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For bibliographic purposes, please reference this publication as:

About the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project:
Over 400 million people in the Bay of Bengal area are dependent on coastal and marine resources for their food, livelihood and security. Rapid population growth, high dependence on resources and increased land use has resulted in over exploitation of fishstocks and habitat degradation, and has led to considerable uncertainty whether the ecosystem will be able to support the livelihoods of the coastal populations in the future.

Despite the large number of international, regional and sub-regional bodies and programmes operating in the Bay, none have a clear mandate, geographical scope and/or capacity to support a regional initiative that would effectively address the issues confronting the coastal communities of the BOB. Furthermore, the current existence of many ineffective policies, strategies and legal measures at the National level would likely impede the development of any regional arrangements. Other major constraints include weak institutional capacity at national levels, insufficient budgetary commitments, and lack of community stakeholder consultation and empowerment.

Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, have declared their willingness to 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 is funded principally by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA with a total estimated budget of $USD 31 million. FAO is the executing agency.

For more information, please visit www.boblme.org
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### ABBREVIATIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECEN</td>
<td>Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADCP</td>
<td>Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APFIC</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBLME</td>
<td>Bay Of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBP-IGO</td>
<td>Bay Of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biodiversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCRF</td>
<td>FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBSEA</td>
<td>Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Ecosystem Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAA</td>
<td>Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAF</td>
<td>Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASP</td>
<td>UNEP East Asian Seas Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBM</td>
<td>Ecosystem Based Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Economic Exclusive Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO RAP</td>
<td>FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCRMN</td>
<td>Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEF</td>
<td>Global Environment Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GETF</td>
<td>Global Environment and Technology Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOS</td>
<td>Global Ocean Observation System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>UNEP Global Programme of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSF</td>
<td>International Collective in Support of Fishworkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCOIS</td>
<td>Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOGOOS</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOSEA-Turtle</td>
<td>Indian Ocean South East Asia Turtle Memorandum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOTC</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUU fishing</td>
<td>Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>IW-LEARN</td>
<td>International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCS</td>
<td>Monitor, Control and Surveillance</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MFAR</td>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFF</td>
<td>Mangroves For the Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Marine Protected Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NACA</td>
<td>Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACEP</td>
<td>South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP</td>
<td>South Asian Seas Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFDEC</td>
<td>Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIFFS</td>
<td>South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEA-RLC</td>
<td>Southeast Asia Regional Learning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSF</td>
<td>Small-Scale Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WorldFish</td>
<td>WorldFish Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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</table>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the major activities each year for the Regional Coordination Unit of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project is to produce a Regional Work Plan that identifies the work to be funded and undertaken over the forthcoming calendar year.

Input from the Project’s National Coordinators and National Technical Advisers in the development of the work plan is essential from a technical perspective, and with respect to its approval by each Project country. The work plan (and budget) is a major output for the RCU annually that is submitted to the Project Steering Committee in March for its consideration.

BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors met in Phuket, Thailand on 9-10 February 2011. The overall aims of the workshop were:

(i) To produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2011; and subsequently

(ii) to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

The draft Regional Work Plan is provided in this report.
1. AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

1. One of the major activities each year for the Regional Coordination Unit of the BOBLME Project is to produce a Regional Work Plan that identifies the work to be funded and undertaken over the forthcoming calendar year.

2. The work plan (and budget) is a major output for the RCU annually that is submitted to the Project Steering Committee in March for its consideration. Input from the Project’s National Coordinators and National Technical Advisers in the development of the work plan is essential from a technical perspective, and with respect to its approval by each Project country.

3. Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors met in Phuket, Thailand on 9-10 February 2011. The meeting was chaired by the Project Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O’Brien.

4. The list of participants is attached as Appendix I. And the Agenda for the meeting is attached as Appendix II.

5. The overall aims of the workshop were:
   (i) To produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2011; and subsequently
   (ii) to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF A 2011 DRAFT REGIONAL WORKPLAN

2.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT TO-DATE

6. As background to discussions, National Coordinators provided verbal updates on Project implementation in their respective countries; in particular, progress on National TDA consultations and Policy review consultations. The RCU provided an overview of the work and outputs from the Project to-date.

7. Eight regional workshops were implemented in 2011 and the first quarter of 2011 on a range of Project theme areas. These included: Oceanography, ICM, Ecosystem Indicators, Fisheries Stock assessment, Fisheries Statistics, Pollution, Marine Protected Areas. The recommendations relating to future work from these fora were reviewed and discussed.

2.2 THE 2011 PLAN

8. The workshop discussed each Project subcomponent in detail, reflecting on the work already carried out, the outputs required by the Project Logical Framework, recommendations from the regional workshops and national activities.

9. The workshop produced a draft work plan for 2011, including some guidance on the nature and extent of activities (research, training, studies, reviews etc), major outputs, which regional institutions might undertake particular activities, and the locations and timings of meetings. The draft Work Plan is given in Appendix III.

10. The Workshop entrusted the RCU to finalise the work plan for consideration by the PSC in March 2011.

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

11. As part of its preparations for the mid-term evaluation of the BOBLME Project, the RCU is undertaking a stock take to clarify its progress with respect to the project objectives, to obtain basic and up-to-date information and material likely to be required in the evaluation, identify
areas of operation for adjustment; and start preparing Project counterparts for their likely role in the evaluation.

12. The RCU aims to use structured interviews with the National Coordinators (and the Project Steering Committee members) to assess the impact that the BOBLME Project is having on the Project implementing agencies in each country; and develop training needs for M&E in each country (in advance of what is expected to be a comprehensive package of national activities undertaken in each country in 2011).

13. Dr David Laroche is assisting the RCU in this area of work. He informed the meeting about what is involved and what needs to be prepared for the mid-term evaluation, and the likely requirements on national counterparts. To this end, Dr LaRoche took the opportunity to interview as many National counterparts as possible during the two days of the meeting.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE WORKSHOP

14. The RCU informed the workshop that the plan of work being proposed for 2011 will be demanding on both the RCU and national counterparts. This being the case, it would be particularly important for national counterparts to respond to the requests for assistance from the RCU in a timely fashion — especially nominations for meetings and workshop (which require travel to be organised). The RCU also acknowledged the need to have invitations out more than one month before events so NC have adequate time to meet country approval processes.

15. The workshop requested that the RCU consider using national consultants to the extent possible in the course of the Project.

16. The national counterparts agreed that the work plan planning meeting was highly informative and overall beneficial to the Project, and as a consequence should be held annually. In addition they agreed that a second meeting, at the end of the year, would be useful to monitor the work undertaken and to exchange experiences. To this end, the meeting requested that the two meetings of the National Counterparts be added to the work plan for the consideration by the PSC.
## APPENDIX I
### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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### APPENDIX I
### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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Confidential

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Figure 1: Photo of the participants at the Work Plan Development Meeting
APPENDIX II
MEETING AGENDA

BOBLME 2011 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Phuket THAILAND, 9 – 10 February 2011

One of the major activities each year for the Regional Coordination Unit of the BOBLME Project is to produce a Regional Work Plan that identifies the work to be funded and undertaken over the forthcoming calendar year.

Input from the Project’s National Coordinators and National Technical Advisers in the development of the work plan is essential from a technical perspective, and with respect to its approval by each Project country. The work plan (and budget) will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee in March for its consideration.

The workshop will be chaired by the Regional Coordinator. The overall aims are:

1. To produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2011; and subsequently
2. to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

DRAFT Agenda

1. Verbal updates from National Coordinators on:
   - Project implementation
   - National consultations on TDA
   - Policy review consultations

2. Briefing from the RCU on the role of NC’s and NTA’s in the Project’s mid-term review.

3. Review work undertaken by the Project to-date.

4. Review the recommendations made by the BOBLME working groups in 2010-2011.
   Recommendations from the Ecosystem indicators, Fisheries Statistics, Fisheries Assessment, ICM, MPA, Oceanography and Pollution meetings are attached.

5. Provide input into draft work plan for 2011 (for consideration by the PSC in March), including the nature and extent of activities (research, training, studies, reviews etc); advice on which regional institutions might undertake particular activities; and the locations and timings of meetings.
   Refer to the attached draft 2010 Work Plan for National Coordinators. In particular, the meeting will scope the general direction of activities for the year, the desired outputs, and the national actions.

6. Any other business.
## Component 1: Strategic Action Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>J</th>
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<th>M</th>
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<th>A</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>O</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subcomponent 1.1</strong> TDA Preparation: Build on the BOBLME’s existing draft TDA and complete the Programme’s TDA</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. National consultations: ongoing up to 31 May 2011</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Analysis of the issue of migratory and transboundary fishers</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Outputs of the national consultations synthesised</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Regional workshop to review results of National consultations O=WS report with TDA revisions</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. TDA revised. O= Final TDA</td>
<td>X</td>
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</table>

### Possible consultations

6. TDA submitted to PSC for adoption. O=adopted TDA

7. Communications on TDA (and SAP) – inter-ministry

---

### Subcomponent 1.2 BOBLME Institutional Arrangements

### Subcomponent 1.3 Financial Sustainability

---

### Subcomponent 1.4 SAP Preparation

1. Creation of SAP team. May include: Regional SAP Coordinator, Regional SAP Champions, Country coordinators, writers

2. SAP team meeting. O=Meeting report with roadmap for SAP process


4. SAP team meeting. O= progress report

[Draft framework for SAP completed]

## Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use

### Subcomponent 2.1: Community-based Integrated Coastal Management (regional)

1. RCU to send out request for pilot sites – due 2° week in March for application of budget. Sites confirmed by Regional WS. – e.g. sites with past history of coastal mgt that needs strengthening – or a site that would be new to the introduction of coastal mgt. O=list of pilot sites

2. Joint ICM workshop (SA/SEA): outreach activities, confirmation of pilot sites, advice to SC2.2 Participants: Institutions in charge of coastal management. senior level, local govt if appropriate, sub-regional workshop leaders, Fisheries, Environmental. O=Meeting report with work plan for outreach and pilot sites

3. Development of outreach materials O=outreach materials

4. Outreach activities - National workshops, training (economic valuations, marine spatial planning) at all levels, schools (influencing school curricula), communications – environmental awareness and climate change messages O= progress reports, measures of impact

5. Implementation of work in selected pilot sites. O=progress reports

### Subcomponent 2.2: Improved Policy Harmonization (regional)

1. Preparatory work. Scoping possible areas of work [e.g. 3 hilsa countries/Indian mackerel countries contributing to the hilsa Mgt Plan (mesh size, closed seasons etc); MPAs as a fisheries and or environmental management tool (sc3.2); MCS]. EIA. Identifying what levels to focus on – national or local. ) O = Report

2. Preparatory work. Analysis policy harmonisation in other LMEs. O= analysis
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.</th>
<th>Regional workshop on results of the policy analysis – plan of work to strengthen policy making capacity – identify 2-4 issues of transboundary nature to strengthen (see 1 above). Participants: Policy specialist (think tank person), Fisheries, Environment. O= work plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sub regional workshops on selected topics in 3 above. Participants: Specialist policy people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Policy Advisory to APFIC (update previous review it did several yrs ago) – could be started in 3. Above. O = policy advisory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Undertake the plan of work from above. O = progress reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subcomponent 2.3: Collaborative Regional Fishery Assessments and Management Plans**

### Fisheries statistics

   - Value, costs of fishing, contribution to society and economy.

2. Review of collection of Value, costs of fishing, contribution to society and economy from hilsa and Indian mackerel fisheries in BOBLME countries. Including assessment of socio-economic data – sources, accuracy, relevance to hilsa, Indian mackerel and sharks O = report

3. FAO training course on data (eg. at SEAFDEC, 2 weeks). Need to adapt the existing course to BOB – Q3-4. O = training course

4. Fisheries Statistics WG meeting. O= WG Report

5. SEAFDEC – harmonisation of fisheries statistics programme (min requirements for data reporting and exchange, quality stds). Promote in SA region. O = training course

6. Activities as identified above (incl. Communications on why good stats are required)

### Hilsa and Indian mackerel

1. Update stock assessments – development of a regional assessment O = assessments

2. Capacity building – short courses in stock assessment developed and implemented. Regional and national programmes O= training courses

3. Programme of research to the improvement of data and knowledge on hilsa and Indian mackerel, and ultimately improve the assessments and stock status advice on these species. Eg. Stock structure, life history parameters, relationship between inland and coastal fisheries (factors affecting fisheries). Identify critical life-history habitats (incl. seasonality). Use of country institutes – genetics, morphometrics; life-history parameters. Disaggregation of data. O = progress reports.

4. FAWG meeting 1. Bangladesh O = report

5. FAWG meeting 2 O = report with stock status advice

6. FAO-APFIC Stock Assessment Tools Workshop in Yangon, Myanmar October 2011 – case studies reviewed. Tools for assessments identified, capacity development identified; co-management recognition scheme. Identify cases studies for BOBLME: hilsa Bangladesh and India, Sri Lanka and Thailand – Indian mackerel,

### Sharks

1. Review of the status of NPOAs; develop a work plan to strengthen finalise NPOAs or support implementation. O = report

2. Sharks Working Group. O= roadmap

3. Work undertaken to finalise / studies-research, to obtain essential information.
   - [THA – training for biologists Ranong – id. Data from small-scale fisheries; Industry. Reproduction of dominant spp.]
   - MDV – monitoring effectiveness of ban; alternative livelihoods.
   - O = progress reports

3. Draft RPOA-sharks (may be 2012)

4. Shark taxonomic training. O= Sharks of BOB publication, a users guide to sharks in the BOB.

### Fisheries management

5. EAF training course development (Bogor Uni course development unit) – 10 day - training of trainers O = training course

6. Management Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting.
   - Pre-assessments and Performance indicators – review of document and work plan
   - How to produce EAF advice (Training NOAA)
   - EAF Advice to APFIC, countries

7 Decision making executive meeting – probably 2012
8. Small-scale Fisheries – depends on outcomes from COFI – international instrument

Subcomponent 2.4 Collaborative Critical Habitat Management: Promote multi-national approaches to management and address issues affecting transboundary-coastal marine ecosystems

**Mergui Archipelago**

1. Establish management framework (Executive, Advisory Group, Technical WGs) in accordance with recent stakeholder WS recommendations
2. Undertake inventory; produce a resource users map. Ecological, socio-economics info
3. Meeting of the MA Advisory Group to review information. O= Advisory document
4. Meeting of the MA Executive. – O=draft Bi-national Mgt plan (participants from all countries).

**Gulf of Mannar**

5. Proposal for work to scope and identify partners to lead the process. O=report
6. Workshops (3) O=reports
7. IUCN / SRL Univ / MFF work – continue to support capacity building and environmental awareness indicatives. O=report
8. Disseminate Resource mapping information produced by NARA

**Sundarbans**

9. Review by NCs/NTAs on current/previous work and identify where project can contribute to existing initiatives. O=report
10. Support work from above (e.g. policy harmonisation; lessons learnt; bi-lateral management). IUCN could also be a partner. WorldFish Centre. O=report

**Malacca Straits**

11. Review by NCs/NTAs on current/previous work; identify where project can contribute (e.g. in pollution management). O=report
INS / MAL / THA NCs to make a proposal for possible work. Focus on existing mechanisms O=report. MIMA and Universities are possible partners. GEF-IMO – marine electronic highway – reduce oil spill. Modelling has been completed – results at end of year.
12. Review by NCs/NTAs and proposals for areas of work with respect to small island management. ICRI could be a partner. O=report

**Small Islands**

13. Review by NCs/NTAs and proposals for areas of work with respect to small island management. ICRI could be a partner. O=report

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**Component 3: Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment**

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**Subcomponent 3.1 Improved Understanding of Large-scale Processes and Dynamics affecting the BOBLME**

1. Large Grid monitoring system – contribute to BOB sensor array by providing equipment (biogeochemical sensors. And possibly dipole research.)
2. Support relevant studies on hypoxic zones. To be explored by RCU in conjunction with IOGOOS
3. Support to countries with respect to participation in IOGOOS
4. Inclusion of environmental information in stock assessments (relevant to 2.3)
5. Support studies on effects of climate change on the BOB. E.g. What will the data being collected tell us about the BOB. E.g. water temperature / Monsoon timing. Effects on fisheries (especially hilsa and Indian mackerel, sharks). Build on the WorldFish Report on projecting what will happen. O=reports
6. Training with SEAGOOS and IOGOOS to build up oceanographic capability. E.g. onboard training (SACEP initiative / SEAFDEC vessel / Apply for RV Nansen to come to BOB ?). O=reports
7. Meeting of the Oceanography WG. O=Meeting report
8. Study on the influence of Malacca Strait on Mergui Archipelago – develop a proposal, building on GEF-IMO work (also relevant to 2.4). O=proposal

**Subcomponent 3.2 Marine Protected Areas in the Conservation of Regional Fish Stocks**

[Moving fwd from the January 2011 workshop]

1. MPA managers WG meeting: NC’s Each country nominate 1-2 sites for BOBLME support (wt review, implementation of best practices, monitoring using FAO Guidelines) and validate a selection of MPAs of Transboundary interest i.e. that generate important ecosystem processes for BOB. This is capacity building and develops a framework for the better management of MPAs and contributes to the better selection of MPAs in the future
## Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution

### Subcomponent 4.1 Establishment of an Agreed to Ecosystem Indicator Framework

1. Completion of indicators templates from WG members (Dr Devi coordinating)
2. National workshops to introduce indicators. To explain TWAP indicators and their implementation. To provide info on data collection frameworks and quality of data collected for TWAP indicators. What is needed to make the indicators operational. And identify capacity building and support.
3. Implement programme of capacity building in support of implementation (monitoring and reporting) of TWAP indicators.
4. Link BOBLME initiatives into global ecosystem health network

### Subcomponent 4.2 Coastal Pollution Loading and Water Quality Criteria

1. Complete national pollution reports
2. Regional Pollution WG meeting to review activities and progress; and take steps for common water quality criteria
3. To the extent possible, collaborate with GPNM initiatives. E.g. Chilika Lake – India; Trang - Thailand
4. Explore possibilities and where possible provide laboratory training in collaboration with IEA
5. National Working Groups meeting to identify hot spots (for monitoring) and capacity building needs.
6. Oil Spill response training (India, Thailand) – taking advantage of international agreements. SASEP MERRAC initiatives (pollution mitigation)
7. Analysis / scoping on WB Ganges initiative and its impact on the BOBLME

### Component 5: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management

#### Subcomponent 5.1 Establishment of the RCU

#### Subcomponent 5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation System

1. Preparations for mid-term review (incl. institutional change)
2. Project management training – M&E to support managing BOBLME activities in Project countries in 2011

#### Subcomponent 5.3 Project Information Dissemination System

1. TDA publication
2. Website – data portal, page for each country; newsletter
3. Communications hubs
4. Production of BOBLME materials
5. Communicating Science Training workshops including training of trainers
6. Communications themes: why good stats are required ICM outreach messages What is BOBLME doing Pollution status TDA promotion, incl. into inter-departmental meetings
Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and to 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 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the implementing agency for the BOBLME Project.

The Project is funded principally by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the FAO, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA.

For more information, please visit www.boblme.org