SRI LANKA COUNTRY PRESENTATION

Policy Directions in Fisheries, Coastal and Marine Environment, and ICM in BOBLME Countries

Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development
Ministry of Environment
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Policy Directions

The policy guidelines given in Mahinda Chintana - Vision for the Future. Fisheries sector were used as the guiding principles for preparation of Fisheries Sector Development Strategy 2012-2013.

The directions given in Mahinda Chintana are as follows:

* The fisheries development policy aims at exploiting the country's fisheries and aquatic resources in a sustainable manner, while conserving the coastal environment. The government is targeting self-sufficiency in the national fish supply and a significant increase in fish exports.

Key components of policy directions are specified as follows:

* Diversification of production and exploitation of offshore and deep sea fisheries resources through the introduction of modern technology giving high priority to efficient fishing methods. It is also planned to reduce pressure on coastal resources through the implementation of fisheries management programmes.

* Sri Lanka possesses suitable water bodies throughout the country for developing a viable coastal fishing. This development of freshwater capture fisheries and aquaculture in marine environments are planned to be intensified. It is also planned to utilize the potential of the country's marine environment by increasing fish production and introducing them into major and seasonal forms with the support of community-based fisheries management.

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* High post harvest losses and lack of knowledge in handling of fish have been identified as a serious impediment to marketing and production price in the fishing industry. The requirement of prevention of such losses has been given priority in the development plan.

* Inadequate and poorly managed fisheries infrastructure has considerably slowed down the development of the fishing industry. Hence, infrastructure facilities will be improved to exploit the fish resources and reduce post harvest losses.

* Commitments made by Sri Lanka under the UN Law of the Sea Convention and international treaties concerning conservation and management of marine fisheries resources; protection of marine environment and conservation of biodiversity, and requirements of international markets were also taken into consideration in the development of strategies meeting the goals given in Mahinda Chintana Vision for the Future.

Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)

Major Activities

1. Introduce procedure, Strategy and regulatory regime for control and manage the introduction of invasive species from ships.
2. Prepare Chemical Spill Contingency plan.
3. Establish compensation scheme for chemical spill as per HNS convention.
4. Establish Marine Environment Protection fund imposing levy on ships calling Sri Lankan ports.
5. Establish dedicated waste reception facility for ship generated waste.

Accordingly:

1. Amended the Marine Pollution Prevention Act.
2. Published the Gazette Regulations:
   - No. 1705/15 on "Offshore Exploration for and Exploitation of Natural Resources including Petroleum" and;
   - No. 174/19 dated 19.01.2012 on Bunkering and approval has now been granted by the Parliament for these Regulations.

Drafted Regulations for Gazette on “Oil Spill Contingency Plan”

Drafted the following Regulations:

1. Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation
2. Issuance of Permits to Dump Oil, Harmful Substances or pollution or Waste or Other Matter
3. Investigation Procedure on Claims of Pollution Damage
4. The National Standards Relating to oily Waste Discharge and the conditions relating to marine dumping
5. Anti Pollution Equipment to be Fitted on Ships for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea (by oil)
6. Monitoring and Controlling of Marine Pollution from Land-Based and Other allied sources and Environment Impact Assessment
7. Anti Pollution Oil Record Book Maintenance and up Keeping
8. Fees and Charge Regulations
9. Specifying and Substance or Class of Substance (other than Oil) that Renders Water Noxious or Detrimental to Human Health or Harmful to Marine Life Regulations
10. Port Reception Facilities-Oil, Noxious, Liquid Substances and Garbage

Assistance needed for:

1. Capacity development of the Marine pollution Prevention Authority on combating Oil and Chemical Spills - Physical and Knowledge
2. Strengthening of the ‘Ocean Friends’ Brigades
3. Co-financing and TA for the MFP-GML-AMBIA Project
4. TA for GEF-Dragging Conservation Regional Project
Biodiversity and Socio-economic Information of Selected Areas of Sri Lankan Side of the Gulf of Mannar

Final Report

Dissemination of findings

- Biodiversity part has been supported by MFF
- Final report has been widely circulated electronically
- NSF is one of the main beneficiaries for their MAB nomination of GoM

Planned Work

- MFF Regional Project on Living Resources of Gulf of Mannar, India – Sri Lanka initiative
  - Will be launched in October 2012 – BOBLME agreed in principle to support this initiative
- Enhancing the conservation effectiveness of seagrass ecosystems supporting globally significant populations of Dugong across the Indian and Pacific Oceans Basins
  - GoSL Initiative - GEF PPG phase. Inception meeting is scheduled for the 2nd week of Oct (MoE and DWC taking the lead with room for MFF and BOBLME to cofunding)

- NIE has recommended this as secondary school teaching material will be published within next 2-3 weeks
  - Teacher training programme has been organised towards the end of October with Mannar Provincial Education Office

UNEP-CMS Dugong By-catch Survey

- MFF and BOBLME supported in conducting these surveys by leveraging travel budget. Turtle Conservation project, Dilmah Conservation and IUCN SL did the surveys

Thank You