**Mid Term Evaluation of the Strategic Action Plan (2009 – 2013), Government of Maldives**

**Fisheries Sector**

1. **Sector Overall Progress (500 words)**

***{A description of the extent to which the Sector Outcomes as specified in the policy goals were realized in the period under review}***

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| Fisheries remain as the main occupation of the people and the government gives special priority to the development of the sector. The Fisheries sector ensured sustainability of fish and marine products with the introduction of trainings on Long line fishing for Yellowfin and Bigeye tune. The sector encouraged long line fishing vessels of private sector by increasing the SMEs engaged in Skipjack industry. However in 2009 the volume of fish landed from pole and line has been declined compared to year 2008. This could be related to the changes in water current and rising costs of fuel during the period. The data was not available for 2010 as the fishers was not able to send the collected data to Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture.  In order to ensure that changes in the buying price of fish in international markets are passed through local fishermen floor price revision was done weekly.  The fisheries industry promotion and expansion of business development trade and export was one of the significant areas that government focused. To promote the sector Skipjack fishery from pole and line fishery for sustainable fishery certification (MSC’ UK) is under full assessment. The private sector and the government are actively involved in the promotion of the sector. By participation in fish trade fairs / events the fishery industry is trying to promote the brand “Maldives Fish”, which demonstrates that all the products that were generated were from a well managed fishery and guarantees sustainability. Also to increase the expansion of the business development trade and export assistance of trainings to increase the production of high quality fishery products and financial assistance schemes was provided to develop the ice plants In addition to these soft loans was provided to assist upgrading fish processing facilities established in fish communities. To assist the fishermen’s for better catch Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) were deployed in specific locations. For the construction and installations of FADs in different areas in Maldives, FAD center was established and is in operation.  Maldives Fisheries Training Center was established and in operation to build the fisheries sector. To increase the awareness among the nation’s youth National campaign and on a regular basis to promote the fishing industry among the nation’s youth career guidance programs. To the build the sector one important element was to measure the share of the local workforce in the harvesting sector of the fishing industry.  Enhance research in fish breeding and productivity the main activities performed Marine research center’s research will be streamlined. A fishery research facilitates in Bodumohora is relocated to Maniyafushi and with the establishment of Mariculture Development Corporation (which is under consideration). Including the new bait harvesting methods studied and adopted for nation use. An improved data collection system was developed.  To modernize the Fisheries infrastructure and to meet the planned and emerging developments one of the main activities under this result indicator are to conduct a technical study for the identification and development fisheries support services. By undertaking a study for potential of developing seafood hub in the Maldives and by modernizing the fisheries harbor infrastructure for fisheries support services. However this was not achieved due to financial constraints.    Last but not the least to establish a regulatory framework for sustained development and management of fishery sector was established. Main activities under this result indicator were to revise the Fisheries law to manage the fisheries and to meet the emerging developments. To revise the Fisheries regulation and establish management plans for key species harvested. A mechanism to phase out foreign fishing in EEZ was established. |

* 1. **Progress on Key Sector Outcomes**

***{For each sector outcome briefly describe the achievement made and the extent to which implementation was carried out as envisaged by the Strategies / Intervention List of the SAP. If there were any deviations what were they and the causes}***

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| Outcome | | Progress | Issues |
| 1. | Scope of Fisheries sector in the economy enhanced ensuring sustainability of fish and marine products | Most of the targets accomplished. | -Long line fishery was new fishery and time was needed to understand the concept and build the resources such boats, skills.  -Fishers were not able to send the data on a regular basis. |
| 2. | Regulate the market to ensure that changes in the buying price of fish in international markets are passed through to local fishermen. | Target was achieved 100%. Revision was done periodically on a regular basis. | No issue |
| 3. | Expansion of Business development, trade and export promotion in fisheries. | -FAD center operation was a success.  -Sector was promoted internationally by participating the targeted fairs / events. –  -For the production of high quality fish and fishery products allocated number of trainings was conducted successfully. | -Certification for skipjack fishery products – report on full assessment was done completely however for the certification and implementation major delays are faced.  -Loans to develop RSW – no application were processed. |
| 4. | Sector Capacity Building and Training, enhanced | Training center established and major works in the center was done. | -Due to financial constraints the number of trainings targeted was few.  -Though training center was established fishers from islands find it difficult to attend to short term trainings leaving their major economic income and family.  -Trainees are not available to conduct trainings.  -Number of locals in the fisheries processing sector is decreasing with the increase of expatriate. |
| 5. | Enhanced Research in fisheries and fish breeding and productivity introduced | -Improved data collection system was established.  -New bait harvesting methods was conducted. | Most of the activities were not accomplished to its target and time due budget constraints. |
| 6. | Fisheries infrastructure modernized to meet planned and emerging developments | Fish land site establishment works – 50% almost completed. | Most of the activities were not accomplished to its target and time as fund was not allocated. |
| 7. | Regulatory framework established for sustained development and management of fishery sector | Major activities in the sector outcome were accomplished. Fisheries Law is now under revision and will be submitted to parliament this year. In the meantime, fisheries regulations are been amended & circulated to the relevant staff for their final comments. | No issues |

* 1. **Institutional Achievements in relation to the Sector Outcomes**

**{Briefly d*escribe the role of key institutions in relation to the key sector outcomes and their achievements*}**

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| Name of Institution(s) | | Major Responsibilities towards outcomes | Achievement |
| 1. | Marine Research Center | Responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of all living marine resources in the country.  Undertake research on fisheries and marine resources. | 20% of the fisheries research facility established at Maniyafushi – Phase 1. Research facility equipment moved from Bodumohora and existing buildings on Maniyafushi. Achieved 20% in 2008. 10% in 2009 |
| 2. | Maldives Fisheries Training Center | To provide necessary skills and knowledge for fishermen. Trainings, acquire modern technology, skills and the science of fisheries in order to develop the fisheries sector. | Training center was established. 6 trainings conducted in year 2009. 8 trainings conducted in year 2010. |
| 3. | MOFA | Has the overall mandate for the sustainable management and development of fisheries, agriculture and marine resources of the nation. To ensure development and sustainable management of marine resources of the country. | -Introduction of Long line fishing in Maldives.  - Dedicated FAD center established and in operation.  Maldives Fisheries Training Center established and in operation.  -Fisheries law revised to meet planned and emerging developments.  - Fisheries regulations revised etc. |
| 4. | MED | Recognizes the potential of the SME sector in creating a more resilient and diversified economy as well as creating more employment opportunities, particularly in the outer atolls. It envisages establishing the requisite institutional and organizational mechanisms to restructure and consolidate all SME Development activities in order to achieve economies of scale and efficiency of operations. Furthermore, it is also exploring the option of pooling all funds allocated for development of SMEs and related activities under the aegis of a single entity with responsibilities for providing the various services needed for SME Development in the country across sectors. | -16 permits issued to SMEs to purchase skipjack. |
| 5. | BOM | To ensure the loans are issued to eligible candidates from fisheries sector. | Extension of repayment loan period for fishing vessels and engines to fishers. Under the activity 9 agreements revised in year 2009 and 8 individual’s loan period have been extended in year 2010. And for year 2011-2013 extend the individuals loan periods who apply. |

1. **Overall Assessment of Sector Performance related to key aspects**

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| Operational Progress (300 words)  **{*Explain the Extent to which implementation was carried out as envisage by the Strategies / Intervention List of the SAP. If there were any deviation why was this and what where they.*}** |
| Major activities and operational achievements are in align with SAP.  Under government consideration Oil Subsidies issued to fishers with regards to parliament decision. |
| Financial Performance (200 words)  **{*To what extent was the budget allocation utilized and if budgetary shortfalls were encountered what were the likely causes what impact did it have in regard to pursuing the Strategies / Intervention List of the SAP*}** |
| Budget allocation utilized (Need to be clarified)  Budget constraints were faced during the implementation of the SAP result indicators. Limited funds were available for the targeted activities such as to conduct a national campaign for youth and trainings under the sector outcome 4. And some of the major activities budget was allocated in Work Plan however the budget was cut down from Ministry of Finance and Treasury during the budget approval processes. |
| Institutional Linkages (100 words)  **{If *any institutional linkages were expected to be developed during the implementation, to what extent were they achieved. If not what were the main causes and what was the affect on the implementation.*}** |
| -To issue the SME’s (Sector outcome 1. Result indicator 2) – Ministry of Economic Development is the supporting institution. MED provides full support to achieve this result indicator.  -To modernize the infrastructure one of the result indicator mentioned was to establish a Hulhumale fish landing site and to modernize a fisheries harbor. However this result indicator is not achieved for 2011 as the partners (AIMA) are having conflicts in agreement. |
| Sustainability (100 words)  **{*To what degree could the operational aspects; including institutional linkages if any can be carried forward and describe any essential criteria required to facilitate this*}** |
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**3.0 Key Issues encountered**

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| *Institutional (200 words)*  ***{Discuss the Strategic position of the Lead Agency and how it affected the Implementation of Strategies/ Operational Performance}****:* |
| * Lack of Technical support for the allocated activities from the linked institutions. |
| *Implementation (200 words)*  **{*Matters relating to implementation finances, human resources, monitoring and oversight*}** |
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| *Environmental : (100 words)*  **{*Environmental 9including Operational aspects) aspects which were encountered and need to be addressed*}** |
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| *Political (100 words)*  **{*Political considerations encountered and to be addressed*}** |
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| *Socio/ Cultural (100 words)*  **{*Socio Cultural considerations encountered in respect of operation and implementation*}** |
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| *Gender (100 words)*  **{*Gender related issues encountered during operation and implementation*}** |
| -In fish processing activities during the year 2008 most of the women in the islands were actively participated however the number is reducing due to increase in expatriate. |
| Statistical and Data Collection (100 words)  **{*All the data sources used. Other factors which surfaced in the operation and implementation*}** |
| Statistical data collection is based on the data available from Fishers. Hence the data’s are not available to MOFA on time. This major constraint for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation. |

1. **Lessons Learnt (300 words)**

**{Discuss the Lessons Learnt in the process of carrying out interventions relevant to realization of the Sector Outcomes as specified in the SAP. Focus on the involved agencies and other stakeholders (including beneficiaries) and their willingness and capability to continue the interventions. If not what additional measures would need to be taken to strengthen them}**

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| * Involved agencies and other stakeholders (including beneficiaries) are not able to support with relevant documents and important information up to date. * Though the target sector outcome are developed the allocated budget for the supporting activities are not available to the Lead agency. |

1. **Partnerships (200 words)**

**{*Describe any partnerships established with a donor, private sector of civil society organization to achieve an outcome(s)*}**

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| The Ministry’s main international partner in development is the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.  The Ministry gets support from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) where the Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture is the Governor appointed for IFAD.  The Maldives is a member of the INOFISH, BOBP-IGO, and OIE. |

1. **Follow-up Actions & Recommendations (400 words)**

**{Recommendations for strengthening, reorienting and/or revising the implementation mechanisms and strengthening the key agencies and other stakeholders for achieving Sector Outcomes in future periods}**

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| * For future the monitoring could be done more on a regular basis eg: quarterly. * Give enough information on the format of the information and what relevant information should the sectors provide. |

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