



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



Report of the
2014-15 BOBLME work plan development meeting
25-26 February 2014 • Phuket Thailand

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



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Executive summary

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

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

BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors met in Phuket, Thailand on 25-26 February 2014. The overall aims of the workshop were:

- (i) to produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2014/15; and subsequently
- (ii) to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

The draft Regional Work Plan is provided in this report.

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1. Background

1. One of the major activities each year for the Regional Coordination Unit of the BOBLME Project is to produce a Regional Work Plan that identifies the work to be funded and undertaken over the forthcoming calendar year. Input from the Project's National Coordinators and National Technical Advisers in the development of the work plan is essential from a technical perspective, and with respect to its approval by each Project country.
2. BOBLME Project National Coordinators and National Technical Advisors met in Phuket, Thailand on 25-26 February 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Project Regional Coordinator Dr Chris O'Brien. The overall aim was to produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2014/14 which will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee in April for its consideration..
3. The list of participants is attached as Appendix 1, the Agenda (Doc-01) for the meeting is attached as Appendix 2. The list of documents is attached as Appendix 3..

2. Development of a draft 2014/15 regional work plan

2.1. Implementation of the project to-date

4. As background to discussions, National Coordinators provided verbal updates on Project implementation (including progress and challenges) in their respective countries (ppt-01 to 06).
5. The RCU provided an overview of the work and outputs from the Project to-date (Doc-02 and Doc-03).
6. The recommendations from the BOBLME meetings and workshops held in 2013 were reviewed and discussed in the context of the 2014/15 work plan.

2.2. The 2014/15 work plan

7. The workshop discussed each Project subcomponent in detail, reflecting on the work already carried out, the outputs required by the Project Logical Framework, recommendations from the regional workshops and national activities.
8. The workshop produced a draft work plan for 2014/15, including some guidance on the nature and extent of activities (research, training, studies, reviews etc), major outputs, which regional institutions might undertake particular activities, and the locations and timings of meetings. The draft Work Plan is given in Appendix 4.
9. The workshop entrusted the RCU to finalise the work plan for consideration by the PSC in April 2014.

3. Any other business

10. The meeting was given an update on the progress of the SAP completion process and the need for countries, if they had not already done so, to complete the national activities questionnaire.
11. The RC demonstrated the BOBLME website - in particular, the new document search feature that enables browsers to find BOBLME reports quickly.
12. The RC also provided the meeting with an update on the new ecosystem approach to fisheries management training course that has been developed by BOBLME and partners.

Appendix 1 - List of participants



BANGLADESH	
<p>National Coordinator Dr Subhash Chandra Chakraborty Director General Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Mymensingh subhash55chakraborty@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>National Technical Adviser Dr Yousuf A K Haroon Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Mymensingh dharoon@ymail.com</p>
INDIA	
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INDONESIA	
<p>National Coordinator Mrs Erni Widjajanti Deputy Director Fisheries Resource Management in Indonesia - EEZ and High Seas Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Jakarta erwijaya@yahoo.com</p>	<p>National Technical Adviser Mr Jimmi Senior Officer Directorate of Fisheries Resources Management Jakarta jimbot75@gmail.com</p>

MALAYSIA	
<p>National Coordinator Mr Ismail Bin Ishak Coordinator, Research Collaboration and International Affairs Fisheries Research Institute Department Of Fisheries Penang ismail4852@gmail.com</p>	<p>National Technical Advisers Mr Wan Abdul Latiff Bin Wan Jaffar Director of Water and Marine Division Dept of Environment walj@doe.gov.my</p> <p>D Mr Ahmad Adnan Nuruddin Director of Capture Fisheries Division FRI Kg Acheh, Perak adnan@seafdec.org.my</p>
MALDIVES	
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SRI LANKA	
<p>National Coordinator H.M.B.C.Herath DG (Technical) Ministry Fisheries and Research Development Colombo herathhmbc@yahoo.com</p>	<p>National Technical Adviser -</p>
THAILAND	
<p>National Coordinator Ms Prulai Nootmorn Director Marine Fisheries Research and Technological Development Institute Department of Fisheries Bangkok Nootmorn@Yahoo.Com</p>	<p>National Technical Adviser -</p>
RCU	
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Appendix 2 - Agenda



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

AGENDA

PREPARED BY THE RCU v24 FEBRUARY

BOBLME 2014 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Novotel Hotel
Phuket THAILAND, 25 - 26 February 2014

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

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

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

1. To produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2014; and subsequently
2. to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

Agenda

1. Brief introduction to the BOBLME Project (for newcomers)
2. Updates from National Coordinators on:
 - Project implementation - progress, success and challenges
3. Review work undertaken by the Project to-date (RCU).
4. Review the recommendations made by the BOBLME working groups in 2013 (RCU).
5. Provide input into draft work plan for 2014 (for consideration by the PSC in April), including:
 - proposals for new/continuing national projects in 2014
 - guidance on the nature and outputs of other activities (research, training, studies, reviews etc)
 - advice on which regional institutions might undertake particular activities
 - suggestions on the locations and timings of meetings.
6. Any other business.
 - Essential EAFM training
 - The BOBLME website

Appendix 3 - List of documents

document	description
BOBLME-2014-NCV_Doc-01	Agenda
BOBLME-2014-NCV_Doc-02	2013 Draft Annual Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_Doc-03	2013 Results against outputs
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-01	Bangladesh Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-02	India Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-03	Indonesia Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-04	Malaysia Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-05	Maldives Report
BOBLME-2014-NCV_ppt-06	Thailand Report

Appendix 4 - Draft work plan

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	
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015	
<i>Activities completed</i>	
Activities and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Activities completed	
1.2. BOBLME Institutional Arrangements - Identify and establish agreed to permanent institutional arrangements ensuring the long-term management of the BOBLME	
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015	
<i>Activities completed</i>	
Activities and outputs	Indicative costs
1. Activities completed	
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	
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015	
<i>RCU engages with partners to confirm agreement on financial arrangements, including co-financing, of the PIF.</i>	
Activities and outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partners participate in SAP finalisation meeting in Q4 2. Focused RCU-partner meetings in support of the development of the PIF 3. Identification of national cofinancing in support of SAP implementation 	
1.4. SAP Formulation and Adoption - Process for formulation of an agreed Strategic Action Programme (SAP)	
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015	
<i>The draft SAP will be completed and edited and formatted. National Action Plans, prioritized through in-country processes, will be incorporated in the SAP. National SAP consultations will be held, guided by the SAP team. Consultations will also be held with SAP implementation partner organisations. A special SAP Team meeting (with partners) will be held in 4th quarter of 2014 to finalise the text after the first round of consultations. A project concept (project identification form) for SAP implementation will be drafted. The final, reviewed and edited SAP will be printed for further</i>	

dissemination and ultimately for adoption in Q1 2015.

Activities and outputs

1. Draft SAP produced and disseminated
2. Countries provide information on national spending on fisheries and environment management and research in the Bay of Bengal area; and provide SAP signature plans
3. Country and partner consultations, and peer review
4. Synthesis of recommendations
5. SAP Team and partners meet to finalise the text of the SAP
6. SAP advocacy and adoption process
7. Project concept (precursor to Project Identification Form) document development
8. Economic services valuation study and validation workshop completed
9. Review of the shipping sector in the BOBLME

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

PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

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 continue. ICM training will be continued through the AIT-MFF-BOBLME partnership (5 week Postgraduate course); and two additional sub-regional training providers. A stock-taking review of the uptake of ICM best practices will be undertaken.

Activities and outputs

1. Support to national activities in selected sites: Thailand - Co management of seagrass Satun Province / India - Awareness and education, Pondy cherry / Maldives - Awareness on bait fisheries management / Myanmar - coastal planning and vulnerability assessment / Sri Lanka - awareness and capacity development
2. ICM Training courses (3)
3. A stock-taking review of the uptake of ICM best practices
4. Design, production and dissemination of ICM information material

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)

PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

The Regional Policy Workshop has identified awareness raising on international laws, conventions and agreements as priority regional actions. A capacity development programme on policy information exchange is designed and implemented as a series of seminars / workshops. National activities for policy harmonization are implemented in India. 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.

Activities and outputs

1. Design of 'course' materials on international laws, conventions and agreements
2. Capacity development on international laws, conventions and agreements
3. Review on fisheries legislation in Myanmar
4. Review of the impacts of IUU fishing
5. Support to national activities in selected sites:
India - State level / National Policy workshops

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

Training and national activities to improve fisheries statistics collection and reporting. Fisheries Statistics Working Group meets to review country activities and validate catch statistics. Conduct training in Myanmar and three other BOBLME countries to build capacity for monitoring and evaluation and ultimately obtain baseline socio-economic information.

Hilsa

Stock assessment updated and working group meeting held. National activities - targeted research for the improvement of data and knowledge on stock status 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.

Indian mackerel

Indian mackerel genetics working group meets to finalise the regional work on stock structure. Training on (data poor) stock assessment implemented. National activities - targeted research for the improvement of data and knowledge on stock status implemented in particular on genetics (but also life history parameters, stock structure, morphometrics, interaction of different fisheries sub-sectors, critical habitats for life-history stages) through country institutions.

Sharks

Studies are undertaken to address knowledge gaps (taxonomy, catches, life cycle and reproduction information, information from small-scale fisheries, monitoring of effectiveness of conservation measures, 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.

Ecosystem

Disseminate the results of the marine ecosystem survey in Myanmar in 2013. A workshop of modelling experts will technically review the results of the ecosim/ecopath ecosystem model developed

for the BOBLME.

Fisheries management

Provide a training workshop on estimating fishing capacity. Hold the second Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) meeting and update the management advisories for hilsa and Indian mackerel and sharks - this will also include EAFM plan development. Enhancing capacities of fishing communities to contribute to resource management in five countries. Roll out the EAFM training course (3 trainings).

PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

Activities and outputs

Fisheries statistics

1. Support to national activities to improve data collection and harmonize fisheries statistics: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar
2. Fisheries Statistics Working Group held
3. Comparisons of catch data derived from national sources and catch reconstructions
4. Socio-economic monitoring trainings conducted

Hilsa

5. National activities on hilsa
6. Hilsa Assessment Working Group meeting

Indian mackerel

7. National activities on Indian mackerel
8. Stock Assessment Training
9. Indian mackerel Working Group meeting on genetics

Sharks

10. Countries undertake national activities on sharks in support of their NPOAs
11. Synthesis of the NPOA's undertaken as the basis of a Bay wide RPOA framework

Ecosystem

12. Workshop on the results of the 2013 ecosystem survey in Myanmar
13. Ecosystem modelling workshop held

Fisheries management

14. Fishing capacity training conducted
15. Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC) meeting held
16. Capacity development for fishing communities
17. EAFM training course promoted through translations, and support to a regional coordinating body
18. Three EAFM training courses conducted

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
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015
<p><u>Merqui/Myeik Archipelago</u></p> <p><i>Implement a work programme on resources, habitat and socio-economic monitoring and assessment, capacity development and enhancing management.</i></p> <p><u>Gulf of Mannar:</u></p> <p><i>Promote and support measures leading to improved conservation of resources and transboundary management.</i></p> <p><u>Ecologically or biologically significant areas:</u></p> <p><i>An initial investigation to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the BOBLME.</i></p>
Activities and outputs
<p><u>Merqui/Myeik Archipelago:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake programmes activities on resources, habitat and socio-economic monitoring and assessment, capacity development and enhancing management 2. Conduct seagrass conservation and monitoring training <p><u>Gulf of Mannar:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Support to sub-regional initiatives relating to strengthening conservation of resources and transboundary management <p><u>Ecologically or biologically significant areas:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. An initial investigation to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the BOBLME
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
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015
<p><i>BOBLME supports the SIBER (Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research) Programme of work including generation of data, information and knowledge. 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 and IOGOOS and partners to build capacity in oceanography, including opportunities for instrumentation and seaboard training, if possible. Characterisation of the BOBLME to enable broad understanding for transboundary issues and to provide systematic planning information for local managers, industry and other stakeholders. Produce a reader friendly publication describing the major features of the BOBLME.</i></p>

Activities and outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support to initiatives relating to understanding large-scale processes and training 2. Examine the structure and functioning of the BOBLME 3. Production of the BOBLME overview publication
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
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015
<i>MPA activities implemented (learning, best practices) and information material on MPAs produced. BOBLME maintains its MPA node. BOBLME MPA Working Group meets.</i>
Activities and outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National activities on MPAs 2. MPA data portal / internet node maintained 3. MPA brochure and policy advisories produced and disseminated 4. Project concept (precursor to Project Identification Form) document development 5. BOBLME MPA Working Group meeting held
3.3. Improved Regional Collaboration - Establishment of effective partnerships with other regional and global environmental assessment and monitoring programmes
<i>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. BOBLME will continue to engage with other LME and International Waters Projects through IW Learn activities. Support partner initiatives related to fisheries management and biodiversity conservation.</i>
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015
Activities and outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing collaborations relevant to the Project 2. Support partner initiatives related to fisheries management and biodiversity conservation
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
PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

<p><i>A second level assessment collaboration with the Transboundary Waters Assessment Project pilot assessment of ecosystem indicators (including nutrient pollution and governance) in the Bay of Bengal. A review will be undertaken to synthesise and recommend the ecosystem health indicators suitable for the SAP. Given the linkages between water systems (aquifers, lakes, rivers, LME's and open oceans), conduct a desk top review to explore the physical, ecological and governance connectivity of the Bay of Bengal and its watershed.</i></p>
<p>Activities and outputs</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modelling of nutrient pollution and associate ecosystem indicators 2. Assessment of governance indicators 3. Desk top review on the physical, ecological and governance connectivity of the Bay of Bengal and its water shed water system connectivity
<p>4.2. Coastal Pollution Loading and Water Quality Criteria - <i>Development of a regional collaborative approach to identifying important coastal water pollution issues and to develop remedial strategies</i></p>
<p>PY6: January 2014 – March 2015</p>
<p><i>Collaboration with UNEP-GPA is continued. Sub-regional nutrient pollution management (in the western Bay of Bengal) addressed in collaboration with SACEP through a scoping study and workshop. National activities in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.</i></p>
<p>Activities and outputs</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborative activities is support of GPA. 2. Implement programme of work on sub-regional nutrient pollution management in the western Bay of Bengal 3. Capacity development in water quality monitoring in Myanmar 4. National activities in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
<p><u>Component 5. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management</u></p>
<p>Establishment of cost effective management, of project operations, M&E, and information dissemination capacity</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>PY6: January 2014 – March 2015</p>
<p><i>Effective operation of Regional Coordination Unit maintained.</i></p>
<p>Activities and outputs</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective and efficient RCU operations supported
<p>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</p>

PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

Monitoring reports are completed in a timely manner. A Project Steering Committee Meeting is prepared and held in Qtr 1, 2014 and 2015.

Activities and outputs

1. The Quarterly Progress Reports submitted
2. The (six monthly) Project Progress Reports submitted
3. The Project Implementation Review Report (July 2013-Jun 2014) submitted
4. Annual Work Plan Development meeting held (Q1 2014)
5. 5th PSC meeting held (2014)
6. 6th PSC meeting held (2015)
7. National Task Force in each country meets to endorse the national activities
8. Terminal Evaluation undertaken

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. 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. Awareness activities implemented based on the BOBLME Project outputs.

PY6: January 2014 – March 2015

Activities and outputs

1. Newsletter compilation and preparation
2. Website management
3. National trainings on science writing and presentation
4. National communications activities supported
5. Outreach material produced as needed



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



Norad

