

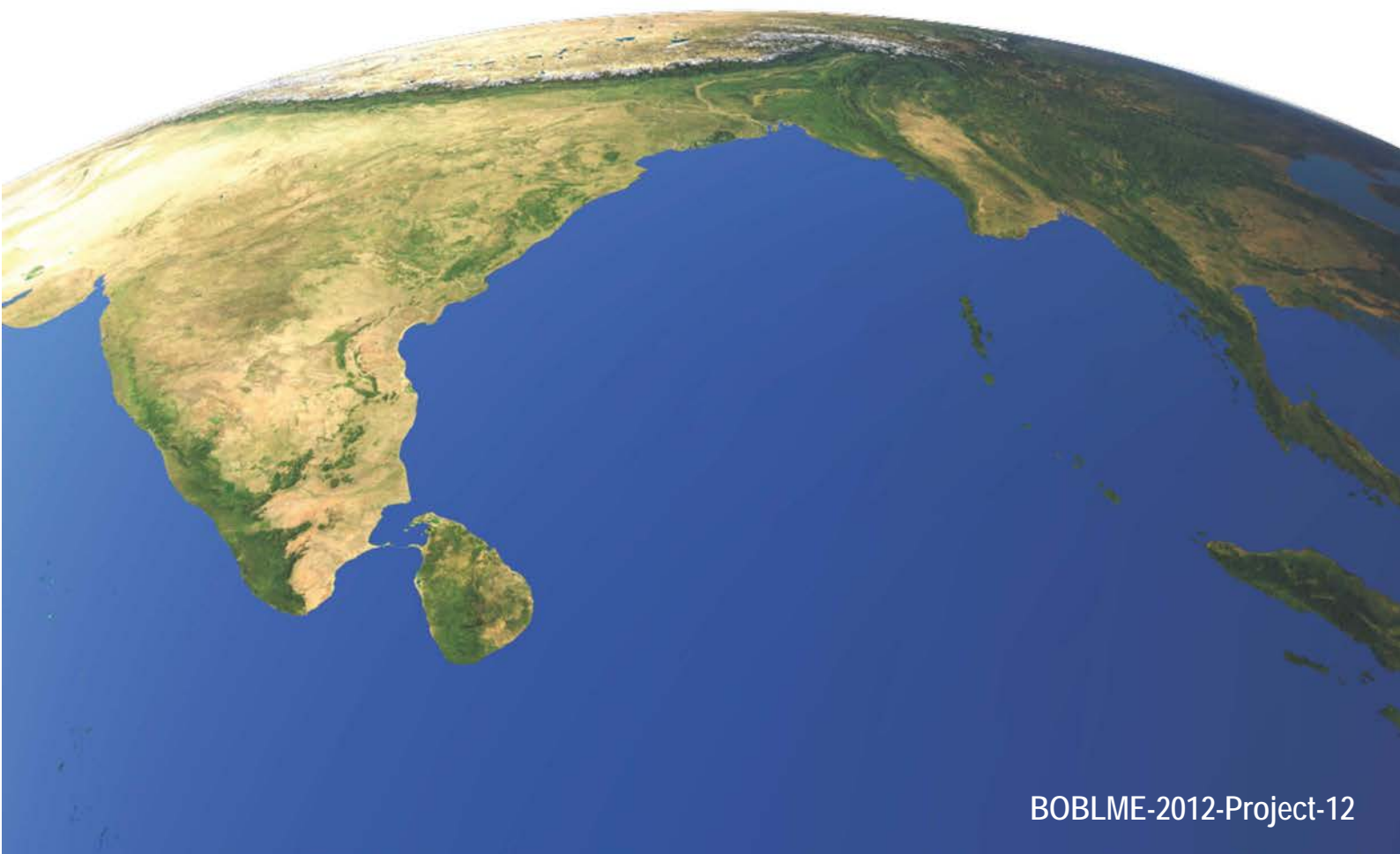


*Eight countries, connected by one ecosystem,
working together to secure its future.*



Report of the
BOBLME 2012 partners meeting
28 February 2012 • Bangkok Thailand

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BOBLME Project convened a meeting with project and portfolio managers working in fisheries, ecosystems, coastal management, pollution and habitat protection in order to improve understanding of the resource management activities in the Bay of Bengal and lay the foundations for collaborative actions. In particular, the meeting was an introductory step to prepare for SAP implementation which is expected to be underpinned by a combination of sub-regional or bilateral actions in partnership with existing regional organizations.

A short introduction of the BOBLME Project was followed by overviews provided by the National Coordinators on project activities in the respective countries with emphasis on existing partnerships, also on initiatives outside of the BOBLME framework. Partner organizations reporting their respective activities in relation to BOBLME were UNEP-CMS-IOSEA; SEAFDEC; UNEP (covering COBSEA, GPA and Coral Reef Unit), NACA, IUCN (including MFF), BOBP-IGO; UNESCO-IOC-WESTPAC (covering SEAGOOS and IOGOOS), Wetlands Alliance and the WorldFish Centre.

An analysis of major donors and their activities in the region was also discussed.

The meeting partners agreed that this meeting was a first useful exchange of information and agreed to continue and strengthen the informal and formal exchange of information in order to improve the coordination of activities. They also expressed their willingness in principle to play a role in the remaining BOBLME activities, and, in the future implementation of the Strategic Action Programme.

All parties agreed that a second partners meeting could be held in late 2012 or early 2013.

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1. Background

1. The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project is a five year, \$31 million collaboration involving Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These eight countries are working together to develop a plan of action to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries. The BOBLME Project is principally supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA (NOAA), and the World Bank. FAO is the executing agency.
2. Over the past three years, the BOBLME Project has initiated an extensive programme of studies, reviews, workshops and trainings that have established baseline information in the Project's theme areas of fisheries, pollution and critical habitats. During the next two years, the Project will continue to assist countries implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management for the transboundary or shared fish stocks of hilsa shad and Indian mackerel, and strengthen natural resource management and policy development capabilities in general.
3. The BOBLME Project has established partnerships with many of the regional bodies and organisations that are working in the Bay of Bengal. This has been a most constructive aspect of the Project, and staff are continually learning of organisations that are funding or implementing activities that are complementary with the BOBLME Project (and/or those of its partners). However, there is an increasing awareness that there are work overlaps and, worse, duplication of work.
4. The BOBLME Project convened a meeting with partners in order to improve understanding of the resource management activities in the Bay of Bengal - past, present and future - and foster future collaborations, assist partners make their funding go further and avoid duplication of work. The meeting was also an introductory step to prepare for SAP implementation which is expected to be underpinned by a combination of sub-regional or bilateral actions in partnership with existing regional organizations.
5. The meeting was chaired by the Project's Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien. The list of participants is provided in Appendix I, the Agenda for the meeting (Doc-01) is in Appendix II, and the list of documents and presentations is given in Appendix III.

2. Overview of partner activities

6. A short introduction of the BOBLME Project was followed by overviews provided by the National Coordinators on project activities in the respective countries with emphasis on existing partnerships, also on initiatives outside of the BOBLME framework (ppt-01 to 08).
7. Partner organizations also reported on their respective activities in relation to BOBLME. These included: UNEP-CMS-IOSEA on marine turtles, SEAFDEC on fisheries and with regard to the SIDA-funded project, UNEP, covering COBSEA, GPA and Coral Reef Unit, NACA on aquaculture sustainability issues, IUCN including MFF initiatives, BOBP-IGO (fisheries), UNESCO-IOC-WESTPAC (covering SEAGOOS and IOGOOS), Wetlands Alliance (coordination of national and regional bodies) and the WorldFish Centre (ppt-09 to 17).

3. Donor activities

8. An overview of major donor/partners and their activities in the region was provided by the RCU and discussed in plenary. The donors/partners examined were ADB, GEF, World Bank, IUCN, SAARC, SACEP, IUCN and WorldFish. In general:

- As expected there are more projects for less developed countries e.g. Bangladesh with the exception being Myanmar for geopolitical reasons
- In terms of the LME modules, with these partners most emphasis is on pollution and environmental health
- Not many stand out as being governance projects, although this is a high priority human capacity issue in the region
- There are certainly some partners/projects that will be important in SAP development

9. Asian Development Bank - ADB

- Large investments in fisheries in the past through loans and grants
- As of the end of 1996, the Bank had approved loans totaling \$1,125.78 million for 52 fisheries projects in 18 DMCs, and 105 technical assistance (TA) grants amounting to about \$33.19 million.
- Changed policy in 2006 to support community projects rather than sector projects
- Large number of development projects that include related topics such as governance, infrastructure and education
- Several tsunami recovery projects
- Large CTI commitment (several projects) – Malaysia and Indonesia but not BOBLME
- Funding large coastal zone project on West Coast of India (not BOBLME)

10. The Global Environment Facility - GEF

- LME projects including BOBLME
- Most grants in area of pollution and ecosystem health (some completed)
 - UNDP: IND-BD Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into Production Sectors in the Godavari River Estuary in Andhra Pradesh State. Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF); State Government of Andhra Pradesh; Government of India/Wildlife Wing; Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Dept; 23.72 million
- SAP implementation for Yellow Sea LME and SCS LME stalled

11. World Bank

- Large portfolio of projects
 - Difficult to sort out relevant projects (many related to climate change, livelihoods etc)
- Many in the pollution and environmental health module
- Two large projects (one pipeline, one active)
 - Bangladesh Pipeline: Integrated Fisheries Livelihoods US\$ 125.00 million
 - India: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Orissa and West Bengal) US\$ 221.96 million
- Several projects implemented through GEF
 - Results in duplication of database

12. International Union for the Conservation of Nature - IUCN

- Two main relevant programs
 - IUCN Asia's Regional Coastal and Marine Programme (RCMP)

- IUCN Mangroves for the Future (MFF)
 - IUCN Regional Protected Areas Programme
 - Many activities but no large projects???
 - Difficult to identify projects
13. South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC / South Asian Cooperative for Environment Programme SACEP
- SACEP is the environmental programme under SAARC
 - Several Programs/centres under SACEP
 - South Asia Sea Program (SASAP) (UNEP Regional Sea)
 - South Asia Environment and Natural Resource Information Centre (SENRIC)
 - South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)(ICRAN)
 - Several projects funded by different donors e.g. EU
14. WorldFish
- Global portfolio of projects
 - In BOBLME region
 - Bangladesh: Conserving Natural Resources and Improving Livelihoods through Collaborative Management IPAC (Integrated Protected Area Co-Management) USAID US\$???
 - Bangladesh: Increasing resilience through integrated research IPAC (Integrated Protected Area Co-Management) USAID US\$???

4. Conclusions

15. The meeting partners agreed that this meeting was a first useful exchange of information and agreed to continue and strengthen the informal and formal exchange of information in order to improve the coordination of activities. They also expressed their willingness in principle to play a role in the remaining BOBLME activities, and, in the future implementation of the Strategic Action Programme.
16. All parties agreed that a second partners meeting could be held in late 2012 or early 2013.

Appendix I List of participants



BANGLADESH

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Appendix II Agenda

**Partners' meeting for resource project and portfolio managers
working in the Bay of Bengal
28 February 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand
Amari Watergate Hotel, starting 9 am**

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project is a five year, \$31 million collaboration involving Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These eight countries are working together to develop a plan of action to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries. The BOBLME Project is principally supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA (NOAA), and the World Bank. FAO is the executing agency. More information can be found on www.boblme.org.

Over the past three years, the BOBLME Project has initiated an extensive programme of studies, reviews, workshops and trainings that have established baseline information in the Project's theme areas of fisheries, pollution and critical habitats. During the next two years, the Project will continue to assist countries implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management for the transboundary or shared fish stocks of hilsa shad and Indian mackerel, and strengthen natural resource management and policy development capabilities in general.

The major output for this , the first phase of the BOBLME Project is a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) which will be the blue print to address and mitigate priority environmental issues affecting the health of the Bay of Bengal and its resources.

The implementation of the SAP will require collaboration of the countries with multiple partners. The BOBLME Project is convening this meeting with project and portfolio managers working in fisheries, ecosystems, coastal management, pollution and habitat protection in order to improve understanding of the resource management activities in the Bay of Bengal - and lay the foundations for collaborative actions.

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome and workshop purpose
2. Introduction to the BOBLME Project
3. BOBLME National Coordinators provide an overview of major national initiatives that are compatible with BOBLME objectives (5-10 minutes each)
4. Partner organizations attending the meeting provide an overview of their activities in the Bay of Bengal region (5-10 minutes each)
5. Findings of a (web based) review of the activities of organisations operating in the Bay of Bengal in order to better understand the linkages, complementarities and overlaps
6. General discussions on opportunities for collaboration

Appendix III List of documents

BOBLME-2012-Partners_Doc-01	Agenda
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-01	Bangladesh Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-02	India Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-03	Indonesia Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-04	Malaysia Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-05	Maldives Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-06	Myanmar Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-07	Sri Lanka Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-08	Thailand Report
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-09	IUCN & MFF overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-10	BOBP-IGO overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-11	NACA overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-12	SEAFDEC overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-13	UNEP- COBSEA & Coral Reef Unit overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-14	UNEP- GPA overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-15	IOC-UNESCO overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-16	WorldFish overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-17	Wetlands Alliance overview
BOBLME-2012-Partners_ppt-18	IOSEA overview

Appendix IV Donor analysis

Asian Development Bank - ADB	
Date formed	1996
BOBLME Countries	All
Location	Manila
Type	Funding/loan agency
Web site	http://beta.adb.org/
Main topic	Communities
Objective	ADB aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty
Committees/networks	
Funding Arrangement	Loans and project grants
BOBLME related activities/projects	
Productivity	
Fish and fisheries	
	<p>Regional (closed) TA-5974 REG: Coastal and Marine Resources Management and Poverty Reduction in South Asia US\$600,000</p> <p>Malaysia: (closed) Loan-1307 MAL: Fisheries Infrastructure Improvement</p> <p>Sri Lanka (closed) Grant-3477 SRI: Coastal Zone and Environment Protection Netherlands Fund (with LOA) USD 12.76 million</p> <p>India: (closed) Integrated Coastal Management and Related Investment Development (formerly Potential ICZM and Coastal Protection Investments in Selected Coastal Studies) US\$250,000</p> <p>Indonesia (closed) Integrated Coastal Fisheries Resource Management US\$790,000</p> <p>Indonesia: Grant-9072 INO: Sustainable Livelihood Development for Coastal Communities in the Special Province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam [Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction]</p>
Governance	
Socio-economics	
	<p>Sri Lanka: (closed) North East Province Coastal Community Development US\$20.00 million</p>
Pollution and Ecosystem Health	
	<p>Indonesia (completed) Marine and Coastal Resources Management Project 46 Districts in 16 Provinces of North/West Sumatra, Riau, Bengkulu, Jambi, East/West Nusa Tenggara, West/Central/East Kalimantan, Gorontalo, North/Central/Southeast/South Sulawesi, NADUS\$50.00 million</p> <p>Thailand: (closed) TA-4595 THA: Supporting Post-Tsunami Activities and Coastal Zone Management</p>
Other partners	
Other	UNDP

The Global Environment Facility - GEF	
Date formed	1991
BOBLME Countries	All
Location	Washington, DC
Type	Funding agency
Web site	http://www.thegef.org/gef/
Main topic	Environmental mitigation
Objective	
Committees/networks	
Funding Arrangement	Grants
BOBLME related activities/projects	
Productivity	
Fish and fisheries	
	Indonesia: World Bank: Fisheries Revitalization Project (FRP) 95,000,000 US\$
Governance	
Socio-economics	
	Thailand: UNDP: Strengthening the Capacity of Vulnerable Coastal Communities to Address the Risk of Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events
Pollution and Ecosystem Health	
	<p>Indonesia: UNEP Demonstration of Community-based Mgt of Seagrass Habitats in Trikora Beach East Bintan, Riau Archipelago Province, Indonesia</p> <p>Thailand Enabling Activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): National Implementation Plan for THAILAND</p> <p>Bangladesh: Preparation of the POPs National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention UNDP</p> <p>India (completed) Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's Coastal Biodiversity UNDP 26.75 million US\$</p> <p>India: UNDP: IND-BD Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into Production Sectors in the Godavari River Estuary in Andhra Pradesh State. Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF); State Government of Andhra Pradesh; Government of India/Wildlife Wing; Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Dept; 23.72 million</p> <p>Bangladesh (completed): Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management at Cox's Bazar and Hakakuki Haor UNDP 13.6 million US\$</p> <p>Bangladesh Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation UNDP 3,3million UNDP 28.40 million US\$</p> <p>Sri Lanka; (completed) Conservation of Biodiversity through Integrated Collaborative Management in Rekawa, Ussangoda, and Kalametiya Coastal Ecosystems UNDP 1.88 million US\$</p> <p>Sri Lanka: Participatory Coastal Zone Restoration and Sustainable Management in the Eastern Province of Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka IFAD 15.49 million US\$</p> <p>Thailand: Communities to Address the Risk of Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events UNDP 3.1 million US\$</p>
Other partners	UNDP, IFAD,
Other	

World Bank	
<i>Date formed</i>	1944
<i>BOBLME Countries</i>	All
<i>Location</i>	Washington, DC
<i>Type</i>	Funding agency
<i>Web site</i>	http://www.worldbank.org/
<i>Main topic</i>	Poverty reduction
<i>Objective</i>	Help reduce poverty
<i>Committees/networks</i>	5 Banks
<i>Funding Arrangement</i>	Grants and loans
BOBLME related activities/projects	
<i>Productivity</i>	
Fish and fisheries	
	Bangladesh Pipeline: Integrated Fisheries Livelihoods US\$ 125.00 million Sri Lanka - Participatory Coastal Zone Restoration and Sustainable Management in the Eastern Province of Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka IFAD 14,839,365 US\$
Governance	
Socio-economics	
	India Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project US\$ 90.50 million
Pollution and Ecosystem Health	
	Indonesia: (completed) GEF Trust Fund Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project Phase II (COREMAP II) IBRD 42,500,000 US\$ Maldives: Maldives Environmental Management Project US\$ 13.88 million Malaysia - Conserving Marine Biodiversity through Enhanced Marine Park Management and Inclusive Sustainable Island Development UNDP 4,140,295 US\$ India: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Orissa and West Bengal) US\$ 221.96 million India - Capacity Building for Industrial Pollution Management US\$ 64.15 million India-GEF (completed) Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve's Coastal Biodiversity UNDP 26,968,000 US\$ India-GEF Environmentally Sound Management and Final Disposal of PCBs in India UNIDP 43,450,000 US\$
<i>Other partners</i>	GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO
<i>Other</i>	



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

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the implementing agency for the BOBLME Project.

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

For more information, please visit www.boblme.org



Sida



Norad

