Eight countries, connected by one ecosystem, working together to secure its future.

Report of the
Third BOBLME Project Steering Committee Meeting
Colombo, Sri Lanka • 20 - 22 Mar 2012

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third meeting of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project Steering Committee was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 20 to 22 March 2012. Representatives of seven Project countries, FAO and donors attended.

The PSC noted that the Project was on target. Of the 21 Project LogFrame targets expected to be completed by the end of the 3rd year of the Project (March 2012), 16 targets were completed, work on 3 targets has started and is expected to be completed by Q2 2012, and completion of 3 targets is delayed and is being re-phased over 2012. After 33 months (55% of the project in time) about 60% or $8.7 million of the total cash budget of $14.4 million is available for Project activities.

The PSC adopted the 2012 work plan which focuses on SAP completion, and was developed in collaboration with BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors.

The PSC was presented with the report of the BOBLME Project Mid Term Evaluation and noted that the overall success of the Project was rated as satisfactory. The PSC agreed that the Report was a fair and balanced assessment of the Project's performance to-date, and accepted the MTE recommendations.

The PSC made a range of key decisions relating to the development of the BOBLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP) by adopting the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) as the factual basis for the development of the SAP, a regional environmental objective for the SAP, and ecosystem quality objectives for each of the three SAP themes (i.e. overexploitation of marine living resources; degradation of critical habitats; and pollution and water quality). The PSC also endorsed a framework for the SAP document and plan of work for its completion.

The PSC agreed to hold its 4th meeting, on 20-21 March, 2013 in Chennai, India.

1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The third meeting of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 20 to 22 March 2012. PSC members from seven Project countries, FAO, and Project donors attended. The list of participants is attached as Appendix I.

2. The meeting was opened by the outgoing PSC chairperson, Mr. Pongpat Boonchawong (Thailand).

1.1   Election of the new meeting chairperson

3. The PSC elected Mr Ajith Silva (Sri Lanka) as the new Chairperson; and thanked the outgoing Chair for his leadership and guidance over the year.

1.2   Adoption of the agenda

4. The PSC adopted the Agenda as presented in Appendix II to this report. The documents before the PSC are listed in Appendix III.

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND STATUS

2.1   Country project implementation reports

5. A brief verbal "project implementation" report reflecting on participation in regional events and activities and a wide range of national activities with emphasis on TDA consultation was presented by each country.

2.2   2011 Annual Report: progress and results

6. The Regional Coordinator presented an overview of the project (ppt-01) and described in detail the work that had been undertaken by the Project over the period January to December 2011 (Doc-2.1). The report covered progress and outputs (a summary for the year 2011; progress with respect to the Project LogFrame targets, the 2011 event diary; and progress within each Project sub-component), a risk assessment; and project finances.

7. Of the 21 Project LogFrame targets expected to be completed by the end of the 3rd year of the Project (March 2012), 16 targets were completed, work on 3 targets has started and is expected to be completed by Q2 2012, and completion of 3 targets is delayed and is being re-phased over 2012. After 33 months (55% of the project in time) about 60% or $8.7 million of the total cash budget of $14.4 million is available for Project activities.

8. The PSC noted that the Project met most of its targets in 2011; and the targets that were not met are expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2011. The PSC also noted that the budget was currently underspent.

9. The PSC reflected on the risk assessment included in the report and noted the three emerging issues:

(i) Cofinancing (medium risk) - the PSC was informed that contributions to the so called 'Others' component of project co-financing currently amount to just over 3% of the $10 million expected. The PSC concurred that the current estimate of 3% is probably underestimated given the high level of collaboration the BOBLME Project has with its partners; and because there is a number of emerging initiatives from Worldbank and other donor bodies operating in the region that are relevant to the Project. The PSC endorsed the RCU's proposal to review of the 'Others' co-financing in 2012 in order to update the contribution estimate.

(ii) The risk that national level political leaders will not see the benefits of regional coordination of efforts to sustainably manage the LMEs and thus will not commit necessary time and resources to the effort has been flagged as an emerging risk, with the implication that it may indicate that the Project is a lower priority than other intergovernmental and global initiatives for some countries. The PSC noted that the engagement of country representatives on PSC, NC and NTA activities remains inconsistent. The PSC concurred that the participation of alternates for the PSC is inevitable and should not be seen as detrimental to the Project, and agreed that the use of alternates serves to expand the knowledge and standing of the project in government circles. The PSC members reiterated their commitment to support and promote the Project.

(iii)   The risk that countries may decide that regionally based institutional arrangements are inconsistent with their national interest was flagged as an emerging issue given that recent feedback from some countries indicated that they the creation of a single major entity comprising the eight countries that would lead the implementation of the SAP is unlikely. The PSC concurred that the development of a SAP foreseeing an institutional arrangement to coordinate a series of sub-regional activities is considered to be a more achievable and potentially, institutionally and politically more appropriate outcome for the project.

10. The PSC commended the RCU on the production of Doc-2.2 that described how the Project was strengthening regional cooperation, capacity development, improving the knowledgebase in the Bay of Bengal and overall contributing to improved governance.   In particular the PSC acknowledged that BOBLME activities constitute a valuable contribution to the member countries responses to international living resource management goals and obligations such as: Millennium development goals, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the United Nations General Assembly (and others).

11. Overall, the PSC endorsed the BOBLME Project Progress Report for the period January to December 2011.

2.3   Matters of project implementation

Greater promotion of the Project

12. The PSC reiterated the need for members to take every opportunity to promote the BOBLME Project, especially at the highest levels of government and other relevant national and international fora. The PSC noted that the forthcoming Rio+20, the Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biodiversity, and the FAO Committee on Fisheries meeting all presented ideal opportunities to promote the Project.   The RCU informed that PSC, that an advisory document based on Doc-2.2 (see para 10 above) will be produced and distributed in the near future to support promotion activities.

Increased workloads for national counterparts

13. The PSC noted that there will be a marked increase in the work loads of all the National Coordinators in 2012; and it is important that the intended national Project structures (including National Technical Advisors and secretaries) are in place as soon as possible.

Timely nominations of nominating and obtaining approval for travelling to project events

14. The RCU informed the PSC about the difficulties it faces when organising travel for people participating in BOBLME meetings and trainings. The BOBLME Project typically has to arrange the travel for 20-30 people per meeting and it holds just over one meeting per month. The major issue is that most country nominations are received by the RCU 5-10 days before the event, leaving little time for travel to be organised and approved and ticketed, paying DSA in travellers bank accounts before they leave, and obtaining visas. This causes stress for both the RCU and the travellers' concerned. The PSC members acknowledged the difficulties associated with the travel process and

approvals in their respective countries, and agreed to assist with the selection and approval of participants to the extent possible.

3. THE BOBLME PROJECT MID-TERM EVALUATION

15. Mr Arne Andreasson, the leader of the BOBLME Project Mid Term Evaluation team presented the report of the evaluation completed in January 2012 (ppt-02 and Doc-3.1). He outlined the scope of the evaluation undertaken and presented an overview of the key findings.

16. The MTE rated the overall success of the Project as satisfactory, based on 13 criteria using the GEF six-point scale system (that transcends Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Marginally Satisfactory, Marginally Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory to Highly Unsatisfactory). The Executive Summary of the MTE report is given in Appendix IV.

17. The PSC noted the 13 recommendations in the MTE Report:

(1) To FAO on project formulation: FAO is urged to enhance quality control for the preparation of project documents with a view to having them reviewed in-depth before becoming a management instrument for projects, with emphasis given to consistency and logic in the Logical Framework Analysis.

(2) To FAO GEF Focal Point on National GEF Focal Points: GEF Focal Point in FAO should encourage national GEF Operational and Political Focal Points to engage in promotion of the project. There is scope for effective support to increase awareness of the project and facilitate high level contacts and inter-ministerial interactions.

(3) To the Regional Coordinating Unit on complementary support to PSC for advocacy on high political level: In order to complement the PSC members in their advocacy role, the RCU should consider contracting individuals with high status in the society, known for their commitment to conservation of nature, including sustainable management of aquatic living resources, and with access to and influence on high political level.

(4) To FAORAP on strengthening links to high administrative and political level in participating countries: a) FAORAP should encourage FAO Representatives to take a more proactive role in the promotion of the BOBLME at country level and facilitate access to high administrative and political levels to enhance awareness about the project in regular high level contacts, and to participate in high profile project events; b) ADG FAORAP should be the Convener and Chair of a forum for annual regional meetings among Permanent Secretaries with the aim of reviewing the status of the SAP and agree on actions to enhance progress towards the Project Development Objective. At least two meetings should be held during the remaining project period.

(5) To FAORAP on strengthening of the Regional Coordinating Unit: FAORAP (in consultation with GEF Focal Point) should urgently appoint a full time Field Operations Officer, preferably with a fisheries background, to be based in Phuket for tasks that to a large extent are currently done by the RC and CTA. These include organization of meetings and workshops, recruitment of consultants, drafting of Letters of Agreement and negotiation with recipient organizations, and monitoring of budget disbursement.

(6) To the Regional Coordinating Unit on partnerships: The RCU should increase its efforts to strengthen collaboration with existing institutions, organizations, and programmes in the region with compatible mandates, aims, and objectives as BOBLME, in which partners take the responsibility for entire outputs. This requires longer term and wider contractual arrangements than are used at present.

(7) To the Regional Coordinating Unit on strengthening the role of the Project Steering Committee: The RCU should take the initiation of the SAP formulation process as an opportunity to engage PSC more actively through inter-sessional interactions between the PSC members and RCU and among PSC members. This can possibly be through teleconferences and interactive networks to monitor and drive the SAP process. RCU should further urge Governments to improve continuity in participation in meetings, directly and through the PSC.

(8) To the Regional Coordinating Unit and PSC on Government obligations: In PSC meetings, the RCU should continue to draw attention to fulfillment of national obligations, appointment of NTAs, and provisions of facilities and support, and seek the PSC members' support to urge the Governments to strengthen the national teams. The RCU should also more actively engage the national teams in project activities, and

increase dialogue and cooperation among national agencies, PSC members, and other stakeholders within the countries.

(9) To FAO on the role of BOBLME Task Force: FAORAP and the GEF Focal Point should consider the potential role of the BOBLME Task Force in institutional learning from project implementation and in networking between similar projects to exchange experiences with the aim to enhance and improve FAO's management of large regional projects. The BOBLME Task Force could be used as a pilot case to revitalize the task force concept and test and demonstrate its potential usefulness.

(10) To the Regional Coordination Unit on close monitoring of the SAP formulation process: The RCU should engage with the PSC to closely monitor progress towards SAP formulation and adoption. The first bench mark will be the 3rd PSC meeting where the regional TDA will be presented for approval, which will trigger the start of SAP formulation. Six months later the RCU should consult with PSC (in an extra physical meeting or a teleconference) about progress for PSC to decide on required actions. The 4th regular PSC meeting in March 2013 should decide if there is need for an extension of the project.

(11) To the Regional Coordination Unit on the SAP formulation process: The RCU should consider, in consultation with the PSC and subject to final approval by the PSC, alternatives to a region-wide SAP, potentially a SAP consisting of smaller sub-regional, bi-lateral, and thematic components that could be brought together into a regional programme, with responsibility for management of individual components given to existing sub-regional institutions or institutional arrangements created specifically for this purpose.

(12) To the Regional Coordinating Unit on gender issues: The RCU should engage the PSC to urge the countries to increase the participation of women in the project, including in training and capacity building initiatives; and ensure that gender issues are explicitly considered in the SAP, including evaluation of gender implications of proposed actions. The RC and CTA should ensure that the revised TDA incorporate gender issues as appropriate, including in the Causal Chain Analysis.

(13) To the Regional Coordinating Unit on capacity development: A capacity needs assessment should be conducted and a strategy that targets the specific needs of the individual countries developed during the next year. Further, the RCU should ensure that provisions are made in the SAP for priority training and capacity development in the next phase of the project. The RCU should, through the PSC, urge countries to nominate the appropriate individuals and to provide mechanisms and incentives to enable them to contribute to the project on a sustainable basis.

18. The PSC agreed that the Report of the BOBLME Project Mid Term Evaluation is a fair and balanced assessment of the Project's performance to-date. The PSC accepted the recommendations, and in particular, agreed to support the following:

(i) In order to complement the PSC members in their advocacy role, the RCU should consider contracting individuals with high status in the society, known for their commitment to conservation of nature, including sustainable management of aquatic living resources, and with access to and influence on high political level (relating to Recommendation 3).

(ii) In PSC meetings, the RCU should continue to draw attention to fulfilment of national obligations, appointment of NTAs, and provisions of facilities and support, and seek the PSC members' support to urge the Governments to strengthen the national teams. The RCU should also more actively engage the national teams in project activities, and increase dialogue and cooperation among national agencies, PSC members, and other stakeholders within the countries (relating to Recommendation 8).

(iii) The RCU should consider, in consultation with the PSC and subject to final approval by the PSC, alternatives to a region-wide SAP, potentially a SAP consisting of smaller sub-regional, bi-lateral, and thematic components that could be brought together into a regional program, with responsibility for management of individual components given to existing sub-regional institutions or institutional arrangements created specifically for this purpose (relating to Recommendation 11).

19. The PSC also agreed that the RCU should engage the PSC to encourage the countries to increase the participation of women in the project, including in training and capacity building initiatives; and ensure that gender issues are explicitly considered in the SAP, including evaluation of gender implications of proposed actions.

20. The PSC commended the MTE team for its work and comprehensive report.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TDA CONFIRMATION MEETING - ADOPTION OF THE TDA

21. The PSC recalled that the draft TDA was made available for national consultations in November 2010 and the consultations were undertaken throughout 2011. The PSC was informed about the TDA confirmation process (ppt-03) that comprised:

    o   extensive consultations in all countries

    o   a TDA synthesis - in which the information from the national consultations was collated, reviewed and addressed (ppt-04, Doc-4.1)

    o   a TDA Confirmation Meeting held in February 2012 involving BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National TDA Consultation managers.

22. The BOBLME TDA Confirmation Meeting (Doc-4.2) was tasked to review the synthesis process and results and make recommendations to the PSC on whether:

    (i) the TDA as revised as a result of the national TDA consultations and subsequent TDA synthesis work is an appropriate regional basis for the development of the SAP

    (ii) the approach and outputs of the TDA synthesis, which collated the information from the national consultations was acceptable

    (iii) the PSC should consider adopting the confirmed TDA as a factual basis for the development of the SAP develop the 2011 BOBLME work plan.

23. The PSC noted the considerable technical effort went into the TDA document and the rigorous process of consultations and revision that was undertaken. The PSC accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the TDA confirmation meeting, and adopted the (confirmed) TDA as the factual basis for the development of the SAP.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE SAP DEVELOPMENT PLAN - ADOPTION OF THE SAP COMPLETION PLAN

24. The PSC was provided with an introduction to SAPs (ppt-05) and informed about the February 2012 BOBLME SAP Process Development Meeting that involved National Coordinators and SAP Experts (Doc-5.1). The meeting comprised a series of presentations on SAP processes and development; breakout groups to derive regional environmental objectives and ecosystem quality objectives; and plenary discussions. The aims of the meeting were to :

    (i) develop high level ecological-based objectives for the draft SAP

    (ii) develop a draft SAP document framework

    (iii) develop a draft SAP completion plan.

5.1   SAP objectives

25. The PSC was further informed about the process undertaken to identify Ecosystem Quality Objectives for the BOBLME SAP (ppt-06). The PSC acknowledged that the EcoQO's are a key component of a SAP and thanked the National Coordinators and SAP experts for their work.

26. The PSC accepted the recommendations from the SAP Development meeting and adopted the following high level SAP Objectives:

Regional Environmental Objective:

A healthy ecosystem and sustainable use of marine living resources for the benefit of the countries of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem

Ecosystem Quality Objectives (EcoQOs):

For theme 1 - Overexploitation of marine living resources: *Fisheries and other marine living resources are restored and managed sustainably.*

For theme 2 - Degradation of critical habitats: *Degraded, vulnerable and critical marine habitats are restored, conserved and maintained.*

For theme 3 - Pollution and water quality: *Coastal and marine pollution and water quality are controlled to meet agreed standards for human and ecosystem health.*

27. In adopting the SAP regional environmental objective and EcoQOs, the PSC acknowledged that the BOBLME countries may interpret these high level objectives differently; and that any differences will be clarified in the respective national action plans developed by each country.

5.2　The SAP framework

28. Dr Jayampathy Samarakoon, the BOBLME SAP writer, described the draft framework and contents of the SAP derived at the SAP Development meeting (ppt-07).

29. The PSC endorsed the draft SAP framework provided in Appendix V.

30. The Regional Coordinator then introduced the PSC to the first draft of the SAP based on the above framework, noting that a second, more comprehensive version would be developed following the PSC's above endorsement.

5.3　The SAP Completion process

31. The PSC endorsed a SAP Completion Process based on the schematic provided in Appendix VI.

32. PSC acknowledged that it will have a major role in the SAP completion process and noted the activities and timelines set out in the SAP completion plan. Furthermore, the PSC acknowledged the need to produce national action plans and budgets for inclusion into national budgetary frameworks within 2013.

33. The PSC agreed that prospective SAP implementation partners be invited to attend future PSC meetings.

6.　REVIEW OF THE 2012 WORK PLAN & BUDGET

34. The Chief Technical Advisor presented the draft 2012 Annual Regional Work Plan (including milestones and outputs) and budget (Doc-6.1).

35. The PSC was informed that in February 2012, the BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors assembled in Bangkok for a two day workshop to contribute to the drafting of this document.

36. The PSC examined in detail the activities proposed for each Project subcomponent and the proposed budget, noting that the overall budget for Project activities in 2012 is around $4 millions, a large component of 'in country' activities is included.

37. PSC members agreed to encourage national GEF Focal Points to engage in promotion of the Project.

38. The PSC agreed to take every opportunity to increase awareness of the project and facilitate high level contacts and inter-ministerial interactions.

39. The PSC agreed to identify, where necessary, an 'Environment' counterpart to work on a regular basis with the National Coordinator as a means to strengthening the linkages between the government agencies.

40. The PSC adopted the 2012 work plan and budget developed in collaboration with BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1   General

41. The PSC thanked the RCU for its meeting preparation and the comprehensive documents produced, and expressed its satisfaction with the progress of the Project to-date.

42. The PSC congratulated the Chairman and thanked the host country, Sri Lanka, for supporting the meeting.

7.2   Date and place of the 4th meeting of the Project Steering Committee

43. Following a generous offer from India, the PSC agreed to hold its 4th meeting in Chennai India, tentatively on 20-21 March, 2013.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

44. The PSC adopted all substantial statements during the meeting, and agreed to adopt the remainder of the report by email.

Appendix I   **Participants**

BANGLADESH	
Environment *Unable to attend*	*Fisheries* *Alternative to Mr Shamsul M. Kibria* **Mr Altaf Mohammad Husain** Joint Secretary Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Dhaka altaf.smef@yahoo.com
INDIA	
Environment *Unable to attend*	*Fisheries* *Alternative to Mr Tarun Shridhar* **Mr B Vishnu Bhat** Fisheries Development Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying & Fisheries New Delhi bhatbvishnu@gmail.com
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Environment *Unable to attend*	*Fisheries* *Unable to attend*
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Appendix II   **Agenda**

Day 1	
08.30-09.00	Registration
	1. Opening of the meeting
	1.1 Opening remarks from the PSC chairperson: Mr Pongpat Boonchuwong (Thailand) 1.2 Election of the new meeting Chair (selection by the PSC) 1.3 Adoption of the agenda (Doc-1.1) 1.4 Group photograph
	2. Project implementation and status Actions: (i) To note the current status of the Project (ii) To provide guidance on Project implementation
	2.1 Country implementation reports - brief reports from both the Fisheries and Environment PSC members 2.2. 2011 Annual Report: progress and results (Doc-2.1, 2.2; background Doc 2.3, 2.4) 2.3 Matters of Project implementation
	3. The BOBLME Project Mid-Term Evaluation Actions: (i) To note the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the independent mid-term evaluation
	3.1 Report on the MTE from the Evaluation Team Leader, Mr Arne Andreasson (Doc-3.1) 3.2 Discussions on the findings of the report as they relate to the Project goals, approach and activities
Day 2	
	4. Consideration of the recommendations of the TDA confirmation meeting Actions: Adoption of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
	4.1 Report on the TDA confirmation meeting held 13-14 February 2012 (Doc-4.2; background Doc-4.1, 4.3, 4.4) 4.2 Deliberations on the recommendations from the meeting relating to the adoption of the TDA by the PSC
	5. Consideration of the SAP Development plan Actions: Endorsement of a plan for the development of the BOBLME SAP
	5.1 Report on the SAP process development meeting held 15-17 February 2012 (Doc-5.1). 5.2 The SAP Framework. 5.3 Deliberations on the recommendations for the meeting relating to the endorsement of a SAP process by the PSC
	6. Review of the proposed 2012 work plan, milestones, outputs and budget Actions: Adoption of the BOBLME 2012 work plan and budget
	6.1 Presentation of the 2012 Work plan and budget (Doc-6.1) 6.2 Discussions
Day 3	
	7. Any other business
	8. Outstanding items and adoption of meeting conclusions Actions: (i) To adopt the endorsements and recommendations arising from the meeting.
	Wrap up and conclusions
	Closure of the Workshop
12.30-1330	*Lunch*

Appendix III   **List of documents**

Reference	Title
Session	
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-1.1	Agenda
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-2.1	Annual report to the PSC on the year 2011
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-2.2	Making a difference to resource management in the Bay of Bengal
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-2.3	Progress Report for the period January to June 2011
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-2.4	Progress Report for the period July to December 2011
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-3.1	Report of the mid term evaluation
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-4.1	TDA synthesis report
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-4.2	TDA confirmation meeting report
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-4.3	Confirmed TDA Vol 1
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-4.4	Confirmed TDA Vol 2
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-5.1	SAP development meeting report
BOBLME-2012-PSC_Doc-6.1	Draft 2012 annual work plan and budget
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-01	BOBLME Project overview
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-02	Report of the mid term evaluation
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-03	TDA development
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-04	TDA synthesis process
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-05	Introduction to SAPs
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-06	Introduction to ecosystem quality indicators (EcoQO's)
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-07	Draft SAP Framework
BOBLME-2012-PSC_ppt-08	SAP completion process calendar

Appendix IV   Mid Term Evaluation Report - Executive Summary

Information about the evaluation

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOB LME) project (GCP/RAS/236/GFF) is a five-year initiative (1 April 2009 – 30 March 2014), and represents the first phase of a BOB LME programme expected to last for 12–15 years. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with contributions from Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the USA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the eight project countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives[1], Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand). The BOB LME Project (BOBLME) finance amounts to around USD 31 million. FAO is both the GEF Agency and the project executing agency.

Provision for an independent mid-term evaluation (MTE) is included in the Project Document. The purpose of the MTE was to determine progress being made towards achievement of project outcomes and identify corrective actions if necessary. The MTE was conducted from 9 November 2011 to 31 January 2012 by a team of two independent consultants contracted by FAO. From 09 November 2011 to 03 January 2012, the evaluation team visited five of the eight participating countries (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) and carried out extensive interviews based on a questionnaire with 60 persons, including: Regional Coordinator (RC); Chief Technical Advisor (CTA); Lead Technical Unit (LTU) and the Chief of Operations, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP); National Coordinators (NCs), National Technical Advisors (NTAs), and other national counterparts; and regional organizations involved in collaborative activities. The team also interviewed representatives from India, Malaysia and Maldives during the National Coordinators/National Technical Advisors planning meeting held in Phuket in December 2011. The team also carried out desk review of a sub-set of the available project documents and specific products including reports, studies, project website, and newsletters.

Key findings and conclusions

The living resources of the BOB LME are of major significance in providing food security and livelihoods to millions of people in the bordering countries. The sustainability of the BOB LME, however, is threatened by three major problems: (i) overexploitation of living resources, (ii) degradation of critical habitats, and (iii) land and marine-based pollution. Many of the fish stocks (for example, Hilsa and Indian mackerel) are shared between two or more countries and the environmental issues could have transboundary impacts when they extend across national borders. The bordering countries recognize that these problems cannot be addressed only by national initiatives.

The BOBLME provides the only existing platform for region-wide collaboration and with a mandate to address both fisheries management and environmental issues. It is also the only regional forum for dialogue among the countries, all of whom recognize the value of sub-regional and to some extent regional collaboration to solve common problems, and to build awareness and capacity. Among the constraints to addressing these issues are weak institutional capacities at national levels, insufficient budgetary commitments, lack of stakeholder consultation and empowerment, as well as absence of regional institutional arrangements to facilitate a joint, coordinated approach.

Based on the foregoing, in 1995 the Advisory Committee of the UNDP/FAO project "The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP)" requested FAO to assist in the development of a project proposal that could be submitted to GEF and other donors. Project development funds (PDF-B and Supplemental Block B grants) and associated co-financing were used to establish national and regional coordinating mechanisms; prepare a Framework Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (FTDA); and formulate the Project Document for consideration by GEF and other donors. The draft Project Brief was endorsed by the countries in October 2004. Following the tsunami in December 2004, the proposal was revised to include a post-tsunami environmental "baseline". The GEF Council approved the BOBLME in February 2005.

The project is highly relevant for the sustainable management of the Bay of Bengal. It is consistent with priorities in the FAO Country Programming Framework broadly related to food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. FAOs normative work is extensively used in the project and results have been achieved that contribute to FAO Core Functions. The BOBLME is also laying the foundation for contributing to FAO Strategic Objectives C and Organizational Results.

The BOBLME, which has five components or outcomes, is focused on the development of the foundation for regional cooperation and related capacity building of institutions, as well as removing barriers to national and regional cooperation to address transboundary issues for the sustainable management of the Bay of Bengal. The major output is the development and adoption of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which is supported by a comprehensive regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA). Inconsistent statements were evident in the Project Document and in the Logical Framework Analysis. While the revisions, which were endorsed by the PSC during its first meeting, improved the original Logical Framework, these did not eliminate all the inconsistencies.

The methodology adopted by the project consists mainly of training and capacity development, workshops, meetings, working groups, studies, and consultations. The MTE evaluators concluded that the chosen approach is feasible and the result of a long period of negotiations among stakeholders. There were, however, strong opinions in the countries that more on-the-ground activities would have benefited the coastal communities and promoted greater project buy-in by politicians and the public.

The BOBLME has a complex institutional set-up including the eight participating countries, FAO, GEF, and donor agencies. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is made up of two members from each country representing the ministries responsible for fisheries and the environment. The

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[1] For the purpose of the project the original geographic limitation of the BOB LME was extended to include the EEZ of Maldives, which has a long history of collaboration with the other BOB countries.

PSC effectively performs its functions, but about half of the participants attending PSC meetings have been alternates, with only seven of the 16 members having participated in the two meetings held. The decision of the PSC to be the SAP formulation team demonstrates ownership and commitment to project. The MTE team also found that there were weak linkages between the institutions responsible for the project at the national level (fisheries research institutions) and the ministries responsible for fisheries and environment. Further, there was insufficient higher level collaboration between these two ministries. Leading the SAP development will, however, require the PSC to be more active and with frequent inter-sessional contacts and continuity in membership.

By signing the Project Document, the Governments have agreed to provide cash and in kind co-financing for the project. At the time of the MTE, not all the Governments had completely fulfilled their obligations to appoint national teams and to provide sufficient resources for their operation. While all National Coordinators (NC) have been appointed, only three countries had full time National Technical Advisors (NTA) at the time of the MTE. The absence of NTAs stretches the capacity of the NCs, hampers project activities, and reduces the management capacity of the national teams in the countries in question. Demands on the national teams are expected to increase when the project moves into SAP formulation. The evaluators also found that the National Task Forces have not performed as expected. It was evident that, with a few exceptions, the NCs mainly responded to requests from the RCU and did not independently implement project activities, despite their commitment to the project. The MTE team found that only in few cases do the National Task Forces (NTF) fulfil their terms of reference.

The project is managed in an excellent manner from the RCU with support, technical backstopping, and guidance from the LTU at FAORAP. The MTE concluded that the institutional capacity to coordinate regional interventions, monitor project impacts, and disseminate and exchange information has been adequately established. The administrative support to the project from FAORAP is efficient and while the Budget Holder provides adequate support in terms of disbursements of funds, it is in no position to provide effective operational support to the RCU. The RC and CTA spend up to 60% and 40% of their time, respectively, on operations, which reduces the time available for project management and substantive technical work. This underscores the need for a dedicated field operations officer to be based at the RCU, especially in the next stage of the project when the RC and CTA will be required to focus on SAP formulation and its adoption by the Governments. FAO's BOBLME Task Force does not function as envisaged. This represents a lost opportunity to FAO for institutional learning from the project.

The project design did not cater for the long inception period required for complex projects with multiple outcomes and engaging several countries. This, as well as the over-optimistic work-plans, led to delays in implementation and low financial delivery in the first year. At the time of the MTE 35.7% of the budget had been used. The evaluators concluded that there are adequate budget provisions for project implementation and it is not likely that the whole budget will be used by the end of the project.

By the time of the MTE, the project had made considerable progress towards achieving the outputs and outcomes that were expected during this period. The project has collaborated with over 30 organizations and took advantage of various opportunities to advance project objectives. In addition, a number of top experts have been contracted and Working Groups established for specific thematic areas. This approach adopted by the RCU to implement project activities is considered by the MTE team to be very effective and efficient.

The Project Development Objective is expected to be achieved with regard to the formulation and review of the SAP. However, with the short timeframe remaining, the evaluators concluded that there is a risk that the SAP will not be adopted when the project closes. The SAP will address regional and sub-regional institutional arrangements, financial investments, and programmes to address transboundary issues. Support and engagement of senior management and political levels in the relevant ministries are crucial for the success of the SAP process. Feedback from interviews revealed that the bureaucratic and hierarchical national institutional set up is not conducive to this requirement. It was clear to the evaluators that while the project has considerable buy-in and support at the technical level, this was not the case at the higher political level. This is a serious issue that the project management has to address. In addition to providing the required support to the PSC in SAP formulation, a mechanism is needed to help the PSC members in their advocacy role at high political level. This could include (upon request) providing assistance and resources to the PSC and involvement of GEF National Operational and Political Focal Points, FAO Representatives (FAORs), and others in facilitating access to high administrative and political levels and in raising awareness about the project.

The MTE team concluded that the overriding concern for the remaining part of the project is the SAP formulation, which will require that project resources are focused on the timely conclusion of the process and on creating awareness and support from senior administrative and political level. While the evaluators do not consider an extension of the project at this time, the RCU should engage with the PSC to closely monitor progress. At the 4th regular PSC meeting in March 2013, they will be in a better position to judge if the SAP could be concluded on time and if there is need for an extension of the project.

It was also evident during the interviews that there is little support among participating Governments for a region-wide institutional management arrangement for the SAP. In contrast, there was overwhelming support for smaller thematic and/or sub-regional sub-components, with management or coordination responsibility assigned to existing or newly created sub-regional institutional mechanisms. In this regard, partnerships with sub-regional organizations and initiatives should be fostered and strengthened. The RCU should investigate, in consultation with the PSC and subject to final approval by the PSC, feasible alternatives to a region-wide SAP and institutional arrangements.

At the time of the MTE, the project had completed 12 of the 25 Logical Framework targets expected to be completed in PY 1 - 3, with 10 expected to be completed by March 2012 (end of PY 3) and 3 to be rescheduled. For 31 targets, a score based on the GEF six-point scale system[2] were assigned by the evaluators: 5 were rated as highly satisfactory, 21 as satisfactory, 2 as marginally satisfactory, 1 as marginally unsatisfactory, and 2 as unsatisfactory. Among the completed targets is the draft regional TDA, which will be presented to the PSC meeting in March 2012 for approval. In addition to targets specified in the Logical Framework, many other outputs have been produced that supported the regional TDA and/or that will be taken up in the SAP. The project successfully engaged with over 30 partner organizations with experience in the BOB region. The MTE team highly commends the RC and CTA for these achievements and progress made.

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[2] GEF six-point scale scoring system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)

There have been delays, however, in achieving a number of other targets. Of major concern is the slow progress in the preparation of the draft regional SAP, but the RCU expects this to be completed by 31 March 2012. The MTE team thinks that this timeframe is overly optimistic. It should be mentioned that since the conclusion of the MTE mission, a SAP meeting has been held in February 2012 and a skeleton outline of the regional SAP prepared. More work needs to be done, however, if the GEF guidelines for SAP formulation are to be followed and the extensive negotiations required to reach consensus held. Progress on other regional components was hampered by delays in finalizing contractual arrangements or slow delivery by partners. Activities to be implemented at the national level have also seen slow progress. For example, not all countries have nominated their pilot Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) sites, with only one country so far having implemented its pilot ICM initiative. The project management proactively promoted ICM capacity development through the regional ICM postgraduate training course organized by the Asian Institute of Technology and Mangroves for the Future. Many persons interviewed expressed doubt about the willingness (both political and technical) and ability at the national and local level to implement activities in the countries. On the other hand, several interviewees felt that more on-the-ground actions should have been included.

Regarding gender, the evaluation found that gender (women) issues and gender mainstreaming are not explicitly included in the Project Document, in the identification of beneficiaries or in the TDA, despite the important role of women in coastal fisheries in the region. At the time of the MTE, contract negotiations were ongoing for the conduct of gender analysis. Participants in meetings and training events were also predominantly males. The project is urged to pay more attention, especially in SAP development, to women's issues in view of their role in and their dependence on this sector.

A significant amount of project resources is devoted to training and capacity development. The project has already conducted or supported participants from member countries in a number of training courses and programmes. The approach has been to provide the same training to all countries, without considering the wide disparity in the level of capacity needs among the countries (although the project is beginning to address this). The MTE team recommends that a capacity needs assessment be conducted and a strategy developed during the next year to meet the specific needs of the countries. The SAP should also propose priority capacity building interventions.

The MTE team found it too early to provide any firm statements on sustainability, and concluded that it is of utmost importance to consider means for ensuring sustainability, which can be enhanced even now. For example, management arrangements in Mergui Archipelago being developed can be sustained through continued efforts by the countries, IUCN, and Wetlands Alliance. The Hilsa management plan and bilateral arrangements for Gulf of Mannar are examples where sustainability can be achieved through implementation by existing regional and/or sub-regional organizations. Sustainability can also be enhanced by strengthening of collaboration with existing sub-regional arrangements and initiatives. There is need to accelerate efforts to have partners assume greater responsibility for larger project components.

It is evident that the project has already had some positive intermediate results, which have potential to produce lasting impacts. The project is creating an enabling environment and helping to overcome national and regional obstacles to sustainable management of the BOB. Among the intermediate results achieved so far are raised awareness about the BOB LME, and increased knowledge and enhanced national capacity to address transboundary issues and to work in a collaborative manner with other countries.

The MTE rated the overall success of the project as satisfactory, based on 13 criteria using the GEF six-point scale system. The individual rating for each criterion is given in the report.

While it is too early to expect major lessons to be learned at this stage, one lesson learned concerning flexibility in the Logical Framework merits being recorded: Flexibility should be integrated in the design of a project to allow for changing conditions that may occur between the design phase and actual implementation. Flexibility must, however, include agreed procedures for changes to be decided and recorded.

Recommendations

Shortcomings were identified in the Project Document with regard to inconsistent statements on approaches and the time needed for project inception. There are also inconsistencies in the Logical Framework Analysis.

Recommendation 1:   To FAO on project formulation (Sections 3.1.2- 3.1.4)

> FAO is urged to enhance quality control for the preparation of project documents with a view to having them reviewed in-depth before becoming a management instrument for projects, with emphasis given to consistency and logic in the Logical Framework Analysis.

The project is in a challenging phase, having in reality only two years to complete the SAP and its adoption. Currently, the project lacks effective access to the political level to mobilize support for the SAP process and its adoption, which is essential if it is to be concluded within the remaining time. To achieve this, there is a need to raise awareness and support for the SAP and to create more profound buy-in by politicians and the public. There is also a need to complement and strengthen the efforts by the PSC members to drive the SAP process and the RCU's capacity to manage and support it. The following recommendations are all linked with the aim to facilitate the SAP process.

Recommendation 2:   To FAO GEF Focal Point on National GEF Focal Points (Section 4.2.1)

> GEF Focal Point in FAO should encourage national GEF Operational and Political Focal Points to engage in promotion of the project. There is scope for effective support to increase awareness of the project and facilitate high level contacts and inter-ministerial interactions.

Recommendation 3: **To the Regional Coordinating Unit on complementary support to PSC for advocacy on high political level (Sections 4.4 and 5.1.2)**

In order to complement the PSC members in their advocacy role, the RCU should consider contracting individuals with high status in the society, known for their commitment to conservation of nature, including sustainable management of aquatic living resources, and with access to and influence on high political level.

Recommendation 4: **To FAORAP on strengthening links to high administrative and political level in participating countries (Section 4.2.2)**

a)   FAORAP should encourage FAO Representatives to take a more proactive role in the promotion of the BOBLME at country level and facilitate access to high administrative and political levels to enhance awareness about the project in regular high level contacts, and to participate in high profile project events;

b)   ADG FAORAP should be the Convener and Chair of a forum for annual regional meetings among Permanent Secretaries with the aim of reviewing the status of the SAP and agree on actions to enhance progress towards the Project Development Objective. At least two meetings should be held during the remaining project period.

Recommendation 5: **To FAORAP on strengthening of the Regional Coordinating Unit (Section 4.2.2)**

FAORAP (in consultation with GEF Focal Point) should urgently appoint a full time Field Operations Officer, preferably with a fisheries background, to be based in Phuket for tasks that to a large extent are currently done by the RC and CTA. These include organization of meetings and workshops, recruitment of consultants, drafting of Letters of Agreement and negotiating with recipient organizations, and monitoring of budget disbursement.

Sustainability of project outcomes rely on the SAP being formulated and adopted, and regional or sub-regional mechanisms for collaboration being created and/or strengthened. Partners engaged in the current project will also contribute to sustainability by integrating project outcomes in their future work.

Recommendation 6: **To the Regional Coordinating Unit on partnerships (Sections 4.2.2, 4.2.3 and 5.4)**

The RCU should increase its efforts to strengthen collaboration with relevant existing institutions, organizations, and programmes in the region with compatible mandates, aims, and objectives as the BOBLME, in which partners take the responsibility for entire project outputs. This requires longer term and wider contractual arrangements than are used at present.

The PSC will play a crucial role in the SAP formulation and adoption process. This will require a more active PSC with frequent inter-sessional contacts. However, there is lack of continuity in its membership and about half of the participants in PSC meetings have been alternates.

Recommendation 7: **To the Regional Coordinating Unit on strengthening the role of the Project Steering Committee (Section 4.2.4)**

The RCU should take the initiation of the SAP formulation process as an opportunity to engage the PSC more actively through inter-sessional interactions between the PSC members and RCU and among PSC members. This can possibly be through teleconferences and interactive networks to monitor and drive the SAP process. RCU should further urge the Governments to improve continuity in participation in meetings, directly and through the PSC.

The national teams (primarily the NC and NTA) are crucial for the implementation of the project to achieve its development objective. Not all Governments have fulfilled their obligations to appoint NCs and NTAs and to provide sufficient resources for their operation. At the time of the MTE, only three countries had appointed full time NTAs. Demands on the national teams will increase when the project moves into SAP formulation.

Recommendation 8: **To the Regional Coordinating Unit and PSC on Government obligations (Section 4.4)**

In PSC meetings, the RCU should continue to draw attention to fulfillment of national obligations, appointment of NTAs, and provisions of facilities and support, and seek the PSC members' support to urge

the Governments to strengthen the national teams. The RCU should also more actively engage the national teams in project activities, and increase dialogue and cooperation among national agencies, PSC members, and other stakeholders within the countries.

There is an opportunity for FAO to use the FAO Task Force to enhance the institutional learning from the project and promote exchange of experiences between GEF-funded and FAO-implemented projects.

Recommendation 9: To FAO on the role of the BOBLME Task Force (Section 4.3)

FAORAP and the GEF Focal Point should consider the potential role of the BOBLME Task Force in institutional learning from project implementation and in networking between similar projects to exchange experiences with the aim to enhance and improve FAO's management of large regional projects. The BOBLME Task Force could be used as a pilot case to revitalize the task force concept and test and demonstrate its potential usefulness.

The project is most likely to achieve one part of the Project Development Objective, the formulation of the SAP. There is doubt, however, if the adoption process can be achieved in time. The MTE team concludes that for this to be successful all parties have to contribute effectively. While the evaluators do not consider an extension of the project at this time, very close monitoring of the process is necessary.

Recommendation 10: To the Regional Coordination Unit on close monitoring of the SAP formulation process (Section 5.1.2)

The RCU should engage with the PSC to closely monitor progress towards SAP formulation and adoption. The first bench mark will be the 3rd PSC meeting where the regional TDA will be presented for approval, which will trigger the start of SAP formulation. Six months later the RCU should consult with PSC (in an extra physical meeting or a teleconference) about progress for the PSC to decide on required actions. The 4th regular PSC meeting in March 2013 should decide if there is need for an extension of the project.

The MTE concluded that there was weak commitment among participating Governments to a region-wide management arrangement. Thus, a comprehensive region-wide SAP may encounter difficulties in adoption. There is therefore need to investigate alternative options to speed up the adoption process, facilitate the mechanisms for collaboration between countries, and secure financing for SAP implementation.

Recommendation 11: To the Regional Coordination Unit on the SAP formulation process (Section 5.1.2)

The RCU should consider, in consultation with the PSC and subject to final approval by the PSC, alternatives to a region-wide SAP, potentially a SAP consisting of smaller sub-regional, bi-lateral, and thematic components that could be brought together into a regional programme, with responsibility for management of individual components given to existing sub-regional institutions or institutional arrangements created specifically for this purpose.

Despite the important role of women in coastal fisheries in the region, gender (women) issues and gender mainstreaming are not explicitly included in the project document or in the TDA, and no gender analysis has been undertaken. Participants in the project consist predominantly of males. The evaluation team strongly recommends that the project pay more attention to women's issues in view of their important role in and their dependence on this sector for livelihoods.

Recommendation 12: To the Regional Coordinating Unit on gender issues (Section 5.2)

The RCU should engage the PSC to urge the countries to increase the participation of women in the project, including in training and capacity building initiatives; and ensure that gender issues are explicitly considered in the SAP, including evaluation of gender implications of proposed actions. The RC and CTA should ensure that the revised TDA incorporate gender issues as appropriate, including in the Causal Chain Analysis.

The approach taken to training and capacity building is to provide the same training courses and at the same level to all countries, despite differences in their capacity needs. This partly arises from the absence of a capacity needs assessment and an appropriate capacity development strategy. Not all the individuals nominated by the countries for training are the most appropriate and there is often lack of continuity in participation. This reduces the potential for uptake and sustainability.

Recommendation 13: To the Regional Coordinating Unit on capacity development (Section 5.3)

A capacity needs assessment should be conducted and a strategy that targets the specific needs of the individual countries developed during the next year. Further, the RCU should ensure that provisions are

made in the SAP for priority training and capacity development in the next phase of the project. The RCU should, through the PSC, urge countries to nominate the appropriate individuals and to provide mechanisms and incentives to enable them to contribute to the project on a sustainable basis.

Appendix V   **Draft SAP Framework**

DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR THE BOBLME STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME (SAP)

Policy Brief / Executive Summary? (5 pages)
Questions:
- Why must the SAP be implemented? What are the consequences if not implemented? What is the vision? What are the objectives, actions and their policy implications? What are the policy reforms required? What are the costs? How will costs be shared among partner including funding agencies and countries? What is the significance of the BOBLME in the short term (2-5 years) and the long term – 30 years.

PREFACE – the political narrative - customised if necessary for each country (to be digested in 30 seconds) Rapid changes in the coastal areas of the BOBLME are creating both challenges and opportunities for the people. The transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) confirmed by the technical experts reveals how the BOBLME countries and their coastal population have arrived at the crossroads of the present and the future. Having understood how we got there it is possible to set priorities for addressing the prevailing challenges and benefitting from the opportunities provided by the wide range of available people and resources. Since the uncertainties associated with the complex BOBLME are numerous, this Strategic Action Programme (SAP) provides both a vision and a strategy. The Need for an Ecosystem-based Policy.

1.   INTRODUCTION
The BOBLME Region – The People, Resources and Opportunities
- The BOBLME Vision
- Enough fish for future generations. ; Healthy coastal and near-shore marine habitats; Reduced pollution from agriculture, industry and large coastal cities; Coastal communities resilient to the impacts of climate change; Stakeholders working together for the common good.
- Existing partnerships that are already working toward expectations in the SAP
Uniqueness
- Geological, geomorphological, oceanographic, maritime trade, culture, art, architecture that bind; Prevailing and anticipated economic growth trends to 2025; The significance of the BOB sea in national and regional interests; plate tectonics and uncertainties
- Demography – the youth dividend; health (food security) and education status of coastal fishing communities – disparity with national averages?; cross-cutting developmental issues related to BOBLME themes

Existing working partnerships
- Existing major regional partnerships to build on

2.   STATE OF THE BOBLME AND CHALLENGES
- Background (from the executive summary in the TDA); Diagnosis and analysis of causes that must be addressed in order to make a difference; Confirmed TDA – the foundation of the SAP

3.   ACTION PROGRAMME – THE RATIONALE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
- Governance; cross-cutting nature, communication and awareness; pace of development change in the BOBLME region, ecosystem complexity, unanticipated consequences of rapid development which ignored ecosystem complexity, costs of reversing impacts / nested sub-systems / irreversibility of sub-system decline.
- Action Programme: Overexploitation of marine living resources; Action Programme – Critical Habitats; Action Programme - Pollution (Water Quality)

4.   BENEFITS AND COSTS

- NAP – its pivotal role

5. **SAP IMPLEMENTATION**
    - Bilateral partnerships – the manner in which they integrate with EAF;
    - Sub-regional partnerships and their contribution
    - Funding mechanisms for LME-wide partnerships – exposure, vulnerability and risk mapping – climate change adaptation (best done regionally) to link with the hazard monitoring system already in operation.
    - Monitoring & Evaluation

6. **RISKS AND RISK MITIGATION**
    - Balance between long-term and short-term priorities. What are the short-term priorities that can increase political acceptability by merging with (i) ongoing regional projects; (ii) strengthening agency mandates which require capacity development; Communication and awareness with stakeholders; Advocacy

Appendices:
- Details of action plans
- Success stories of partnerships and programmes that have worked in providing environmental benefits

Appendix VI   SAP completion process
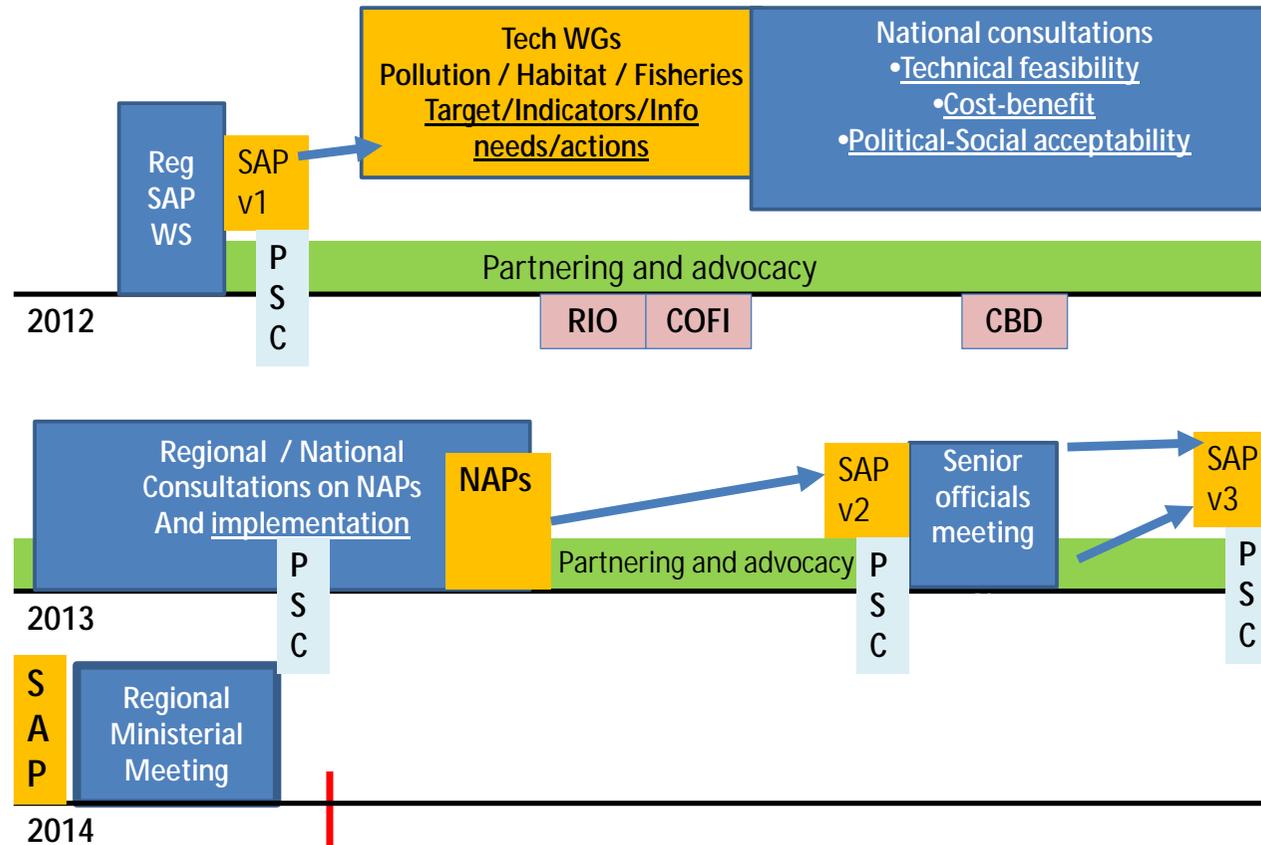
Reg SAP WS (Regional SAP process Development workshop - this meeting); PSC (Project Steering Committee); RIO (RIO+20 meeting); COFI (FAO Committee on Fisheries)CBD (Biodiversity convention - conference of the parties)

Appendix VII   2011 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PSC – Summary

Major achievements (by project sub-component):
- National TDA consultations held in eight countries (1.1)
- The BOBLME TDA was confirmed at a Regional TDA confirmation meeting * (1.1)
- A draft SAP Framework produced at a Regional SAP meeting * (1.4)
- A draft SAP has been produced* (1.4)
- Sub-regional and regional ICM workshops were held to identify best ICM practices (2.1)
- A major synthesis of resource management policies in the Bay of Bengal was produced after national policy consultations in eight countries were completed (2.2)
- A draft EAF training programme has been produced by a consortium of regional partners - as is now ready for developing into a week-long course (2.3)
- The BOBLME hilsa fisheries assessment working group has produced a first stock assessment for the transboundary stock of hilsa (2.3)
- A major review of fisheries statistics collection and management was undertaken in eight countries (2.3)
- The first bi-national stakeholder meeting between India and Sri Lanka on the critical habitat of Gulf of Mannar was held (2.4)
- The first bi-national stakeholder meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on the critical habitat of Myeik Archipelago was held (2.4)
- BOBLME convened a meeting of project and portfolio managers working in fisheries, ecosystems, coastal management, pollution, habitat protection, in order to foster coordination and enhance effectiveness of resource project activities in the Bay of Bengal * (3.3)
- Mid Term Evaluation completed and returned an overall satisfactory result (5.2)
- Three editions of the BOBLME Newsletter were published (5.3)

Project targets achieved - as of end of project year 3 (March 2012)
- 7 of 7 PY 1 targets completed
- 18 of 18 PY2 targets completed
- 16 of 21 PY3 targets completed

    3 targets expected to be completed by end of Q2 2012

    3 targets delayed and re-phased into 2012.

Meetings:
- BOBLME Regional: 13
- BOBLME National: 83
- BOBLME participation in other relevant regional meetings: 22

Training:
- BOBLME-MFF communications workshop on scientific writing.
- BOBLME-MFF communications workshop on scientific presentation.
- Stock Assessment Training- Myanmar.
- Stock Assessment Training- Thailand.
- Stock Assessment Training- Bangladesh (2).
- Stock Assessment Training- India.
- AIT-MFF-BOBLME Postgraduate Certificate in Integrated Coastal Management
- IOC/WESTPAC - BOBLME Summer School on Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social & Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI).

Outputs:
- Reports: 50 reports produced in 2011 - out of a total of 77 for all years
- Monitoring Reports: 7
- Administrative documents (contracts and travel reports etc): 158

Project Risks:
All low, except:

(i) Cofinancing (medium risk) - 'Others' co-financing is currently just over 3% of the target $10 million. However it is likely that the current estimate of 3% is underestimated, given the high level of collaboration the BOBLME Project currently has. A review of the 'Others' co-financing will be undertaken in 2012.

(ii) Risk that national level political leaders will not see the benefits of regional coordination of efforts to sustainably manage the LMEs and thus will not commit necessary time and resources to the effort (Low-Medium risk, an emerging issue).
The engagement of country representatives to the PSC, NC and NTA level remains inconsistent. This may indicate that the project is, relatively, a lower priority than other intergovernmental and global initiatives for some countries.
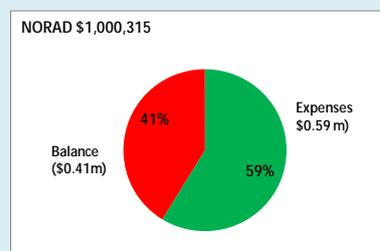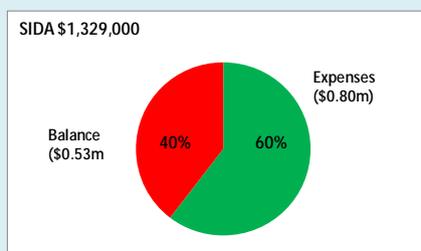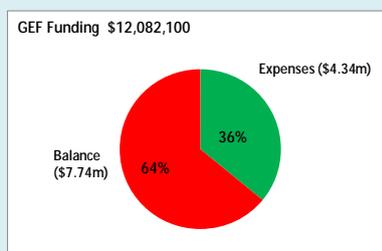
(iii) Countries may decide that regionally based institutional arrangements are inconsistent with their national interest (Low - Medium an emerging issue)
Some countries believe that the creation of a single major entity comprising the eight countries that would lead the implementation of the SAP is unlikely. Instead, the development of a SAP foreseeing an institutional arrangement to coordinate a series of sub-regional activities is considered to be a more achievable (and potentially, institutionally and politically more appropriate) outcome.

Overall Project Progress - by subcomponent:

Component 1: Strategic Action Programme	
Subcomponent 1.1 TDA Preparation:	Completed
Subcomponent 1.2 BOBLME Institutional Arrangements	Re-phased - on track
Subcomponent 1.3 Financial Sustainability	
Subcomponent 1.4 SAP Preparation	On track
Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use	
Subcomponent 2.1: Community-based Integrated Coastal Management (regional)	On track
Subcomponent 2.2: Improved Policy Harmonization (regional)	On track
Subcomponent 2.3: Collaborative Regional Fishery Assessments and Management Plans	On track
Subcomponent 2.4 Collaborative Critical Habitat Management:	On track
Component 3: Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment	
Subcomponent 3.1 Improved Understanding of Large-scale Processes and Dynamics affecting the BOBLME	Delayed
Subcomponent 3.2 Marine Protected Areas in the Conservation of Regional Fish Stocks	On track
Subcomponent 3.3 Improved Regional Collaboration	On track
Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution	
Subcomponent 4.1 Establishment of an Agreed to Ecosystem Indicator Framework	On track after delay
Subcomponent 4.2 Coastal Pollution Loading and Water Quality Criteria	On track after delay
Component 5: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management	
Subcomponent 5.1 Establishment of the RCU	Completed
Subcomponent 5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation System	On track
Subcomponent 5.3 Project Information Dissemination System	On track

Expenditures at the end of 2011 (33 months).

GEF Funding $12,082,100 — Expenses ($4.34m) 36%, Balance ($7.74m) 64%
SIDA $1,329,000 — Expenses ($0.80m) 60%, Balance ($0.53m) 40%
NORAD $1,000,315 — Expenses $0.59m) 59%, Balance ($0.41m) 41%

* by March 2012

Progress with respect to the Project LogFrame targets in Project year 3 (to March 2012)

Of the 21 Project targets for 2011:
- 14 have been completed (green-with tick)
- Work on 3 targets has started and is expected to be completed by Q2 2012 (orange-with tick)
- Completion of 3 targets has been delayed, and will be rephased into 2012 (orange).

Key

P	Completed
	Completed - ongoing
see	For comment, (P) = expected completion before Q2 2012

	PY 1	PY 2	PY 3	PY 4	PY 5
Global Environment Objective: A healthy ecosystem and sustainability of living resources for the benefit of the coastal populations of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME).					
Project Development Objective: To support a series of strategic interventions that would result in and provide critical inputs into the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), whose implementation will lead to enhanced food security and reduced poverty for coastal communities					
A regional level transboundary diagnostic analysis completed.			P		
A SAP developed and endorsed by governments.					•
Stakeholder consultations undertaken over the life of the Project.				•	•
Institutional and financial mechanisms spelled out in the SAP (end of PY5) to ensure Programme sustainability beyond the life of the Project.					•
Outcome 1 (Component 1): The institutional and programmatic basis for implementing the SAP has been developed.					
Updating TDA incorporating post-tsunami environmental studies.		P			
Gap analysis of existing TDA.	P				
National technical consultation processes on updated TDA.		P			
National inter-ministry and stakeholder consultations on updated TDA.			P		
Finalized and approved TDA.			(P)		
Regional institutional and financial analysis completed.			see 1		
Regional institutional and financial options consulted Nationally and options for input to the SAP completed.				•	
Regional institutional and financial options input to the SAP.				•	
First draft of Regional SAP.			P		
Regional SAP team formed.			P		
SAP consultations commence.				•	
SAP finalized.				•	
National Action Plans drafted.			see 2		
National Action Plans consultations.				•	
Full size Phase II BOBLME project proposal.					•
Outcome 2 (Component 2): Regional and sub-Regional collaborative management approaches applied to priority issues, and barriers affecting coastal/marine living natural resources in the BOBLME, and the livelihoods of dependent coastal communities are removed.					
National pilot areas for disseminating best practices identified.		•	P see 3		
Policy analysis and work plan to guide strengthening of national policy formulation.		•	P see 4		
Lessons learned report on uptake of pilot areas completed and available				•	

	PY 1	PY 2	PY 3	PY 4	PY 5
Policy formulation capacity component ongoing.			see 5	•	
Final report on policy formulation capacity building for community based ICM completed.			• see 5		
Regional statistical working group formed and operational		P			
Regional statistical protocols developed and available.			P see 6		
Reports on fisheries data and information produced - ongoing.				•	•
Three fishery management plans developed and submitted to governments for their consideration.			P see 7		
Two bi-national management plans for critical transboundary habitats submitted to respective governments.				•	
Outcome 3 (Component 3): Increased understanding of large-scale processes and ecological dynamics and interdependencies characteristic of the BOBLME.					
Agreed work plan to address key data and information gaps completed.		P			
Regional MPA/fish refugia action plan completed.		P			
Creation of partnerships and collaborative work implemented – ongoing.				•	•
Outcome 4 (Component 4): Institutional arrangements and processes established to support a collaborative approach to ascertain and monitor ecosystem health of the BOBLME					
Regional report on LME wide environmental health indicators available.		P			
National consultations on environmental indicators report.			(P)		
Final draft of report describing LME wide environmental health indicators available.			P see 8		
Regional work group on pollution monitoring created		P			
Action plan for addressing land-based sources of pollution forwarded to governments			P see 9		
Outcome 5 (Component 5): Sufficient institutional capacity established to coordinate regional interventions, monitor project impacts, and disseminate and exchange information					
Initial RCU established and functioning	P				
Final decision on location of RCU by start of PY2		P			
Recommendations for ensuring an effective and efficient RCU ongoing PY1-5.				•	•
Project monitoring programme reviewed and approved by the PSC and under implementation – ongoing.				•	•
Project communications plan reviewed and approved by the PSC and under implementation – ongoing.				•	•
Project results and lessons learned disseminated on ongoing basis				•	•

Notes:

1. This work was deferred until the SAP Process development team meets in Feb 2012. The nature and extent of this work will be discussed by the SAP team and undertaken in 2012.

2. NAPs will be based on the final TDA - that is to be endorsed by the PSC in March 2013. The development of the NAPs is scheduled to start mid-2012 and continue to mid-2013.

3. This target is met through the integration of ICM pursuits from Subcomponent 2.1 (ICM) and other related subcomponents e.g. SC-2.4 (Critical habitats) and SC-3.2 (MPAs). While some national activities are being undertaken (and more may be undertaken in the future), ICM approaches are being implemented at the transboundary pilot sites in the Gulf of Mannar, Myeik Archipelago and Sundarbans. This work is being undertaken as part of SC-2.4 (Critical habitats) - which did not have a budget allocated to it in the Prodoc. (SC-2.4). Similarly some countries are undertaking ICM objectives through their MPA work (SC-3.2). Furthermore, the 21 BOBLME participants in the Asian Institute of Technology, MFF, BOBLME Postgraduate Certificate Course in Integrated Coastal Management undertook supervised project assignments, implementing ICM practices; resulting in ICM

activities being undertaken in each of the BOBLME countries - at several sites. The 2012 participants in the course will undertake similar activities.

4. An eight country policy review was completed in 2011 and the areas which need to be addressed have been identified. A regional workshop will be held in Q2 2012 to validate the review and confirm a programme of capacity building.

5. The report on capacity building will now be available in late 2013 (after the programme of work has been undertaken).

6. The BOBLME Fisheries Statistics Working Group will meet 19-20 March 2012 to discuss the findings of the eight country review on fisheries statistics. This meeting will develop a programme of work to implement regional protocols over the remaining years of the project.

7. The BOBLME Regional Fisheries Management Advisory committee (RFMAC) meeting scheduled for 14-15 March 2012, was postponed due to low participation. It will be rescheduled to late April. The RFMAC will deliver draft fisheries management plans for hilsa and Indian mackerel. Sharks are being addressed in a different way, such that national plans of action will be combined into a draft regional plan of action by the end of 2012.

8. Ecosystem indicators are well described from initiatives such as the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment programme (TWAP). Ecosystem indicators for each of the BOBLME themes/issues (as identified by the TDA) will now be confirmed in three regional technical workshops: fisheries, habitats and pollution, undertaken as part of the SAP development process.

9. BOBLME project is working with UNEP-GPA to meet the Projects pollution objectives and targets. A collaborative programme of work with UNEP started in 2010, and moving into a second phase, will contribute to the GPA national plans of action in each country. The regional dimension of the action plans will be built into the SAP.

Appendix VIII   2012 Annual work plan and budget

BOBLME Project: Proposed 2011 Annual Regional Work Plan
Note: For commercial reasons the individual budgets are not shown on this document. The total proposed budget is around 4 million US dollars.

Component 1. Strategic Action Programme (SAP)	
Preparation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) whose implementation will ensure the long-term institutional and financial sustainability of the BOBLME Programme	
1.1. TDA Preparation - Build on the BOBLME's existing draft Framework Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (FTDA) and complete the Programme's TDA	
PY4: January – December 2012	
TDA formatted and edited for publication. Communication materials on fisheries, habitats and pollution (relating to the TDA) prepared and disseminated.	
Milestones and outputs	**Indicative costs**
1. TDA edited and finalized **Output 1: Published TDA** 2. TDA promotion plan developed for project countries **Output 2: Promotion materials TDA produced and disseminated** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the Logframe*	
1.2. BOBLME Institutional Arrangements - Identify and establish agreed to permanent institutional arrangements ensuring the long-term management of the BOBLME	
PY4: January – December 2012	
An analysis of institutional and financing options is undertaken, and the results reviewed at a SAP team workshop. Consultations on institutional and financial options will be held in conjunction with those being undertaken for the SAP, as the SAP is expected to influence the nature and extent of those options.	
Milestones and outputs	**Indicative costs**
1. Contract to undertake and present an analysis of institutional and financing options **Output 1: Report - analysis institutional and financing options** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the Logframe*	
1.3. Sustainable Financing Strategy and Recommendations - Identify a possible financing mechanism(s) to fund BOBLME management structure and assist BOBLME countries to mobilize financial resources/mechanisms to implement SAP	
PY4: January – December 2012	

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
See 1.2 above.	

1.4. SAP Formulation and Adoption - Process for formulation of an agreed Strategic Action Programme (SAP)	
PY4: January – December 2012	

Regional technical working groups on fisheries, habitats, pollution governance and socio-economics are convened to identify targets, indicators and actions for the BOBLME themes and EcoQO's. National consultations are undertaken in each country to assess the technical feasibility, cost-benefit and political-social acceptability of the National Action Plan (NAP) that will contribute to the SAP (these are expected to be completed by Q2 2013). A capacity needs assessment for the proposed SAP actions is undertaken. The SAP document continues to be developed.

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Five Regional Technical Working Groups organised and held **Output 1: Reports from regional technical working groups on fisheries, habitats, pollution governance and socio-economics** 2. Eight National consultations are held **Output 2: Eight draft NAP's produced** 3. Capacity needs assessment undertaken **Output 3: Report on capacity development needs for inclusion in the SAP** 4. SAP document development **Output 4: Updated draft SAP** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the Logframe*	

Component 2. Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use
Development and implementation of regional and sub-regional collaborative approaches to common/shared issues affecting the health and status of BOBLME

2.1. Community-based Integrated Coastal Management (stocktaking) - Stock-taking/lesson learning of information and experience for promotion of community-based, fisheries and habitat management; co-management; and alternative livelihoods among fisher communities. in the region
PY4: January – December 2012

The objectives for this subcomponent are met through the integration of ICM pursuits from Subcomponent 2.1 (ICM), SC-2.4 (Critical habitats) and SC-3.2 (MPAs). Some national activities will be undertaken in selected sites. Based on the outputs of the two sub-regional and one regional ICM workshops already held, develop and disseminate outreach materials on best practices - this includes ICM policy recommendations (from Subcomponent 2.2). Participation in the AIT -MFF-BOBLME Postgraduate ICM training course (tentatively June 2012) - including supporting the addition of special curriculum topics (e.g. EAF and marine spatial planning) in the course, to the extent possible .

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Support to national activities in selected sites **Output 1: Reports on national ICM activities** 2. Support to participants of the AIT Training course (2 per country) 3. Support to additional special curriculum topics **Output 2: Report on training undertaken, including case study reports from each participant** 4. National ICM activities in pilot sites supported, including seminars and trainings in each country on topics recommended by Regional WS conducted – Sep ongoing **Output 3: Progress reports on national outreach and training activities** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	
2.2. Improved Policy Harmonization (mainstreaming) - Better understanding of the policy processes and enhanced capacity in the formulation of policy, regional exchange of information on policy and legislation (inputs to SAP)	
PY4: January – December 2012	
The existing Policy Review and Analysis Report is validated at a Regional Policy Workshop. The Workshop prepares recommendations and a work plan for strengthening ICM/EAF policy making capacity in each country over 2012-13 (this might include, at appropriate levels of policy focus, assistance with modernising and/or harmonising policy instruments; and capacity building). At the same time, this workshop acts as the Regional Governance Working Group required under SC-1.4 identifying governance related contents for the SAP (governance indicators, and SAP actions) and considers the governance implications of the technical actions proposed for fisheries, habitats and pollution (by the respective Regional Technical Working Groups). Some policy related topics pertaining to Project work areas of interest (e.g. sharks, hilsa or Indian mackerel fisheries resources, MPAs, EIA, waste management) are addressed under the relevant subcomponents.	
Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Regional Policy workshop (4 days) held **Output 1: Report - Regional Policy WS containing work plan, indicators and policy recommendations (in particular for subcomponent 1.4 and 2.1)** 2. Activities as recommended by the workshop (e.g. capacity building and policy development support) **Output 2: Progress Reports** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

2.3. Collaborative Regional Fishery Assessments and Management Plans - Development of regional and sub-regional management plans and harmonization of data collection and standardization to promote collaborative fisheries management approaches

Fisheries Statistics

Fisheries Statistics Working Group meets to validate the eight country fisheries statistics review, ascertain capacity development needs and recommend actions to be undertaken over the 2012-13 period. Catch reconstructions for Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand undertaken - the project has previously produced catch reconstructions for the other Project countries. Training or other activities to improve fisheries statistics undertaken.

Hilsa and Indian mackerel

Stock assessments are updated and synthesized into regional (sub-regional) assessments. Short courses and workshops on stock assessment implemented. Targeted research for the improvement of data and knowledge on key resources designed and implemented (e.g. life history parameters, stock structure, genetics, morphometrics, interaction of different fisheries sub-sectors, critical habitats for life-history stages) through country institutions. Working Group meetings for hilsa (3) and Indian mackerel (2). Ecosystem-Fisheries model produced.

Sharks

Targeted research (studies) are undertaken to address knowledge gaps (taxonomy, life cycle and reproduction information, information from small-scale fisheries, monitoring of effectiveness of conservation measures (MDV, MYA), and alternative livelihoods). Work is undertaken in support of strengthening NPOA's and a regional synthesis to produce a framework for a Regional Plan of Action. Partnerships developed with BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC for the development of the RPOA.

Fisheries management

Constitute Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) and hold meeting to consider 'pre-assessments', information on catch reconstruction, and performance indicators and draft a management advisory and a work plan for follow-up activities. This meeting will include capacity building on how to produce and apply EAF advice. Design EAF Training Course and conduct test-run (Training of Trainers). EAF training course implemented (a regional event). Working with BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC, constitute regional management forums for hilsa and Indian mackerel, respectively.

PY4: January – December 2012	
Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
Fisheries statistics 1. Fisheries Statistics Working Group held **Output 1: Report on the Fisheries Statistics WG, including recommendations on data collection and harmonized fisheries statistics** 2. Activities supporting improved data collection and harmonized fisheries statistics **Output 2: Progress Reports** 3. Fisheries catch reconstructions for Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand **Output 3: Report on catch reconstructions** *Hilsa and Indian mackerel*	

4. Hilsa Assessment Working Group meetings - 3x
Output 4: Meeting Reports – including sub-regional assessment of hilsa and recommendations for further work
5. National research activities on hilsa undertaken
Output 5: Reports on hilsa research

6. Indian mackerel Working Group meetings - 2x
Output 6: Meeting Reports

7. National research activities on Indian mackerel undertaken
Output 7: Reports on Indian mackerel research

8. Stock Assessment Training
Output 8: Reports on Stock Assessment Training

9. Stock Assessment Workshop
Output 9: Reports on workshop including assessments on the species examined

10. Ecosystem-Fisheries model developed
11. Ecosystem modelling workshop held
Output 10: Reports on the ecosystem modelling results and findings

Sharks
12. Countries undertake national activities on sharks in support of their NPOAs
Output 11: Progress Reports on work undertaken - ongoing

13. Synthesis of NPOA's undertaken as the basis of a RPOA
Output 12: Framework for a RPOA-sharks for the Bay of Bengal

Fisheries management
14. Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) established
Output 13: Report on RFMAC Meeting, including a management advisories for hilsa and Indian mackerel

15. Regional management forum for hilsa convened - in collaboration with BOBP-IGO
Output 14: Report from RMF-hilsa meeting

16. EAF training course designed and tested

Output 15: EAF training course manual and report on training conducted 17. EAF training course conducted **Output 16: Report on training conducted** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	
2.4. Collaborative Critical Habitat Management - Promote multi-national approaches to manage and address issues affecting transboundary coastal/marine eco-systems within the broader BOBLME region	
PY4: January – December 2012	

Mergui/Myeik Archipelago - with CORIN-Asia:

Constitute the Myeik Archipelago Planning and Management Committee. Undertake work plan activities as recommended; including seagrass and coral assessment training and implement habitat monitoring. Constitute Advisory Group and hold meeting to review and validate information and formulate management advice. Constitute Executive Committee and hold meeting to discuss advice and draft bi-national management plan. Support the implementation of management plan as required.

Gulf of Mannar - with BOBP-IGO and IUCN-Sri Lanka:

Hold the second bi-national workshop of stakeholders in the Gulf of Mannar. Promote and support measures leading to improved conservation of resources and joint management (including formation of joint management mechanism or institutions). Continue to support IUCN Sri Lanka initiatives on environmental awareness raising and capacity development.

Other areas: e.g. Sundarbans, small Islands, Malacca Straits:

NCs/NTAs make a joint proposal for possible work. Support / implement work as required, e.g. on policy harmonization, promotion or dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices, assist in transboundary or bilateral management approaches.

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
Mergui/Myeik Archipelago: 1. Undertake training and monitoring activities 2. Support the development and function of the collaborative management structure **Output 1: Progress Reports on Myeik Archipelago programme of work** *Gulf of Mannar:* 3. Bi-national Stakeholder consultation held **Output 2: Report with recommendations, work plan and a proposal for a framework for ongoing bi-lateral processes** 4. Contract for ongoing work arising from the above meeting **Output 3: Reports on work undertaken**	

5. Ongoing programme of capacity building - with IUCN
Output 3: Reports on work undertaken

Other areas eg. Sundarbans, small islands, Malacca Straits:
6. Support activities to promote transboundary management
Output 4: Report – Progress reports on-going work – Dec

Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe

Component 3. Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment
Share information with other regional and global environmental monitoring programmes for improved understanding of the BOBLME ecological functions and processes

3.1. Improved Understanding of Large-scale Processes and Dynamics affecting the BOBLME - Improved understanding of large-scale oceanographic and ecological processes controlling BOBLME living resources

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2" align="center">PY4: January – December 2012</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><i>BOBLME supports the SIBER (Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research) Programme of work including generation of data, information and knowledge by providing biogeochemical sensors for the RAMA mooring array in BOB in cooperation with IOGOOS, NOAA and NIO, India. Support to capacity development to enable BOBLME countries to participate actively in SIBER, IOGOOS, and associated projects (monsoon forecasting, primary productivity, hypoxic zones, climate change etc.). Support to the generation of (physical) environment and ecosystem information for stock assessment and fisheries management advice through implementation of studies on effects of climate change on fisheries resources (especially hilsa and Indian mackerel), monsoon onset, and Indian Ocean Dipole, building on information from partners (e.g. NOAA, WorldFish, PACFA). Participate in training events conducted by SEAGOOS, IOGOOS, SACEP, SEAFDEC and partners to build capacity in oceanography, including opportunities for instrumentation and seaboard training, if possible.</i></td></tr>
<tr><td align="center">Milestones and outputs</td><td align="center">Indicative costs</td></tr>
<tr><td>
1. Contract to support SIBER through provision of equipment/sensors
2. Capacity building needs identified and training (organised by partners) made use of
3. Equipment needs identified, instruments procured, installed and in use
4. Biogeochemical and oceanographic information generated and made available for EAF
Output 1: Reports – progress reports on contribution to SIBER (and associated projects)

<i>Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe</i>
</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

3.2. Marine Protected Areas in the Conservation of Regional Fish Stocks - Consensus on approaches to the establishment and management of marine protected areas and fish refugia for sustainable fish management and biodiversity conservation objectives

PY4: January – December 2012
BOBLME participates in (FAO's) MPA Workshop to launch FAO MPA Guidelines. BOBLME MPA Working Group meets. NCs/NTAs nominate MPA pilot (learning, best practices) sites, 1-2 per country, for BOBLME support and prepare proposals for project interventions (e.g. management effectiveness monitoring, awareness raising, and compliance generation). Capacity development measures on MPA management are implemented - including in cooperation with Indonesia (NOAA) training experts.

BOBLME contributes to existing databases on MPAs (UNEP-WCMC, SACEP, WorldFish Reefbase, ICRI). A Working Group of practicing MPA managers is constituted.

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. MPA Workshop to launch FAO MPA Guidelines held **Output 1: Report on MPA guidelines launch** 2. BOBLME MPA Working Group meeting held **Output 2: Report on MPA working group meeting** 3. Network (practitioners level) established and coordinated **Output 3: Report on network activities** 4. Proposals prepared by NCs/NTAs for BOBLME support MPA interventions 5. MPA support activities implemented/best practices disseminated **Output 4: Progress Report – support and MPA management activities in pilot sites** 6. MPA Learning Network (practitioners level) established and coordinated **Output 5: Report on network activities** 7. Collaboration implemented with NOAA-CTSP on MPA Management Training 8. MPA 101 Training Course adapted for BOBLME countries 9. MPA training conducted (training of trainers) **Output 6: Reports – MPA Training results** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

3.3. Improved Regional Collaboration - *Establishment of effective partnerships with other regional and global environmental assessment and monitoring programmes*

The RCU has an ongoing commitment of engagement with a wide range of regional bodies and organisations that are working in the BOB area. New partners will be engaged as appropriate. A second coordination meeting with key partners will be held in order to improve coordination of activities and enhance impacts. BOBLME will continue to engage with other LME and International Waters Projects through IW Learn activities.

PY4: January – December 2012	
Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. BOBLME Partners Coordination Meeting organized and held **Output 2: Report on meeting held; improved coordination of implementation** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

Component 4. Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution

Development of agreed set of environmental indicators to measure the health of the BOBLME regional collaborative approach to identifying/ remediating important coastal water pollution issues

4.1. Establishment of an Effective Ecosystem Indicator Framework - *Agreed ecosystem indicator framework designed to measure progress toward sustaining BOBLME*

PY4: January – December 2012

This work will be completed under Subcomponent 1.4. Regional technical working groups on fisheries, habitats, pollution governance and socio-economics are convened to identify targets indicators, and actions for the BOBLME themes and EcoQO's. National Ecosystem Indicators meetings supported on a case by case basis.

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. National Ecosystem Indicators meetings **Output 1: Reports on meetings held**	

4.2. Coastal Pollution Loading and Water Quality Criteria - *Development of a regional collaborative approach to identifying important coastal water pollution issues and to develop remedial strategies*

PY4: January – December 2012

Collaboration with UNEP-GPA is continued with a focus on strengthening National Plans of Actions or their implementation; and pilot activities of GPNM implemented in Chilika Lake. GPA focal persons act as the technical working group on pollution. this work is linked to SC-1.4 - the Regional Technical WG- pollution.

Milestones and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Activities to complete, strengthen and/or implement National plans of Action (NPAs) undertaken 2. Pilot GPNM activities in India implemented **Output 1: Progress report on activities in relation to the completion and implementation of NPAs and GPNM Pilot activities** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

Component 5. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management Establishment of cost effective management, of project operations, M&E, and information dissemination capacity	
5.1. Establishment of the RCU - Establish a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for coordination of BOBLME supported activities leading to the finalization of the Strategic Action Programme	
PY4: January – December 2012	
Effective operation of Regional Coordination Unit maintained.	
Milestones and outputs	**Indicative costs**
1. Effective and efficient RCU operations supported	
5.2. Monitoring and Evaluation System - Establish a cost-effective monitoring and evaluation system in conformity with existing FAO and World Bank (GEF) policies and procedures	
PY3: January – December 2011	
Monitoring reports are completed in a timely manner. A Project Steering Committee Meeting is prepared and held in Qtr 1, 2012. M&E capacity development needs are identified and addressed. Project cycle management training is provided as required.	
Milestones and outputs	**Indicative costs**
1. The Quarterly Progress Reports submitted to TCID 2. The (six monthly) Project Progress Reports submitted to TCID 3. 3rd PSC meeting held 4. National Task Force in each country meets to endorse the national activities 5. The Project Implementation Review Report (July 2011-Jun 2012) submitted to TCID 6. M&E training plan developed and implemented as required 7. Annual Work Plan Development meeting held (Q1) 8. Annual Project Progress Review meeting held (Q4) **Output 1: Quarterly Progress Report (Oct-Dec 2011)** **Output 2: Quarterly Progress Report (Jan-Mar 2012)** **Output 3: Quarterly Progress Report (Apr-Jun 2012)** **Output 4: Quarterly Progress Report(Jul-Sep 2012)** **Output 5: Semi-annual PPR (Jul-Dec 2011)** **Output 6: Semi-annual PPR (Jan-Jun 2012)** **Output 7: Project Implementation Review Report (Jul 2011-Jun 2012)** **Output 8: 8 Annual National WPs**	

Output 9: <u>A 2012 Annual Regional Work Plan</u> Output 10: Final PSC-III Report Output 11: Report on M&E training implemented Output 12: Report on Annual WP Development meeting - including draft work plan Output 13: Report on Project progress review *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

5.3. Project Information Dissemination System - Disseminate information to regional and global stakeholders relevant to the BOBLME and the BOBLME Programme

Ongoing maintenance and (limited) development of the BOBLME website. BOBLME newsletter published. TDA Document published and disseminated. National communication hubs supported. Design, production and distribution of BOBLME promotion materials. Capacity development provided on "communicating science" (training of trainers) – 2 workshops, plus other national activities on a case by case basis. Activities implemented based on the BOBLME Project outputs.

PY3: January – December 2011	
Milestones and outputs	**Indicative costs**
1. Newsletter compilation and preparation 2. Website management 3. Press releases prepared as opportunities arise 4. Outreach material produced as needed 5. Communication Course 1 (Writing) held 6. Communication Course 2 (Presentation) held 7. Communications hubs supported - Jun **Output 1: Newsletter published – April** **Output 2: Newsletter published – Aug** **Output 3: Newsletter published – Dec** **Output 4: Website containing up-to-date information and documents – Ongoing** **Output 5: Inventory of press releases** **Output 6: Report on training - Communication Course 1 (Writing)** **Output 7: Report on training - Communication Course 2 (Presentation)** **Output 8: Reports on national communication activities** **Output 9: Reports on communications hubs activities** **Output 10: Outreach materials produced - ongoing** *Underlined items are Project targets in accordance with the draft Logframe*	

2012 Meetings / training calendar (approximate timeline)

Component 1: Strategic Action Programme	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Subcomponent 1.1 TDA Preparation: Build on the BOBLME's existing draft TDA and complete the Programme's TDA												
Transboundary impacts of aquaculture (with NACA)	X											
TDA synthesis	X											
TDA confirmation		X										
Subcomponent 1.2 BOBLME Institutional Arrangements **Subcomponent 1.3 Financial Sustainability**												
none												
Subcomponent 1.4 SAP Preparation												
SAP Process Development meetings		X										
5 Regional Technical working group meetings				X	X							
8 National Action Plan meetings						→	X	X	X	X	X	X
Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use												
Subcomponent 2.1: Community-based Integrated Coastal Management (regional)												
AIT -MFF-BOBLME Postgraduate ICM training course						X	X					
Subcomponent 2.2: Improved Policy Harmonization (regional)												
Workshop see - 1.4												
Subcomponent 2.3: Collaborative Regional Fishery Assessments and Management Plans												
Fisheries Statistics working group meeting (with SEAFDEC)			X									
Hilsa Assessment WG (for BDG, MYA and IND)				X				X			X	
Indian mackerel					X							X
Stock Assessment Training					→	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Stock Assessment Workshops (2)									X		X	
RFMAC (with BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC, IUCN)					X							
Regional Management Forum - hilsa (1 meeting tba) -(with BOBP-IGO)												
EAF training course (1 training event tba)												
Subcomponent 2.4 Collaborative Critical Habitat Management												
Myeik / Mergui Archipelago meetings tba (THA & MYA) (with CORIN-Asia)			X									
Gulf of Mannar II meeting (IND & SRL) (with BOBP-IGO)				X								
Component 3: Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment												
Subcomponent 3.1 Improved Understanding of Large-scale Processes and Dynamics affecting the BOBLME												
none												
Subcomponent 3.2 Marine Protected Areas in the Conservation of Regional Fish Stocks												
MPA workshop - MPA Guidelines (with FAO, SEAFDEC)	X											
MPA WG Meeting	X											
MPA Training Course (tba)												
Subcomponent 3.3 Improved Regional Collaboration												
Partnership meeting											X	
Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution												
Subcomponent 4.1 Establishment of an Agreed to Ecosystem Indicator Framework												
See 1.4												
Nation meetings tba												
Subcomponent 4.2 Coastal Pollution Loading and Water Quality Criteria												
See 1.4												
Component 5: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management												
Subcomponent 5.1 Establishment of the RCU												
Subcomponent 5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation System												
PSC meeting			X									
Annual Work Plan Development meeting			X									
Annual Project Progress Review meeting held (Q4)												X
Subcomponent 5.3 Project Information Dissemination System												
Communication Training Course 1 (Writing)							X					
Communication Training Course 2 (Presentation)								X				