

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project



**Making a difference to resource management
in the Bay of Bengal**



The BOBLME Project is working on:

Coastal resource management; marine protected areas; the ecosystem approach to fisheries - including ecosystem health, fisheries statistics, hilsa, Indian mackerel, sharks, critical habitats and iconic species; large-scale processes, climate change and marine pollution.

The Project is contributing to

Strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships

Capacity development

Improving the knowledge base and

Improved governance

and assisting countries meet international goals for:

Responsible fisheries

Sustainable development

Biodiversity

Highly migratory Species

Pollution

Reporting

	Strengthening regional cooperation	Capacity development	Improving the knowledge-base	Contribution to improved governance		
Coastal Resources management	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mangroves for the Future - IUCN Bangladesh - IUCN Sri Lanka - WorldFish Center - Asian Institute of Technology - (SEAFDEC) 	Postgraduate Certificate Course on Integrated Coastal Management (with AIT, MFF) Training on science communication to resource managers Training on Project Cycle Management	Sub-regional (Southeast Asia) review of best practices. Sub-regional (South Asia) review of best practices. Sub-regional and Regional ICM Workshops. Implementing ICM approaches (24 case studies). Major review on Fisheries, Environment, and ICM Policies	ICM Best practices Supporting National consultative meetings (Pondicherry, India). Draft recommendations on strengthening ICM practices formulated. ICM policies reviewed (pending actions to strengthen resource management policy making) National expert meetings contributing to policy review		
Coastal Resources management - Transboundary Habitats	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAFDEC-SIDA - BOBP-IGO - Wetlands Alliance - Corin-Asia - IUCN Bangladesh - IUCN Sri Lanka 	[Seagrass monitoring training Myanmar] [Monitoring of coral bleaching Malaysia]	Biological and socio-economic survey information dissemination in Gulf of Mannar. Research programme in place in Mergui / Myeik Archipelago.	Myanmar / Thailand bi-national Committee for Mergui / Myeik Archipelago. Sri Lanka / India bi-national consultations for Gulf of Mannar. Government – NGO (IUCN) dialogue on Sundarbans (Bangladesh). National consultative meeting on Sundarbans (India). International Consultations between Andaman Sea countries.		
Marine Protected Areas	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WorldFish Center - IUCN - Wetlands Alliance - University of Victoria (Canada) - Conservation International - FAO - NOAA - SEAFDEC - (OIKOS) 	[MPA Training Indonesia] Rollout of the FAO guidelines on MPA [MPA monitoring and evaluation]	MPA Working Group. MPA / Fish Refugia status review - regional synthesis and country reports. (MPA brochure and country policy advisories - in prep.) MPA support programme Thailand (Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Myanmar)	Policy recommendations on MPA management. (FAO MPA guidelines dissemination). <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">✓ CBD</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals¹: Target 11 MPA objectives</td> </tr> </table>	✓ CBD	Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals ¹ : Target 11 MPA objectives
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Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - APFIC - Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) - USAID - SEAFDEC - BOBP-IGO - IOSEA - Sea Around Us Project (SAUP) - ASEAN	APFIC - Training on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Training on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) supported (Myanmar) EAF training course development	EAF Presentations for partner meetings. Performance indicators on fisheries management Ecosystem description for the Bay of Bengal	[Formation of a Regional Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (RFMAC)] [Formation of a Regional Hilsa Management forum] [Formation of a Regional Indian mackerel Management forum] <table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ CBD</td> <td>Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals¹: - target 6 applying ecosystem based approaches</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ COFI</td> <td>Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ MDG</td> <td>Contributing to Millennium Development Goals²: integrating the principles of sustainable development</td> </tr> </table>	✓ CBD	Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals ¹ : - target 6 applying ecosystem based approaches	✓ COFI	Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	✓ MDG	Contributing to Millennium Development Goals ² : integrating the principles of sustainable development
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Ecosystem health	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - 1 st International Conference on Managing Ecosystem Health of Tropical Seas (ECOSEAS 2010) - NACA	Building capacity to develop ecosystem indicators.	Review of aquatic animal health issues in the Bay of Bengal (BOBLME-NACA Expert Working Group) Ecosystem Indicator templates and information on data sources compiled; Indicators Working Group. National indicators consultations (Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Maldives). [Regional indicators consultations]	<i>Ecosystem Indicators will be an integral component of the SAP</i> National indicators consultations (Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Maldives). <table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ UNGA</td> <td>Contributing to the UNGA process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects</td> </tr> </table>	✓ UNGA	Contributing to the UNGA process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects				
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Fisheries Statistics	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - SEAFDEC - APFIC (Contribution to APFIC biennial 2012 Status and potential review)	[activities to be implemented in accordance working group recommendations]	BOBLME Fisheries Statistics Working Group BOBLME-catches since 1950s A review of the collection and management of fisheries statistics in each country.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ FAO-CWP</td> <td>Contributing to the improvement of fisheries statistics in accordance with (FAO) Coordinating Working Party goals</td> </tr> </table>	✓ FAO-CWP	Contributing to the improvement of fisheries statistics in accordance with (FAO) Coordinating Working Party goals				
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Hilsa shad & Indian mackerel	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - APFIC - BOBP-IGO -FAO	Stock assessment training Development of a regional assessment of hilsa Support to BOBLME countries to join IOTC technical meetings	Hilsa shad status review. Regional stock status assessments (BOBLME Hilsa Fisheries Assessment WG) Pre-assessments on hilsa management (3 countries). Research programme in place (national research activities). Regional stock status assessments (BOBLME Indian mackerel Working Group). Pre-assessments on Indian mackerel management (7 countries). Research programme in place (national research activities).	Stock status advice. [Formation of a Regional Hilsa Management forum] [Formation of a Regional Indian mackerel Management forum] <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">COFI</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">CBD</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals¹: - target 6 applying ecosystem based approaches</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">IOTC</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the need for technical capacity development in fisheries statistics and assessment (res 10/05).</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	✓	COFI	Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries		✓	CBD	Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals ¹ : - target 6 applying ecosystem based approaches		✓	IOTC	Contributing to the need for technical capacity development in fisheries statistics and assessment (res 10/05).	
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Sharks	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - APFIC - IOTC - BOBP-IGO - SEAFDEC	[Identification and data collection in Myanmar] [National capacity development activities]	Synthesis of shark fisheries information BOBLME Sharks Working Group. Research programme in place (national research activities).	Strengthening the development of National Plans of Action –Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">COFI</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries - developing National Plans Of Action</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">CMS</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the Convention on Migratory Species goals³: sharks</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td rowspan="2" style="vertical-align: middle;">IOTC</td> <td rowspan="2">Contributing to the Convention of sharks caught in association with fisheries of the IOTC (res 05/05) - development of National Actions Plans for sharks</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> </tr> </table>	✓	COFI	Contributing to the (FAO) Committee on Fisheries goals: implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries - developing National Plans Of Action		✓	CMS	Contributing to the Convention on Migratory Species goals ³ : sharks		✓	IOTC	Contributing to the Convention of sharks caught in association with fisheries of the IOTC (res 05/05) - development of National Actions Plans for sharks	
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Critical habitats & iconic species	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - CORIN-Asia - SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center (SCZMC) - IOSEA	Supporting environmental sampling in Myanmar and Thailand Coral Reef Monitoring IOSEA (sea turtle) database improvements	BOBLME-habitats review Country status reports and bibliography on threats to marine turtles	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ CMS</td> <td>Contributing to the Convention on Migratory Species goals³: sea turtles memorandum of understanding</td> </tr> </table>	✓ CMS	Contributing to the Convention on Migratory Species goals ³ : sea turtles memorandum of understanding				
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Large Scale Processes	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - UNESCO-IOC - IOGOOS - NOAA - Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemical and Ecosystems Research (SIBER)	Training (5 days summer school): Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social and Ecosystem Impacts (senor deployment and data analysis) Supporting Bangladesh and Myanmar participation in IOGOOS	Oceanography status reports. BOBLME Oceanography Working Group [Deployment of a biogeochemical sensors data buoy in the Bay of Bengal] <table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ IOGOOS</td> <td>Contributing to the development of operational oceanography in the Indian Ocean region</td> </tr> </table>	✓ IOGOOS	Contributing to the development of operational oceanography in the Indian Ocean region	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ UNGA</td> <td>Contributing to the UNGA process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects</td> </tr> </table>	✓ UNGA	Contributing to the UNGA process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects		
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Climate Change <i>(added to the project)</i>	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - APFIC	APFIC Regional Climate Change Workshop	APFIC-BOBLME Regional Review Climate Change Working Group	Recommendations for climate change adaption and research						
Marine Pollution	<i>Collaborative activities with:</i> - UNEP-GPA - GPNM	(Laboratory status assessment and strengthening) Tarball survey (Maldives)	Country Reports on Marine Pollution Issues. Tarball literature review and survey (Maldives) [Review of the status of the GPA National Plans of Action]. Research programme in place (incl. pilot activities in Chilika Lake, India) with GPNM. BOBLME Pollution Working Group.	National Working Group on Pollution (Malaysia). <table border="1"> <tr> <td>✓ GPA</td> <td>Contributing to the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities⁴: national plans of action</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ GPNM</td> <td>Contributing to the UNEP Global Partnership on Nutrient Management : national plans of action⁵ - pilot activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>✓ CBD</td> <td>Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals¹: - target 8 reducing pollution</td> </tr> </table>	✓ GPA	Contributing to the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities ⁴ : national plans of action	✓ GPNM	Contributing to the UNEP Global Partnership on Nutrient Management : national plans of action ⁵ - pilot activities	✓ CBD	Contributing to the Convention on Biodiversity Goals ¹ : - target 8 reducing pollution
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Notes

1. Convention on biodiversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets - from the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020:

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

2. Millennium Development goals: Goal 7 - ensure environmental sustainability. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources.

3. Convention on migratory Species: CMS Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.

4. The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The GPA was adopted by the international community in 1995 and “aims at preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by facilitating the realization of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment”. The GPA is the only global inter-governmental initiative directly addressing the link between watersheds, coastal waters and the open ocean, and has initiated the development of National Programme of Action (NPAs). The GPA aims at preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by facilitating the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment.

5. The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management. (GPNM). A global platform to steer dialogue and actions to promote effective nutrient management.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	MDG	Millennium Development Goal
BOBLME	Bay Of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem	MFF	Mangroves For the Future
BOBP-IGO	Bay Of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation	MPA	Marine Protected Area
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity	NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
CI	Conservation International	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species	OIKOS	Istituto Oikos Onlus
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)	SAUP	Sea Around Us Project
CWP	Coordinating Working Party (FAO)	SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
CORIN-ASIA	Asian Coastal Resources Institute	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
CTI	Coral Triangle Initiative	UOV	University of Victoria (Canada)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNESCO-IOC	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
GPA	Global Programme of Action (UNEP)	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
GPNM	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management	USAID	United States Agency International Development
IOGOOS	Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System	WA	Wetlands Alliance
IOSEA-Turtle	Indian Ocean South East Asia Turtle Memorandum	WFC	World Fish Center