



BOBP



 **Norway**

# Planning and Implementing Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Bangladesh *Capacity Development Course*



21-24 December 2025

Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Dhaka, Bangladesh



## Background

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) is one of the largest LMEs in the world with an area of about 6.2 million km<sup>2</sup>. About 66 percent of the BOBLME lies within the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of BOBLME countries - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The remainder is the high seas area. The BOBLME is home to rich biodiversity and critical habitats. The natural resources are of considerable social and economic importance to the bordering countries. Fisheries and aquaculture contribute immensely to food security, employment, and trade in the region.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) phase of the BOBLME project phase I identified three priority transboundary concerns and their proximate causes in the region. These include (1) overexploitation of marine living resources, (2) degradation of critical habitats, and (3) pollution and water quality.

In order to address these issues, the countries jointly developed the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which will be implemented under the BOBLME Phase II project titled, ***“Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities”***. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO, for its member-countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka), and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC, for countries part of BOBLME project and member of SEAFDEC) are the executing agencies of the project.

The project objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region, to reduce environmental stress and improve environmental status for the benefit of coastal states and communities. ***Implementing Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) is one of the key sub-components of the project.***

## Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

The need to apply an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) is now globally accepted and has been endorsed in several international fora. Introduction of EAFM, as a holistic concept and alternative way to manage fisheries, started after the Rio +20 conference in 2012 and several countries have adopted the concept for their national fisheries management. While support for EAFM has been in place through a range of global declarations and policy instruments, progress in the implementation of an EAFM at national and regional levels has been slow, partly due to the practitioners lacking the relevant skills and experience to apply such an integrated and holistic approach. To address this issue, the BOBLME project has recommended conducting capacity development courses (CDC) in the region targeted at EAFM facilitators and practitioners.

In a workshop conducted by the BOBP-IGO, **Fishery in Nijhum Dwip MPA, Set-Bagnet fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh, and Set-Bagnet fishery in Sonadia & Moheshkhali Channel** were identified by experts as the Fishery Management Units (FMUs) for implementing EAFM in Bangladesh. While EAFM implementation in the first two fisheries will be carried out directly under the project, the third fishery will be implemented with support from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh.



# Capacity Development Course (CDC) on EAFM in Bangladesh

To prepare EAFM plan and implement in the selected FMUs, the BOBP-IGO will be conducting a Capacity Development Course (CDC) to the prospective practitioners of EAFM.

The broad objectives of the CDC on EAFM are:

- *To enhance understanding of EAFM;*
- *To develop practical skills of fisheries practitioners to implement EAFM in Fishery in Nijhum Dwip MPA; Set-Bagnet fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh; and Set-Bagnet fishery in Sonadia & Moheshkhali Channel; and*
- *To enhance understanding of multidimensional issues and find effective solutions to address them by following an expanded ecosystem approach.*

The Course is strategically placed as a refresher and skill development course to elevate the practitioners who have basic familiarity with the governance issues and to engage them in effective consultation with experts, other stakeholders, and the system as a whole with scientific insights and novel thinking.

In addition, the Course provides hands-on experience in developing EAFM plan. The course will comprise lectures by resource persons and a large part of the course will be devoted to group exercise. The CDC will be instrumental in building rapport among the EAFM practitioners in Bangladesh and encouraging them to exchange ideas and experiences regarding fisheries management.

The training course will be conducted from **21.12.2025 to 24.12.2025 in Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Gulshan 2, Dhaka, Bangladesh (04 days).**

## Participation

The participants of the Capacity Development Course will include officials from the District Fisheries Department, scientists from BFRI and IUCN, researchers from universities, representatives from civil society organizations, fishers as well as concerned agencies and practitioners of EAFM who are familiar with the three fisheries. The total number of participants will be around 24.

The CDC will be conducted in English.

## Certification

The participants will receive a 'Certificate of participation'.

***For further information, please contact***

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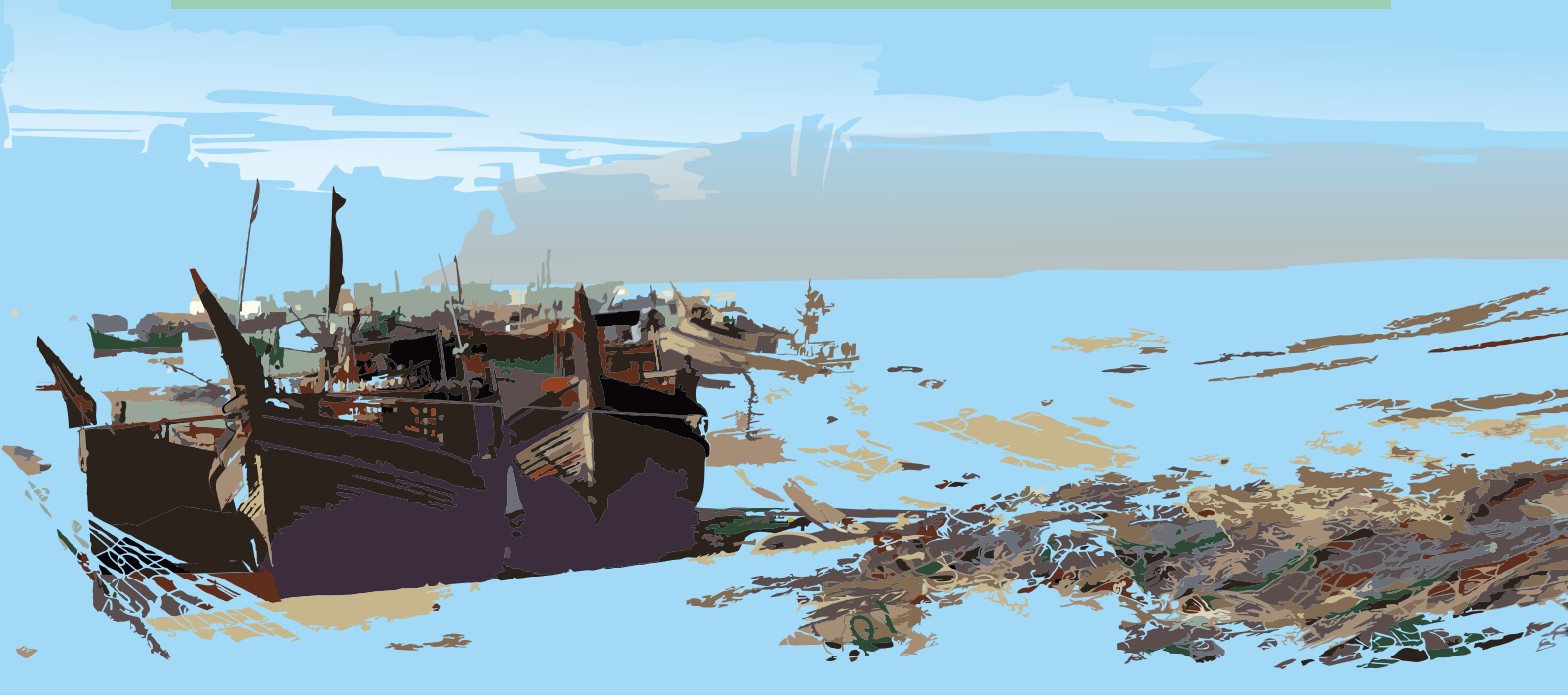
# Course curriculum

Venue: Hotel Bengal Blueberry, Gulshan 2, Dhaka

(21.12.2025 – 24.12.2025)

Time	Day 1 ( Sunday 21 December 2025)
1000-1030	Registration
1030-1115	Inauguration
1030-1035	Welcome
1035-1045	Participants introduction
1045-1100	BOBLME project & Course overview
1100-1115	Special Address
1115-1130	Group photo & Tea Break
1130-1300	<b>Module 1. EAFM Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fisheries Management &amp; Ecosystem Approach</li><li>- Why EAFM?</li><li>- Principles and steps</li><li>- How much EAFM you are already doing?</li></ul>
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1700	<b>Module 2. Define &amp; Scope the Fishery Management Unit (FMU)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Start Up A. Preparing ground</li><li>- Start Up B. Engaging stakeholders</li><li>- Defining the FMU</li><li>- Scoping the FMU</li><li>- Preparation of scoping report</li></ul>
1530-1545	Tea Break
Day 2 (Monday 22 December 2025)	
0930-1130	<b>Module 3. Identify &amp; prioritise issues and goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify FMU-specific issues</li><li>- Prioritize issues</li><li>- Define vision &amp; goals</li></ul>
1130-1145	Tea Break
1145-1300	<b>Module 4. Identify &amp; prioritise stakeholders</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stakeholder categories</li><li>- Prioritise stakeholders</li><li>- Role of stakeholders</li></ul>
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1515	<b>Module 5. Establishing co-management arrangement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Understanding &amp; fostering participatory management</li><li>- Advancing towards gender equality</li><li>- Case study on co-management</li></ul>
1515-1615	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss the challenges and opportunities for fostering co-management in fisheries</li><li>- Develop plans for engaging fishing communities</li></ul>
1530-1545	Tea break

1615-1700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation skills</li> <li>- Conflict management</li> </ul>
<b>Day 3 (Tuesday 23 December 2025)</b>	
0930-1300	<b>Module 6. Develop EAFM plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop management objectives</li> <li>- Develop management actions</li> <li>- Develop indicators and benchmarks</li> <li>- Include finance mechanisms</li> <li>- Formalize the plan</li> </ul>
1130-1145	<b>Tea Break</b>
1300-1400	<b>Lunch</b>
1400-1530	<b>Module 7. Implement the plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare implementation plan</li> <li>- Communicate and engage</li> <li>- Align to EAFM principles</li> </ul>
1530-1545	<b>Tea Break</b>
1545-1700	<b>Module 8. Monitor, evaluate and adapt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitor and evaluate performance</li> <li>- Review and adapt the plan</li> </ul>
<b>Day 4 (Wednesday 24 December 2025)</b>	
0930-1130	EAFM plan presentation by groups
1130-1145	<b>Tea Break</b>
1145-1300	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity development requirements</li> </ul>
1300-1400	<b>Lunch</b>
1400-1430	Quiz
1430-1500	Course evaluation & Feedback
1500-1530	Course certification & closure
1530-1600	<b>Tea</b>







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