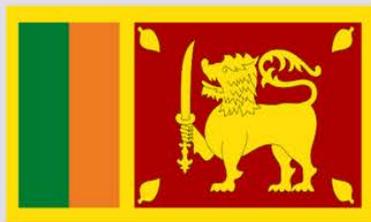




Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



Report of the
Consultation on the development of a collaborative
management structure for the BOBLME initiative
December 2011 • Myanmar

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SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS IN MYANMAR (DEC 11) ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE BOBLME INITIATIVE

Discussions around the proposed management structure for Myanmar/Thai collaboration under the BOBLME program focused on finalizing the structure as a "working model" which could be developed and modified if required, but would allow a collaborative workplan to be developed and activities implemented as soon as possible. Representatives from the BOBLME National Task Force, Department of Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation confirmed that there was a strong desire to "turn dialogue into action" and they were keen to develop the details of an implementation plan for the BOBLME initiative.



During consultations with these representatives, it was proposed that a Planning and Management Committee be added to the proposed BOBLME collaborative management structure discussed at the Myanmar/Thai workshop in Phuket earlier this year. The members of this Committee will be responsible for the development of detailed three-monthly workplans which they would draft by drawing on technical advice and recommendations from the Technical Advisory Group and strategic direction provided by members of the Executive Committee.

It was discussed that detailed workplans will be developed and reviewed by the Planning and Management Committee through a series of regular Planning and Review Meetings (possibly every three months although "ad hoc" or "emergency" meetings could also be scheduled if required). These detailed workplans will contain the basic information required for activities to be implemented by collaborative Working Groups (all Working Groups to contain both Myanmar and Thai representatives), which the Planning and Management Committee will be responsible for establishing and coordinating. The Committee will also be responsible for compiling reports and other documentation (generated by the Working Groups), as well as the dissemination and sharing of information on BOBLME project progress and achievements.

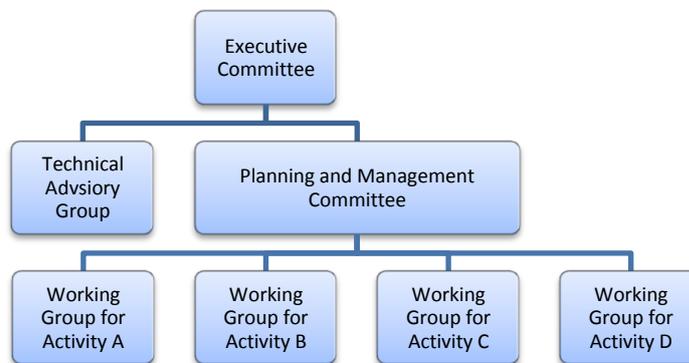


To facilitate decision making and agreement on collaborative activities, it was also discussed that the Committee should not be too large (membership limited to six people from each country), and the members from both sides drawn from similar professional areas (for example both countries could nominate committee members with professional knowledge and experience in the areas of fisheries, tourism, and forestry). It was also suggested that the Committee's Planning and Review Meetings be guided and assisted by a professional



facilitator who could also assist the Committee with the documentation of discussions and agreements. The possibility of including “some of the younger generation” in the membership of this Committee was also discussed as this forum could also be developed as an opportunity for younger government staff to learn and gain experience. Integrating short capacity building events (e.g. overviews of new approaches to reporting and workplan management) into the Committee’s regular Planning and Review Meetings was seen as a positive suggestion.

Once the proposed collaborative management structure has been discussed with Thailand, it was suggested that a revised draft of this structure be prepared which includes Terms of Reference for the Planning and Management Committee. Formal ratification of the revised structure (as a “working model”), should then be requested from both Myanmar and Thailand and the first meeting of this Committee be scheduled before the end of February 2012. During this meeting Committee members will develop the first 3-month detailed workplan and appoint collaborative Working Groups to implement the plan’s activities. The Committee members will also discuss and develop an initial framework for activity monitoring and reporting as well as the modalities for financial management.



Executive committee: This will be composed of a decision-makers from appropriate levels in each country. In Myanmar this could include representatives from the State level. The Committee's main responsibility is to establish and monitor the strategic direction of the Myanmar/Thai collaboration under the BOBLME program. As initially BOBLME project start-up activities will be relatively small activities (to establish a sound basis for a future expansion of collaboration), the government representatives appointed to this committee in Myanmar maybe drawn from Department (not Ministerial) level officers.

Technical Advisory Group: A multi-stakeholder and broad-based body composed of technical experts including the current BoBLME National Task Force (NTF) members. Members of the Technical Advisory Group can also be members of other committees in the Myanmar/Thai BOBLME collaborative management structure (e.g. The Planning and Management Committees) as well as included in Working Groups established to undertake specific workplan activities and tasks.

Planning and Management Committee: Responsible for the development of detailed three-monthly workplans that draw on technical advice and recommendations from the Technical Advisory Group and strategic direction provided by members of the Executive Committee. These detailed plans will be developed and reviewed by the Planning and Management Committee through a series of regular Planning and Review Meetings (every 3 months). The Committee will also develop frameworks and guidelines for activity monitoring and reporting as well as modalities for financial management.

Working Groups: Responsible for the implementation of collaborative activities. Each Group requires a Working Group Coordinator to coordinate the implementation of activities by the Group members, ensure the timely production of progress reports and oversee financial management. Each Working Group should include representatives from both Myanmar and Thai agencies



Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to lay the foundations for a coordinated programme of action designed to better 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



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