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

***Eliminating Corruption* 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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| Since the Maldives does not have a national baseline or any other indicators for measuring corruption, it has been very difficult to identify the problematic areas that are especially prone to corruption. Hence, no real policies have been developed to address the issues related to corruption. A nationwide survey is needed to identify the nature and the scale of corruption across the country, which would in turn feed towards formulating the relevant laws, regulations, policies and guidelines for the fight against corruption.  A survey, along with the UNCAC legal and institutional gap analysis, is needed for the formulation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. Without a National Anti-Corruption Strategy, the advocacy programmes would not be as fruitful as we would anticipate, and the Civic Education Programme that is to be run in schools cannot be focused.  There have been efforts at strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission’s capacity. More investigators have been recruited, and a separate department has been set up for the awareness and advocacy programmes that the ACC conducts throughout the country. However, the Prevention and Prohibition of Corruption Act (2000) obligates the Commission to dig into every allegation of corruption, irrespective of its financial worth, or of the public interest involved. As a result, in 2010 alone, there were 1063 allegations that comprised of 917 cases of corruption. All these cases are being investigated by the 14 investigators at ACC. As a result of the overwhelming number of cases, theses investigators are pressed for time and commitment.  Due to the impression that the public has that there is no action being taken in specific cases, there has been talk between ACC and the Prosecutor General on collaboration between the investigators and the prosecution lawyers when presenting cases in court. Though there are not many convictions on corruption cases, there are a few cases pending at the Criminal Court. The Prosecutor-General is hopeful that the cases that are pending in the court will lead to successful convictions eventually.  With the Civil Society groups being more actively involved, and Transparency Maldives being felt and heard in society, corruption issues are also discussed in the public, and the media has picked up on several issues and cases of corruption. However, we need to train the media on investigative journalism, encourage more fact-based news than hearsay. |

* 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. | Bribery and Corruption addressed to enhance good governance and rule of law | \* Efforts at formulating a questionnaire for such a study is under way.  \* TM published their report on the domestic observation of the 2009 Parliamentary Elections  \* Work on the UNCAC Self Assessment to indentify legal and institutional gaps against the provisions of UNCAC is under way. 50 Articles have been completed.  \* Civic Education program was conducted for 350 people, covered 19 islands from 8 atolls. TM distributed corruption awareness booklets to about 20 schools. | \* ACC included the National Integrity survey in the budget, but that was slashed on the argument that the national Planning Department is mandated with doing surveys. ACC does not have confirmation whether there was a budget allocated for this in the NPD budget.  \* Need stakeholder commitment in identifying the gaps, especially institutional gaps. |
| 2. | Anti Corruption Commission strengthened | \* More staff recruited for investigation. Some staff have undergone short term training on investigation techniques. | \* Investigators at ACC lack the proper training needed for investigation of corruption offences. |
| 3. | Preventive anti corruption practices and procedures defined and established in the public sector | \* A Public Enterprises Accountability Board is enacted. | \* There is no law or guidelines for Public Enterprises to follow, especially in their financial procedures. |
| 4. | Auditor General’s Office strenghthened. |  |  |

* 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. | Anti-Corruption Commission | Strengthen Anti-Corruption Commission’s capacity to address corruption issues, educate the public on fighting corruption and investigate allegations of corruption. | Education and Research Section established to systematically carry out anti-corruption awareness programmes. More investigators have been recruited to look into the overwhelming number of allegations of corruption. |
| 2. | Transparency Maldives | Creating awareness towards corruption | Established an anti-corruption NGO network. TM is now reaching the atolls through these NGOs. |
| 3. |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |

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.*}** |
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| 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*}** |
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| 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.*}** |
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| 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}****:* |
| ACC is the lead agency for many of the interventions, but ACC does not have the adequate budgets for those interventions. While budget is there for the recruiting more investigators, there is not adequate budget for the proper training of the staff in the specialized fields.  The National Integrity survey also was not given any budget and hence, there is question of who would be responsible to conduct the survey.  The Auditor General’s Office has a major role in monitoring institutional compliance in line with the Public Financial Regulation and other aspects. However, for over a year there was no Auditor General, and hence, the work was very much slowed down at the Auditor General’s office. |
| *Implementation (200 words)*  **{*Matters relating to implementation finances, human resources, monitoring and oversight*}** |
| While we have made some progress towards implementing the SAP, we need more funds, trained personnel and proper monitoring. We need the budgets to study the level of corruption in the country, and train personnel in specialized fields such as forensic auditing and fraud detection.  We also need to have anti-corruption strategies in place, and monitor the progress we make on a more systematic way (every quarter/6months…) |
| *Environmental : (100 words)*  **{*Environmental 9including Operational aspects) aspects which were encountered and need to be addressed*}** |
| The legislative and regulatory environment for combating corruption need to be in place. At the moment, there are several pieces of legislation lacking, including Witness Protection Act, Right to Information Act, Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of terrorism Act, Public Enterprises Accountability Act. At the same time, the Prevention and Prohibition of Corruption Act (2000) needs to be further reviewed, and issues like illicit enrichment need to be incorporated into the Act. |
| *Political (100 words)*  **{*Political considerations encountered and to be addressed*}** |
| Strong political will is needed to make eliminate corruption. Once there is a political will, the laws, policies, regulation, investigations and convictions will fall into place. |
| *Socio/ Cultural (100 words)*  **{*Socio Cultural considerations encountered in respect of operation and implementation*}** |
| Good anti-corruption awareness education programmes need to be in place. A culture of despise towards corruption need to be encouraged. |
| *Gender (100 words)*  **{*Gender related issues encountered during operation and implementation*}** |
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| Statistical and Data Collection (100 words)  **{*All the data sources used. Other factors which surfaced in the operation and implementation*}** |
| Any data that we have at the moment are from the annual report of ACC. There has not been any analytical study to address the detrimental impact of corruption in society, and in different sectors and institutions.  ACC has included the statistics of allegations against the Atolls, sectors, etc. However, these statistics do not reflect the seriousness of the allegation, or where investigated, the offence. |

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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| * The fight against corruption has to be a joint effort. All stakeholders and all institutions need to promote integrity, and prevent corruption. Hence, all institutions need to have their anti-corruption strategies and policies in place. Unless and until there is a collaborative effort, the fight against corruption cannot be fruitful. * We need more input and participation from the broader community. So, more effort needs to be in brining the public closer to the Anti-Corruption Commission and other institutions. We need the NGOs and the general public to be more vigilant, and demand transparency and accountability in all public institutions and public enterprises. We also need the public to utilize their Right to Information. * For a collaborative effort at fighting corruption, proper communication is of utmost importance. Sharing of information and assistance between and within organizations leads to efficient investigation and evidence gathering on corruption allegation. It was found that when proper communication is established with other institutions, and the media, ACC’s work became so much easier. The relations established need to be maintained for anti-corruption work to be productive, and programmes to be successful. |

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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| * A live Radio programme consisting of 13 episodes is aired every Wednesday night from 9 to 10 pm, on Raajje Radio. ACC has assistance from UNDP, and cooperation from Transparency Maldives. * A similar series is to be aired over VTV. ACC and TM will work on this programme as a joint effort. |

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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| * Include the Civil Society and Media and discuss on ways we can combat corruption together, and make Anti-Corruption Awareness more inclusive. Involve the media in all awareness raising programmes, and increase civil society participation in the fight against corruption. Include the public and NGOs in the awareness raising programmes, and encourage and increase public participation. Raise anti-corruption awareness using volunteers and the civil society, including the use of public forums to discuss the detrimental impact of corruption, and ways and means of minimizing acts of corruption. * Work on strengthening inter-organization relationships between institutions that deal with education, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Focus needs to be on strengthening relations between policy makers’ individual relations and maintain goodwill. Also, focal points need to be identified so that information sharing can be through these focal points. * Increase capacity, and train staff in specific areas such as Fraud Investigation, Forensic Auditing, Forensic Investigation, etc.. Include more training for the staff, through other avenues such as CBI and other training institutions, and when and where possible, attach staff members to other institutions on internship programmes. * Focus on specialized training for the technical staff. |

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