



Regional workshop on policy directions in fisheries, coastal and marine environment and ICM in the BOBLME countries”

October 2 - 4, 2012, Penang, Malaysia

Draft Prospectus

1. Background

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and 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 project has five components.

The objective of **Project Component 2: “Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use”** is to promote the development and implementation of demonstrative regional and sub-regional collaborative approaches to common and/or shared issues which affect the health and status of BOBLME. Objectives of the **Subcomponent 2.2 (Improved Policy Harmonization)** are to: (i) promote better understanding of the policy processes in the BOBLME region, (ii) enhance capacity in the formulation of policy, and (iii) facilitate the exchange of information on policy and legislation among regional institutional stakeholders. The outputs of the subcomponent will support the future mainstreaming activities and provide critical inputs into the SAP. To achieve these objectives, the subcomponent will support the following activities: (i) policy studies, (ii) national technical workshops, (iii) regional policy meetings, (iv) strengthening of capacity in local policy formulation, and (v) creation of a normative documents portal.

In line with the 2012 Annual Regional Work Plan, adopted by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) in March 2012, the following activities will be undertaken: the existing Policy Review and Analysis Report is validated at a Regional Policy Workshop. The Workshop prepares recommendations with regard to opportunities to address policy gaps and potential areas of policy harmonization. It will also develop 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 will consider governance related concerns and contents for the SAP (governance indicators and governance implications of implementing SAP actions proposed for fisheries, habitats and pollution by the respective Regional Technical Working Groups) and potential institutional arrangements required for SAP implementation.

2.0 The Workshop

Objective

The workshop will make a key contribution to the achievement of the objective of Sub-component 2.2 by reviewing the report - “Policy directions in fisheries, coastal and marine environment and ICM in the BOBLME countries” – identifying gaps and apparent conflicts in policies and developing a workplan and recommendations for future work on harmonizing policies. It will also contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Component 1 with regard to the governance implications of SAP actions and the identification of governance indicators.

Expected Outputs

- A review and validation of the synthesis report entitled “Policy directions in fisheries, coastal and marine environment and ICM in the BOBLME countries”;

- Identification of areas where policy harmonization could be improved between (i) different Ministries involved in coastal marine environment and fisheries management and sustainable development, (ii) regional, national and local levels, and (iii) among countries addressing the same transboundary issues;
- A work plan and policy recommendation of future work that the BOBLME Project could facilitate harmonization, such as “think tank” exercises on cross cutting issues of governance, topics pertaining to Project work areas of interest (e.g. sharks, hilsa or Indian mackerel fisheries resources, MPAs, EIA, waste management).
- A list of “governance indicators” relating to the SAP actions on fisheries, habitats, and pollution, as developed by the respective technical workshops.

Date and Venue

October 2 – 4, 2012, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia

3.0 Pre-workshop preparations

To facilitate discussion and the achievement of workshop outputs, country delegates are requested to familiarize themselves with the background and overall thrust of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (www.boblme.org) as a project under the GEF International Waters portfolio, implemented to address transboundary priority issues and to formulate a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

Participants will likewise be familiar with the report entitled “Draft fisheries, marine environment, and integrated coastal management policy processes, content and implementation in the BOBLME countries” (accessible on the BOBLME website <http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2011-Governance-01.pdf>), and the reports of the SAP Action Programme workshops <http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2012-Project-03.pdf>.

Country delegates should be in the position to provide validation of the findings in the report on “Policy directions in fisheries, coastal and marine environment and ICM in the BOBLME countries” and be prepared to discuss and identify policy gaps and future activities for improved policy harmonization.

4.0 Conduct of the Workshop

The Workshop will be conducted in English following an agreed agenda (Annex 1). The Workshop will comprise an introductory session, technical session of presentations and working group discussions and preparation of statements, conclusions, and recommendations.

The Universiti Sains Malaysia, together with the Fisheries Research Institute of the Department of Fisheries, will be co-hosting the workshop.

Centre for Policy Research and International Studies (CenPRIS), Universiti Sains Malaysia

CenPRIS’s ocean research cluster is “connecting oceans” - an allusion to CenPRIS’s focus on the Straits of Malacca as a body of water or maritime space that connects its littoral

states - Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore - with the larger ocean space, the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Focusing on the maritime potential of nations represents the other principal component of CenPRIS's ocean research cluster. Ocean research encompasses the maritime potential of ASEAN and the Malaysian States, the CenPRIS Ocean Index (COI), maritime diplomacy as well as maritime economy and society, with particular relevance to sustainability of the fishing industry. For the governance of diversity, the participation of the natural sciences - marine biologists, oceanographers and other scientists - will bring more depth to a complex field that demands an interdisciplinary approach

Participants

The participants will include up to three (3) policy makers from the Environmental and Fisheries Ministries as well as other relevant government agencies, NGO sector or universities, where appropriate. Tim Huntington, founding Director of Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd. and author of the review report will be the key resource person for the workshop. Key resource persons from national policy institutions (e.g. Maritime Institute of Malaysia) and regional sectoral institutions (e.g. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, WorldFish Center, Bay of Bengal Programme-Intergovernmental Organisation) will likewise be invited to participate.

5.0 Travel and related arrangements

The BOBLME Project will be making arrangements for travel (most direct and least costly route) and DSA payments of the participants. Travel arrangements will be done after confirmation of nomination/participation is received.

Hotels will be announced soon.

6.0 Contact

For any further information or clarification on the workshop please contact:

Dr Rudolf Hermes

Chief Technical Advisor

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project

Email:rudolf.hermes@boblme.org