



Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme

Post Bag No. 6902, 91 St. Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram, Chennai 600 018, India.
Phone: +91-44-2493 6387 Fax: +91-44-24620761 E-mail: boblme@vsnl.net



DRAFT

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF BENGAL LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (BOBLME) PROGRAMME

29 October 2004, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Regional Co-ordinator, Dr. Philomène A. Verlaan, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The list of participants is presented in Annex 1. She then called for the election of a chairperson.

2. Election of Chairperson

The representative from Sri Lanka, Mr. H.S.G. Fernando, was elected as Chairperson.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Programme Steering Committee adopted the agenda as proposed without changes. The Agenda is presented in Annex 2.

4. Country Contributions (in kind and in cash) - revised table

The revised table of the BOBLME Provisional Budget (US\$32 million, assuming additional US\$4.3 million contribution) was circulated and accepted. The revised financing table can be found in Annex 3. The estimated country contributions, amounting to a total of US\$5.5 million and consisting of US\$3.5 million in kind and US\$2.0 million in cash, were specifically accepted. The Government of India indicated that, as per the revised table, its cash contribution in support of hosting the Regional Coordinating Unit, was likely to be US\$0.6 million in cash, subject to confirmation.

5. Incremental Cost Analysis

The Incremental Cost Analysis (ICA) is a mandatory annex to the Project Brief. In the absence of the ICA, the Project cannot be submitted for inclusion in the February 2005 Inter-sessional Work Programme. In order to order for FAO to complete the ICA and draft Project Brief, the missing information on baseline activities should be provided by the National Coordinators to FAO no later than 8 November 2004. It was agreed that this deadline could be met. It was agreed that the National Coordinators would meet with Dr. DuBois in the afternoon of 29 October to move this issue forward.

6. Project Demonstration Activities

The design and planning of the demonstration activities will be moved to the beginning of the first implementation phase. This is due to the budget constraints for the remainder of the current PDF-B phase. The two activities (productivity and stock assessment) will be incorporated into the supplementary PDF B and component 1C (collaborative fisheries assessments and management plans), respectively.

7. Submission of the Project Brief for GEF Council Work Programme inclusion – submission dates to be agreed

It was agreed that the Project Brief could still be submitted to the February 2005 Inter-sessionnal Work Programme to be considered by the GEF Council. However, for this to be possible, FAO should receive the required baseline information from the countries by 8 November 2004 in order to complete the Incremental Cost Analysis. It was furthermore agreed that FAO would transmit the revised draft Project Brief to the countries by 18 November so that they would be able to complete their in-country endorsement process. The endorsements of the National GEF Operational Focal Points should be received by the World Bank and FAO by January 14, 2005. Endorsement letters should be addressed to either the World Bank and copied to FAO or addressed to FAO and copied to the World Bank. Under exceptional circumstances GEF might accept endorsement up to 10 February 2005, but this would be subject to confirmation by the World Bank. It was furthermore clarified and agreed that financial commitments (for the country in kind and cash contributions) would be required by June 2005 for the Project Document to be submitted for GEF CEO endorsement.

8. Revision of Work Plan

The revised work plan through December 2005 was submitted and accepted. The work plan is presented in Annex 4.

9. Official Endorsement of the Project Brief

A table outlining the official endorsement procedure for each country was circulated and each country will complete it and return it to FAO by the beginning of the afternoon plenary session. The column for the financial contribution in foreign currency will be deleted. This table is presented as Annex 5.

10. Next Steps

The next steps have been outlined in the work plan.

11. Invitation to IW Learn-International Waters Meeting in Brazil, March 2005

The PSC was asked to decide who would represent the BOBLME at the 5-day IW Learn meeting in Brazil in March 2005. Two countries and possibly three could be invited. It was agreed that, if only two countries could be invited, one participant (country) would be nominated to represent each side of the Bay. The question of straddling countries (India and Bangladesh) remained open for discussion. It was agreed that the countries would inform the Secretariat by the end of the plenary of the Second Regional Workshop who would represent the BOBLME Programme. GEF is urgently waiting for this information to issue the formal invitations. (N.B. At the closing session of the plenary,

names were drawn and it was agreed that India and Myanmar would be invited to attend the Brazil meeting. If a third country could be invited, Malaysia was selected.)

12. Any Other Business

Two activities were proposed by NOAA. One related to stock-taking of existing oceanographic data and identification of key data gaps that needed to be addressed for an improved understanding of large-scale processes and dynamics affecting the Bay of Bengal. The second related to identifying and agreeing upon a set of regional and national environmental health indicators that would be monitored in subsequent phases of the BOBLME Programme. The Committee agreed to the incorporation of both activities into the draft Project Brief, under Component 2 (Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME) and Component 3 (Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution), respectively. NOAA offered to provide international technical assistance as an in-kind contribution, estimated at US\$ 0.4 million. This has been reflected in the revised Table on BOBLME Provisional Financing Plan (see Appendix 3).

In closing the Regional Coordinator announced that she would be leaving the Project in December. She expressed her particular appreciation to the members of the Committee for their excellent cooperation and stated that it was a privilege and pleasure for her to work with them on this Project. FAO, the World Bank and the BOBLME countries highly praised her efforts over the past two years in moving the BOBLME Programme forward and thanked her warmly.

13. Closure of the Meeting

The 4th meeting of the BOBLME Programme Steering Committee was closed by the Chairperson, who thanked all participants for their excellent work.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1: Participants List
- Annex 2: Agenda
- Annex 3: Revised Financial Table
- Annex 4: Revised Work Plan
- Annex 5: Endorsement Process



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Appendix 1 to the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (BOBLME) Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka 29 October 2004

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BANGLADESH

Dr M A Mazid
Director General
Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
Mymensingh 2201, Bangladesh
Tel: 880 91 54874
Mobile: 880 91 71544919
Fax: 880 91 55259/54221
dgbfri@bdonline.com

INDIA

Mr. P.K. Pattanaik
Joint Secretary (Fisheries)
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying,
Ministry of Agriculture
Room No. 221, Krishi Bhavan
New Delhi 110 001
Tel : 91 11 23381994
Fax: 91 11 23070370
Email: pattu@nic.in

INDONESIA

Mr Mian Sahala Sitanggang
Deputy Director of Planning and Foreign
Cooperation
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur No 16
Jakarta, Indonesia
Tel: 62 21 3520337
Fax: 62 21 3520337
Email: miansahala@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA

Mr Junaidi bin Che Ayub
Director General
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Ministry of Agriculture
Wisma Tani Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50628 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: 60 3 26980523
Fax: 60 3 26710305
Email: tkpp01@dof.moa.my

MALDIVES

Dr Abdullah Naseer
Director, Reef Resources
Marine Research Centre
Ministry of Fisheries Agriculture
and Marine Resources
Ghazee Building, Male
Tel: 960 313681
Fax: 960 322509
E-mail: anaseer@mrc.gov.mv

MYANMAR

Mr U Hla Win
Deputy Director General
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
Sinmin Road, Alone T/S
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: 95 1 228621
Fax: 95 1 228258
Email: hlawindof@myanmar.comm

THAILAND

Mr Sakul Supongpan
Marine Fisheries Expert
Department of Fisheries
Kasetsart University , Phahotyothin Road,
Jatujak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: 66 2 5620540
Fax: 66 2 5620561
Email: sakuls@fisheries.go.th

SRI LANKA

Mr. H.S.G. Fernando
Director, Ocean Resources
Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources
6th Floor, Maligawatta
Colombo – 10, Sri Lanka
Tel: 94 11 2329440
Fax: 94 11 2472192
Email: hsgfernando@fisheries.gov.lk

FAO

Ms. Barbara Cooney
FAO GEF Focal Point
Policy Assistance Division (TCA)
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: 39 06 57055478
Fax: 39 06 57054657
Email : barbara.cooney@fao.org

Dr Random DuBois
Senior Environment Advisor
Investment Centre Division, FAO
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome, Italy
Tel: 39 06 57055409
Fax: 39 06 57054657
Email: random.dubois@fao.org

Dr Derek Staples
Senior Fishery Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Tel: 66 2 6974333
Fax: 66 2 6974499

Email: derek.staples@fao.org

WORLD BANK

Mr. Malcolm Jansen
GEF Coordinator, South Asia Region
World Bank, 1818 H Street NW
Washington D.C. 20443, U.S.A.
Tel: 202 473 4355
Fax: 202 522 1666
Email: mjansen@worldbank.org

BOBLME Secretariat

Dr. Philomène Verlaan
Regional Coordinator
Ms. Cheryl Verghese
Senior Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
Programme, Post Bag 6902
Chennai 600 018, India
Tel: 91 44 24620761, 24936387
Fax: 91 44 24620761
E-mail: boblme@vsnl.net



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Appendix 2

**Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of
The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme
Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka
29 October 2004**

AGENDA

Opening of the Meeting

Election of Chair

Adoption of the Agenda

Country Contributions (in kind and in cash) - revised table

Incremental Cost Analysis

Project Demonstration Activities

Submission of Project Brief for GEF Council Work Programme Inclusion – submission dates to be agreed

Revision of Work Plan

Official Endorsement of the Project Brief

Next Steps

Invitation to IW Learn-International Waters Meeting in Brazil, March 2005

Any Other Business

Closure of the Meeting



APPENDIX 3 to the REPORT of the Fourth BOBLME Programme Steering Committee Meeting, October 29, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka

BOBLME Revised Provisional Financing Scenario

US \$ 32 M Project (assumes additional US\$ 4.3 M GEF Contribution)

Source	Classification	Type of Finance (US \$M)		Total (US \$M)	Status
		Cash	In-kind		
GEF		10.0 + 4.3		10+ 4.3	TBC
BOBLME Countries		2.0	3.5	5.5*	Provisional
NOAA			0.4	0.4	Confirmed
Other Co-financiers		10.4		10.4	TBC
GOI		0.6		0.6	TBC
FAO	Executing Agency		0.8	0.8	Confirmed
Total		23+4.3	4.7	32.0	
Ratio	1.2 US\$ (co-financing): 1 US\$ GEF				

* In addition, for the Mergui and Gulf of Mannar sub-projects, the participating countries will be making both cash and in-kind contributions.

Activity	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
• Submission of Project to GEFSEC for Work Programme inclusion					X											
• GEF Council consideration						X										
• Project Appraisal and final approval/signature							X	X	X	X	X					
Management and Co-ordination																
• Regional Co-ordination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
• Administrative Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
• Scientific and Technical Review of Thematic Papers																
• Project Progress Reports (for WB, SIDA)		X						X								
• Supplementary PDF-B Preparation of Supplementary PDF-B request			X													
• Approval of request				X												
• Preparation of new/modified Components						X	X	X								
• Regional workshops																
• Submission to WB and GEFSEC										X						
• CEO Endorsement - August 2005 of Integrated Project Appraisal Document (PAD) August 2005																

Appendix 5 to the Report of the 4th BOBLME Programme Steering Committee Meeting, 29 October 2004, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka; BOBLME Programme National Endorsement Process

COUNTRY	GEF Requirement National GEF Operational/Political Focal Point ¹	Time Required	Country Approval Requirements for financial contribution ²	Time Required		Country Approval Requirements for in kind contribution	Time Required	Fiscal Year
				Local Currency				
BANGLADESH	Secretary Ministry of Environment & Forest	About 2 months	Cabinet Division of the Council of Ministers Ministry of Finance	2 months		No problem	2 weeks	July to June
INDIA	i) Ministry of Environment & Forests (Operational Focal Point) ii) Dept of Eco. Affairs Ministry of Finance (Political Focal Point)	About two months	GEF Empowered Committee (meets once in 3 months) It requires approval of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Planning Commission GEF Empowered Committee met on 17/8/2004	About 2 months total		Same as cash. In addition to Besides the Ministries described earlier it requires a Cabinet decision	About 3 months	1 April to 31 March
INDONESIA	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1-2 months	Ministry of Finance	2 months				2005
MALAYSIA	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture + Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	About 2 months	Ministry of Finance	3 months		Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture	1 month	January To December
MALDIVES	Before making endorsement GEF focal point needs recommendation from the Ministries	2 weeks	Foreign Affairs Policy Committee (sometimes Cabinet approval is required)	2 months				
MYANMAR	GEF Focal Point Ministry of Foreign Affairs NCEA	3 months	GEF Focal Point Ministry of Finance Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries	3 months		GEF Focal Point Ministry of Finance Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries	3 months	1 April to 31 March
SRI LANKA	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (ME&NR)	One month	1. GEF Steering committee- (ME&NR) 2. Ministry of Finance 3. External Resources Department	1 month		Cabinet approval	One month	January To December
THAILAND	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Two months	1. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperative 2. Ministry of Finance	Two months January		1. Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperative 2. Ministry of Finance	Two months January	Oct.

¹ GEF requires the endorsement of the National GEF Operational Focal Point. Some countries, in addition, require that the National Political GEF Focal Point and/or other Ministries also endorse the project.

² Countries may require approval of other Ministries, such as Ministry of Finance/Planning and/or an Inter-Ministerial Committee, or other Institutions, for all projects.