



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME)

9th IOC/UNESCO-UNEP-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on the
Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Paris, 10-11 July 2007

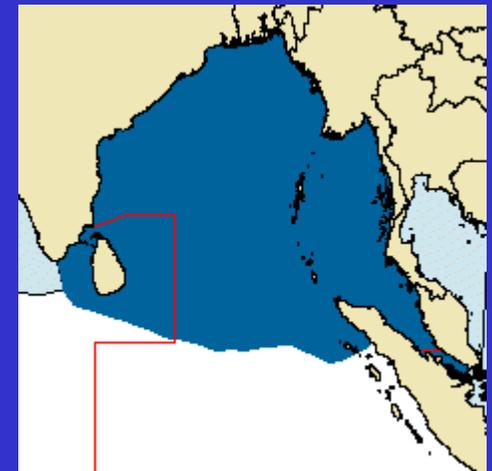
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Background & perspective

- BOB 2,900km x 1600km
- 1 of the 63 global LMEs
- 8 countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand)
- 1.5 billion people (25% world)
 - 400 million in coastal catchments
 - Expected growth 20% by 2015
- Large fishing dependency
 - Part-time & small scale
- Small GDPs
 - High level of poverty





The Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP)

- 25 year FAO Programme (since 1980)
- Multiple donors/many projects
- Phase 1: fishery development
- Phase 2: fishing communities
- Phase 3: sustainable development
 - Environmental issues
 - Fisheries management



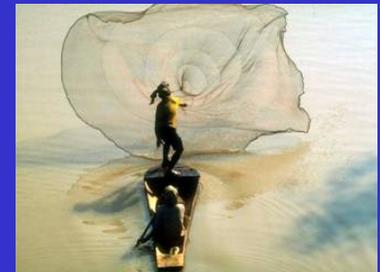
Emphasis now on broadening scope



- BOBP Advisory Committee (Jan 1995)
 - GEF financing possibilities
- CEO/GEFSEC (March 1998)
 - Approved Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME)
PDF- Block B

PDF-B phase of BOBLME Programme

- Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
- 8 Countries
 - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia,
 - Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Executing Agency: FAO
- Implementing Agency: World Bank
- Development Partners: GEF, Sida, NOAA



Prioritisation of themes (Theme reports)

- Oceanography and Marine Environment
- Living Marine Resources
- Estuarine and Coastal Habitats
- Shipping
- Coastal Zone Development
- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Socio-economics



Identified priority issues/needs

- Overexploitation of living marine resources
- Critical habitats
- Land-based pollution



Selected trans-boundary species

- Over-arching fisheries data and information system
 - Sharks (All)
 - Indian mackerel (IBMTM)
 - Hilsa (IBM)



Project objectives/structure

- **Development objective:-**
 - Enhanced food security, reduced poverty for coastal communities
- **Environmental objective:**
 - Strategic action plan (SAP) for BOBLME to protect the ecosystem and manage the living marine resources in a sustainable way.
 - Better understanding of the priority issues
 - Improved capacity to manage resources
 - Improved institutional and policy framework

Current status

- Project submitted to GEFSEC and potential donors on 22 December 2004
- Revised in January-February 2005 to be more flexible to respond to post-tsunami priorities while remaining consistent with country guidance
- Approved in February Intersessional Work Programme (April 2005)
- Endorsement letters
- Co-financing
- Consultative meeting, Bangkok, 18-19 June 2007

Endorsements from National GEF Operational Focal Points

- Bangladesh - confirmed
- India - confirmed
- Indonesia - confirmed
- Malaysia - confirmed
- Maldives - confirmed
- Myanmar – confirmed
- Sri Lanka - confirmed
- Thailand - confirmed



Co-financing

- National Governments – 4 have confirmed, awaiting confirmation others by end July
- Donors (ongoing consultations)
 - Sida – confirmed
 - Norway - confirmed
 - China – confirmed TA
 - Russia – confirmed TA
 - Spain – under review
- FAO - confirmed
- NOAA – confirmed





Co-financing

- Other donor-funded post-tsunami ongoing and planned initiatives critical to project
 - Mangroves for the Future (under discussion)
 - Assessments
 - Fisheries projects

Recent Developments

- GEF Council decision to grant the Executing Agencies direct access to GEF resources in their comparative advantage (December 2006)
- FAO's comparative advantage recognized in international waters, biodiversity, land degradation, Persistent Organic Pollutants, climate change (bioenergy) (June 2007)
- New GEF cancellation policy – not more than 2 years between GEF Council approval and CEO endorsement (December 2007)
- New GEF project cycle approved by GEF Council (June 2007) – 22 months from pipeline entry to implementation

Next steps

- Project Document (FAO format) to be finalized to take into account country guidance and comments (July 2007)
- Co-financing commitment letters from BOBLME countries for in kind and cash contributions (by 31 July 2007)
- Mobilization of additional co-financing and securing co-financing commitment letters (July 2007)
- Project Document submitted through FAO approval process (July/August 2007)
- Project Document submitted for CEO endorsement (August 2007)
- Project start-up in late 2007





Thank
you

