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working together to secure its future.*



# **National Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis consultation - Myanmar**

**Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project**



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**National  
Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis  
consultation  
Myanmar**



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August 2011

**Preamble:**

National Champion / Facilitator (National Consultation Manager) has already executed two National Consultation meetings in collaboration with National Coordinator in Myanmar guided by the revised National TDA consultation road map. The first TDA consultation meeting of Myanmar was the earliest National meeting among the TDA project countries with expertise assistance provided by Dr Chris O'Brien, Regional Coordinator and Dr Rudolf Hermes, Chief Technical Advisor, to be in conformity within the BOBLME Project framework. Their assistance was the most essential mechanism in implementing TDA consultation activities in Myanmar as somewhere else in BOBLME Project areas.

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## 1 BACKGROUND

As one of the activities of the BOBLME Project 2010 Regional Annual Work Plan under GEF project document Myanmar initiated since 2010 to execute two National Consultation Workshops in order to validate and adopt the revised and updated Transboundary Diagnostics Analysis.

The BOBLME Regional Coordinator (RC) on 19 November 2010 informed the NC and PSC members that the TDA Document Volumes 1 and 2 as background documents and analysis of the BOBLME transboundary issues have been developed and made available. He also urged that since the outcomes of the National consultation with comments and suggestion will be compiled and finalized at a Regional workshop, the national consultation process must be concluded by 31 May 2011.

During his visit to Myanmar on 3 December 2010 the BOBLME Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) had a meeting with the Project National Coordinator, National Technical Advisor and members of the National Task Force. The CTA mentioned that BOBLME Project has come to action after 7 years of preparation and emphasized the essential role of the outcomes from TDA consultation workshops to be played as primary inputs in the developing of the Strategic Action Plan SAP. The meeting proceeded with discussions on BOBLME related matters including various workshops such as Pollution, Ecosystem Indicator, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICM) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

After the meeting with the CTA and considering information from the RC, NC and NF called a meeting regarding National consultations to be held in compliance with the revised TDA consultation road map (the first meeting was scheduled to be held in November 2010 according to former roadmap). Though the time was short the meeting agreed to organize a first national TDA consultation workshop as soon as possible, tentatively in the first week of January 2011 with competent persons from related fields and a second TDA consultation workshop together with stakeholders in May 2011. Moreover, all the participants agreed to keep the three main areas of concern identified by the TDA as basic priority issues to be discussed in the workshops. Application for permission to hold first consultation on 7 January 2011 in Yangon was put forward to Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries through Director General, Department of Fisheries.

Meanwhile other necessary actions such as identification and invitation of competent persons from related Ministries, preparation of workshop program and venue were carried out by NC and NF. Before the consultations the salient features of TDA volume 1 and 2 were translated into Myanmar language and disseminated to competent persons from related ministries, institutions, Myanmar Fisheries Federation, National Advisor to the Government and stakeholders. NC and NF also organized National Task Force meetings before the first consultation and the objectives of the BOBLME and TDA were elaborated as advanced information and urged them to contribute and share their experiences in finalization of TDA through review and verifying the facts and figures of the TDA Documents. In every workshop the reasonable time were taken by NC reporting the progress of TDA activities in region and by NF explaining the detailed contents of TDA Documents attached with more information about BOBLME areas with slide projector.

## 2 CONSULTATION MEETINGS

### 2.1 First National TDA Consultation Workshop

Myanmar first TDA consultation workshop was held in Yangon on 7 January 2011 (Appendix I)

In the first Consultation meeting the participants were organized into three groups pertaining to three main areas of concern, led by relevant persons and the reviews were

mainly made on prevailing local issues at the boundary areas. The group discussion with amendment, adding, deleting and changing were compiled as outcomes from the Workshop.

## **2.2 Second National TDA Consultation Workshop**

The workshop was held in Yangon on 16 May 2011 with approval from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (Appendix II)

The second meeting reviewed outcomes from the first workshop and the issues which have more common and shared transboundary nature with adjacent countries in the Project area, particularly to Mergui/Myeik Archipelago and Thailand, were prioritized and finalized as overall conclusions from Myanmar for the regional consultation or TDA confirmation. (Appendix IV)

In the two Meetings only a few and minor instances for updating and verification due to changing situations were raised. In effect, Myanmar underlines that already the Framework TDA (FTDA) covered completely all past and prevailing main concerns including other aspects e.g. legal, administrative and political context.

## **3 OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The two Myanmar National Consultation Workshops, after comprehensive discussions, elaboration and review followed by deletion and addition on three main areas of concern identified by the TDA, stated clearly that:

1. The three themes to be covered by BOBLME Program were thoroughly realized.
2. BOBLME's existing draft FTDA has been validated and revised as TDA vols. 1 and 2, and adopted.
3. The outcomes from the second National Consultation are overall conclusion of Myanmar TDA to present to TDA Regional consultation.
4. Outcomes from TDA workshop should be used as basis for the development of the Strategic Action Program SAP.
5. SAP should be developed and implemented through multi-country collaboration as major mechanism of BOBLME Program to sustain marine ecosystems/resources and livelihood of coastal community in the region.
6. Appropriate National and regional consultation meetings/workshop such as TDA consultation should be organized for other BOBLME Program components in order to create more collaboration with transparency among donor, executing agency and member countries.
7. Myanmar Consultation expressed their acknowledgement to Dr Chris O'Brien, Regional Coordinator and Dr Rudolf Hermes, Chief Technical Advisor BOBLME Project for their effort in the BOBLME Program.
8. Myanmar Consultation also appreciates very much Dr Ph. Verlaan for her comprehensive preliminary framework TDA (FTDA).

## **Appendix I Report from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)**

### **National Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)**

#### **BOBLME Project**

7 January 2011, Yangon, Myanmar

#### **Preamble**

The countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal organized a program, Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME), with an overall goal of a healthy BOBLME, enhancing food security and mitigating poverty in coastal communities. A "transboundary issue" in the present context is defined as an issue that is common to or shared between two or more of the BOBLME countries. A "common" issue is one that two or more countries are confronted with; a "shared" issue is one that straddles or whose effects are felt across the boundaries, however defined, between two or more countries.

At the First Regional Workshop of the BOBLME Program (Pattaya, Thailand, February 2003), the BOBLME countries proposed a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) to address the following three major transboundary environmental issues ranked in order of severity in the region (BOBLME/REP/1):

1. Overexploitation of living marine resources
2. Degradation of critical habitats
3. Land-based sources of pollution to the coastal and marine environment.

In that Workshop, the BOBLME member countries agreed that mangroves and coral reefs, in that order of severity of risk, were the two critical habitats particularly at risk to be addressed in the TDA (BOBLME/REP/1).

At the Preparatory Meeting for the Second Regional Workshop of the BOBLME Program (Penang, Malaysia, March 2004), the BOBLME countries requested the inclusion of ship-based sources of pollution, including dumping as the fourth transboundary environmental issue to be addressed in the TDA (BOBLME/REP/2). The BOBLME member countries also requested the addition of sea grass beds as the third critical habitat to be addressed in the TDA (BOBLME/REP/2).

#### **Objectives of the workshop**

The present workshop is intended to develop design and implementation of nationally and regionally coordinated activities addressing these issues and to elaborate their root causes in the context and formulation of collaborative development of the Strategic Action Program (SAP). Such that personals and subject experts from relevant institutions, departments, NGO and enterprises were organized and invited.

Venue: Park Royal Hotel, Signal Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar

Date: 7 January 2011

**Agenda and Participants (Detailed List attached as Appendix A&B)**

Institution/organization	Persons
Department of Fisheries	16
Ministry of Forestry, Forestry Department	2
National Commission on Environment Affairs	1
Ministry of Transportation Port Authority	1
Meteorology and Hydrology	1
Ministry of Hotel and Tourism	1
Ministry of Education	2
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1
Ministry of Energy	1
Ministry of Health	1
NGOs	1
Myanmar Fisheries Federation	1
Advisor to the Government	1
National Champion (BOBLME Project)	1
Regional Coordinator (BOBLME Project)	1

**Opening of the workshop**

Director General U Khin ko Lay, Department of Fisheries, made an opening remark, expressing his believe that the outcome of the workshop will be of great assist in developing and implementing of activities of the major project components such as Strategic Action Plan and its subcomponents.

Dr Chris O' Brien, Regional Coordinator, welcomed the workshop on behalf of the Project. He briefly mentioned the scope and role of Project to be played in BOB to maintain one of the most productive marine and coastal environments under sustainability and healthy conditions. He requested the participants to share their valuable experiences and contribute advices to the workshop. In morning session the workshop was chaired by U Khin Ko lay and co-chaired by Dr Swe Thwin, Advisor to the Government. U Hla Win, Deputy Director General (Rtd.) and U Kyaw Myo Win, Deputy Director General, Department of Fisheries chaired and co-chaired the afternoon sessions.

Before the workshop the executive summary of TDA document (draft) was translated to Myanmar language and already distributed to the invited participants as a preview. As the workshop commenced, in order to have more understanding on BOBLME and TDA document, U Hla Win, National Champion, elaborated scope and characteristics of the BOBLME, assessment of marine living resources and the environment(including critical habitats and pollution) and the background of the BOBLME transboundary issues. Regional common issues with their proximate and root causes were also highlighted as the framework of the workshop that will provide the basis for the development of

Strategic Action Plan (SAP). He also pointed out TDA's three main areas of concern: 1, over exploitation of the marine living resources; 2, degradation of mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass; and 3, pollution.

U Myint Pe, National Technical Advisor, took part in workshop explaining how National Reports for various BOBLME meetings were developed in accordance with FAO guidelines. He mentioned that the present TDA Document was the combination and compilation of respective reports of eight member countries, discussion with entrepreneurs, advices from subject experts and technicians and proposals from private sector and relevant authorities.

U Mya Than Tun, National Coordinator, also reported back to Workshop the steps, progress and process in detail of organizing BOBLME meetings, identification and prioritization of issues and components and drafting of national and regional roadmap.

Project Regional Coordinator, Dr Chris O'Brien urged the workshop to have comprehensive dialogue on prevailing transboundary issues and their underlying causes resulting in outcomes leading to establishment of regional Strategic Action Plan to address those issues.

The participants were formed into three groups lead by relevant persons and three main areas of concern were discussed. The outcomes from group discussion were presented by group leaders and workshop outcome was finalized through amendment, adding, deleting and changing process on group presentations.

The closing remark was made by U Khin Ko Lay, Director-General, Department of Fisheries. He acknowledged the participants for their advices and BOBLME Project personals for the financial assistance and arrangement.

## **OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Overexploitation of the marine living resources**

- (1) To conduct comprehensive and continuous researches on environment and marine resources in the region.
- (2) To collect, analyse and monitor national and regional fishing capacity to determined rational fishery exploitation and to inhabit over investment leading to over fishing and poaching.
- (3) Plans of action should be determined and implemented collaborating with member countries to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.
- (4) To create and encourage eco-friendly small-scale aquacultures, agriculture, community forest and other alternative livelihoods for artisanal fishery communities to lessen pressure on coastal capture fishery.
- (5) Migratory species such as mackerel, sardine, hilsa etc. should be prioritized in trans-boundary fishery management.
- (6) GIS and GPS should also be compulsory for SME fishing vessels in MCS mechanism.
- (7) To handle environment and fisheries related trans-boundary issues natural phenomena, climatic changes and FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries should be thoroughly considered.

(8) Closed areas, closed season and banning fishing implements on fish stock assessment activities should not focus only on commercial and depleting species.

(9) Execution of relevant legislation, regulation and directives should be cooperated with member countries if necessary when out of national jurisdiction particularly in trans-boundary issues.

(10) Introducing and building FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and self awareness among competent authorities, fishery managers and stakeholders.

### **Habitat degradation**

(1) Integrated coastal zone management system should be developed by coordination with relevant government institutions, industries, NGOs and local communities.

(2) Educate young generations on the value of management, responsibility, sustainable use of marine resources and environment friendly practices.

(3) Establish marine tourism regulations for ecotourism in compliance with relevant Laws.

(4) Promote training and education schemes on sustainable use and conservation of natural coastal resources.

(5) To enhance the livelihood of Moken people without impact to their tradition.

(6) Establishment of appropriate Marine Protected Areas MPA, eg. coral reef, sea-grass, mangrove, turtle banks in the local and region to protect the fragile aquatic environment.

(7) Closely coordinate with neighbouring countries to make appropriate plans for MPA, artificial reefs and fish refuges in transboundary areas and to combat illegal trade of prohibited products from MPA.

(8) Promotion of region wide joint research on hydrographic conditions, marine habitats and their biodiversity.

(9) Renovation of deteriorated sea bed, restoration of degraded mangrove forest and replenishment of depleting aquatic stock at different level in the region.

(10) Demonstration on use of underutilized resources without damaging habitats and its ecosystem.

### **Pollution**

(1) Eco-friendly aquaculture practices should be followed with strict regulations and sanitation standards.

(2) Regular and ad hoc oceanographic survey and monitoring program should be conducted through collaboration in the region.

(3) Early warning and alert system including information network for natural or manmade disasters and pollutions should be set up in the region.

(4) Experiences on preventive and curative measures of the disasters should be shared among member countries.

(5) Upgrading of antipollution practices and sanitation measures at coastal fishing ports.



## **Appendix II Report form the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)**

### **Second National Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) BOBLME Project**

16 May 2011, Yangon Myanmar

#### **Preamble**

Myanmar, with almost 3000 km long coastal line and 520,260 km<sup>2</sup> (estd.) of EEZ, is holding 8.3% of the Bay of Bengal region in the east. Due to her geographical situation, between Bangladesh at the north and Thailand at the south, Myanmar like other bordering countries in the region has a good number of aquatic transboundary issues among neighbouring coastal communities resulting from competitive natures of trade and livelihoods, utilization of migrating resources and confluent habitats. In the past most of the transboundary issues were solved by means of negotiation and protocol or diplomatic approaches. Since the BOBLME was initiated and being developed, Myanmar is fully aware of the importance of context of TDA to address the three main issues and mitigate the underlying causes through nationally and regionally coordinated activities and collaborative mechanisms under a Strategic Action Program (SAP).

In these regards Myanmar has held a First National Workshop on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) on 7 January 2011 in Yangon. The workshop was organized by National BOBLME personals and chaired by Director-General of Department of Fisheries. Dr Chris O'Brien, Regional Coordinator, BOBLME Project gave opening remarks and national champion U Hla Win elaborated for the meeting the background of the BOBLME and TDA document Volume 1 and 2. The participants from relevant ministries, departments, institutions and NGOs took part in discussion on main areas of concern identified by the TDA. As preliminary to second National TDA workshop recommendations on overexploitation of the marine living resources, habitat degradation and pollution were made by the Workshop.

#### **Second National TDA Workshop**

To be in compliance with TDA National Technical Consultation Road Map schedule, the Second National Stakeholder Consultation in Myanmar was organized by National Champion and National Coordinator on 16 May 2011 at Park Royal Hotel, Yangon. U Khin Ko Lay, Director General of Department of Fisheries gave opening speech and chaired the morning session. The meeting was attended by following personals concerned totaling 37 from different ministries, departments, NGOs and scholars from institutions and stakeholders from fisheries sectors.

1. Ministry of Live Stock and Fisheries, Department of Fisheries
2. Ministry of Forestry, Forestry Department; National Committee on Environmental Affairs

3. Ministry of Health, Department of Health
4. Ministry of Transportation, Myanmar Port Authority, Marine Department, Meteorology and hydrology Department
5. Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Department of Tourism
6. Ministry of Energy, Offshore Department (Seismic)
7. Ministry of Education, Rector and Professors from Yangon University, Mawlamying University, Myeik University
8. NGOs

In addition, Advisor to the Government, National Champion (BOBLME), National Coordinator (BOBLME), National Technical Adviser (BOBLME), Vice Chairman (Myanmar Fisheries Federation), Chairman (Forest-FREDA), Chairman (Marine Science Association of Myanmar) also participated.

In his speech the Director General stressed the importance of BOBLME to Bay of Bengal Region and significance of TDA to neighbouring countries as BOBLME is covering 6.2 million km<sup>2</sup> of total marine areas and housing 1.78 billion people (25 % of world population) including coastal population of 450 million. He also asked the participants to take part in meeting in transparent and participatory fashion to maintain the environmental sustainability of the region. National Champion U Hla Win made elaboration with more information about BOBLME Project and TDA and reiterated that TDA is not only for managing fisheries only but an intersectoral-mechanism among member countries for formulating principles and practices as Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for enhancing governance on conservation and management of BOBLME and socio-economic improvement of coastal communities derive from these ecosystems as well.

As co-chairperson he also requested the participants to provide and share their experiences to identify critical biodiversity, most vulnerable habitats, and how to restore important and protective areas and mitigate the negative impacts of environmental changes including climate through TDA mechanism. He also reminded the meeting that the outcomes of the TDA meetings will be used as basis for the Strategic Action Program (SAP) which is the major output of the project. Such that, he urged the meeting to give more focus and emphasize in holistic manner on issues which are inter-connected in nature and inter-related with member countries in BOBLME.

U Mya Than Tun, National Coordinator, and U Myint Pe, National Technical Adviser, reported to the workshop on the progress of national and regional TDA meetings and activities in the region respectively. The meeting was active with discussion based on priority transboundary issues and outcomes from first National TDA Workshop pertaining to three areas of concern identified by TDA Documents. After deliberation the workshop developed following outcomes and recommendations.

## **OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Overexploitation of the marine living resources**

- (1) To conduct comprehensive and continuous researches on marine environment and living resources in the region.
- (2) To monitor national and regional fishing capacity to determine rational fishery exploitation and to mitigate over investment leading to over fishing.

- (3) Plan of action should be formulated and implemented collaborating with member countries to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.
- (4) To seek cooperation among member countries in eco-friendly small-scale aquaculture, agriculture, community forest and other alternative livelihoods for artisanal fishery communities to reduce pressure on coastal capture fishery.
- (5) Migratory species such as mackerel, tuna, sardine, hilsa, shark, etc. should be prioritized in transboundary fishery management.
- (6) GIS and GPS should be compulsory for SME fishing vessels in MCS mechanism in member countries.
- (7) To handle environment and fisheries related transboundary issues, the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries should be followed.
- (8) To study and evaluate the climate change impact on transboundary issues.
- (9) Execution of relevant legislation, regulation and directives should be cooperated among member countries if necessary when out of national jurisdiction particularly in transboundary issues.

### **Habitat degradation**

- (1) Integrated coastal zone management system among member countries should be developed by mutual coordination with relevant government institutions, industries, NGOs and local communities.
- (2) Establish regional regulations for marine ecotourism in compliance with relevant laws.
- (3) Promote collaborative training and education schemes on sustainable use and conservation of natural coastal resources.
- (4) Enhance the livelihood of Moken people without adverse impact to their tradition.
- (5) Establishment of appropriate Marine Protected Areas MPA eg. coral reef, sea-grass, mangrove, turtle banks in the local and region to protect the fragile aquatic environment.
- (6) Closely coordinate among member countries to make appropriate plans for MPA, artificial reefs and fish refugia in stragging, contiguous and regional areas and to combat illegal trade of prohibited products from MPA.
- (7) Promotion of region wide joint research on hydrographic conditions, marine habitats and their biodiversity.
- (8) Restoration of deteriorated marine habitats, degraded mangrove forests and replenishment of depleting fish stock at different level in the region.
- (9) Demonstration on use of under utilised resources without damaging habitats and it's ecosystem in the region.

### **Pollution**

- (1) Develop and strictly follow regional Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) regulation and standards in aquaculture.
- (2) Regular and ad hoc oceanographic survey and pollution monitoring program should be conducted through collaboration in the region.

- (3) Data buoy and information network should be set up in the region for natural or manmade disasters and pollutions.
- (4) Experiences on risk reduction and rehabilitation measures of the disasters should be shared among member countries.
- (5) Upgrading of antipollution practices and sanitation measures at selected coastal areas and marine environment in the region.
- (6) Exchange, cooperation and coordination among laboratories of member countries and materials and technical support from regional and international agencies.

### **Additional Remarks**

BOBLME member countries are in the process of trying to improve their respective fisheries management systems to sustain the contribution of fisheries to national economy and to feed the ever increasing population. Since commercially important fish stocks such as mackerel, sardine and hilsa are highly migratory in habit and their habitats are more or less transboundary, a broad understanding of their straddling nature and mutual coordination and close cooperation among neighbouring countries are crucial for rational exploitation and responsible management of the resources.

Furthermore thorough public awareness and participation among coastal communities are of prime importance and could be achieved through the development of appropriate training and information transfer projects implemented by adjacent countries.

In these regards the participants of the second National TDA Workshop strongly believe that outcomes from TDA Consultation Workshops will lay the foundations for the SAP in order to upgrade the socio-economy of the coastal populations, to restore the marine habitats, to conserve aquatic biodiversity and to sustain the fishery resources across territorial boundaries with improved regional and bilateral management programs in the Bay of Bengal Region very soon.



Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand are working together through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Project and to lay the foundations for a coordinated programme of action designed to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the implementing agency for the BOBLME Project.

The Project is funded principally by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Norway, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the FAO, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA.

For more information, please visit [www.boblme.org](http://www.boblme.org)



Sida



Norad

