fisheries, health, tourism, water)	Workshops/training
2.2.5	Co-produce sector-specific impact-based forecasts and decision support	Year 1-5	Collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagement will enable the co-development of sector-specific impact-based forecasts and the co-design of sector-specific decision support systems through a series of workshops involving MMS and sectoral users.	MMS, Representatives from agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, health, marine and fisheries, and tourism sectors	Workshops, meetings

	for public and private sectors				
2.2.6	Develop sector-specific advisories for climate- and risk-informed decision making	Year 2-4	Collaboration between MMS and representatives from selected sectors will contribute to enhancing quality and usefulness of the advisories to be co-developed.	MMS, Representatives from three sectoral agencies involved under Sub-Activity 2.2.5	Workshops, meetings
2.2.7	Introduce climate analytics to support the development of Green Finance products	Year 2-4	Collaboration between MMS and SDFC is needed to facilitate the co-development of models and analytics relevant for use by SDFC. Consultation with MSMEs would be valuable to inform the models and analytics to be developed.	MMS, SDFC, MSMEs	Meetings
2.2.8	Enhance knowledge retention through hands-on learning and refresher training	Year 3-4	Involvement of MMS staff as well as sectoral stakeholders in hands-on learning and refresher trainings will ensure that a wide range of stakeholders have the knowledge and skills to sustain the generation and use of MMS products and services.	MMS, Representatives from agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, health, marine and fisheries, and tourism sectors	Training
Output 3 – Improved dissemination and communication of risk information and early warnings to the last mile					
Activity 3.1 – Establish a people-centred, impact-based multi-hazard early warning system					
3.1.1	Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for multi-hazard early warning advisories	Year 1-5	Inclusive stakeholder engagement will be the catalyst to ensure that the needs of remote and vulnerable populations are reflected in the SOPs and that no one is left behind. Stakeholders at all levels will be consulted and involved in developing SOPs and defining roles and responsibilities for warning dissemination. Trainings on use of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) will strengthen capacities for implementation of the SOPs.	MMS, NDMA, MRC, CAM, LGA, PSM, Local Councils, WDCs, Local communities, Representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups	Inception, validation and evaluation workshops, training, training-of-trainers
3.1.2	Co-develop a socially inclusive and gender-	Year 2	The multi-stakeholder co-development process for this sub-activity will ensure that the risk communication strategy is socially inclusive and gender-responsive and	MMS, NDMA, MRC, MSFD, WDCs, Representatives from	Stakeholder consultation workshop,

	responsive risk communication strategy		that it incorporates local expertise and perspectives. Involving a range of stakeholders will ensure that both the co-development process and the resulting strategy are inclusive and responsive to the needs of different stakeholders, especially for vulnerable and marginalised groups.	vulnerable and marginalised groups, Faith-based organisations	validation workshop
3.1.3	Establish a national Multi-Hazard Alert System	Year 2-4	Engagement and collaboration between various stakeholders will be needed to effectively implement this sub-activity, as it will require integration of the outputs of several other sub-activities of the proposed project, including risk and vulnerability assessments (Sub-activities 1.2.3 and 1.2.5); historical loss and damage data (Sub-Activities 1.2.6 and 1.2.7); and models, thresholds and impact-based forecasts for the DRM sector (Sub-Activity 2.2.3). The involvement of multiple stakeholders in the co-development of the Alert System will also enhance its usefulness for end users.	MMS, NDMA, CAM	Workshops, training
3.1.4	Deploy innovative technologies to enhance warning communication	Year 2-3	Collaboration with several national stakeholders will be needed to identify and ensure buy-in for the preferred solution.	MMS, CAM, NDMA, Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)	Meetings
3.1.5	Strengthen two-way feedback and evaluation mechanisms	Year 3-5	Involvement and collaboration of multiple stakeholders in this sub-activity will be important to ensure that the mechanism established is suited to the challenging geography of the country and its dispersed population groups. Engagement of a range of stakeholders, particularly at the local level, will help to enhance buy-in engagement with the mechanism, thus ultimately improving the effectiveness of the early warning system.	MMS, NDMA, MRC, Community members, Representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups	Workshops, training
3.1.6	Strengthen communication systems to reach the last mile	Year 4	Stakeholder engagement will be critical to ensure effective communication systems that reach the last mile. Involvement of community members and representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups will allow end-users to provide inputs and feedback to enhance the effectiveness of the communication systems in place.	MMS, NDMA, MRC, Community members, Representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups	Multi-stakeholder meetings, media channels

3.1.7	Develop a multilingual glossary on climate change, early warning systems, and disaster risk reduction	Year 2	Engagement of multiple stakeholders, especially those representing vulnerable and marginalised groups, is essential to ensure that the glossary is relevant and understandable for target beneficiaries.	MTE, MMS, NDMA, MRC, Representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups, Schools, NGOs/CBOs	Meetings, validation workshop
3.1.8	Establish partnerships with the private sector to expand information dissemination and feedback mechanisms	Year 3-4	Collaboration and involvement of both public and private sector stakeholders in this sub-activity will contribute to strengthening integration, interoperability, and availability of climate-related information. Involving Media Personnel in training on reporting and disseminating information on early warning systems (EWS) will help to expand the reach of the EWS to be developed.	MRC, MMS, PSM, Media Personnel, Private sector representatives (inc. MSMEs), Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI), Fisheries organisations	Sensitisation and capacity development workshop
Output 4 – Enhanced climate risk management capacity using climate information and early warnings					
Activity 4.1 – Enhance awareness and capacity to prepare for and respond to climate-related hazards and risks					
4.1.1	Increase public awareness and education on climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities, exposure, and risks	Year 2-5	The focus of this sub-activity is to inform and raise awareness amongst stakeholders at all levels on climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities, exposure, and risks. In doing so, this sub-activity aims to enhance understanding amongst stakeholders on the need for climate risk-informed approaches and the value of climate services and EWS.	MRC, MMS, NDMA, MoE, Representatives from the education sector, Local communities (inc. vulnerable and marginalised groups)	Nationwide awareness-raising and education campaign (through digital platform, radio, printed materials), co-development and production of knowledge products, development of an online information hub, launch event
4.1.2	Mainstream Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)	Year 1-5	The outcomes of stakeholder consultations will form the basis of all education and awareness raising materials produced. The involvement of local councils, WDCs, representatives from vulnerable and marginalised groups,	MRC, NDMA, MMS, MSFD, MoH, LGA, Local Councils, WDCs, Representatives of	National-level stakeholder consultation workshop, regular

	into disaster preparedness		NGOs, CSOs and faith-based organisations in particular will provide inputs necessary to inform the development of the contextually relevant PGI-related material. Stakeholder engagement will also inform the overall mainstreaming of PGI under this sub-activity.	vulnerable and marginalised groups, NGOs, CSOs, Faith-based organisations	monitoring visits to the target islands to obtain feedback and evaluate performance in inclusivity and accessibility, questionnaires/ surveys
4.1.3	Scale up the Y-Adapt youth engagement curriculum	Year 1-4	The focus of this sub-activity is to empower youth to understand the complexities of climate change and to develop climate change adaptation and advocacy plans within their local communities. The intended outcome is the creation of a pool of youth volunteers who are climate literate and have the capacity to lead on climate action.	MRC, Children and young people	Workshops, training
4.1.4	Strengthen national, sub-national and local capacity to use climate and disaster risk information and impact-based early warnings	Year 2-5	The focus of this sub-activity is to involve atoll and island-level governance and response agencies in capacity building to access and use climate and disaster risk information and early warnings for enhanced preparedness. In engaging with atoll/island level stakeholders, the project aims to expand the reach of national climate services and EWS.	MRC, NDMA, Local Councils, Women's Development Committees, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)	Capacity building workshop
4.1.5	Enhance capacity of the private sector to manage climate-related risks	Year 1-5	Engagement of BCC and SDFC staff through a targeted awareness and education programme aims to both enhance climate risk understanding and awareness within these organisations, as well as build their capacity to engage with and facilitate knowledge transfer to MSMEs. MRC will also engage directly with MSMEs through both informative (awareness raising) and collaborative approaches (development of disaster contingency and preparedness plans).	BCC, SDFC, MRC, Private sector (especially MSMEs in agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors)	Awareness and education programme (webinars and workshops), international study tour, MSME pop-up events, capacity building workshop
4.1.6	Scale up Community-Based Disaster Risk	Year 1-5	MRC and NDMA will carry out specialised trainings for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), which aim to empower island communities to build resilience and disaster management capacities.	NDMA, MRC, CERTs	Training

	Management (CBDRM)				
4.1.7	Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into disaster response	Year 2	Involvement and collaboration of stakeholders involved and/or implicated in disaster risk management and PGI is essential to ensure that the SOPs are responsive to the diverse needs and safety risks associated with gender, age, disability, and other intersectional vulnerability factors.	NDMA, MRC, MSFD, MoH, LGA, Local Councils, WDCs, CERTs, Representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups, Faith-based organisations	Multistakeholder consultations, workshops, focus group discussions
Activity 4.2 – Establish capacity for Forecast-based Action (FbA) and Anticipatory Action (AA)					
4.2.1	Develop a Roadmap for FbA/AA	Year 1-5	Involvement of multiple stakeholders involved and/or implicated in EWS and FbA/AA will help to ensure that the roadmap is responsive to the specific needs and priorities of different stakeholder groups.	MRC, MMS, NDMA, MSFD, Representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups	Multistakeholder consultations, workshops
4.2.2	Build capacity for FbA/AA	Year 1 -5	Involvement of multiple stakeholders involved and/or implicated in EWS and FbA/AA in capacity building activities will support the transfer of knowledge and skills to relevant entities, as well as promote increased coordination between entities and buy-in for FbA/AA.	MRC, NDMA, MMS	Capacity building trainings at national and atoll level, continuous technical support
4.2.3	Co-develop impact-based forecast triggers for FbA/AA	Year 2-4	A collaborative, co-development approach involving multiple stakeholders will help to ensure the contextual relevance of impact-based forecast triggers developed, which in the long-term will enable a more effective FbA/AA mechanism to be established.	MRC, MMS, NDMA	Multistakeholder consultations, co-design workshops, online platform
4.2.4	Initiate Early Action Protocol (EAP) development	Year 1-5	A collaborative, co-development approach engaging multiple stakeholders involved and/or implicated in EWS and FbA/AA will help to facilitate identification of the most appropriate early actions and ensure that the EAPs are responsive to the specific needs and priorities of different stakeholder groups. The collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagement approach also aims to strengthen ownership and coordination among relevant entities, which is	MRC, MMS, NDMA, MSFD, Local communities, Representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups	National co-development workshops, atoll and island level workshops

			essential for the effective implementation of EAPs and long-term sustainability. Involvement of local communities in the development and validation of EAPs will support enhanced acceptance and local ownership.		
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5.5 Considerations for engagement of vulnerable and marginalised groups

Special attention will be paid to allow for the effective engagement of those identified as vulnerable and/or marginalised in project decision-making processes, consultations, workshops, and trainings. The Detailed Budget Plan (Annex 3) includes resource allocation for measures to facilitate full, equal and meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Table 6 below outlines the strategy for engagement of such persons.

Table 6. Strategy for engagement of vulnerable and marginalised groups

Stakeholder	Strategy
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage a female facilitator for focus group discussions and interviews• Mobilise support of Women's Development Committees (WDCs) and local women-focused organisations• Ensure sensitivity to cultural norms
Children and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that language used is age appropriate• Coordinate with schools and child/youth-focused organisations to support and mentor child and youth participation• Ensure compliance with child safeguarding procedures
Elderly persons and people with disabilities (PWDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use people-first language• Ensure that venues for in-person engagement are physically accessible• Provide information in a format that is accessible to those with sight or hearing impairments• Engage translators and/or interpreters to provide communication support
Foreign migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage translators to provide communication support
People residing in remote islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate with Island Councils, WDCs, and local civil society organisations to facilitate more inclusive engagement and participation• Allocate financial resources to facilitate travel to consultations or workshops held in Male' and other central locations

Ministries and other organisations representing vulnerable and marginalised groups are important figures for advocating for these groups to ensure their specific needs and voices are addressed. Special attention should be given to cultural norms, gender-specific needs, and ensuring safety during engagement. Moreover, information should be delivered in a way that is accessible to all. This includes using straightforward, non-technical language, diverse communication channels, translations into local languages, and tailoring products to meet the needs of different peoples and communities. A dedicated Social and Gender Safeguards Specialist will be engaged as part of the project team to ensure mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion throughout the project, assuring quality control, and facilitating a gender-responsive and, where possible, gender-transformative approach to project implementation.

Further concrete recommendations and actions to promote meaningful and inclusive engagement of vulnerable and marginalised groups and address gender and other social or economic inequalities are detailed in the Gender Assessment (Annex 4a) and Gender Action Plan (Annex 4b).

6 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process undertaken during the project implementation will be reflected in periodic progress reports prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU). These reports will encompass the following information:

- Stakeholder engagement activities implemented during the reporting period
- Dates and venues of engagement activities
- Information shared with stakeholders
- Outcomes of the stakeholder engagement activities, including issues addressed.

Day-to-day monitoring of the project implementation and environmental and social performance (including implementation of the SEP) will be carried out by a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, who will work with the support of a M&E International Specialist and in coordination with the PMU. The M&E Officer and M&E International Specialist will be responsible for designing and implementing a performance M&E framework for the project, which will include monitoring of stakeholder engagement processes.

Factors to be considered in measuring the success of stakeholder engagement processes and outputs are outlined below:

- Number and diversity of stakeholders participating in various engagements and at what levels
- Feedback from stakeholders on the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement, level of trust generated, satisfaction with the level of engagement and outputs, and disclosure and provision of information about the activity
- Completion of agreements and commitments
- Extent of involvement of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including women, children and youth, elderly persons, people with disabilities, and migrants.

Specific indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the SEP will be further defined by the M&E Officer and M&E International Specialist in Year 1 of the project implementation.

Further information on the monitoring and reporting arrangements is provided in Section 5 of the Logical Framework (Annex 2a) and Section 9 of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (Annex 12a).

7 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of information is essential to ensure transparency and accountability in the project activities and enable stakeholders and the public at large to understand the risks, impacts, and opportunities associated with the project. Information disclosure will be undertaken in compliance with the GCF Information Disclosure Policy (2016), which requires that relevant information is made available to affected and potentially affected communities and external stakeholders. Following project approval by the GCF Board, project information and documents will be made available on the [GCF website](#) and [UNEP Open Data Portal](#) for public viewing.

8 GRIEVANCE REDRESS

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the project is detailed in Section 7 of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (Annex 12a). The project-level GRM complements the AE's Stakeholder Response Mechanism and the GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism, both of which are also outlined in Annex 12a.

Information on the GRM should be distributed to all project-affected persons and relevant stakeholders through regular information channels employed by the project team – e.g., inception meetings, public consultations, project brochures, posting on noticeboards, and online. Both the Social and Gender Safeguard Specialist and the Climate Advocacy/Communications Officer will play a key role in awareness-raising and information sharing on the GRM. Information to be disseminated will include the scope of the GRM, focal points for receiving grievances, procedure to make a complaint, process of review and investigation, timeline(s) for responding to the complainant, and the principle of confidentiality.

In disseminating information on the GRM, concerted effort should be made to reach vulnerable and/or marginalised groups. Training and sensitisation on gender, gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse (SEAH), and gender-sensitive communications is proposed as a specific activity in the Gender Action Plan (Annex 4b).