**Format for Mid the Term Evaluation of the Achievement of Sector Outcomes of the Strategic Action Plan (2009 – 2013) of the Government of Maldives**

**Information, Arts and Culture 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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| The information, arts and culture sector consists of the National Center for the Arts (NCA), Department of Heritage  (DOH), National Library (NLM) and the National Bureau of Classification (NBC). As the mandate is varied where applicable similar points will be brought together and points which differ will be specified. The offices are arranged according  to the policies in the SAP.  NCA envisions a Maldivian society will have knowledge and be enriched by increased engagement in arts and culture.  NCA is the main regulatory body in the Arts sector and is in a state of transition until the formation of the National arts council. A National Arts Council is imperative for the smooth functioning of this sector. An arts council act has been drafted at this stage and the number of exhibitions has increased.  Under the mandate of restoring and preserving our cultural heritage which is an integral part of our national identity the following work has been done. A guideline on the criteria of determining a heritage property has been drawn up and is near completion. As Maldives consists of scattered island over a large expanse of sea and the heritage sites are on different atolls, the effort to restore and preserve them is tremendous.  As signatory to the World Heritage Convention it is required that a proper inventory of tangible and intangible heritage of Maldives needs to be compiled. At present there is one drawn up some years back but it is not a thorough one and needs to be updated. This work is also going ahead with financial assistance from UNESCO, and will be completed by November 2011.  With UNESCO assistance the work of submitting a nomination dossier of the Friday Mosque to be inscribed as a World Heritage Property is progressing. Under the International Assistance request (IAR) funds will be given for the first phase of the project. Work of the first phase is being done presently and will be completed by December 2011. Once it is finished, work of the second phase will start.  Two projects related to cultural tourism are going on after considerable delay due to NCLHR being dissolved and the department of heritage created. The 2 projects are “Development of Hangnameedoo heritage site” and “Conservation of Kaashidoo Kuruhinna Tharagandu”. Now regarding the Hangnameedoo and Kaashidoo projects, the Tender Evaluation Section of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury will evaluate the Tender Documents. The bid opening and evaluation and awarding is scheduled for 26 October 2011. The work of putting the museum artifacts in glass cases is finished. This was under assistance from a private individual. At present the accession and information forms of the artifacts are being filled. The numbering system also has been changed in accordance with international standards. Regarding the archives, documentation of the Vilgon Collection is being done. Also the recording of events of national significance is done on a daily basis.  The National Library of Maldives (NLM) was established on 12th July 1965 and has provided a dual service of a public and national library to the whole nation ever since. NLM is mandated to manage and give access to the documented heritage of the Maldives and develop readership in our society. The National Library aims to do so by envisioning a society where each individual is able to access information and use it responsibly. Policy 3 is set to strengthen the National Library under the Library Act and develop and enhance library services across the country under which 12 strategies were and three strategies were added in 2011 when discussed with stakeholders in preparing the RF. One strategy (Opening a new Children’s Multimedia Library) has been completed thus far.  In the process of developing library services throughout the country, locally NLM has seen a recent surge of visitor statistics from 180 visits per day in 2010 to 330 in 2011 and 1000 visits per day on weekends. NLM has initiated a nationwide reading campaign “Reading for Social Development” and provide assistance to island libraries and institutions. The library has joined international NGOs to collaborate and share resources.    A Film Censor Board on 21st May 1956 with the aim of presenting and promoting cinema and theatrical performances to benefit the Maldivian people. The function of the board was changed to check films and theatrical dramas which had issues and conflicts associated to: Islam, the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Maldives; and the Maldivian Culture. The Film Censor Board renamed as the National Bureau of Classification (NBC), with a mandate to classify films, literature, stage performances and cable TV channels, and register local creative works such as lyrics, music and songs. The change was brought with the belief that classification and educating the public was the key to regulate different content, positively. The mandate of NBC also includes carrying out public awareness programs on classification. Registration of films, books, music and lyrics component of NBC was transferred Ministry of Economic Development on 21st April 2011 when Copyright law was ratified. |

* 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}***

Please note: P2 and P4 are discussed together. P6-P10 not addressed.

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| Outcome | | Progress | Issues |
| 1. | Development of Skills of the artistic community and arts promotion to increase sector productivity and appreciation by the wider public | Arts Council Committee members selected and awaiting confirmation. Arts Council Act drafted. Arts Development fund created. An increase in the no. of exhibitions held including partnerships with international organizations. | Act on hold until committee members are confirmed.  Lack of funds for “Arts development fund”, exhibitions, crafts center and festivals.  Lack of professional staff. |
| 2.  4. | Conservation of the Linguistic heritage of the Maldives.  Development of the cultural and archeological heritage of the Maldives enhanced | Heritage law drafted and sent to Attorney General Office in 2009 and sent again in 2011.  Maintenance of 6 heritage site in the atolls. Compilation of National Inventory of cultural and heritage sites for world heritage nomination (Friday Mosque). Development of Hannameedoo Heritage site. Conservation of Kashidoo heritage site. For the National Museum filling accession and information forms.  New numbering system done according to international standards.  Preparing to give conservation treatment to damaged artifacts. | No response from AGO to the earlier letter and awaiting response for second letter. Difficulties in supervision of offsite heritage sites.  No guidelines available for the national inventory.  Funds not available to provide facilities for all islands, for maintenance and engaging experts.  Limited technical capacity.  Lack of professional staff. Space problem for conservation treatment. |
| 3. | Strengthening the National Library under a Library Act, develop and enhance library services across the country. | Local short term training from civil service training institute was conducted for 29 staff. A preservation project for library materials is ongoing. A National Library law drafted which includes a library board and to be tabled for parliament. The Legal deposit law of 1/2006 to be implemented in October 2011. Three mobile library trips. Reduced book budget exhausted from book acquisitions. Technical assistance provided to three libraries and professional assistance to 36 libraries in the Maldives. A separate children’s library established. The libraries new building project initial requirement documentation to be prepared this year. A reading campaign initiated targeted for schools and the general public. Promotion of library services that contribute to the Islamic Faith. Increased public access to digital media through the Maldivian Greenstone project carried out, through which selected participants trained for free open source software for digital libraries, MOU signed with Maldives Library Association and Ministry of Education. | Funds not available to conduct short and long term specialized trainings, acquire preservation materials, for Mobile library trips.  Could not acquire books according to customer needs or the collection development policy of the library. Technical expertise is limited as few trained staff  Need to carry out accredited courses.  Funds limited to prepare accredited course material for library training. Maintenance of the library in terms of renewing resources(books, audiovisual material) and security of library items limited due to budget constraint  Land not confirmed for the new building.  Budget constraints in getting the necessary hardware for ongoing projects, as such huge time delays.  Library Act submission delayed to the parliament. |
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| 5. | National Archive established | Archival act drafted and submitted to Peoples Majlis by a member of MDP.  Preparation of Guidelines is in progress.  Acquiring of land is in progress. | Delays, lack of professional staff, space problem and limited technical capacity. Shortage of funding too |
| 6. | Ensure a system of media regulation conducive to freedom of expression and diversity of media in accordance with the tenets of the constitution. |  |  |
| 7. | Provide for a level economic playing field and transparency of ownership within a diverse and vibrant media environment. |  |  |
| 8 | Support media as a platform for democratic discourse. |  |  |
| 9 | Enhance capacity building in the areas of technical and professional development to create a solid foundation for Freedom of Expression, pluralism and diversity. |  |  |
| 10 | Ensure infrastructural capacity to support media and communication, including new media and the Network Communications Environment. |  |  |
| 11. | Ensure that artistic materials produced and imported in to Maldives are classified to inform the public regarding the appropriateness of the materials for the viewing age group. | Classification grades and certification procedures are reviewed once in two years. Awareness for the public on classification through an upgraded NBC website. A Classification Act being drafted by the AG office. | Funds not available to conduct public surveys to review classification grades and upgrade of website. A discontinuation of Registration Rules which was under the umbrella Act on General Regulations leaves NBC with no authority to certify contents of books and lyrics. A delay in the drafting of the classification Act. |

* 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. | | Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture | Line ministry responsible for overall policy direction, legal support, facilitation of networking within the sectors of tourism and arts and the subsectors of heritage and culture.  Advisory role in the project of submitting nomination dossier of Friday mosque for a world heritage nomination.  Represent respective departments in an Advisory Committee formed to oversee the project of World heritage nomination. | Events celebrated in collaboration with the line ministry |
| 2. | | Ministry of Trade and Economic Development | Protection of Intellectual property rights and regulations of trade pertaining to the arts sector (artistic products etc.). |  |
| 3. | Ministry of Education | | Promotion of Freedom of Expression and the right to information through civic education and awareness programs on history, culture and language.  Coordinate with UNESCO National Commission in all heritage issues.  Standardization of printed materials (ISBN for books). | Relevant exhibitions held in collaboration.  ISBN has been supplied by education ministry without delay. |
| 4. | | Ministry of Home Affairs | Ensuring the maintaining & cleaning of heritage sites in the respective islands. | Monitoring and reporting done by the councils. |
| 5. | | Ministry of Finance and Treasury | Speed up general financial procedures and bidding of projects sent there. |  |
| 6. | | Ministry of Islamic Affairs | Regulation of media related to religion.  Represent respective departments in an Advisory Committee formed to oversee the project of World heritage nomination. | Materials reviewed regularly |
| 7. | | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Follow up work in cultural agreements signed with SAARC countries |  |
| 8. | | Ministry of Housing, Transport and Environment | Represent respective departments in an Advisory Committee formed to oversee the project of World heritage nomination. |  |
| 9. | | Attorney General’s Office | Review draft of heritage law, bring changes necessary and submit to parliament.  Formulation of Classification Act | Once law is enforced safeguarding of heritage will be facilitated.  Drafting of Classification Act is on-going. |
| 10. | | Local Government Authority | Act as a mediator between the Atoll and Island councils and this sector. |  |
| 11. | | Maldives Police Service | Control and intervention of the circulation of prohibited material in society | Such cases sent to the Ministry have led to a reduction of the occurrences. |
| 12. | | Maldives Customs Services | Accountable for media received from overseas under law 4/75 | Regulation of media physically received from overseas. |
| 13 | | National Center for Information Technology | Provision of technological infrastructure in promoting and giving access to online media to the public | Collaboration of resources in terms of training rooms, server space etc. |
| 14 | | Male City Council | Represent respective departments in an Advisory Committee formed to oversee the project of World heritage nomination. |  |
| 15 | | MMPRC | Undertake joint marketing and promotional activities of the sector |  |

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 envisaged by the Strategies / Intervention List of the SAP. If there were any deviations why was this and what where they.*}** |
| The Arts Council paperwork was prepared and requires to be finalized; This is related to the development fund which will be managed by the Arts Council.  In order to enhance heritage awareness and its importance in defining a nation’s identity. The UNESCO funded project of preparing an inventory of tangible and intangible heritage is very important. Once it is completed a more comprehensive list than the existing one will be drawn up with new entries.  In addition to the on-going 3 projects related to conservation and restoration of heritage sites, 4 new projects are planned for the years 2012 & 2013, if funds are allocated.  The museum is presently engaged in the work of monitoring artifacts according to a new system, completing accessions and information forms as well as preparing pre-conservation work of damaged artifacts. .  Survey trips were made to Tha.Dhiyamigili and Tha.Buruni in order to draw up projects for the restoration and development of heritage sites on these islands.  A trip was made to A.Alif Thodoo to view the dagaba and its condition, in order to finalize a project for its restoration and conservation.  In the Archive section of this department, The Department of Information has sent photographs and magazines which are of archival value. Fumigation of the existing archives was done as there was some termite infestation of material there.  The draft of a heritage law was sent again to Attorney General Office as there had been no response to the one sent in 2009. As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, the world heritage council stresses the need for a heritage law first and foremost before any steps can be taken to safeguard our heritage.  For the smooth functioning of the National Library trained staff is required, limited staff led to general training opportunities being missed and specialized training was not available. Changes in library organization structure affected the day to day operations of the library.  NBC classifies films and videos regularly and has been successful in classifying them consistently and on time. The producers of these films and videos are made aware to view them to the classification age group attested by NBC. Certifying of books and lyrics has been consistent as well. However, with the discontinuation of Registration Rules which was under the umbrella Act on General Regulations leaves NBC with no authority to certify contents of books and lyrics. Presently, NBC is working on resolving this issue. NBC is in need of a Classification Act before the Classification Rules and Regulation under the umbrella Act on General Regulations expires in February 2012. NBC has requested Attorney General’s Office for drafting this Act which is currently on going. Conducting public awareness programs on classification has been an important part of NBC. However, due to budget cuts this work has been so far unattainable except for a pilot workshop conducted for school children which NBC is planning to resume next year. |
| 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*}** |
| Financial performance of NCA depends on the Arts Council to be established so that training can be done through the arts council. Day to day operations is managed. Programs stalling as council not formed.  Due to budget constraints obtaining of equipment needed for the Archives, the national museum and the heritage section was a great draw back to the progress of work. ( to achieve the mandate of this department)  Throughout the year Island Councils had requested survey trips to newly discovered heritage sites and objects as well as neglected sites. Also cleaning and maintenance of new sites were requested. These requests could not be fully met due to budgetary limitations.  The National Library proposed budget was reduced to The received budget was utilized to the full, most cases slow procedure at the finance ministry led to minimum efficiency.  At NBC allocated budget was mainly utilized to perform day to day operations and recurrent expenses. Moreover capital expenses were utilized in re-structuring the organization to provide better service to the public. Budgetary constraints have hindered the process to implement awareness programs on classification. So far NBC is unable to direct any of the awareness programs planned for the year. |
| 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.*}** |
| * **Attorney General’s Office:**  Drafting of Classification Act which is on-going. * **Ministry of Education:** Acquiring ISBN for books and joint Exhibitions. * **Maldives Police Service:** Pornographic materials withheld and sent for investigation. * **Maldives Customs Services:** Films and videos imported in to Maldives are collected by Maldives Customs Service under law 4/75 and sent to NBC for classification. * **Ministry of Islamic Affairs:** Reviewing any religion related content. * **National Center for Information Technology:** providing training for access to online and digital media, resource sharing was carried out |
| 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*}** |
| Programs are not sustainable as trained staffs are required and proposed budget not received. At the moment exhibitions are the constant program being carried out which are external requests. NCA programs are inactive. The teaching component (classes conducted for the general public) has been outsourced and is a sustainable model. As NCA is in a moment of transition the process has been slow.  When the Department of heritage was first created, there was a dire shortage of staff. This state of affairs was aggravated with the introduction of the voluntary redundancy programme. These issues lead to many changes in the administration of the Department, especially in the Finance section. Very recently some new staff has been recruited, but they need time for familiarization before their full in-put is obtained.  The proposed and finalized organization structure of the National Library would give a sustainable model for the efficient functioning of the library. Due to voluntary redundancy program and other staff leaving a gap exists for trained staff. A minimum required amount of staff is necessary for sustainability.  The operational procedures of NBC are carried forward with full support from the institutional linkages. |

**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}****:* |
| The Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture had to attend to the institutional demands of 4 different sectors which require a huge human resource effort. As such delays were experienced in daily work flow. Decision making is delayed as well.  Lack of trained and technical staff in every field of heritage Archive & National Museum is a tremendous obstacle in delivering the work of this department. Budgetary issues hinder long-term and even short-term training and education of the staff.  Since the Registration Rules which was under the umbrella Act on General Regulations was discontinued recently, NBC has no authority to certify contents of books and lyrics. It is imperative that a Classification Act gets implemented for NBC to continue classifying films and videos and regulate contents of book and lyrics. NBC has requested Attorney General’s Office for drafting this Act which is currently on going but at a slow pace. Conducting public awareness programs on classification has been an important role of NBC. However, due to budget cuts this work has been so far unattainable except for a pilot workshop conducted for school children which NBC is planning to resume next year. The website of NBC will be upgraded once the process of its withheld budget is given green light. |
| *Implementation (200 words)*  **{*Matters relating to implementation finances, human resources, monitoring and oversight*}** |
| Financial constraints:  Due to budget cut downs reaching our goals as in Strategic Action Plan (SAP) remains impossible. But few important goals have been achieved by reallocating the budget from other areas. The extremely long wait to receive funds acquired for projects for the National Library and for receiving payments within the budget resulted in slowing the work flow to a huge extent.  The hindrance to implementation of heritage projects, establishment of a proper archives and improvement of museum services relate to financial constraints and lack of expertise.  With foreign aid, small projects can be implemented but ability to meet deadline is difficult as obtaining aid involves a long-winding process.  Human resources :  Due to staff reduction under the government redundancy program, many key posts from the organization structure has been dissolved leaving the work and services given to public to fall back. And also the workload left behind by the redundant staff has been commissioned to the remaining staff thus making their workload high which has affected the productivity of the overall organization. The redundancy program affected the service provided to the general public by the National Library.  Monitoring:  Due to lack of a Classification Act NBC has no authority to monitor video shops for classified artistic productions. Senior staff are not available in some sectors from proper monitoring as well. |
| *Environmental : (100 words)*  **{*Environmental 9including Operational aspects) aspects which were encountered and need to be addressed*}** |
| Coordination with Environment Ministry is required when heritage sites in the atolls are restored. There sites need to be incorporated into the land-use plan of the respective island where the site is found. |
| *Political (100 words)*  **{*Political considerations encountered and to be addressed*}** |
| Budget cuts and delayed decision making and response from finance ministry has a direct effect on performance. |
| *Socio/ Cultural (100 words)*  **{*Socio Cultural considerations encountered in respect of operation and implementation*}** |
| Heritage has to be restored, preserved and developed in close association with the local communities. Their awareness, interest and pride in their history and culture have to be enhanced if a heritage site on their home island is to be preserved for future generations. The local populations, especially the youth has to be educated to increase awareness of their history, culture and heritage, which reflect their national identity.  Collecting, organizing, accessing and preserving the literal heritage of Maldives requires an appreciation and love of reading from an early age. Thus multiple stakeholders are involved in the process. Serving marginalized populations is inhibited due to limited funds in providing resources and related services to such groups (e.g. Special needs teenagers, senior citizens, unemployed, immigrants).  There’s always room for disagreement with artistic productions that are being classified due to various social, cultural and religious beliefs. However, majority of the public supports the classification system. Moreover, due to lack of awareness, public are yet to fully understand the importance of classification which has led minors to view contents which are inappropriate for their age. |
| *Gender (100 words)*  **{*Gender related issues encountered during operation and implementation*}** |
| NBC has not encountered any gender related issues so far. |
| Statistical and Data Collection (100 words)  **{*All the data sources used. Other factors which surfaced in the operation and implementation*}** |
| NCA maintains databases on film producers, film, music bands and film shooting rights given to individuals or parties. In addition an Artists Directory has been developed with the help of UNDP and will be released soon.  As a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, an important requirement is to compile an inventory of the tangible and intangible heritage of the country. The existing one is not complete and there are many prominent sites not included in the list. At present under UNESCO assistance a project is proceeding to compile a preliminary inventory and an action plan. Hopefully the project will be completed by November 2011.  In addition for next year an atoll by atoll survey is planned to review and survey heritage sites. This project can be implemented only if budget is provided by the Finance Ministry.  The library maintains data of library users and resources. Data is collected of library visits every day. A directory is maintained of the libraries and information centers in the Maldives.  NBC provides a full database of all the film classified in the organization’s official website. The database gets updated daily. Yet again, due to lack of budget, many of the upgrades based on public feedback have been put on hold. |

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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| Budget cuts and slow processing from finance ministry affect the performance of the organization in many aspects. Program budgets result in extensive planning and allocation of finances. In addition the program budget requires time. Once a budget is cut where the whole program is developed, it is extremely difficult and time consuming to reduce the budget to the required amount and renew the budget. This result in staff de-motivation as well.  The current NCA building not appropriate for work flow. Class rooms should be available.  Agencies involved are willing to work together but due to budget constraints are limited in their capacity to do so.Operations of NBC will remain futile without integrated relationship between the producers of the artistic productions and NBC. That is why NBC maintains a healthy relationship with its stakeholders.  Disseminating information on classification via media is the most cost effective way to make public aware on importance of classification. However, nothing is achievable without proper funds.  In order to minimize the impact of inappropriate artistic productions, it is important to aware the public about classification. This will contribute to achieve NBC’s goal to develop a good and a well-disciplined generation.  Strategies and polices addressed by the SAP 2009-2013 is found to be resourceful in planning projects/activities, technical and financial support and budgeting. |

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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| MOU signed with Ministry of Education and Maldives Library Association to carry out the Digital Library Project which will develop a union catalogue of library records as well as a digital library of cultural, social, economical, and environmental aspects of the Maldives. UNESCO Participation program financial assistance given to National Library in 2010.  Under the biennial UNESCO Participation Program, financial assistance is given to small projects in the field of Heritage. Recently this program has not functioned effectively. Efforts can be made. Through the UNESCO National Commission in the Maldives to seek assistance under this program. Membership in international associations like ICCROM, ICOMOS and ICA will enable the acquisition of financial and technical assistance, training and education in the field of heritage.  Private partnerships are somewhat difficult to foster due to the fact that heritage is not in itself a field with financial benefits but rather endowed with intrinsic value. There is no cost-recovery in investments unless it is related to cultural tourism.  MOU signed with Chinese Arts and Literature Foundation to collaborate and share resources in arts related activities. |

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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| More efforts must be undergone to obtain funds from international organizations and the private sector.  Work more closely with the local communities and the youth to instill and increase their awareness which will make them protect their heritage and realize the urgency of restoring and preserving them before they are completely deteriorated. Motivation of all employees could be increased by the provision of education and training in all aspects of Heritage, Archives and Museology.  The key issues to address include books and lyrics regulation, Classification Act, Website upgrading and seeking alternative ways to implement awareness programs with minimal spending  For NCA the budget procedure can be simplified in terms of saving time to prepare budget and a stronger senior management. |

Date : 19.10.2011

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Designation: Deputy Director/ Senior Accounts Officer

Information for individual sectors received from:

Department of Heritage:

National Bureau of Classification:

National Center of the Arts:

National Library: