project for the development
of small-scale fisheries
in the bay of bengal
- preparatory phase

volume 1 - report
PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES
IN THE BAY OF BENGAL - PREPARATORY PHASE

VOLUME 1: REPORT

SWEDISH FUNDS-IN-TRUST

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Rome, July 1978
This document describes the origin of the Project for the Development of Small-scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal and gives a brief report of the work carried out in the preparatory phase; reports of two project Advisory Committee meetings and the final project request are appended.

Volume 2 of the Report contains Working Papers describing marine small-scale fisheries and their problems and needs in some of the countries and states bordering the western Bay of Bengal.

Distribution:
Member states of IOP
Contributing Institutions
SIDA
UNDP
FAD Regional Fishery Officer
FAO Department of Fisheries

Bibliography:
Project for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal (1978)
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Marine fisheries. Fishery development. Artisanal fishing. Bay of Bengal
The International Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme, or Indian Ocean Programme for convenience, was formally conceived by the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission and its activities are conducted through that body. The Programme is supported by the UNDP and is being carried out by the FAO Department of Fisheries. Put simply, the objective of the Programme is fishery development in the Indian Ocean region.

H.C. Winsor
Programme Leader
REPORT ON THE PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN
THE BAY OF BENGAL

PREFACE

This document is Volume 1 of the Report on the preparatory phase of the project for the Development of Small-scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal; it gives a brief account of the work carried out and reports of two Advisory Committee meetings and the final project request are appended.

Volume 2 of the Report contains working papers which describe the marine small-scale fisheries and their problems and needs in the countries and states bordering the western Bay of Bengal.

The preparatory phase was sponsored by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) under a Funds-in-Trust arrangement with the FAO under the project symbol TF/RAS 40(SWE).

The work was greatly facilitated by the active cooperation and generous assistance provided by the Fisheries Administrations of the participating Governments. In particular, the collaboration and generosity of the Administrations of Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu, India, in hosting the two Advisory Committee meetings is acknowledged.
CONTENTS

1. Background
2. Activities

Appendices

1. Report of the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee, Colombo, October 1976
2. Report of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee, Madras, June 1977
3. Request for Project for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, Rome, July 1977
1. BACKGROUND

A Mission under the aegis of the FAO/UNDP Indian Ocean Fishery Survey and Development Programme (IOP) visited countries bordering the Bay of Bengal in May/June 1974 with the purpose of identifying suitable fisheries development projects. The countries which had expressed interest in the Mission were visited i.e. Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Mission was sponsored by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and was composed of FAO and SIDA personnel.

The Mission was a follow-up of extensive discussions between FAO/IOP and SIDA about problems, needs and opportunities of the Indian Ocean Fisheries and about suitable areas for development support from SIDA and other agencies. The Bay of Bengal was identified as a target area for reasons of large impoverished fisheries populations in the bordering states and of underexploited fishery resources.

The Mission identified the need for development support in the broad areas of survey of living resources, development of traditional fishing communities and strengthening of institutional capacity in technology development and training. The report of the Mission contains outline proposals for specific projects as remedial actions to meet the needs.

The findings and recommendations of the Mission were endorsed by the Executive Committee of the IOP in October 1974, by the FAO Committee of Fisheries in June 1975 and by the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission in July 1975. In these meetings and in direct consultations with the countries concerned, a high priority was given to development of small-scale fisheries.

After consideration of the views expressed and consultations with SIDA, FAO requested support from SIDA of a project primarily directed towards the small-scale fisheries to be executed largely through existing national institutions. The project would thus satisfy some of the needs identified in the field of traditional fishing communities and institutional capacity.

In mid-1976 SIDA agreed to fund a preparatory phase of one year duration for the preparation of a project entitled "Centre for the Development of Traditional Fishing Communities". The main activities during this phase would be to study and consolidate the available information on small-scale fisheries in the region with particular emphasis on problems and needs and to prepare a detailed work plan and budget for the operational phase. An Advisory Committee with participation of representatives of participating countries, FAO/IOP and SIDA was to be formed and two meetings of this Committee were to be convened during the preparatory phase. IOP would be the Secretariat of the Committee.

2. ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the preparatory phase was started immediately upon receipt of the official SIDA approval of the project by utilizing the services of the FAO/UNDP project "Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in Southwest Asia" (RAS74/031) with headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Initial contacts were established with the cooperating agencies of the participating countries in August/September 1976 and arrangements were made for a first Advisory Committee meeting. Descriptions of the small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka as well as outlines of the work programme of the preparatory phase were prepared as background material for the meeting.

The First Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 28-29 October 1976. The meeting was attended by representatives from the five participating countries SIDA, six other bilateral development agencies, UNDP, FAO, IOP and the RAS/74/031 project.

1 Report of the Fisheries Mission to the Bay of Bengal, IOP, FAO, Rune, 1974
In this meeting the countries identified their main problems and constraint6 to development and needs for material inputs and technical support. The proposed project under preparation, it was suggested, should provide institutional support services in the fields of technology development, education and training. It was further suggested that FAO/UNDP projects such as the existing RAS/74/031 should, on a continuous basis, offer services to the governments in the areas of data collection, problem identification and project preparation.

The meeting agreed that the result of the preparatory phase would be reviewed in a Working Party of participating countries, administrative and technical staff, which would specify the contents of the operational phase for final endorsement by the Advisory Committee in a second meeting to be convened by mid-1977.

The full report of the First Meeting of the Advisory Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

A small-scale fisheries specialist was appointed as officer-in-charge of the preparatory phase from January 1977. Together with a team of consultants he undertook consultations with the participating countries about specific activities, their location and input requirements in terms of expertise and funds. A draft project document was prepared on the basis of this work.

Parallel to this, the services of the staff of RAS/74/031 were utilized for extensive field surveys of the project area. Working papers giving detailed descriptions of the small-scale fisheries and assessments of problems and needs in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Indian East Coast States, i.e. West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were prepared. These working papers are compiled in Volume 2 of this report.

The Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in Madras, India, 29-30 June 1977, and was attended by representatives of all participating countries, SIDA, FAO, IOP and RAS/74/031. The meeting was preceded by a Technical Working Party composed of technical officers of the Committee members. The Working Party reviewed the survey results and discussed the draft project document in detail; a revised document was presented to the Advisory Committee.

The Committee decided that the project should have the title: "Project for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal" which would better reflect its actual purpose and contents.

The Committee adopted the Report of the Technical Working Party with some amendments and expressed its wish that the project request should fully reflect the views stated in the adopted report. The essential parts of that report are included in the Report of the Second Meeting of the Advisory Committee. See Appendix 2.

The representatives of the five participating countries reiterated, in the meeting, unequivocally the strong support their Governments were giving to the project as well as the high priority they have given to the development of small-scale fisheries sector in their respective development plans.

The Committee agreed that its next meeting should be held in Bangladesh soon after the project has become operational and that an inter-government consultation should take place in October 1977 during the 5th Session of the IOFC in Cochin, India. Subsequent meetings of the Committee would be held in rotation in each of the participating countries.

A final project request, incorporating the views of the Advisory Committee, was prepared and submitted to SIDA in August 1977. The request is attached as Appendix 3.

Pending the SIDA approval, the posts of project staff were advertised, specific priorities for the proposed activities were determined through discussions with the participating countries and tentative arrangements made for the Third Meeting of the Advisory Committee.
On 14 July 1978, SIDA informed FBI that it was prepared to support the project by making available on a Trust Fund basis an amount of U.S. dollars equivalent to a maximum of twenty million two hundred thousand Suedish Kroner (SKr 20,200,000) for the financial years 1978/79 – 1980/81.