



# The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project - an overview

**Chris O'Brien**  
Regional Coordinator BOBLME Project  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



# A brief history

1979 – 1986 Bay of Bengal Programme (phase 1)

Improve the standard of living and the quality of life of small-scale fishers (by development and uptake of techniques and technologies)

# A brief history

## 1979 – 1986 Bay of Bengal Programme (phase 1)

Improve the standard of living and the quality of life of small-scale fishers (by development and uptake of techniques and technologies)

## 1987 – 1994 Bay of Bengal Programme (phase 2)

Socio-economic betterment of small-scale fisher-folk communities

## 1995 – 2000 Bay of Bengal Programme (phase 3)

Addressing the management of BOB fisheries

# Recent history

2001– 2005 BOBLME Project development

*Tsunami*

April 2005 – Project approved by GEF Council

June 2008 – Project reviewed and confirmed

September 2008 – First signature

April 2009 – Project becomes operational

May 2009 – Project staff arrive



3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

8 countries





3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

8 countries



3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

8 countries



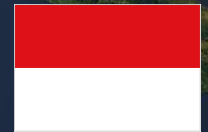
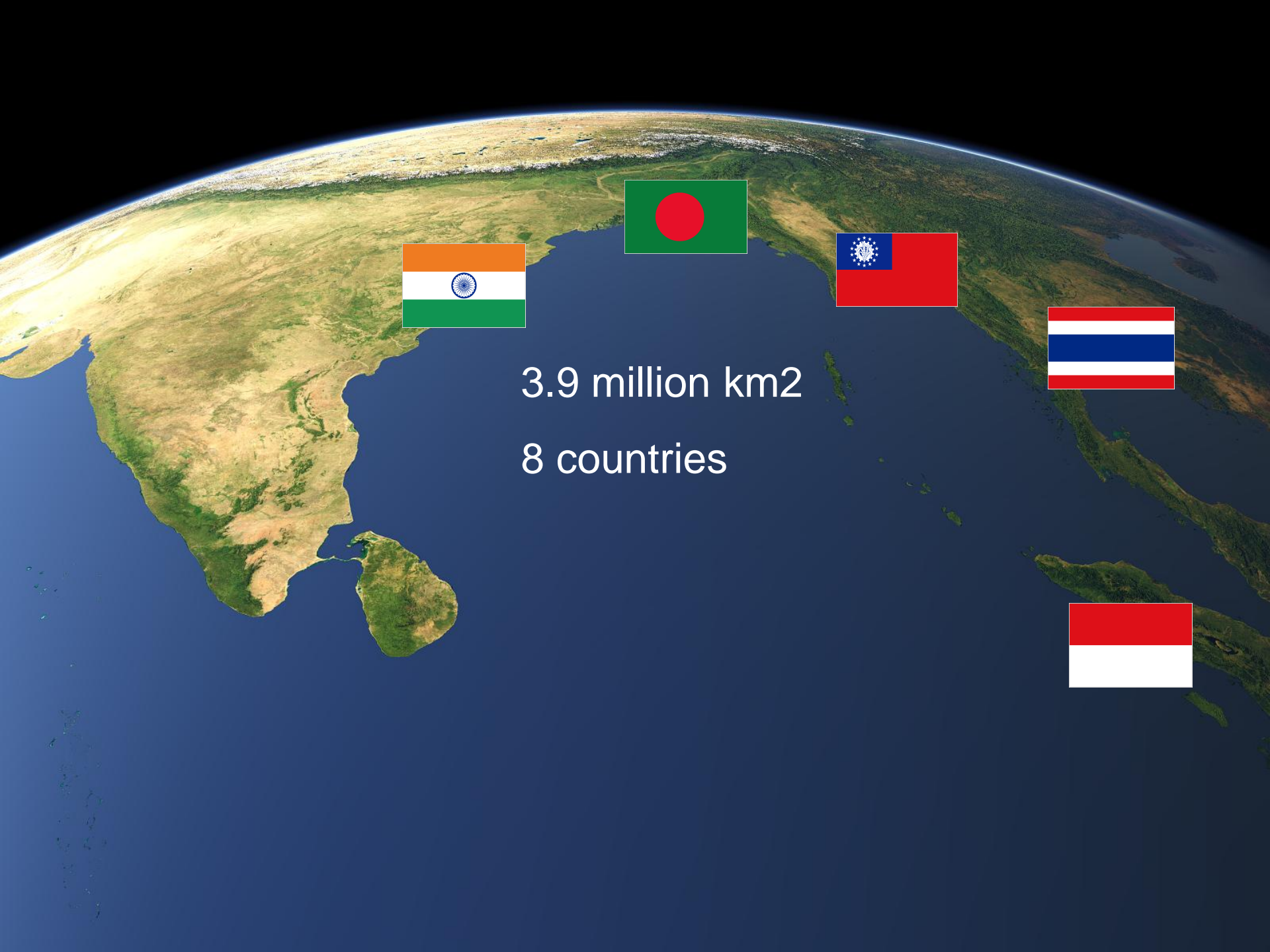


3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

8 countries

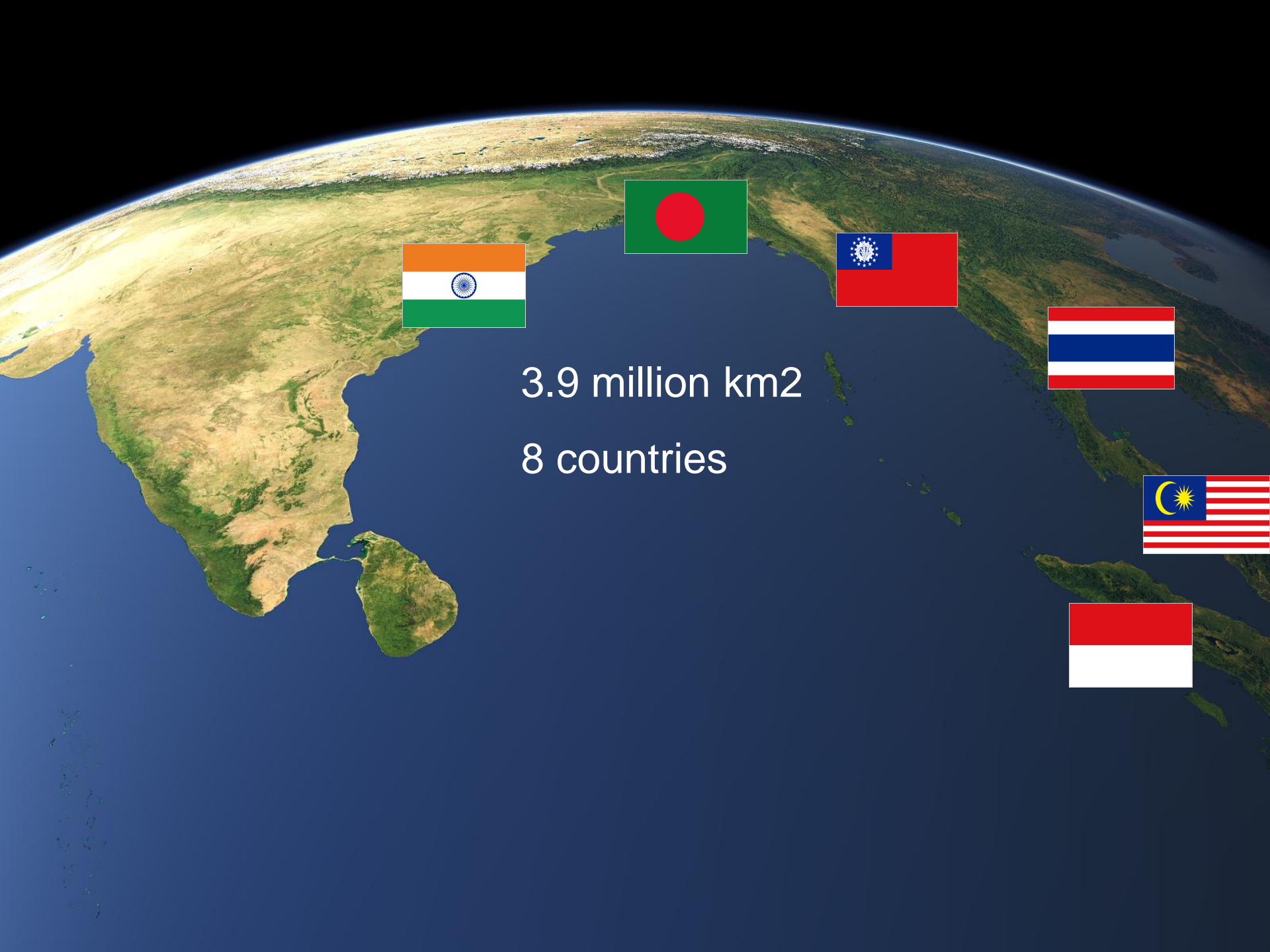






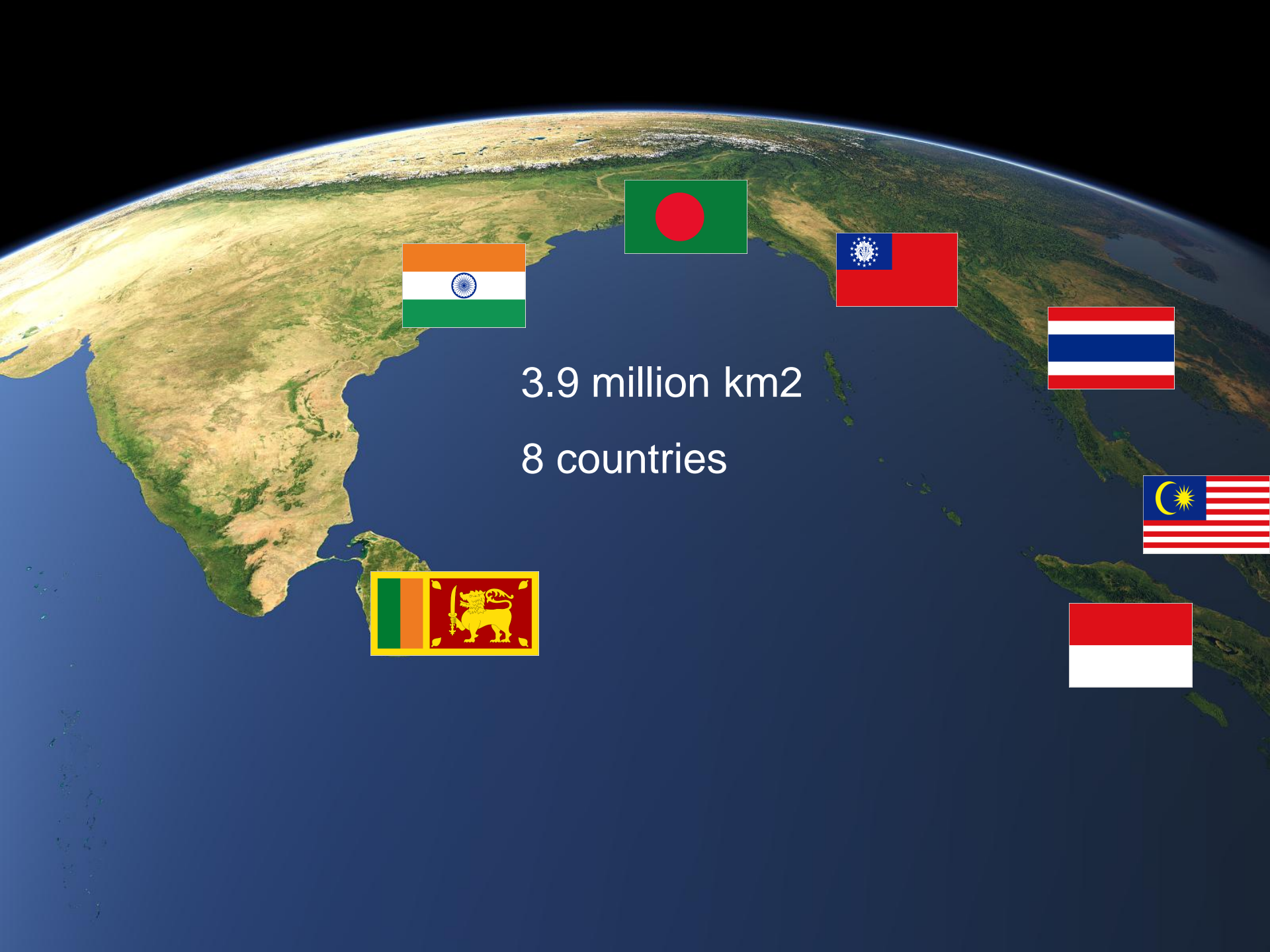
3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

8 countries



3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

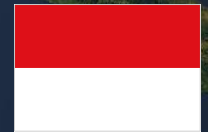
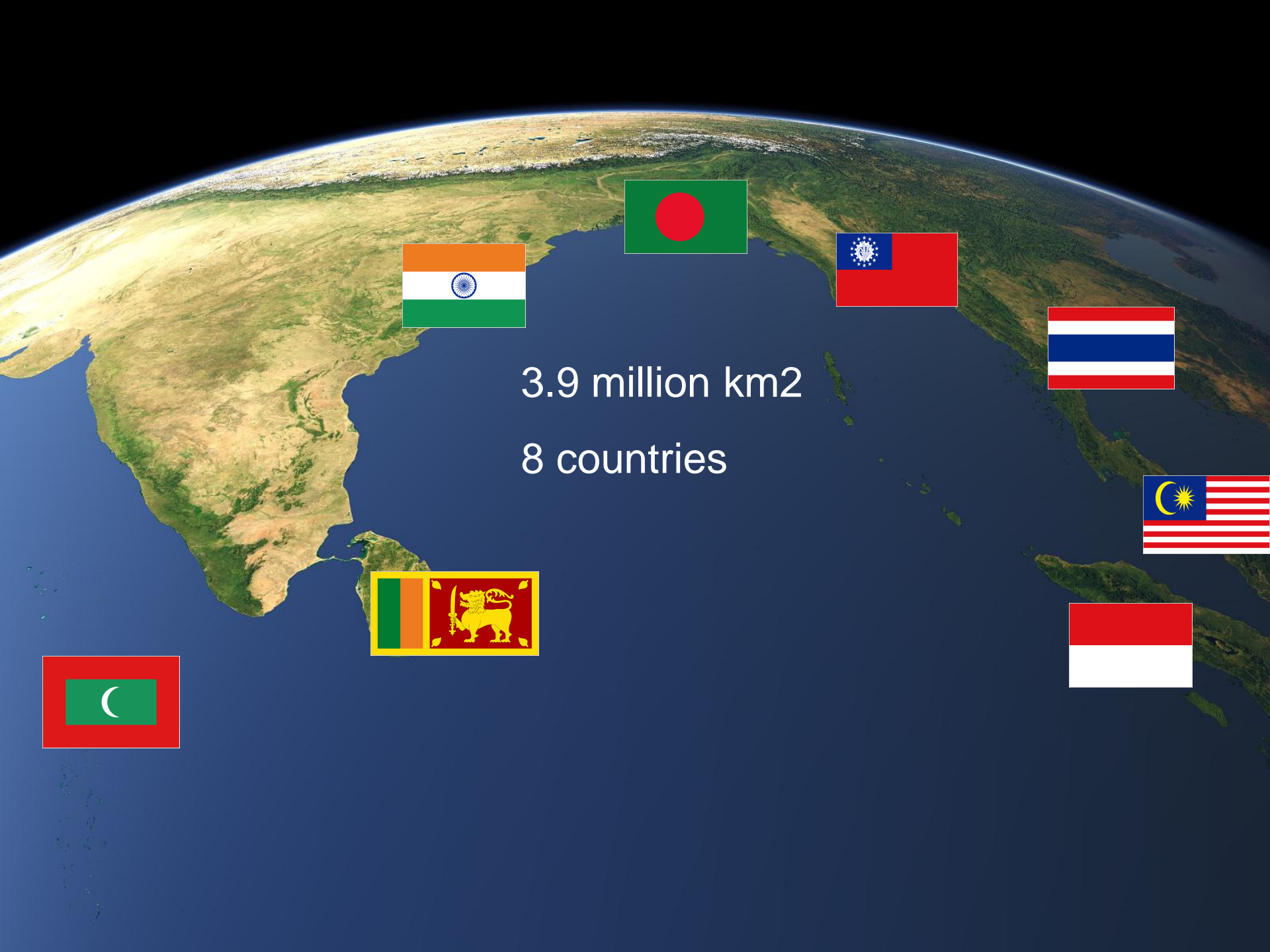
8 countries



3.9 million km2

8 countries

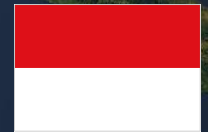
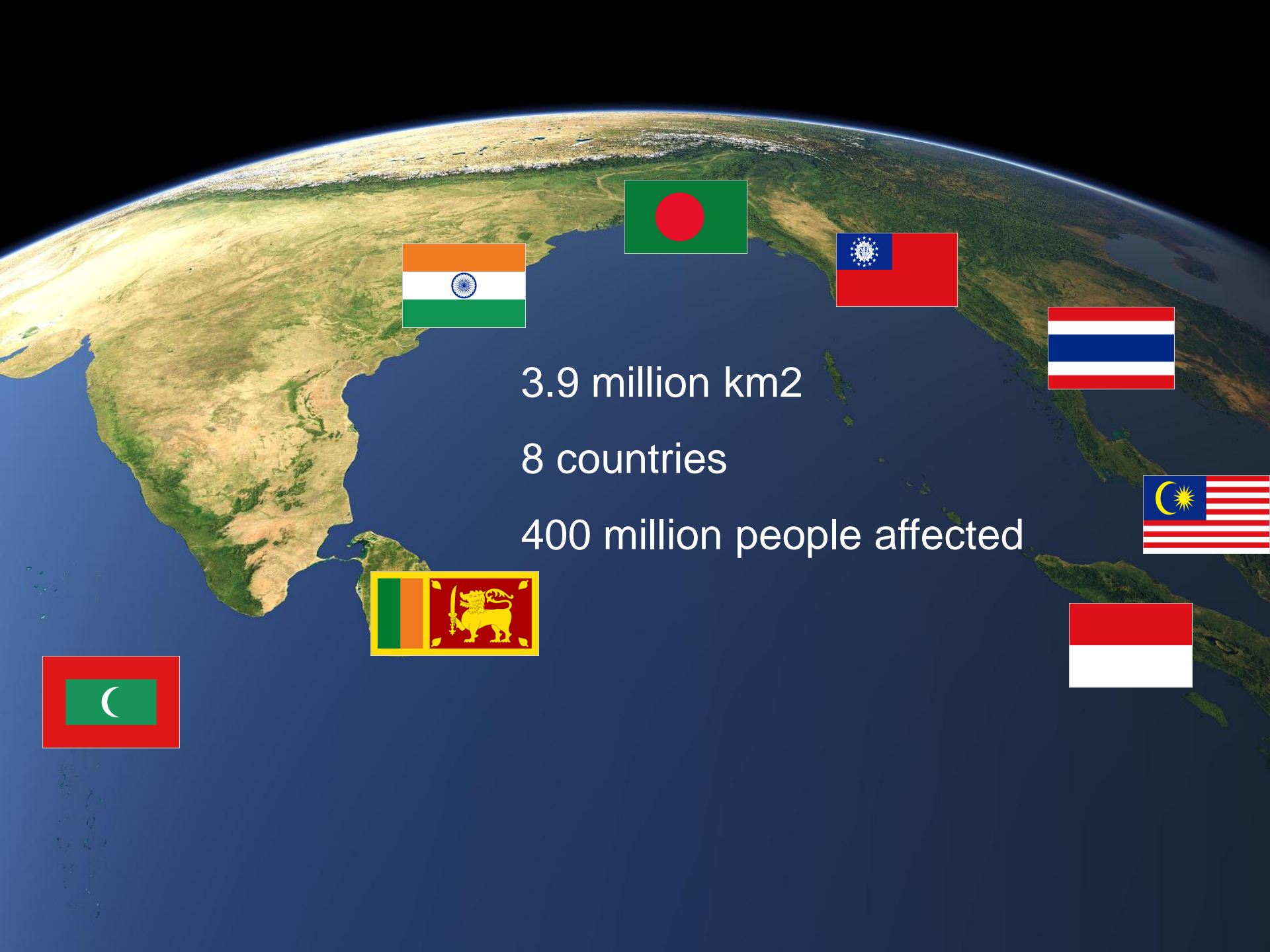




3.9 million km2

8 countries





3.9 million km<sup>2</sup>

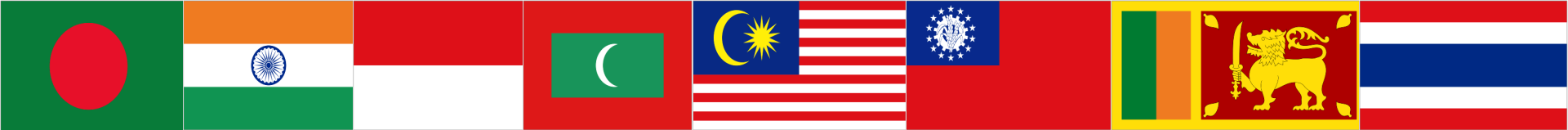
8 countries

400 million people affected

*Rapid population growth and high dependence on aquatic resources for food, trade, livelihoods, increased land use are having major impacts on the marine ecosystem*

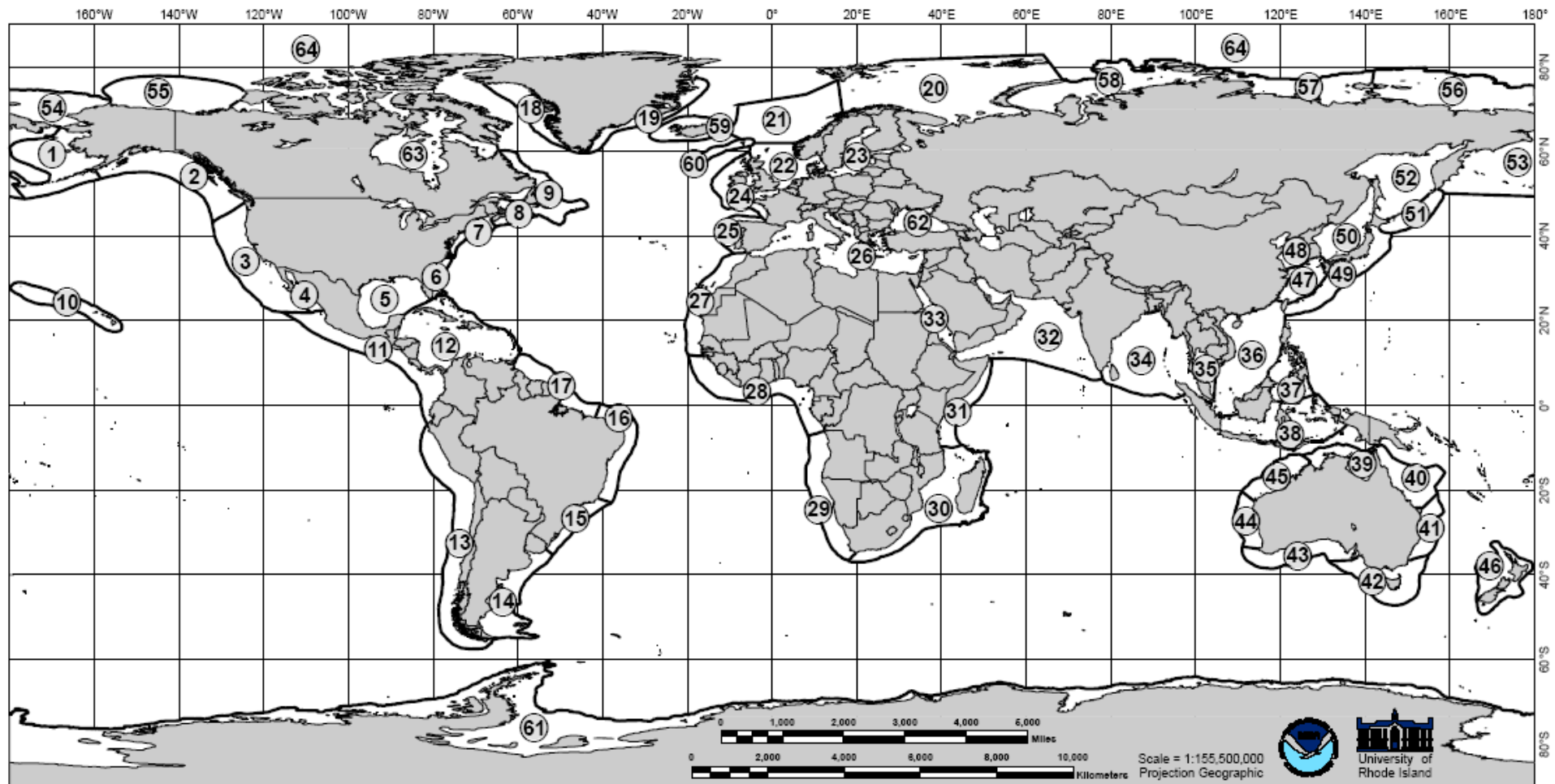
**The Bay of Bengal is experiencing**

- **over exploitation of fishstocks**
- **habitat degradation**
- **land based pollution**
- **uncertainty whether the ecosystem will be able to support livelihoods in the future**



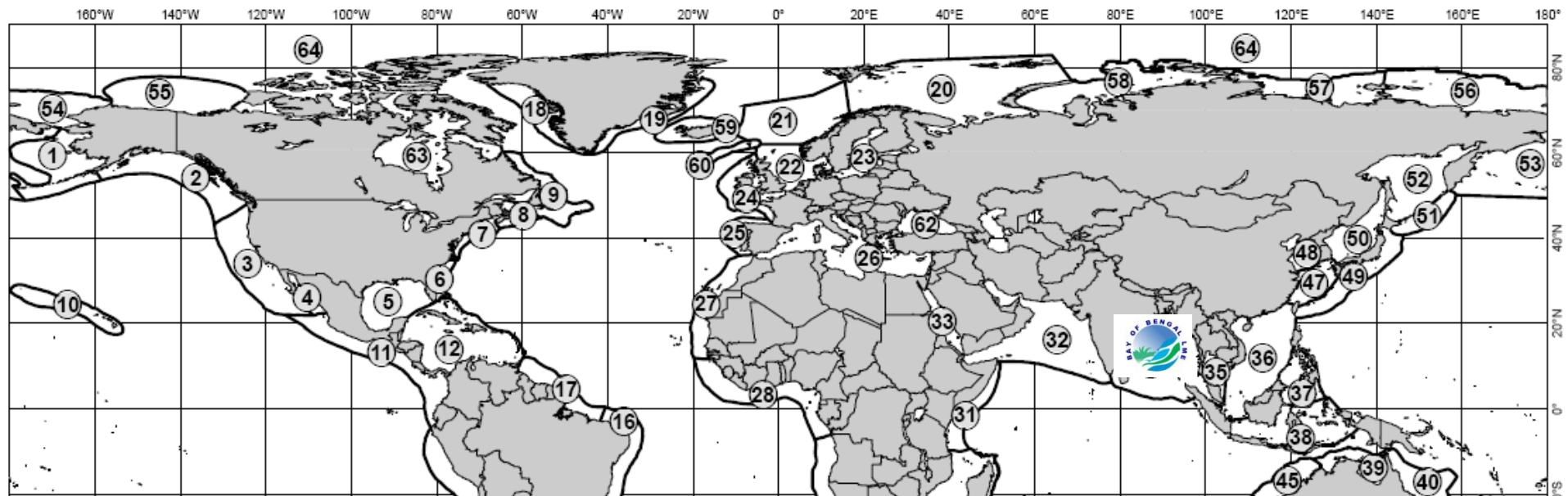


# Large Marine Ecosystems of the World





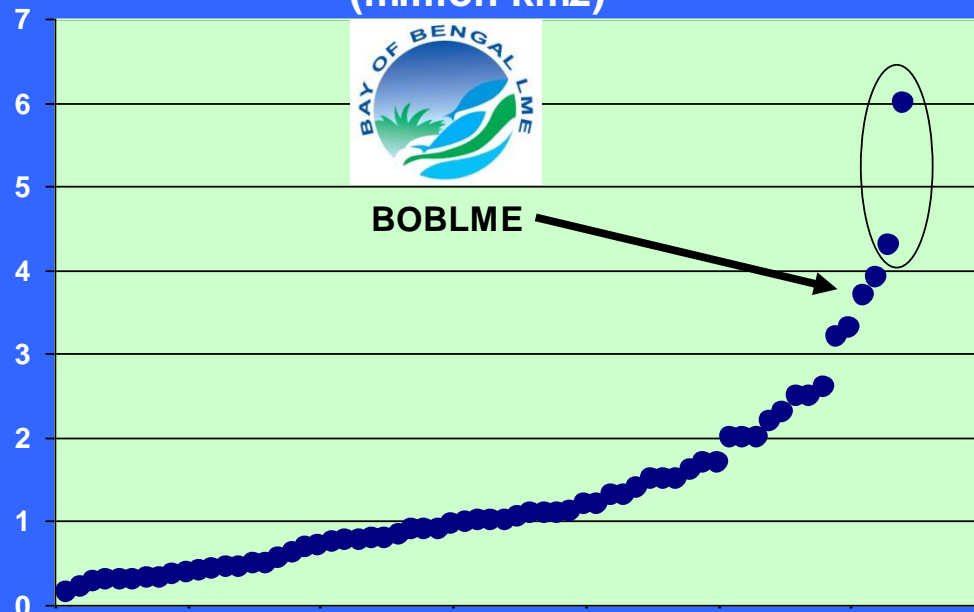
# Large Marine Ecosystems of the World



LME size  
(million km<sup>2</sup>)



BOBLME



The BOBLME Project has five components



Development of a SAP  
Resource management  
Understanding the environment  
Ecosystem health  
Communications



## **Component 1: Strategic Action Plan**

- **Finalize TDA**
- **Establish BOB management arrangements**
- **Devise a sustainable financing mechanism**
- **SAP formulation and adoption**



## **Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use**

- **Promote community-based management**
- **Improve policy harmonization**
- **Devise regional fishery assessments and management plans (3)**
- **Collaborative critical habitat management**





## **Component 3: Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment**

- **Improved understanding of large-scale processes and dynamics affecting the BOBLME**
- **Promote use of MPAs to conserve regional fish stocks**
- **Improved regional cooperation with regional and global assessment and monitoring programmes**



## **Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution**

- **Establishment of an effective ecosystem indicator framework**
- **Develop a regional approach to identifying and managing important coastal pollution issues**



## **Component 5: Project Management**

- **Establishment of the RCU**
- **Monitoring and evaluation system**
- **Project information and dissemination system**

# Expected outcomes of the BOBLME project



- Two major documents developed and agreed:
  1. Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis
  2. Endorsed Strategic Action Programme
- Establishment of :
  - Financially-sustainable institutional arrangements
  - Commitment from the BOBLME countries to collaborate through adoption of an agreed institutional collaborative mechanism.



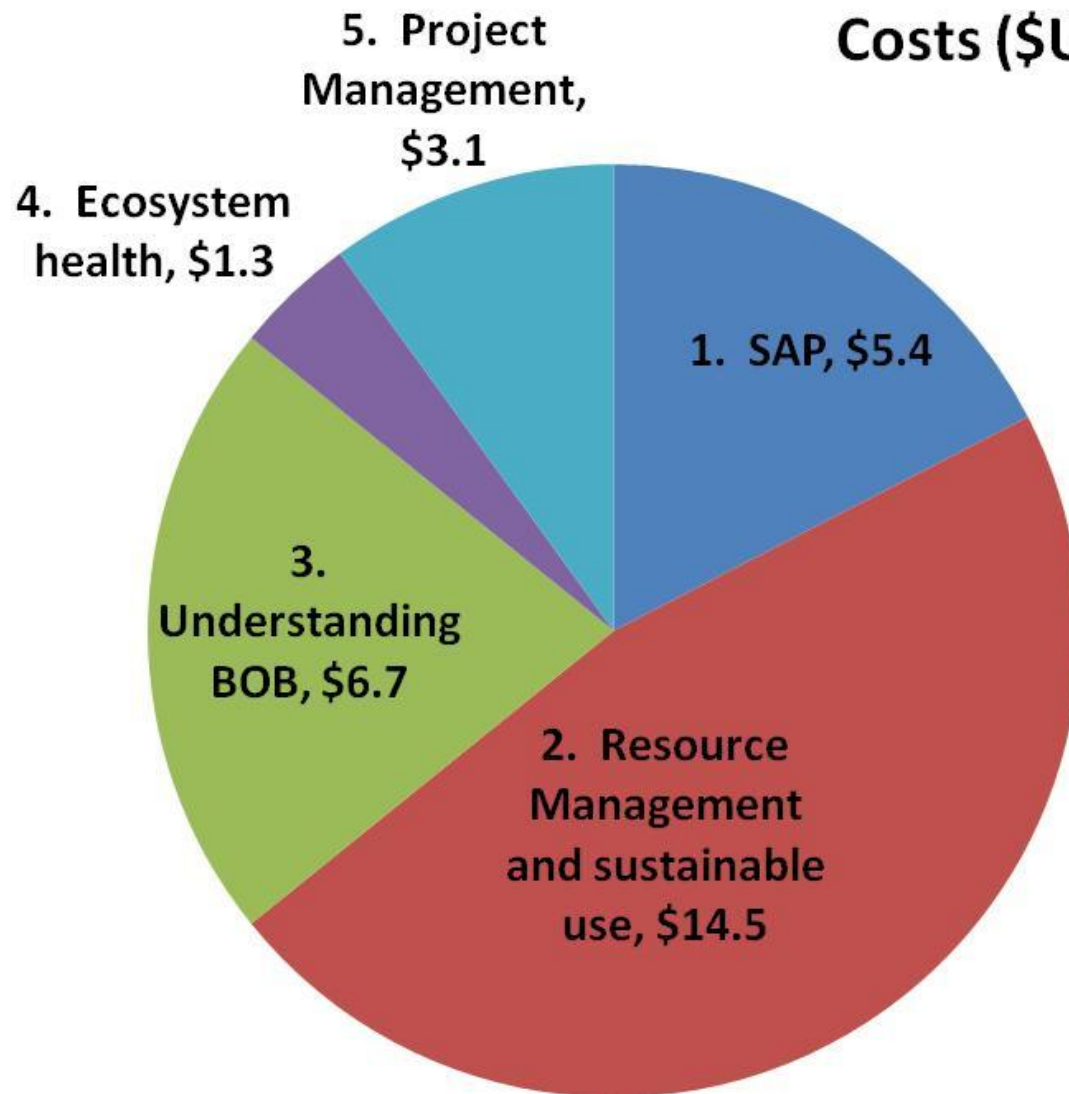


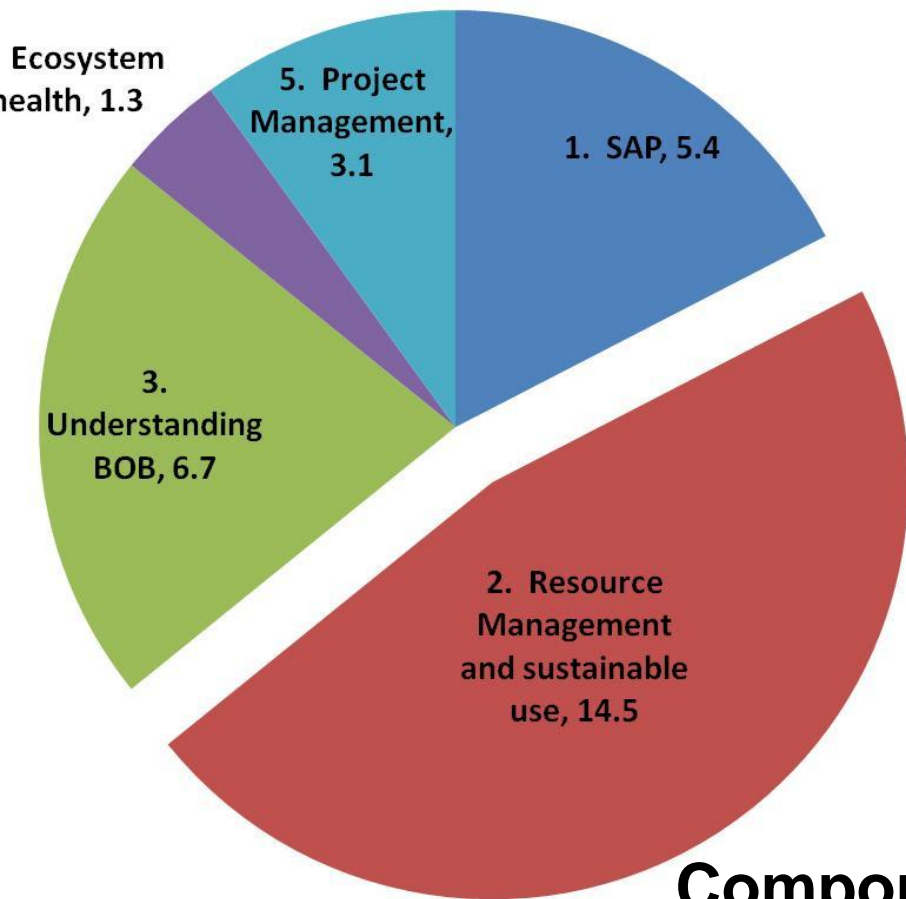
# Expected outcomes of the BOBLME project



- Stronger governance:
  - improvement in policy development
  - Processes for planning and dialogue
  - Multi-sectoral involvement
- Improved resource management:
  - Better understanding of small-scale fisheries issues
  - Co-management
  - healthy ecosystems
- Improved well-being of rural fisher communities:
  - greater resilience
  - sustainable fisheries
- Better knowledge of:
  - BOBLME's large-scale processes and ecology
  - basic health indicators in the BOBLME

## Costs (\$USD millions)





**Component 2 (\$14.5 m):**

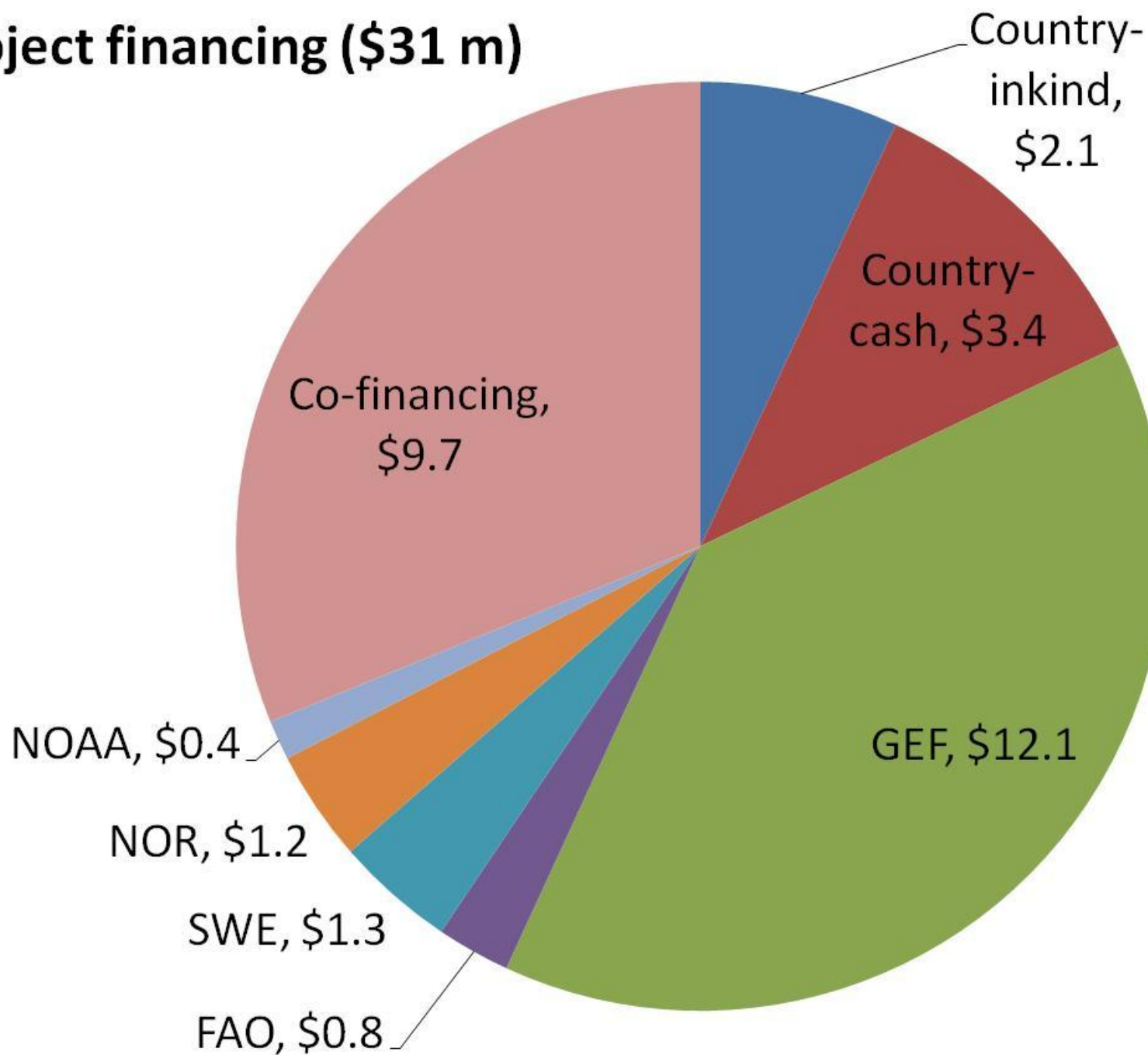
**ICM - \$1.0 m**

**Policy - \$2.8 m**

**Fisheries assess& mgt - \$10.1 m**

**Critical habitat management - \$0.6 m**

## Project financing (\$31 m)







**FAO is the GEF Agency and project execution agency**

**FAO provides:**

- **Staff administration**
- **Project services – travel, purchasing etc**
- **Budget and financial management and reporting**
- **Technical adviser**
- **Project Task Force**
- **Temporary accommodation for the RCU**



## **Project Activities**

- **486 Workshops**
- **77 Studies**
- **129 international consultant months**
- **259 National consultant months**
- **Data collection, short courses, training**
- **Communications**
- **Monitoring and evaluation regime**
- **Reporting**

Figure 1. BOBLME Proposed Management Structure

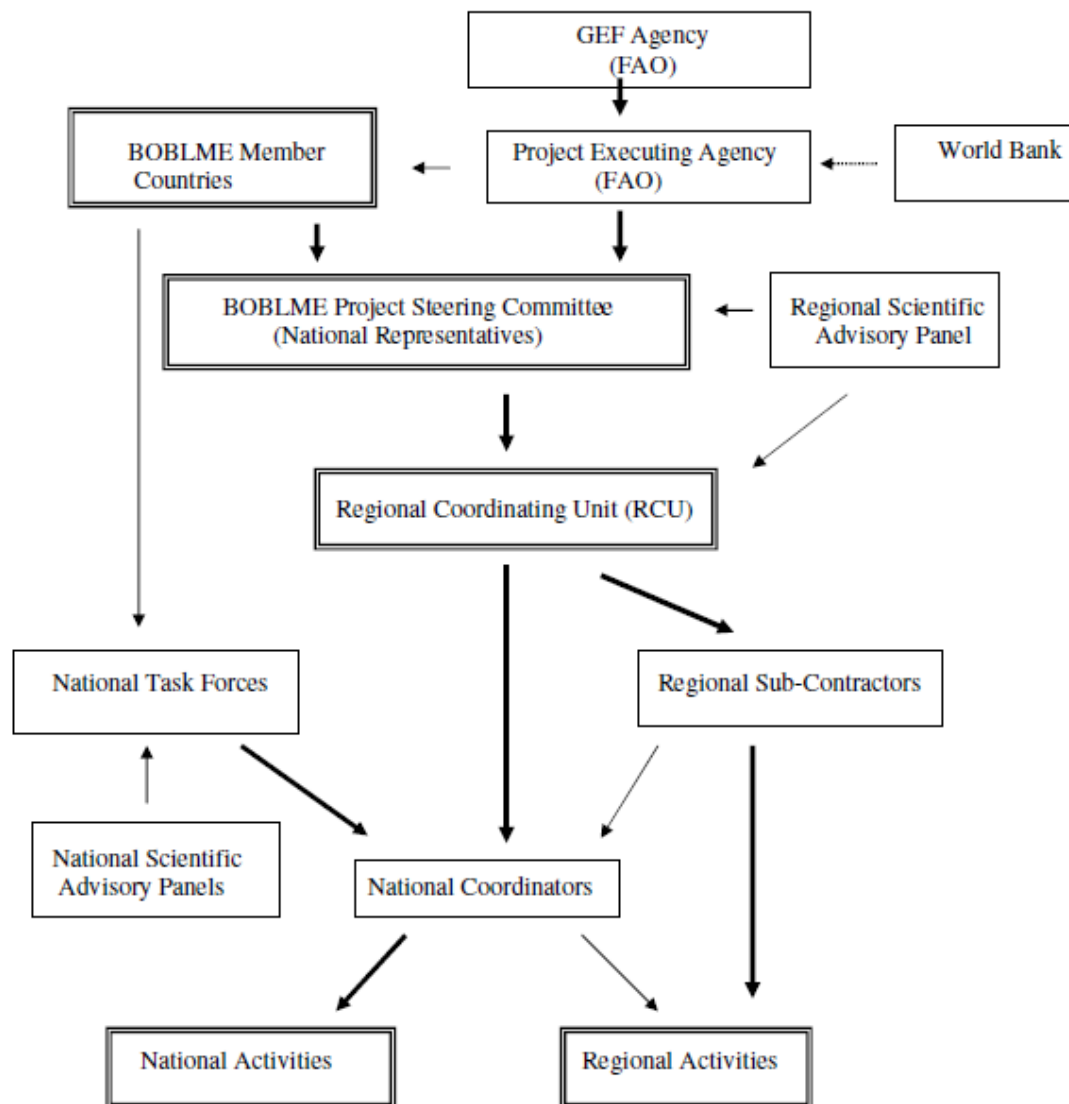


Figure 1. BOBLME Proposed Management Structure

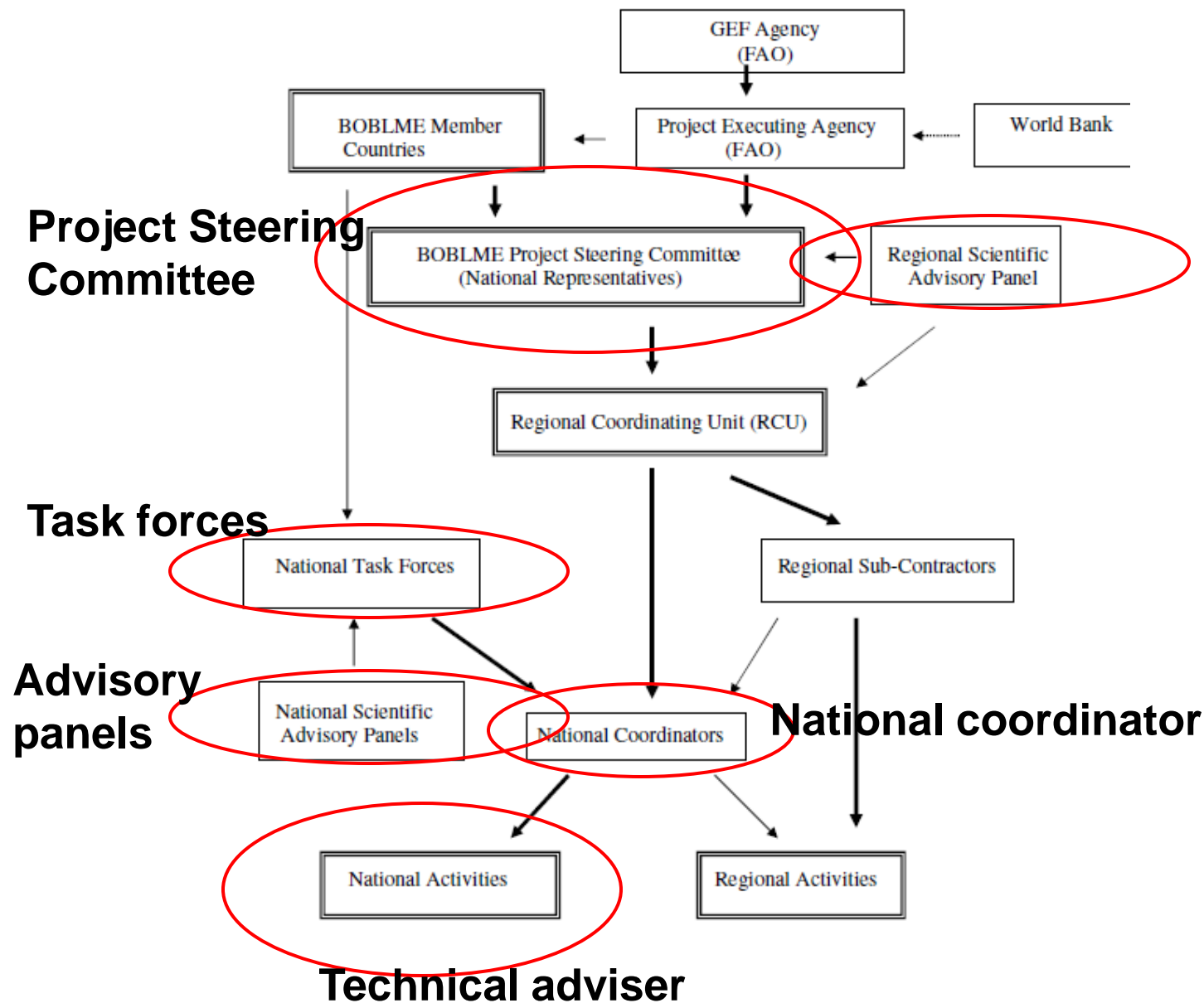




Figure 1. BOBLME Proposed Management Structure

