

**BOBLME Project Preparatory Grant Phase
Inception workshop
12-13 March 2019
Bangkok, Thailand**

Draft concept Note

Background

Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are defined on the basis of their bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophic interactions. They are scientifically defined areas in which ecosystem management approaches may be applied. LMEs encompass a range of habitats, from river basins and estuaries to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves and the high seas. The world's 66 Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) produce more than 80 percent of the global marine fisheries catch. At the same time, they include some of the most degraded habitats in the world. The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) is estimated at high-risk level and some serious issues need to be addressed.

The three major issues identified for BOBLME are

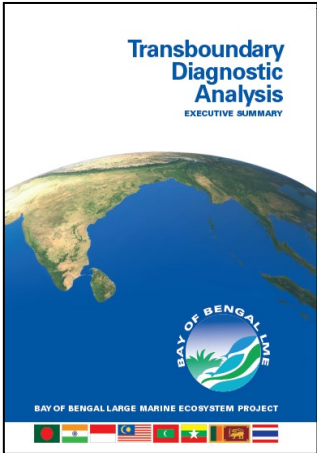

- Over-exploitation of fish stocks
- Habitat degradation
- Pollution

The eight countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) of the LME had decided to address the issues, jointly and in collaboration with partners, and developed the BOBLME Project supported by the Global Environment Facility and other agencies and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The first phase of the project ran from 2009 to 2015.

BOBLME phase 1 was to lay the foundations for change, including demonstrations of transboundary cooperation, before implementing a second phase action programme that will lead to the long-term goal relating to an improvement in the health of the Bay of Bengal and its fisheries.

<p>Global Environment Objective: A healthy ecosystem and sustainability of living resources for the benefit of the coastal populations of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME).</p>	<p>Project Development Objective: To support a series of strategic interventions that would result in and provide critical inputs into the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), whose implementation will lead to enhanced food security and reduced poverty for coastal communities</p>
<p>Four major outcomes or areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o strengthened institutional arrangements, legal and policy reforms; o implementation of ecosystem approach to management measures; o knowledge strengthening, awareness and communications; and o human capacity development. 	

Two major outputs of BOBLME Phase 1	
1. A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis – TDA which reviewed and analysed the major transboundary issues and their causes	2. Strategic Action Programme – SAP identifying goals, objectives and activities required to address the major transboundary issues and their causes, a document developed based on wide stakeholder consultations and agreed at high (ministerial) government level.
	

The detailed results of phase one of BOBLME can be found in www.boblme.org

The SAP was endorsed by Ministries of Fisheries and Environment of the eight partner countries and a Project Framework Document (PFD) for the SAP implementation was developed by FAO and endorsed by the countries.

A second GEF-supported Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project is under development with the FAO receiving the Project Preparation Grant in late 2018 to prepare the Programme Document for implementation. The documentation for the Full—Size Project (FSP) will be submitted to GEF later in 2019 with an expected commencement of the FSP in early 2020. The BOBLME project will assist implementation of the BOBLME Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The program objective is “To contribute to sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities”.

The inception workshop for BOBLME phase two is scheduled for 12-13 March 2019 and the first regional project steering committee meeting for 14 March 2019. Both meetings will be held in Bangkok. In the coming months national level stakeholder consultations to finalize the inputs to the Project Document will be organized.

Objectives of the inception workshop

- To provide the background of Phase 1 of BOBLME project and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

- To brief on the Project Framework Document (PFD) for the SAP implementation phase of BOBLME
- To work out the approach, strategies and actions during the Project Preparation Grant phase that will lead to the Full Size Project document of the BOBLME SAP implementation programme

Expected Outcomes

- The participants are aware and have clarity on the first phase of BOBLME project including the results and Strategic Action Programme
- The participants are aware and have clarity on the Programme Framework Document of BOBLME
- Expectations of the partner countries from the BOBLME component areas in tune with/ in support of current country programmes/policies/priorities and from a transboundary perspective
- The process and steps to be followed in the Project Preparation Grant period (in particular information requirements for completing the ProDoc), leading to the Full Size Project Document clarified and finalized by all for endorsement of the Project Steering Committee

Process

Presentations/ information sharing by FAO on the BOBLME first phase, Strategic Action Programme (SAP), Project Framework Document (PFD) and Project Preparation Grant (PPG) work outline

Presentation/ information sharing by countries: update on country programmes/policies/priorities in tune with the BOBLME components and expectations

Working group session on regional and sub-regional focus and priorities

Countries finalizing the PPG activities in each country

Draft agenda

Inception Workshop

12-13 March 2019

Day 1

- Inaugural session
- BOBLME 1 achievements and lessons learned
- SAP to Programme Framework Document
- Country presentations on ongoing and programmes/ projects in pipeline in tune with the selected BOBLME component areas
- Country and sub-regional level focus areas of priority (group discussion)

Day 2

- India sharing experience of state level stakeholder consultations
- Process and timeframe for developing the full project document for the FAO child project (Including presentation and discussion of ProDoc structure and format)
- Roles and responsibilities including presentation and discussion of ProDoc structure and format
- Relevant stakeholder groups for national consultations (country groups)
- Regional and sub-regional focus and priorities. Suggested sub-regional and regional coordination mechanisms (sub-regional group)
- Transboundary and regional / sub-regional collaboration; future governance processes for the BOBLME (CCR)
- Concluding session