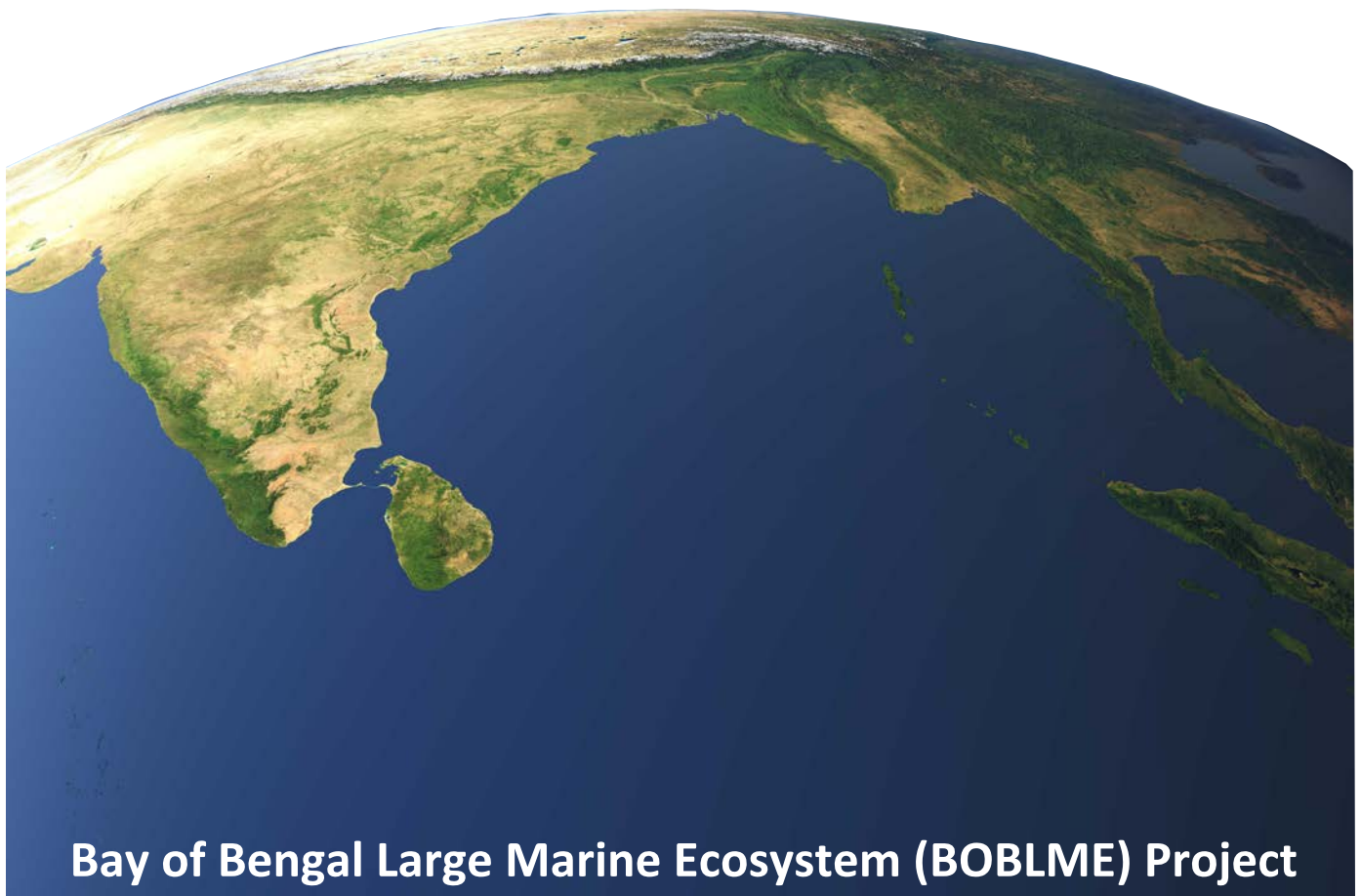




# Progress & Achievements

April 2014



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project



Norad



## Regional collaborative approaches to resource management and technical exchange developed and practiced

### Management

- BOBLME Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee formed
- Development of a bi-national management structure and consultative process between Myanmar and Thailand for the Myeik Archipelago
- Bi-national stakeholder meetings between India and Sri Lanka on the critical habitat of the Gulf of Mannar
- Development of institutional arrangements for Strategic Action Programme (SAP) implementation

### Technical

- Technical Working Groups comprising fisheries and environment officers of BOBLME countries formed and operational
  - Fisheries Statistics Working Group
  - Hilsa Assessment Working Group
  - Indian Mackerel Working Group
  - Sharks Working Group
  - Ecosystem Indicators Working Group
  - MPA Working Group
  - Pollution Working Group
- Regional ICM workshops on best practices held
- Collaboration with FAO to promote sustainable fisheries
- Collaboration with UNEP-GPA to meet pollution targets
- Affiliation with IOGOOS on the oceanographic area of work

## *Facilitating increased collaboration*

The Project has provided many new opportunities for scientists from the region to collaborate, and for them to interact with policy makers (both within and between countries) through regional meetings and exchange fora. The Project has also been a change agent, facilitating collaborations and partnerships among bodies and agencies working in the region. These partners have expressed their willingness to play a role in remaining BOBLME activities and in the future implementation of the Strategic Action Programme.

## *Enabling and building capacity*

BOBLME continues to expand knowledge and understanding of the ecological, human and governance dimensions of the Bay of Bengal through its research, working groups and expert workshops. The Project has increased awareness of transboundary issues and strengthened the capacity of participating countries to implement the Strategic Action Programme which will address the major issues facing the health of the Bay of Bengal and its fisheries.

## National resource management approaches developed and practiced

- Development of an ICM framework for Puducherry, India
- Formation of a National Working Group on Pollution in Malaysia
- Malaysia adopts and implements the Essential EAFM Training Course practices
- Major national consultation process implemented on fisheries, critical habitats and pollution relating to the finalisation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
- National reviews of policy instruments implemented for fisheries, environment and ICM
- National MPA Framework developed in Bangladesh
- Seagrass habitat conservation process implemented in Thailand
- Development of ecosystem health report card for Chilika Lake, India (supporting UNEP GPA)
- Mainstreaming ocean research for ocean and resource management in India

## Increased understanding of the ecological, human and governance dimensions of the BOBLME

### Status reviews and assessments

- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis to identify the major issues affecting the Bay of Bengal
- Hilsa shad status review
- Assessment of hilsa shad management
- Assessment of Indian mackerel management
- Review of the collection and management of fisheries statistics
- Status reports and bibliography on marine turtles
- Development of ecosystem indicators for the Bay of Bengal
- Southeast Asia and South Asia sub-regional reviews of ICM best practices
- Review of national fisheries, environment and ICM policies
- Review of the environmental status of the Gulf of Mannar
- Review of the status of MPAs in the Bay of Bengal
- Review of critical habitats including mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass
- National status reports on marine pollution
- Assessment for mainstreaming gender in BOBLME Project and SAP
- Assessment of transboundary fishing
- Assessment of transboundary aquatic animal health issues
- Habitat assessment in Myeik Archipelago
- Synthesis of shark fisheries management and conservation information

### Filling the knowledge gaps

- Development of the first regional stock assessment of hilsa shad
- Indian mackerel stock structure analysis
- National research activities on hilsa shad, Indian mackerel and sharks
- Validation of fisheries catch data
- Socio-economic survey in the Gulf of Mannar
- Monitoring and evaluation of MPA management effectiveness in Indonesia
- Tar ball pollution survey, Maldives
- Nutrient management in Chilika Lake, India
- Vulnerability assessment of the Irrawaddy Delta, Myanmar
- Marine ecosystem survey in Myanmar
- Oceanographic data sensors deployed to monitor ocean acidification
- Coral reef resilience and recovery from bleaching, Malaysia

### ***Facing challenging issues***

Facing the challenges of important social issues, BOBLME is the first LME Project to have undertaken a gender assessment. It has also investigated fisher migration and labour issues.

### ***Enhancing awareness***

Greater awareness of BOBLME-related issues has been built through networking, partnerships and communication in the form of advisories, websites, newsletters, flyers, posters and videos.



Scientists from Myanmar examine the catch aboard the research vessel *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* as part of an initiative supported by BOBLME and Norad to assess marine biodiversity, fisheries resources and oceanography in Myanmar waters.

### ***A foundation to improve the health of the Bay of Bengal***

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Bay of Bengal produced in 2012 provides the scientific basis for the development of a Strategic Action Programme. This sets out a strategy for eight countries to collectively deal with transboundary water-related environmental issues. Furthermore, it will guide the implementation of the second phase of the BOBLME Project, helping to realise the vision for a healthy ecosystem and sustainable use of marine living resources for the benefit of the countries and people of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem.

## Capacity development in support of institutional strengthening

**Training targeting government officers, scientists, NGO personnel and community members.**

### BOBLME led initiatives










- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management training course (with FAO, NOAA, and USAID)
- Stock assessment training
- Awareness programme and training on resource conservation in the Gulf of Mannar
- Training on fisheries co-management in Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar
- Training on fisheries data collection and storage in Sri Lanka (with IOTC)
- Training on socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) in Myanmar
- Capacity improvement of small-scale fishers on fishery resource management in Indonesia
- Building capacity to develop ecosystem indicators
- Training in tar ball survey design and analysis in Maldives
- Shark taxonomy and data collection
- Training on science communication (writing and presentation skills)
- Training on collection and analysis of genetic material









### Supporting initiatives led by Project partners

- Training on marine protected area management (FAO)
- Training on Monitoring and Evaluation (IMA)
- Training on Project Cycle Management (IUCN)
- Training on sampling and assessment of mangroves, coral reef and seagrass (MFF, UNEP, FFI)
- Training on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (BOBP-IGO)
- Postgraduate certificate course on Integrated Coastal Management (AIT, MFF)
- Training on Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social & Ecosystem Impacts (IOC WESTPAC)
- Training on Ocean governance (IOI)

## BOBLME Project is helping countries meet their international obligations

**Through their commitment to the BOBLME Project, countries are able to demonstrate they are meeting the following international obligations:**

	<b>Plan of action on sustainable fisheries for food security for the ASEAN region towards 2020:</b> <i>Planning and information, fisheries management, marine fisheries</i>
	<b>Convention on Biological Diversity Goals Target 6:</b> <i>Applying ecosystem based approaches</i>
	<b>Convention on Biological Diversity Goals Target 8:</b> <i>Reducing pollution</i>
	<b>Convention on Biological Diversity Goals Target 11:</b> <i>Marine Protected Area objectives</i>
	<b>Convention on Migratory Species goals:</b> <i>Sea turtles memorandum of understanding</i>
	<b>Convention on Migratory Species goals:</b> <i>Sharks</i>
	<b>FAO Committee on Fisheries Goals:</b> <i>Implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and developing National Plans of Action</i>
	<b>Improvement of fisheries statistics in accordance with FAO Coordinating Working Party Goals.</b>
	<b>UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities:</b> <i>National Plans of Action</i>

	<b>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Resolution 10/05:</b> <i>Technical capacity development in fisheries statistics and assessment</i>
	<b>Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Resolution 05/05:</b> <i>Conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries of the IOTC</i>
	<b>Millenium Development Goal 7:</b> <i>Integrating the principles of sustainable development</i>
	<b>UN Convention on the Law of the Sea Article 63:</b> <i>Stocks occurring within the EEZs of two or more coastal states</i>
	<b>UN Convention on the Law of the Sea Article 143:</b> <i>Marine scientific research</i>
	<b>UN Fish Stocks Agreement Article 7:</b> <i>Compatibility of management measures</i>
	<b>UN Fish Stocks Agreement Article 8:</b> <i>Cooperation for conservation and management</i>
	<b>UN Fish Stocks Agreement Article 10:</b> <i>Functions of regional fisheries management arrangements</i>
	<b>UN General Assembly on Regular Process (60/30) for global assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects.</b>
	<b>UN General Assembly on Sustainable Fisheries (68/71)</b>