



1.0 Background

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

The objective of **BOBLME Component 3 (Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment)** is to share information with other regional and global environmental assessment programmes for improved understanding of the BOBLME ecological functions and processes. The objective of the **Subcomponent 3.2 (Marine Protected Areas in the Conservation of Regional Fish Stocks)** is to develop a better understanding of and promote a more comprehensive approach to the establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and fish refugia for sustainable fish management and biodiversity conservation objectives.

2.0 The MPA Working Group Meeting

The BOBLME MPA Working Group first met in January 2011 in Malaysia ([BOBLME-2011-Ecology-06](#)) to discuss and validate the MPA status review "Status of Marine Protected Areas and Fish Refugia in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem" ([BOBLME-2011-Ecology-10](#)), prepared by BOBLME Implementing Partners University of Washington and WorldFish; to identify gaps in MPA networks and prepare recommendations for capacity building and potential interventions to strengthen MPA management in the region. A second meeting was held in Thailand in February 2012 ([BOBLME-2012-Ecology-07](#)) to follow up on this work, noting the progress made in the implementation of pilot activities; gain an understanding of the FAO Technical Guidelines on MPAs and Fisheries (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2090e/i2090e.pdf>) and to provide input to the drafting process of the BOBLME MPA brochure and policy advisories.

Objectives

The objectives of the MPA Working Group meeting in February 2014 are to

- undertake a review and update of the MPA data and information posted on the web portal (<http://boblme.reefbase.org/mpadatabase.aspx>) and the status paper. In particular this requires validation and additional information on MPA locations and their gazette information.
- finalise the MPA policy briefs for each country along the same lines of the brochure developed for Thailand. This requires that prospective participants have drafted and validated relevant summarized text for their respective country, following the Thailand sample.
- discuss, develop and recommend a future course of action and policy directions for sustainable management of MPAs for fisheries and biodiversity conservation both from a country and transboundary perspective.

The Working Group Meeting will also note the progress made to date in the implementation of pilot activities on MPAs and deliberate on the application of MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tools.

Expected Outputs

- Validated and completed data and information for inclusion in the MPA data base and status paper
- Final drafts of the BOBLME MPA Country Policy Briefs
- Updated information on the progress and status of MPA pilot site interventions
- Information on MPA Management Effectiveness Assessments disseminated
- Recommendations for capacity development and other potential project interventions from a country and transboundary perspective.

Date and Venue

The workshop will be held at WorldFish on 11-12 February 2014 in Penang, Malaysia.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 Tuesday 11 February 2014

08.30 Registration

09.00 Opening remarks and welcome

Dr. Sarah Park, Discipline Director of NRM, WorldFish

Mr. Ismail Ishak, FRI Penang, DoF, NC BOBLME

Mr Abd. Muntalib Juli, DMP, MoNRE, Putrajaya

Workshop Objectives, Overview of the Agenda, Introduction of Participants

Dr. Kuperan, Facilitator

Country Updates, Progress on MPA Pilot Interventions

Country Participants (10-12 minutes each, incl. brief discussions)

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand

- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 13.30 Country Updates (cont'd)
- Introduction to MPA Database (and Reefbase)
 Ms. Teoh Shwu Jiau, WorldFish
- Group Work: Validation of Database and Documentation of Added Information
- MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tools
 Mr. Len Garces, WorldFish
- Facilitated Discussion of Experience with the Application of Assessment Tools
 Recommendations
- 17.00 Closing for Day 1
- Home work: Completion of Additional Database Inputs

Day 2 Wednesday 12 February 2014

- 09.00 Revisit: Validation of Database and Documentation of Added Information
- 10.00 Presentation of Draft Information for MPA Country Policy Briefs (and Brochure)
 Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh
 Plenary Discussion
- Group work: Finalization of MPA Country Policy Briefs
- 12.00 *Lunch*
- 13.00 Group work (cont'd)
- Presentation of Final Policy Brief Input
- Recommendations for Completion Process of Policy Briefs and MPA brochure
- Recommendation for MPA Data Base Completion and Maintenance
- Recommendations for Capacity Development and other Potential Project
 Interventions from a Country and Transboundary Perspective
- 17.00 Closing

