

THE BAY OF BENGAL LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROGRAMME

(GCP/RAS/175/SWE)

(GCP/RAS/179/WBG)

The Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme, 17 March 2004, Cititel Hotel, Penang, Malaysia

Report of the Meeting

Welcome

The Regional Coordinator of the BOBLME Programme, Dr. Philomène A. Verlaan, welcomed the participants and noted that Representatives from the eight BOBLME countries were present. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 (DOC 3PSC/2004/GEN/2). She then called for election of a chairperson.

Election of the Chairperson

The Representative from Maldives, Dr. Abdullah Naseer, proposed that the Representative from India, Mr. P.K. Pattanaik, chair the meeting. The Representative from Indonesia, Mr. Saut Hutagalung, seconded this proposal. Mr. Pattanaik formally declared the meeting to be open.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Programme Steering Committee (PSC) adopted the Agenda for this Third PSC Meeting (DOC 3PSC/2004/GEN/1). The Agenda is attached as Annex 2.

Agenda Item 1: Venue of the Interim Workshop

Before addressing the topic of the venue, the meeting discussed the purpose and scope of the interim workshop. As the purpose of the interim workshop is to begin the development of the Project Brief design through the participatory logical framework approach, it was agreed that this would be more appropriately named a Technical Meeting rather than a workshop.

Dr. Random DuBois, Senior Environmental Adviser, FAO, who will lead the development of the Project Brief, stated that the nature of the meeting required a small team, ideally only two representatives per country, with broad experience in sustainable fisheries and marine environmental management at the ecosystem level. It was agreed that the countries would nominate the two appropriately experienced representatives and inform the BOBLME Secretariat no later than 12 April 2004.

Because the logframe analysis underpins the development of the Project Brief, Dr. DuBois explained that the Technical Meeting should be held as soon as administratively feasible. It was agreed to hold the Technical Meeting on April 27-29, 2004.

With regard to the venue, the Representative from Maldives, Dr. Naseer, indicated the interest of the Government of Maldives in hosting the Technical Meeting; however, he would need to seek the formal confirmation of his Government. Dr. Verlaan advised the meeting that FAO must receive this confirmation no later than April 5 for FAO to make the necessary administrative arrangements for the Technical Meeting on the dates agreed. Dr. Naseer expressed doubt that formal confirmation could be obtained from the Government of Maldives by April 5. Dr. Derek Staples, Senior Fishery Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP), proposed that, in the alternative, the meeting could be held at the FAORAP premises in Bangkok, Thailand. It was agreed that arrangements for the meeting would begin on the basis of the FAORAP venue, and if the Government of the Maldives confirmed its acceptance by April 5, then the venue would change to Maldives. The meeting requested Dr. Verlaan to issue the formal invitation and the draft agenda for the Technical Meeting as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 2: Date of the Second Regional Workshop

The purpose of the Second Regional Workshop (2RW) is to review the draft Project Brief. Dr. DuBois informed the meeting that the draft Project Brief could not be completed in time for the current tentatively scheduled date of 2RW at the end of May, 2004, because as the draft Brief is driven by the results of the Technical Meeting, the time between the two meetings is too short.

It was agreed that 2RW would be held from 27 September-1 October 2004. Mr. H.S.G. Fernando, the Representative from Sri Lanka, confirmed that the venue would continue to be in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the Taj Samudra Hotel.

Agenda Item 3: Change in the Role of the Current Regional Coordinator

Dr. Staples reported that the current Regional Coordinator, Dr. Verlaan, would concentrate on substantive matters and especially focus on preparation of the Synthesis Document/Framework TDA and that FAO was making arrangements for her to be assisted with the administrative work.

Agenda Item 4: Support by the Government of India for the BOBLME Programme Secretariat beyond October 2004

Mr. Pattanaik, the Representative from India, stated that the Government of India would support the current arrangement, whereby the Government of India supports the costs of rent, electricity, security and housekeeping for the BOBLME Secretariat, until June 2005, the current projected end of the PDF-B phase of the Programme. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of India for this generous support.

Mr. Malcolm Jansen, representing the World Bank/GEF Implementing Agency, informed the meeting that the GEF will not fund office operational expenses of the BOBLME Secretariat either in the PDF-B phase or the main phase. The financing of the BOBLME secretariat by participating countries is an important contribution to cost-sharing and a significant indicator of long-term sustainability of the Programme for GEF purposes.

It was agreed that the BOBLME Secretariat would provide an estimate of the expenses for this additional PDF-B period (i.e., October 2004-June 2005) as well as for the first part of the main phase (approximately 5 years from June 2005) as an annex to the draft Project Brief submitted to 2RW. An agenda item for 2RW would be a request to the BOBLME countries to indicate how they could contribute to the co-financing of the BOBLME secretariat.

Mr. Hutagalung, the Representative from Indonesia, requested that the cost projection be provided by August 1, 2004 to the participating countries to accommodate national budget planning processes and timing requirements. The BOBLME Secretariat agreed to provide this information accordingly.

Agenda Item 5: Endorsement and Co-financing Information

Ms. Barbara Cooney, Project Analyst and GEF Focal Point, FAO, introduced the document entitled “Bay of Bengal Endorsement Letters for Full-Scale GEF Project” (DOC/3PSC/2004/INF/1). This document is attached as Annex 3. Ms. Cooney explained that the GEF requires approval of the Project Brief by the GEF National Operational Focal Point of each participating country. However, certain countries may require, in addition, the approval in its country of the GEF National Political Focal Point or of one or more Ministries, inter-Ministerial Committees, etc. GEF also requires co-financing commitments to the projects it supports. Each country was requested to complete the document by indicating the nationally applicable requirements for Project Brief endorsement by that country, the time required to obtain such endorsement and potential sources of co-financing. The countries were requested to submit the completed document to the BOBLME Secretariat by April 15, 2004.

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

Mr. Hutagalung, the Representative from Indonesia, requested that a revised work schedule be sent to all the countries. The Secretariat agreed to do this. The revised work plan is attached as Annex 4.

Closure of the Meeting

Mr. Pattanaik thanked those present and formally declared the Third Meeting of the BOBLME Programme Steering Committee to be closed.

**Third Meeting of the Steering Committee
of the BOBLME Programme
17 March 2004, CITITEL HOTEL
Penang, Malaysia**

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**THIRD PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE BAY OF BENGAL LME PROGRAMME
17 MARCH 2004**

AGENDA

1. Venue of Interim Workshop
2. Date of Second Regional Workshop
3. Change in Role of Current Regional Coordinator
4. Support by the Government of India for the BOBLME Programme Secretariat beyond October 2004.
5. Endorsement and Co-financing information.
6. All other business

Appendix 3

**BAY OF BENGAL LME ENDORSEMENT LETTERS FOR FULL-SCALE GEF
PROJECT**

COUNTRY	GEF Requirement National GEF Operational/Political Focal Point ¹	Time Required	Country Approval Requirements Institution/Inter-Ministerial Committee ²	Time Required
BANGLADESH				
INDIA				
INDONESIA				
MALAYSIA				
MALDIVES				
MYANMAR				
SRI LANKA				
THAILAND				

¹ GEF requires the endorsement of the National GEF Operational Focal Point. Some countries, in addition, require that the National Political GEF Focal Point also endorse the project.

² Countries may require approval of Ministry of Financial/Planning, Inter-ministerial Committee, for all projects.

WORK PLAN

Next steps in developing the BOBLME Project

<i>Draft</i> Report on Preparatory Meeting and Third Programme Steering Committee meeting	<i>23 April (tentative)</i>
Review of regional collaboration mechanisms	12 April
Logical framework formulation workshop (Bangkok, Thailand)	27-29 April
Preparation of draft Project Brief	↕
Draft framework TDA	31 August
2 nd Regional Workshop to review draft (Colombo, Sri Lanka)	27 Sept-1 Oct
Revision of brief	↕
Country Endorsement	↕
STAP review	↕
Submission to Implementing Agency	1 December
Submission to GEF Secretariat	09 January
GEF Council Work Programme Approval	February 2005
Project Appraisal	↕
Finalization of Project Document	↕
Submission for GEF CEO endorsement	↕
Final negotiations/final country clearance	↕
Submission to IA for clearance 2005	Before June
Signing of LOA between IA and FAO	↕
Signing of Project document between FAO and Countries	↕
Project start-up	July 2005