Report of the
2015 BOBLME work plan development meeting
19 February 2015 • Bangkok 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 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 met in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 February 2015. The overall aims of the workshop were:

(i) to produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2015; 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 met in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 February 2015. 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 2015 which will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee in March 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 2015 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-02 to 03).

5. The RCU provided an overview of the work and outputs from the Project to-date (Doc-02 and ppt-01).

6. The recommendations from the BOBLME meetings and workshops held in 2014 were reviewed and discussed in the context of the 2015 work plan.

2.2. **The 2015 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 2015, 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 March 2015.

3. **Any other business**

10. The meeting was given an update on the progress of the SAP completion process.

11. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BANGLADESH</th>
<th>MALDIVES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Muhammad Zaher</td>
<td>Dr Mohamed Shiham Adam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Director General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute</td>
<td>Marine Research Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mymensingh</td>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PSC Member (Environment)</strong></td>
<td><strong>PSC Member (Environment)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ibrahim Naeem</td>
<td>Mr Ibrahim Naeem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Director General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Protection Agency</td>
<td>Ministry of Housing and Environment</td>
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<tr>
<th>INDIA</th>
<th>MYANMAR</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Premchand</td>
<td>Dr (Mrs) Yin Yin Moe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery Survey of India</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:premchandsngh@yahoo.co.in">premchandsngh@yahoo.co.in</a></td>
<td>Yangon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Erni Widjajanti</td>
<td>Dr (Mrs) Yin Yin Moe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Resource Management in Indonesia - EEZ and High Seas</td>
<td>Department of Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries</td>
<td>Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Aris Budiarto</td>
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<td>Directorate of Fisheries Resources Management</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Jakarta</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:arisbudiarto@gmail.com">arisbudiarto@gmail.com</a></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDONESIA</th>
<th>SRI LANKA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Coordinator</strong></td>
<td><strong>Unable to participate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Erni Widjajanti</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:arisbudiarto@gmail.com">arisbudiarto@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### MALAYSIA

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Appendix 2 - Agenda

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

AGENDA
PREPARED BY THE RCU

BOBLME 2015 WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Novotel Ploenchit Hotel
Bangkok THAILAND, 19 February 2015

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

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

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

1. To produce a draft Regional Work Plan for the BOBLME Project in 2015; and subsequently
2. to produce draft National Work Plans for each country for the same year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Updates from National Coordinators on:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Project implementation - progress, success and challenges</td>
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<td>• New and continuing national/donor funded initiatives relevant to BOBLME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Review work undertaken by the Project to-date (RCU).</td>
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<td>3. Review the recommendations made by the BOBLME working groups in 2014 (RCU).</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Provide input into draft work plan for 2015 (for consideration by the PSC in April), including:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• proposals for new/continuing national projects in 2015</td>
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<td>• guidance on the nature and outputs of other activities (research, training, studies, reviews etc)</td>
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<td>• advice on which regional institutions might undertake particular activities</td>
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<td>• suggestions on the locations and timings of meetings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• advice on how to complete national activities by mid-year 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Any other business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Update on the BOBLME Strategic Action Programme (RCU) and SAP implementation plans.</td>
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Appendix 3 - List of documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>document</th>
<th>description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOBLME-2015-NC_Doc-01</td>
<td>Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBLME-2015-NC_ppt-01</td>
<td>2014 highlights in pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBLME-2015-NC_ppt-02</td>
<td>Indonesia Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOBLME-2015-NC_ppt-03</td>
<td>Malaysia Report</td>
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## Appendix 4 - Draft work plan

### Component 1: Strategic Action Programme

#### Subcomponent 1.1 TDA Preparation: Build on the BOBLME’s existing draft TDA and complete the Programme’s TDA
- Completed

#### Subcomponent 1.2 BOBLME Institutional Arrangements
- Completed

#### Subcomponent 1.3 Financial Sustainability
- Completed

#### Subcomponent 1.4 SAP Preparation
- Ongoing
  - SAP finalised and executive summary produced and sent for signatures
  - New targets:
    1. SAP printing and signing process
    2. SAP implementation programme development

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

#### Subcomponent 2.1: Community-based Integrated Coastal Management (regional)
- Ongoing
  - India - Pondycherry ICM task force and training (with FSI)
  - India - Pondycherry ICM (with PondyCan)
  - Regional review of the uptake of ICM best practices (Kuperan)
  - New targets:
    1. SAARC workshop on coastal zone issues and impacts on coastal communities - completed February
    2. SAARC training on sustainable tourism, coastal area risk management & reef monitoring
    3. ICM - five week postgraduate training course (with AIT, MFF)

#### Subcomponent 2.2: Improved Policy Harmonization (regional)
- Ongoing
  - Myanmar - Review of fisheries legislation (with FAO)
  - Regional review on IUU fishing (with MRAG)

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

##### Fisheries Statistics
- Ongoing
  - Indonesia - strengthening data collection (with IDTIC)
  - Sri Lanka - strengthening data collection (with IDTIC)
  - Sri Lanka - social and economic data collection (SOCMON) training (with IMM)
  - Myanmar - social and economic data collection (SOCMON) training (with FFI)
  - Regional database platform for information sharing (with FAO)
  - New targets:
    1. Myanmar - strengthening data collection (with FAO)
    2. Regional validation of fisheries catch data
    3. Fisheries Statistics Working Group meeting

##### Hilsa
- Ongoing
  - Myanmar - abundance and reproduction (with WorldFish)
  - Myanmar & Thailand - technical exchange on hilsa biology (with SEAFDEC)
  - India - production biology (with CIFRI)
  - Myanmar - procedures and methods for continuing assessment of the status of the hilsa resources (with DoF)

##### Indian mackerel
- Ongoing
  - Malaysia - genetics study (with SEAFDEC)
  - India - Genetic study on the overall stock of the Indian mackerel along the Indian coast (with NBFGAR)
  - India - Genetic study (with CMFRI)
  - Indonesia - Genetic variation and population structure of Indian mackerel (with DGCF)
  - Indonesia - targeted research on Indian mackerel – fisheries biology (with DGCF)
  - Sri Lanka - genetic and biology study (with NARA)
  - Regional activity: Coordination of Indian mackerel research (with SEAFDEC Malaysia)
  - New targets:
    4. Indian mackerel (Genetics) Working Group meeting - completed in February
    5. Indian mackerel (Genetics) Working Group meeting - completed in July

##### Sharks
- Ongoing
  - India - socio economic assessment of shark targeted fisheries and a draft NPOA (with BOBP-IGO)
  - Indonesia - Implementation of the NPOA-sharks (with DGCF)
  - Maldives - Formulation and implementation of a NPOA-Sharks (with MRC)
  - Sri Lanka - survey of Shark Fisheries and NPOA-Sharks (with NARA)
  - Thailand - targeted Research on Indian Mackerel and Sharks and NPOA-sharks (with DoF)
  - Development of the RPOA - sharks
<table>
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<td>6. Sharks working group meeting</td>
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**Ecosystem**

**Ongoing**
- Ecosystem characterisation (with CSIRO)

**New**
- 7. Publishing the ecosystem overview
- 8. Publishing the ecosystem characterisation
- 9. Ecosystem modelling in the Gulf of Mannar (CMFRI and S Guenette) - underway

**Fisheries management**

**Ongoing**
- Training on / dissemination of small-scale fisheries guidelines - Myanmar, India, Thailand (with ICSF)
- EAFM training; Regional (with SEAFDEC)
- National activities: Indonesia - capacity development for the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (with DGCF)

**New**
- 10. Regional training in fishing capacity assessment - completed February
- 11. Sri Lanka - EAFM training and TOT (with Wayamba University) - completed in March
- 12. Sri Lanka - EAFM plan for blue crab fishery in Sri Lanka (with SDoF) - underway
- 13. Indonesia - EAFM training of trainers
- 14. Malaysia - EAFM training of trainers
- 15. EAFM - translations
- 16. EAFM coordination unit (with SEAFDEC) / lead course development (with NOAA)
- 17. Maldives - EAFM in the live bait fishery
- 18. Support to VG-SSF implementation
- 19. Thailand - estimating fishing capacity

**Subcomponent 2.4 Collaborative Critical Habitat Management**

**Mergui/Myeik Archipelago:**

**Ongoing**
- Undertake programmes activities on resources, habitat and socio-economic monitoring and assessment, capacity development and enhancing management (with IUCN)

**Gulf of Mannar:**

**Ongoing**
- A study in support of seahorse conservation and management in the Gulf of Mannar (with CMFRI)
- Evaluation of the current conservation measures on sea cucumber stocks in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar of India (with CMFRI)

**Ecologically or biologically significant areas:**

**Ongoing**
- An initial investigation to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the BOBLME

**Other:**

**Ongoing**
- Myanmar - Coral taxonomy training (with PMBC) - completed in February
- Maldives - raising Awareness on Entanglement of Olive Ridley Turtles in the Central Indian Ocean (with MRC)
- Myanmar - Seagrass monitoring (with FFI)
- Myanmar - coral reef survey training (with DMRC Thailand)
- Sri Lanka - impacts of bottom trawling on habitats and biodiversity in the Palk Bay (with University of Amsterdam)
- Sri Lanka - education, capacity development and monitoring in support of Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary management (with NARA)

**New**
- 1. Myanmar - Seagrass monitoring - additional funds (with FFI)
- 2. Malaysia - Corals - genetics and ocean acidification (with USM)

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

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

**New**
- 1. BOBLME Regional Focus Group Meeting to facilitate engagement in the International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative (with IOC)
- 2. Myanmar - ecosystem survey support

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

**Ongoing**
- Bangladesh - strengthening National Capacity on MPAs (with IUCN)
- Indonesia - training in community perception monitoring and spatial analysis and database management of marine protected areas in Northern Sumatra (DGCF)
- Maldives - grouper resources conservation through spatial protection measures (with MRC)
- Myanmar - strengthening existing marine reserves and shark conservation in Myanmar (with FFI)

**New**
- 1. MPA data portal / internet node (with WorldFish)
- 2. MPA policy advisories published

**Subcomponent 3.3 Improved Regional Collaboration**
## New

1. Relevant collaborations (e.g., APFIC, FAO, BOBP-IGO, UNESCO-IOC, IWC, Lern)

### Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution

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

**Completed**

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

**Ongoing**

- Bangladesh - artificial mussel technology (with the University of Chittagong) - just completed
- Myanmar - enhancing capacity on monitoring marine pollution and water quality in Myanmar (with NIVA) - just completed
- Sri Lanka - The assessment of water and sediment quality and associated sea urchin fauna of the Gulf of Mannar coastline (with Wayamba University)
- Regional activity: SACEP nutrient pollution study (with SACEP)

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

#### Subcomponent 5.1 Establishment of the RCU

**New**

1. Effective and efficient RCU operations maintained

#### Subcomponent 5.2 Monitoring and Evaluation System

**New**

1. Progress Reports produced (QPR, PPR, PIR)
2. Annual Work Plan Development meeting - completed
3. 6th PSC meeting - now
4. 7th (final) PSC meeting
5. Terminal Evaluation and terminal report

#### Subcomponent 5.3 Project Information Dissemination System

**Ongoing**

- Digitising and storage of the BOBP-IGO photographic library (with BOBP-IGO)
- Malaysia - developing BOBLME Malaysia communication hub and extension material (with DoF)

**New**

1. Newsletter published (2x)
2. Website maintained
3. Training on science writing and presentation
## 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

**January – December 2015 activities**

**Activities completed**

### 1.2. BOBLME Institutional Arrangements
- Identify and establish agreed to permanent institutional arrangements ensuring the long-term management of the BOBLME

**January – December 2015 activities**

**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

**January – December 2015 activities**

*RCU engages with countries and partners to confirm agreement on financial arrangements relating to the SAP implementation projects*

### 1.4. SAP Formulation and Adoption
- Process for formulation of an agreed Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

**January – December 2015 activities**

**Ongoing**

1. SAP finalised and executive summary produced and sent for signatures

**New**

1. SAP printing and signing process
2. SAP implementation programme development

## 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

**January – December 2015 activities**

**Ongoing**

1. India - Pondycherry ICM task force and training (with FSI)
• India - Pondycherry ICM (with PondyCan)
• Regional review of the uptake of ICM best practices (Kuperan)

New
1. SAARC workshop on coastal zone issues and impacts on coastal communities - completed February
2. SAARC training on sustainable tourism, coastal area risk management & reef monitoring
3. ICM - five week postgraduate training course (with AIT, MFF)

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)

January – December 2015 activities

Ongoing
• Myanmar - Review of fisheries legislation (with FAO)
• Regional review on IUU fishing (with MRAG)

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

January – December 2015 activities

Fisheries Statistics

Ongoing
• Indonesia - strengthening data collection (with IOTC)
• Sri Lanka - strengthening data collection (with IOTC)
• Sri Lanka - social and economic data collection (SOCMON) training (with IMM)
• Myanmar - social and economic data collection (SOCMON) training (with FFI)
• Regional database platform for information sharing (with FAO)

New
1. Myanmar - strengthening data collection (with FAO)
2. Regional validation of fisheries catch data
3. Fisheries Statistics Working Group meeting

Hilsa
### Ongoing
- Myanmar - abundance and reproduction (with WorldFish)
- Myanmar & Thailand - technical exchange on hilsa biology (with SEAFDEC)
- India - production biology (with CIFRI)
- Myanmar - procedures and methods for continuing assessment of the status of the hilsa resources (with DoF)

### Indian mackerel

#### Ongoing
- Malaysia - genetics study (with SEAFDEC)
- India - Genetic study on the overall stock of the Indian mackerel along the Indian coast (with NBFGPR)
- India - Genetic study (with CMFRI)
- Indonesia - Genetic variation and population structure of Indian mackerel (with DGCF)
- Indonesia - targeted research on Indian mackerel – fisheries biology (with DGCF)
- Sri Lanka - genetic study of the Indian mackerel stock along the Sri Lankan coast, strengthening the catch data collection as well as the study of the reproductive biology and feeding ecology of Indian mackerel (with NARA)
- Regional activity: Coordination of Indian mackerel research (with SEAFDEC Malaysia)

#### New
4. Indian mackerel (Genetics) Working Group meeting - completed in February
5. Indian mackerel (Genetics) Working Group meeting - completed in July

### Sharks

#### Ongoing
- India - socio economic assessment of shark targeted fisheries and a draft NPOA (with BOBP-IGO)
- Indonesia - Implementation of the NPOA-sharks (with DGCF)
- Maldives - Formulation and implementation of a NPOA-Sharks (with MRC)
- Sri Lanka - survey of Shark Fisheries and NPOA-Sharks (with NARA)
- Thailand - targeted Research on Indian Mackerel and Sharks and NPOA-sharks (with DoF)
- Development of the RPOA - sharks
### New
6. Sharks working group meeting

#### Ecosystem

**Ongoing**
- Ecosystem characterisation (with CSIRO)

**New**
7. Publishing the ecosystem overview
8. Publishing the ecosystem characterisation
9. Ecosystem modelling in the Gulf of Mannar (CMFRI and S Guenette) - underway

#### Fisheries management

**Ongoing**
- Training on / dissemination of small-scale fisheries guidelines - Myanmar, India, Thailand (with ICSF)
- EAFM training; Regional (with SEAFDEC)
- National activities: Indonesia - capacity development for the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (with DGCF)

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17. Maldives - EAFM in the live bait fishery
18. Support to VG-SSF implementation
19. Thailand - estimating fishing capacity

### 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

#### January – December 2015 activities

**Mergui/Myeik Archipelago:**
Ongoing

• Undertake programmes activities on resources, habitat and socio-economic monitoring and assessment, capacity development and enhancing management (with IUCN)

Gulf of Mannar:

Ongoing

• A study in support of seahorse conservation and management in the Gulf of Mannar (with CMFRI)
• Evaluation of the current conservation measures on sea cucumber stocks in Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar of India (with CMFRI)

Ecologically or biologically significant areas:

Ongoing

• An initial investigation to identify ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the BOBLME

Other:

Ongoing

• Myanmar - Coral taxonomy training (with PMBC) - completed in February
• Maldives - raising Awareness on Entanglement of Olive Ridley Turtles in the Central Indian Ocean (with MRC)
• Myanmar - Seagrass monitoring (with FFI)
• Myanmar - coral reef survey training (with DMRC Thailand)
• Sri Lanka - impacts of bottom trawling on habitats and biodiversity in the Palk Bay (with University of Amsterdam)
• Sri Lanka - education, capacity development and monitoring in support of Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary management (with NARA)

New

1. Myanmar - Seagrass monitoring - additional funds (with FFI)
2. Malaysia - Corals - genetics and ocean acidification (with USM)

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

January – December 2015 activities
**New**

1. BOBLME Regional Focus Group Meeting to facilitate engagement in the International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative (with IOC)
2. Myanmar - ecosystem survey support

**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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January – December 2015 activities</th>
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**Ongoing**

- Bangladesh - strengthening National Capacity on MPAs (with IUCN)
- Indonesia - training in community perception monitoring and spatial analysis and database management of marine protected areas in Northern Sumatra (DGCF)
- Maldives - grouper resources conservation through spatial protection measures (with MRC)
- Myanmar - strengthening existing marine reserves and shark conservation in Myanmar (with FFI)

**New**

1. MPA data portal / internet node (with WorldFish)
2. MPA policy advisories published

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

<table>
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<th>January – December 2015 activities</th>
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**New**

1. Relevant collaborations (e.g. APFIC, FAO, BOBP-IGO, UNESCO-IOC, IW Learn)

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**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*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January – December 2015 activities</th>
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**Activities completed**

**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*

<table>
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<th>January – December 2015 activities</th>
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**Ongoing**
- Bangladesh - artificial mussel technology (with the University of Chittagong) - just completed
- Myanmar - enhancing capacity on monitoring marine pollution and water quality in Myanmar (with NIVA) - just completed
- Sri Lanka - The assessment of water and sediment quality and associated sea urchin fauna of the Gulf of Mannar coastline (with Wayamba University)
- Regional activity: SACEP nutrient pollution study (with SACEP)

**Component 5. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Knowledge Management**

Establishment of cost effective management, of project operations, M&E, and information dissemination capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.1. Establishment of the RCU</th>
<th>Establish a Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) for coordination of BOBLME supported activities leading to the finalization of the Strategic Action Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January – December 2015 activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Effective and efficient RCU operations maintained</td>
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<tr>
<th>5.2. Monitoring and Evaluation System</th>
<th>Establish a cost-effective monitoring and evaluation system in conformity with existing FAO and World Bank (GEF) policies and procedures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January – December 2015 activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Progress Reports produced (QPR, PPR, PIR)</td>
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<td>2. Annual Work Plan Development meeting - completed</td>
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<td>3. 6th PSC meeting - now</td>
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<td>4. 7th (final) PSC meeting</td>
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<td>5. Terminal Evaluation and terminal report</td>
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<tr>
<th>5.3. Project Information Dissemination System</th>
<th>Disseminate information to regional and global stakeholders relevant to the BOBLME and the BOBLME Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January – December 2015 activities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ongoing</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Digitising and storage of the BOBP-IGO photographic library (with BOBP-IGO)</td>
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<td>- Malaysia - developing BOBLME Malaysia communication hub and extension material (with DoF)</td>
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Report of the 2015 BOBLME work plan development meeting

New
1. Newsletter published (2x)
2. Website maintained
3. Training on science writing and presentation
Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project to lay the foundations for a coordinated programme of action designed to better the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

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

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

For more information, please visit www.boblme.org