BOBLME FUTURE COORDINATION MECHANISMS – MR RASCHAD AL KHAFAJI

Towards A Future
“Regional Coordination Mechanism”
in the
Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem

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Overview
• Governance of Transboundary Natural Resources
• The Large Marine Ecosystems approach
• BOBLME Project
• Existing Entities in the Region
• BOBLME Phase II
• Conclusions

The LME Approach

The LME approach was developed to provide a framework for utilizing ecologically defined LMEs as place-based areas around the globe, to focus the methods of marine science, policy, law, economics and governance on a common strategy for assessing, managing, recovering and sustaining marine resources and their environments.

The physical extent of an LME and its boundaries are based on bathymetry, hydrology, productivity and trophic relationships (Sherman and Hempel, 2009).
Out of the 64 LMEs identified globally, the LME concept for ecosystem-based management is applied to 17 regional GEF-funded and/or World Bank funded projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe (Sherman et al, 2009). These projects engage or have engaged more than 100 countries in their activities.
BOBLME Project

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand

Mandate

...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...

History

- Negotiations Initiated in 1995
- The FAO/GEF project became operational in 2009.
- Tsunami 2004
- The SAP formulation process formally initiated
- TDA concluded and adopted by the countries in March 2012
TDA Results

The TDA identified three main problem areas:

- Overexploitation of marine living resources
- Degradation of mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass
- Pollution

Regional Cooperation

Institutional Mapping

Regional Bodies with a Mandate in Ocean, Environmental and Fisheries Governance

- **Partnerships** in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)
- **Coordinating Body** on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
- **Agreements**: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, (ASEAN)
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- International **Union** for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Institutional Mapping

Sub-Regional Mechanisms with a Mandate in Ocean, Environmental and Fisheries Governance
- Arafura and Timor Seas Expert Forum (ATSEF)
- Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)
- South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and South Asian Seas Programme of UNEP...

Institutional Mapping

Regional Fisheries Bodies
- Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)
- WorldFish Centre

General Considerations for a Post-BOBLME Project Regional Coordination Entity

Situation in other entities:
- Benguela Current Commission (BCC)
- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME)
- Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME)
- South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP)
Organizational Requirements

- Tasks to be fulfilled
  - Support to SAP Implementation
  - Liaison and coordination
  - Administrative Support
- Staffing
- Financial Considerations
  - Funding Sources
    - Members
    - Institutional Donors (e.g., World Bank, GEF, ADB, Bilateral etc.)
    - Private Sector
  - Funding Mechanisms
    - Recurring Mandatory contributions by Members
    - One-time Voluntary contributions by Members
    - Other contributions

Benguela Current Commission: Tasks

- Facilitate the implementation and effective monitoring of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
- Arrange and support BCC meetings, including taking and keeping minutes of these meetings.
- Negotiate with donors interested in supporting the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
- Perform financial and other administrative services required for the proper and efficient operation of the Commission.
- Prepare the plans, projects, assessments, reports and other documents required by the Commission and assist the Ecosystem Advisory Committee (EAC) and subsidiary bodies to prepare such documents.
- Obtain and update regularly information required by the Contracting States for the implementation of the Interim Agreement and of the Strategic Action Programme.

Benguela Current Commission: Organigram

- Executive Secretary
- Chief Financial Officer
- Finance and Admin Officer
- Administrative Assistant
- Ecosystem Coordinator
- Regional Training Coordinator
- Data and Information Manager
SWIOFP

The project management structure of SWIOFP consists of three levels:

(i) a high level political steering committee,

(ii) a ‘Regional Executive Secretariat’, which acts as the project’s core operational unit, and

(iii) national management units for each of the participating countries.
Report of the Regional Policy Review Workshop

Possible Organizational Setup

Executive Secretary
- Administration
  - Finance
  - Procurement
  - Administrative Support
- Scientific Coordination
  - Implementation
  - Evaluation
  - Capacity Building
  - Data & Information
- External Relations
  - Liaison
  - Resource Mobilization
  - Meetings Services

Possible Governing Bodies

Board of Governors
- Standing Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters
- Standing Committee on Implementation
- Scientific Advisory Committee

Options

- Options for the Establishment of a Post-BOBLME Project Regional Coordination Entity
  - Creation of a New Institution
    - Pros and Cons
    - Tentative Organigram
      - (Secretary, National Officers, etc.)
    - Tentative Budget
  - Integration into Existing Institutions
    - Expanding the Mandate and/or Geographical Reach of an Existing Institution
    - Collaboration among Two or More Entities (e.g., ASEAN, SAARC, SEAFDEC, ROBIP-EDO, SACERF, etc.)
    - Cooperating with Academia/World Fish Centre in the framework of the Scientific Advisory Committee
Future Scenarios

- Scenario A1: Member Countries decide to establish a close collaboration (High Political Will) within a new Commission
  - Headquarters
  - Staff
  - Budget
  - Activities

Future Scenarios

- Scenario A2: Member Countries decide to establish a close collaboration (High Political Will) through collaboration in (an) existing Organization(s)
  - Headquarters
  - Staff
  - Budget
  - Activities

Future Scenarios

- Scenario B: Member Countries opt for a loose agreement (Low Political Will)
  - Headquarters
  - Staff
  - Budget
  - Activities
**BOB Alliance**

- Consequences of the various scenarios on the institutional mapping in the BOB Area
- Necessity for a BOB Alliance for Ocean, Environmental and Fisheries Governance
- Possible future role in a ‘BOB Alliance’

**Conclusions**

There is a Job to be done!

Time is of the essence!

Better start sooner than later!