



Inception Workshop 3-5 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

1. BACKGROUND

Over the next five years, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand will work together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and lay the foundations for a coordinated programme of action designed to *improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.*

The BOBLME Project will cost around \$31m and is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), BOBLME member States, Norway, Sweden, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Project became operational in April 2009, and in accordance with the BOBLME Project document, this Project Inception Workshop is being held to identify and evaluate events and activities that have occurred in the BOBLME area since the project was approved by the GEF Council and, if necessary, update project activities to reflect the current situation.

2. OBJECTIVES

The workshop objectives are to:

1. Note the current status of the Project
2. Provide recommendations on the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework
3. Promote a better understanding amongst project counterparts on the major project topic areas, in particular: Large Marine Ecosystems; the Ecosystem Approach to resource management; the impacts of policies on fisheries livelihoods; and TDA and SAP development
4. Provide recommendations on the proposed project activities
5. Identify areas for collaboration and partnerships with regional bodies and non-government organisations
6. Note the work plan and budget that is proposed to take the Project up to its First Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting
7. Prepare a list of actions that BOBLME countries need to undertake in preparation for the First PSC meeting
8. Endorse a process for the selection of one of the BOBLME countries to host the Project's Regional Coordination Unit (RCU).

3. PARTICIPANTS

The participants in the workshop will come from Government agencies responsible for fisheries/marine environment policy development and management, and non-government organisations working in these areas in the Bay of Bengal region. Participants will therefore include invitees/representatives of:

- BOBLME member countries (Project National Coordinators and one person from each of the Government agencies responsible for Fisheries and Environment)
- Representatives of FAO
- Representatives of Project donors (GEF, SIDA, NORAD and NOAA)

- Representatives of regional bodies and non-government organisations working in fisheries or marine environment matters, including: ADB, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BOBP-IGO, Colombo Plan, ESCAP, ICRI, ICSF, IOCINDIO, IOMAC, IOSEA, IOTC, IUCN, IWMI, MFF, NACA, SAARC, SACEP, SEAFDEC, UNDP, UNEP, WFC, WWF.

National Coordinators (in collaboration with their colleagues from Fisheries and Environment) are expected to provide the meeting with a report on developments that have occurred in their country that might affect the Project. Other potential project partners will be given the opportunity to briefly inform the workshop about the work their organisation does and where they might consider to collaborate with the Project.

Participants should be authorized to fully take part in the proceedings of the meeting on behalf of their country / organization and be able to commit their country / organization to actions that will move the project forward.

4. OUTPUTS

The workshop will produce a report that includes:

- Recommendations on the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework
- Recommendations on the proposed project activities
- Identification of areas for collaboration and partnerships with regional bodies and non-government organisations
- A list of actions that BOBLME countries need to undertake in preparation for the First PSC meeting
- An endorsed process for the selection of one of the BOBLME countries to host the RCU
- Recommendations on any other aspects relevant to the Projects implementation.

5. DOCUMENTS

Documents will be distributed by email or posted on the Project website www.boblme.org.

5. PROVISIONAL AGENDA – BOBLME Project, Inception Workshop (v22 October 2009)

Day 1	
	Preliminaries
08.15-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.45	- Opening remarks Mr He Changchui, ADG FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific - Welcome statement, Chris O'Brien Regional Coordinator, BOBLME Project - Brief, self-introductions by the participants
	Introduction to the purpose of the Workshop
09.45-10.00	Introduction to the workshop objectives and agenda Introduction and overview of the BOBLME Project <i>Chris O'Brien (RC)</i>
10.00-10.30	<i>Coffee</i>
	Overview of project activities to-date, including a presentation on the proposed Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Objectives: 1. To note the current status of the Project 2. To provide recommendations on the monitoring and evaluation framework
10.30-11.30	The current status of the BOBLME Project – <i>Chris O'Brien</i>
11.30-12.30	(i) An introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation – <i>Dr. David LaRoche (M&E consultant)</i> (ii) Draft M&E Framework for the BOBLME Project – <i>David LaRoche</i>
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-14.30	Discussions and recommendations on the monitoring and evaluation framework – <i>David LaRoche</i>
	Introduction to selected Project topics Objectives: 1. To reinforce understanding of the following project topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Marine Ecosystems • Ecosystem Approach to resource management • The impact of policies on fisheries livelihoods • TDA and SAP development
14.30-15.00	Presentation on <i>Large Marine Ecosystems</i> – <i>Dr Ned Cyr, NOAA</i>
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee</i>
15.30-16.00	Presentation on the <i>Ecosystem Approach to Resource Management</i> – <i>Dr Simon Funge-Smith, FAO</i>
16.00-16.30	Presentation on <i>The impact of policies on fisheries livelihoods.</i> – <i>Dr Vineeta Hoon, Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Technology</i>
16.30-17.00	Presentation on <i>TDA and SAP Development.</i> – <i>Dr Seng-Keh Teng, Consultant</i>
	Review of proposed project objectives and activities – considering the recent events and activities in BOBLME Project countries and the activities of regional bodies and non-government organizations working in the area Objectives: 1. To up-date participants on the recent events and activities in BOBLME Project countries 2. To provide recommendations on the proposed project activities 3. To identify areas for collaboration and partnerships with non-government organizations
17.00-on	<i>Country reports – outlining recent events, activities and developments relating to the Project</i>
17.00-17.30	Country report: Bangladesh
17.30-18.00	Country report: India
18.00-20.00	Cocktail

Day 2	
	Review of proposed project objectives and activities – continued
09.00-09.30	Country report: Indonesia
09.30-10.00	Country report: Malaysia
10.00-10.30	Country report: Maldives
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee</i>
11.00-11.30	Country report: Myanmar
11.30-12.00	Country report: Sri Lanka
12.00-12.30	Country report: Thailand
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-14.30	Discussion on how recent events in BOBLME countries might affect current project activities – <i>Dr. Rudolf Hermes (CTA)</i>
14.30-15.30	Overview of the activities and plans of regional bodies and non government organizations working in the BOB area – <i>observers, max. 10 minutes each</i>
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee</i>
16.00-16.30	Review of proposed project objectives and activities – considering the recent activities of potential partner organizations and identification of areas for collaboration and partnerships – <i>Rudi Hermes</i>
16.30-17.30	Recommendations on the proposed project activities – <i>Chris O'Brien</i>
Day 3	Wrap up and conclusions
	Objectives: 1. To note the work plan that is proposed to take the Project up to its First PSC meeting 2. Prepare a list of actions that BOBLME countries need to undertake in preparation for the First PSC meeting 3. To endorse a process for the selection of one of the BOBLME countries to host the RCU 4. Endorse any recommendations arising from the workshop.
09.00-09.30	Presentation of a Work plan and budgets - <i>Chris O'Brien</i>
09.30-10.00	Identification of actions and work to be undertaken prior to the First PSC meeting - <i>Chris O'Brien</i>
10.00-10.15	Hosting of the Regional Coordination Unit - <i>Chris O'Brien</i>
10.15-10.45	<i>Coffee</i>
10.45-11.45	Endorsement of recommendations arising from the workshop
11.45-12.00	Closure of the Workshop
12.00	<i>Lunch</i>

6. CONTACT

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