Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities

(BOBLME 2)

Work Plan 2024

Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation

Stewardship is about caring ...
. for the fish
. for people
. for tomorrow

The Sea is our Wealth
Care for it - Be a Steward

I am a STEWARD

FISHERMAN: *"I avoid small-mesh nets."*

TOURIST: *"I do not patronise restaurants that serve fish which are endangered"*

CONSUMER: *"I use my purchasing power to promote responsible fishing."*

FISHER WOMAN: *"I don't buy or sell gravid fish or crabs."*

ADMINISTRATOR: *"I set up marine parks and fishing zones."*

DONOR AGENCY: *"No funds for projects that damage the habitat."*

miDdle MAN: *"I give the fisherman fair prices."*

BOBP For Fisheries Management
BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME
Sponsored by the Governments of Denmark and Japan.

FAO

Contents

1.0. Background

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) is one of the largest LMEs covering 6.2 million km^2. LMEs are described according to their bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophic interactions and are scientifically defined areas in which the ecosystem approach to management can be applied. About 66 percent of the BOBLME lies within the exclusive economic zone's (EEZ) of BOBLME countries - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (Fig. 1). The remainder is the high seas area.
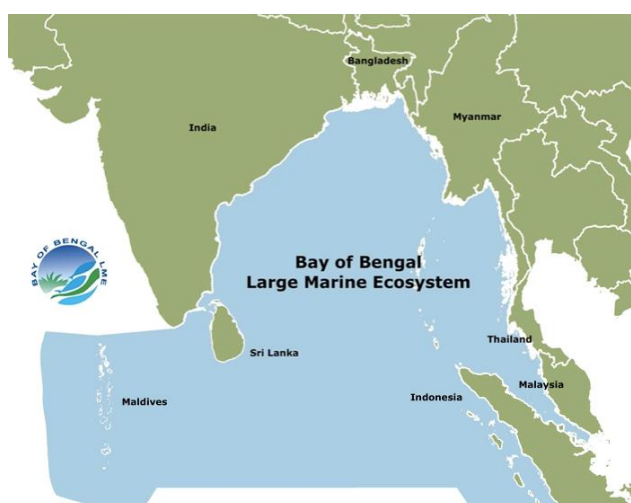
Fig. 1. BOBLME Project Area

The BOBLME is an area of high biodiversity and of important critical habitats and the natural resources are of considerable social and economic importance to the bordering countries (Table 1). Fisheries and aquaculture contribute immensely to food security, employment, and income of the rim countries.

Table 1. Physio-ecological characteristics of BOBLME

LME area	**3,585,440 km^2**
Shelf Area	657,300 km^2
Inshore Fishing Area (IFA)	477,555 km^2
Tropical Coral Reefs	3.645 % of world
Seamounts	0.121 % of world
Primary production	682.95 mgCm^{-2}day^{-1}
Coastal population	Approx 450 million
Marine fisheries production	5.64 million tonnes (Average: 2000-19)
Value of Marine fisheries production	USD 389 million (Average: 2000-19)

During 1950 to 2019, the marine fisheries production from the BOB has increased by 700% from about 0.8 million tonnes to 6 million tonnes (SeaAroundUs [SAU] 2024). However, in the recent years (2000-19) the growth seems to be slowing down as CAGR dropped below one percent from the long term (1950-2019) growth rate of 3 percent (Figure 2).

The landed value of the marine fisheries production estimated as highly volatile. The current landed value is approximately USD 362 million (2019) which translate into USD 59.27 per tonne. The peak value was achieved in 2011 at USD 623 million at USD 101 per tonnes (Fig. 1).
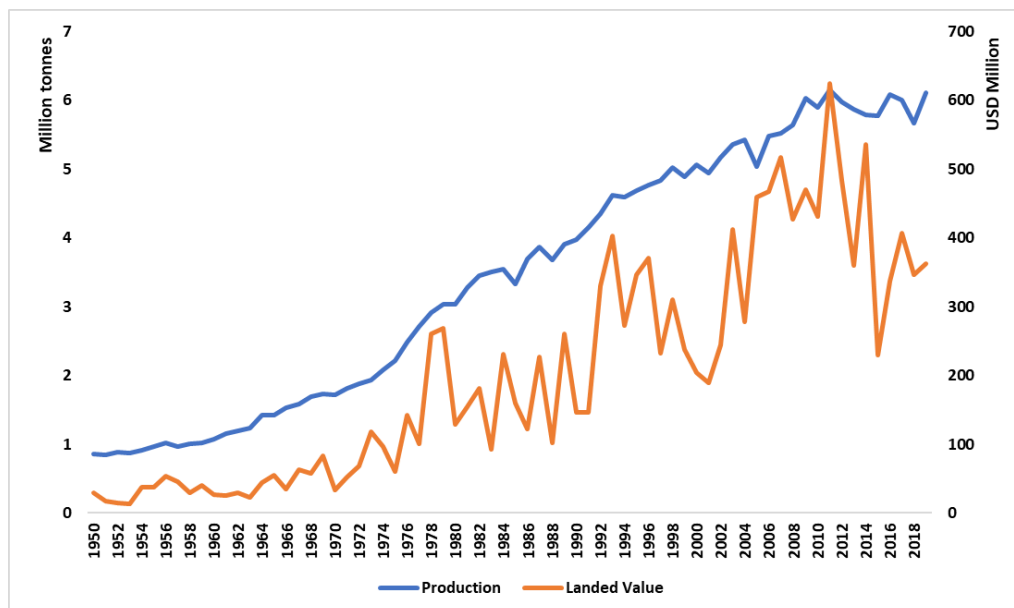
Fig. 1. Trends of marine fisheries production
and landed value from BOBLME (Compiled from SAU)

There is a growing concern of the health of ecosystem as many fish stocks seems to be depleted statistically (Fig. 2). This has raised the question of better management of the Bay to the forefront of regional agenda with livelihoods of millions of people at stake!
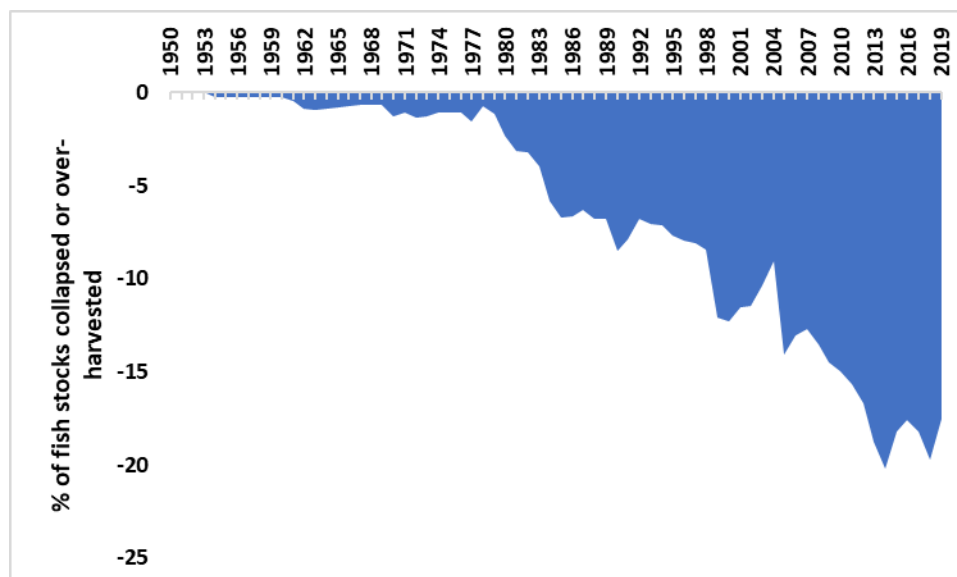
Fig. 2. Share of collapsed and over-exploited stocks
in total stocks estimated (calculated from SAU)

2. The BOBLME-2 Project (2023-28)

The Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities or the second phase of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME-2) is a 'platform project' as it aims to build on the BOBLME-1 which was like a breakthrough project.

Breakthrough projects involve significant changes to existing products and processes. Successful breakthrough projects establish core products processes that differ fundamentally from previous generations. The major changes brought by BOBLME-1 was adoption of the LME Approach (Process) and carrying out a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (Process) to develop the Strategic action Plan (SAP, product) which was welcomed by the project countries. Platform projects, on the other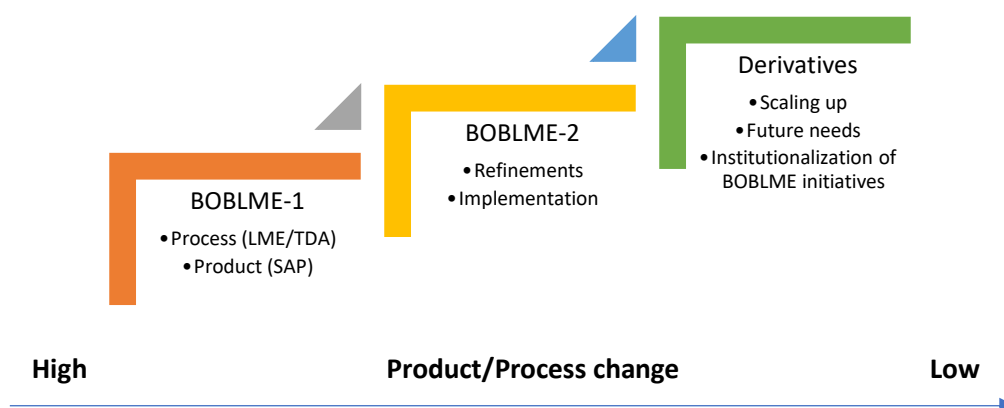 hand, are focused on penetration/implementation with some refinement of the products and processes developed during the breakthrough stage. Platform projects can support derivative projects focussing on incremental changes such as scaling up and replication and future need-based projects.

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) phase of the BOBLME program (BOBLME Project Phase I) identified three priority transboundary concerns and their proximate causes. These include 1) overexploitation of marine living resources, 2) degradation of critical habitats and 3) pollution and water quality.

To address these issues, the countries jointly developed the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which BOBP-IGO is all set to implement 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"*.

2.1. Objective and Approach

The project objective is to contribute to 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 through a well-coordinated regional mechanism of monitoring & evaluation plan.

This will be achieved through interlinked project components based on the SAP themes, by undertaking country-led and adopting a participatory, bottom-up, integrated focus area approach to planning and implementation at community, sub- national, national, and regional levels to ensure greatest impact.

2.2. Project Components

- Component 1. Sustainable Management of Fisheries

- Component 2. Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity

- Component 3. Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health.

- Component 4. Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME

- Component 5. Regional mechanism for planning, coordination, and monitoring of the BOBLME.

2.3. Project Partners & Executing Agencies

The project is funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of UN, in partnership with three executing agencies *viz.,* Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC).

2.4. Project Governance

The Project is governed by the Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising nominated members from the Ministries of Fisheries and Environment from the Project countries. The PSC meets annually. Each country will also appoint a national coordinator/National Focal Point. The TOR for National Coordinator is given in Annex 1.

In addition, the countries may consider setting up of National Steering Committees (A legal requirement in Bangladesh). There will also be national Working Groups (NWGs) and Regional Working Groups (RWGs) which would be focused on each sub-components (e.g. EAFM, IUU fishing) to provide expert oversight and assisting in coordination of national and regional activities. Details about NWGs and RWGs is given in the implementation plan.

Role of executing agencies

The summary role of executing agencies is as follows:

IUCN: Overall regional coordination, Components 2, 4 and 5

SEAFDEC: SE Asia: Components 1, 3 and 5

BOBP-IGO: South Asia: Components 1, 3 and 5

The Project governance structure is given in Fig. 3.
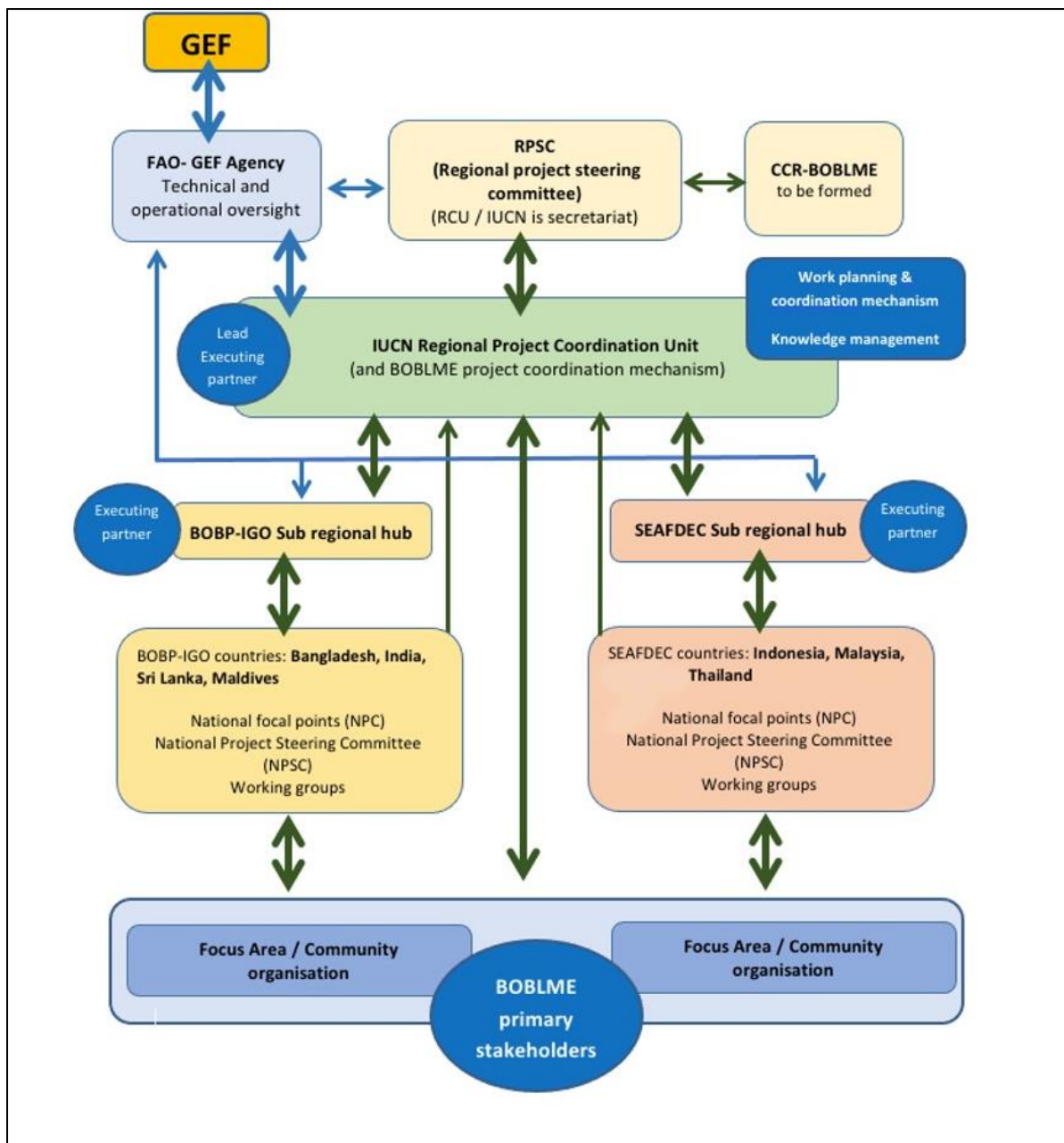
Fig. 3. BOBLME Project Governance Structure

3. Role of BOBP-IGO

BOBP-IGO will implement the project in its member countries viz., Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. National execution partners include Ministries of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministries of Environment, and other national agencies of the participating countries.

Our Common VISION

A sea life teeming with rich flora and fauna where fisheries flourish for eternity and are ensured through collective action!

BOBLME-II vs **BOBP-IGO**
Mutually Re-enforcing Objectives

OBJECTIVE OF BOBP-IGO
To enhance cooperation among member countries, other countries and organisations in the region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable marine fisheries development and management in the BOB region.

→ **COOPERATION MULTI-STAKEHOLDER KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE**

↕

OBJECTIVE OF BOBLME
To contribute to sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities.

→ **TRANSBOUNDARY TRANSECTORAL SEED MONEY**

3.1. Components to be addressed by BOBP-IGO

BOBP-IGO will address Components 1, 3 and 5 of the Project. The expected outcome of each component is given below:

Component 1. Sustainable Management of Fisheries

A systematic application of the ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (EAFM) and reduction of threats from Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing, as well as application of participatory and inclusive approaches are essential for the improvement of ecosystem health and livelihoods in the BOBLME.

The two expected Outcomes and associated outputs given below:

Outcome 1.1. The ecosystem approach to fisheries management institutionalized at national level, including targeted transboundary fish stocks.

By the end of the project, the following key outputs are anticipated under this Outcome:

- It is expected that at least 8 EAFM plans will have been developed using EAFM approach (2 for each country)

- Over 500 practitioners will have capacities and demonstrated ability to apply EAFM approaches in their work.

- EAFM principles for fisheries and marine ecosystem planning will be institutionalized in at least 8 competent agencies for BOBLME resources and applied within existing national and local co-management and stakeholder engagement processes, thereby increasing involvement of grass-roots stakeholders in management decision-making.

- Imposed fisheries management measures and removed barrier to facilitate an increase in ecosystem biomass (5-10% from 2014 baseline) to support sustainable increases in landings of higher value demersal and pelagic species of up to 20% for the current baseline, with a concomitant reduction in low value/trash fish and undersized catch landings.

Outcome 1.2. IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced.

By the end of the project, the following key outputs are anticipated under this Outcome:

- 20% reduction in IUU fishing from the BOBLME phase 1 baseline estimate for selected fisheries.

- Implement and as necessary prepare Regional Plan(s) of Action (RPOA) to address IUU fishing in the BOBLME.

- Four National Plans of Action (NPOAs-IUU) and national IUU Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) strengthened.

- Tools for promoting best practices, such as MCS, Port State Measures (PSM) and traceability of fish and fisheries products (including catch documentation schemes), policies and national actions, to combat IUU fishing developed and implemented in national pilot/investment projects.

- Regional capacity development programme on port inspections, MCS and traceability implemented with 20 national fisheries staff trained in each country.

- Gender is mainstreamed into actions to combat and eliminate IUU Fishing in BOBLME.

Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health

Steps will be taken to increase understanding where ecosystems are degraded as an unintended consequence of economic activities that might happen far upstream or downstream in the source-to-sea system. The abandonment and discarding of commercial fishing gear is one of the most problematic types of marine debris, involved in 'ghost fishing'. Effective marking of fishing gears allows tracking and contributes also to combat illegal fishing. Promotion of marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding International Guidelines will further contribute to the reduction of marine litter.

The expected outcome and associated outputs are given below:

Outcome 3.1 Pollution from discharge of untreated sewage and wastewater; solid waste and marine litter; and nutrient loading reduced or minimized in selected hotspots in river, coastal and marine waters.

Countries will be enabled and supported to actively participate in the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), addressing nutrient over-enrichment and oxygen depletion from land-based pollution of coastal waters, at selected hotspots and dissemination of best practices, as well as in the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) to reduce the leakage of marine litter into the ocean.

By the end of the project, the following key outputs are anticipated under this Outcome:

Output 3.1.1 Improved waste management practices in fishing harbours

- Dissemination and adoption of improved waste management practices in fishing harbours

- Sharing of the experiences and lessons from earlier projects of how fishing harbours may be upgraded to international standards of hygiene and fish quality assurance.

- Developing a best practice guide.

Output 3.1.2 Marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding regional guidelines

- Capacity development of the relevant national and regional authorities and the fishing sector to implement effective gear marking systems.

- Preparing and disseminating studies identifying best practices including incentives to enhance the uptake of gear marking systems.

- Supporting countries in implementing best practices

- Developing and promoting regional good practice

Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination & monitoring BOBLME

The ability to implement ecosystem management at the regional level in the BOBLME depends on the capacity to undertake monitoring of the whole ecosystem and to plan and coordinate management activities at regional level. This can only be achieved through strengthened regional cooperation between countries and between government agencies within countries and the engagement of civil society and the private sector.

The project will rebuild and further strengthen these actions and this component will be delivered through the following two Outcomes:

Outcome 5.1 Strengthened institutional mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME.

By the end of the project, the following key outputs are anticipated under this Outcome:

- Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME" (CCR-BOBLME) established to promote stakeholder participation and awareness, ecosystem assessment, and application of best practices.

- Long-term partnership arrangements agreed for sustainable regional coordination mechanism and sustainable financing for ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME.

- FOUR National inter-sectoral coordination committees established in the sub-region to strengthen the regulatory and institutional frameworks to guide national implementation (including EAFM plans, NPOAs-IUU, ETP plans, marine protected area management).

- Stakeholder consultation mechanism established for engagement of civil society, cooperatives, and the private sector.

- Baseline data (fisheries, trends, and threats of critical habitats and ETP species, oceanography, and climate change), monitoring systems and information repository established at national and regional levels.

IUCN will execute the formation of a consortium of countries and major partners and donors working in the areas of fisheries, environment, water quality and their social and economic dimensions to oversee the implementation of the BOBLME SAP. This "Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME" (CCR-BOBLME) will meet regularly (at least annually) to:

- Promote information exchange and capacity development.

- Monitor BOBLME health and status.

- Monitor progress of the SAP implementation activities and project.

Outcome 5.2 Adaptive results-based management and sharing of information and lessons learned.

By the end of the project, the following key outputs are anticipated under this Outcome:

- Effective Programme management arrangements established.

- Regional information sharing mechanism enabling broad access to best practices and lessons learned in the participating countries.

- Programme findings and lessons learned identified and contribute to IW: LEARN and LME Learn

- Monitoring system operating and providing systematic and regular reporting on programme, and progress towards reaching BOBLME SAP target.

This outcome will be coordinated and executed by IUCN with the support of all partners and countries Key activities will include preparation of a programme communication strategy and its implementation. This will update and modernize the existing BOBLME website into a regional information sharing mechanism to support wide dissemination of Programme findings and lessons to the participating countries as well as to the GEF IW: LEARN project.

C.5: Regional Mechanism

Strengthened institutional mechanisms at regional and national levels

CCR-BOBLME Partnership

Inter-Sectoral Committees

Stakeholder Consultation

Monitoring Systems

Lesson Learned Information Sharing

Adaptive results-based management and sharing of information and lessons learned

C.3: Pollution Control

Improved waste management practices in fishing harbours

Harbour Pollution

Best Practices Training

National Guidelines

Ghost Gear Study

GPML/GPNM

Gear Marking

Marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding regional guidelines

C.1: Sustainable Fisheries

Establishing EAFM

Legal Framework

Gear Restrictions

Stock Assessment

EAFM Plans

Legal Framework

MCS Programme

NPOA-IUU

MCS Networks

Vessel Tracking

Combatting IUU Fishing

Sustainable BOBLME

Overview of BOBP-IGO project components

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4. Implementation Plan

In accordance with the project arrangements, each project year Executing Agencies will submit an annual Work plan and Budget for the review of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The Approved Annual work-plan and budget for 2024 is placed in Annex 2.

THE POWERPLAY

The BOBLME-2 project is on the recon since 2019. However, various factors including global pandemic led to its delay in starting. To compensate for the loss of time and to take advantage of the development at the national level since the project was being planned, BOBP-IGO proposes a POWERPLAY approach.

As shown in Fig. 4, BOBP-IGO will channel a major share of the project resources to carry out the activities on a hyper drive subject to socio-biological limits and esteemed supports from the stakeholders and the Government. With this approach, and full support from the stakeholders, procedural tasks, such as (1) site selection and feasibility assessment, (2) stakeholders' agreement and (2) development of baseline factors (gap analysis) will be carried out in a time bound phase to invest enough time for substantive activities such as development of plans and capacity building. Virtual means will be used to maximum extent to control travel time and costs and therefore timely support/inputs/ feedback will be solicited from local Governments and stakeholders. By engaging local people and officials and through virtual monitoring wherever possible, BOBP-IGO propose to ensure quantum of work delivered in shortest possible time.
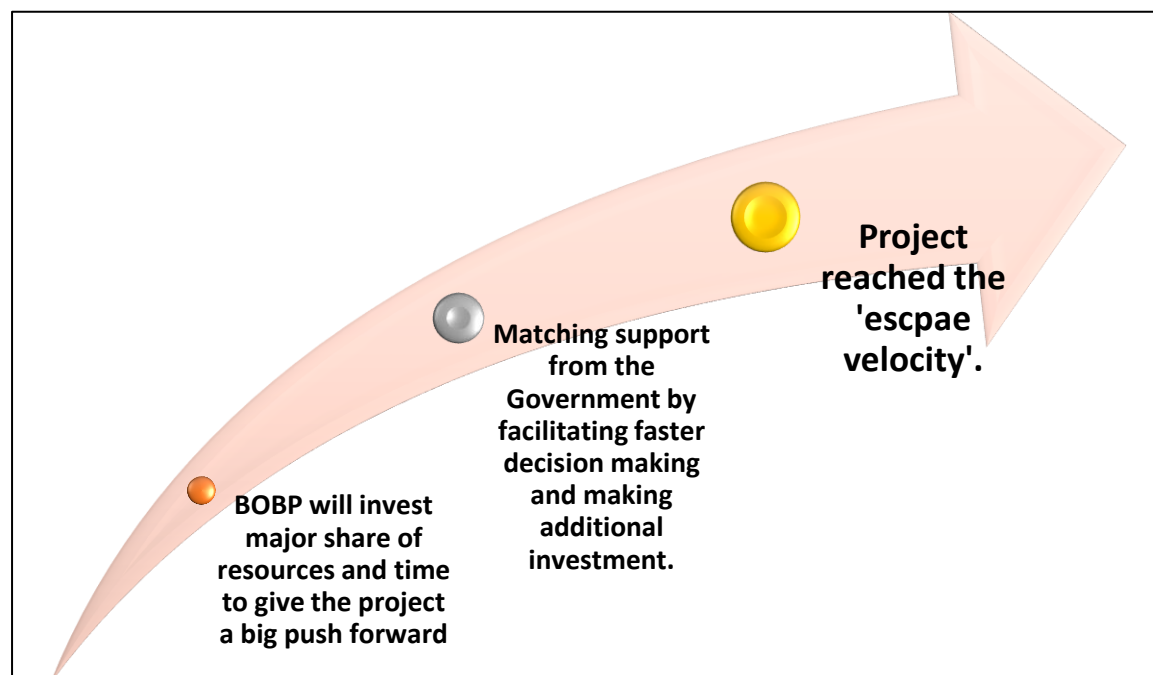

Fig. 4. BOBP-IGO's approach to BOBLME

The detailed work matrix for each component and support needed from Government is delineated in the following table.

4.1. Component 1. Sustainable Management of Fisheries

|	Component 1: ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (EAFM) (Dec 2023 – Dec 2024)			
#	Activity	Approach	Month	Responsibility
1	Developing methodological framework for selection of EAFM units	Expert Consultation Workshop (completed)	Dec., 2023	BOBP-IGO
2	Scoping EAFM planning and implementation in the selected sites	National Workshop (4)	Jan – Apr 2024	BOBP-IGO & Country institutions
3	Hiring of consultant(s)	Procurement process	Feb 2024	BOBP-IGO
4	Constituting National Working Groups (4)	Consultation with countries	Feb – July 2024	BOBP-IGO, Governments
5	Identifying and formalizing stakeholders in 8 EAFM sites	Consultation with NWG	Mar – July 2024	National Working Groups
6	Capacity development of stakeholders	National training workshops (4)	May - July 2024	NWG & BOBP-IGO
7	Preparation of scoping document for the 8 FMUs	Filed data, secondary information	Mar – Aug 2024	Field contract, stakeholders, NWGs BOBP-IGO
8	Developing EAFM plans for 8 EAFM units	Need-based interactions with NWG & stakeholders	June – Dec 2024	Field contract, stakeholders, NWGs BOBP-IGO, Governments
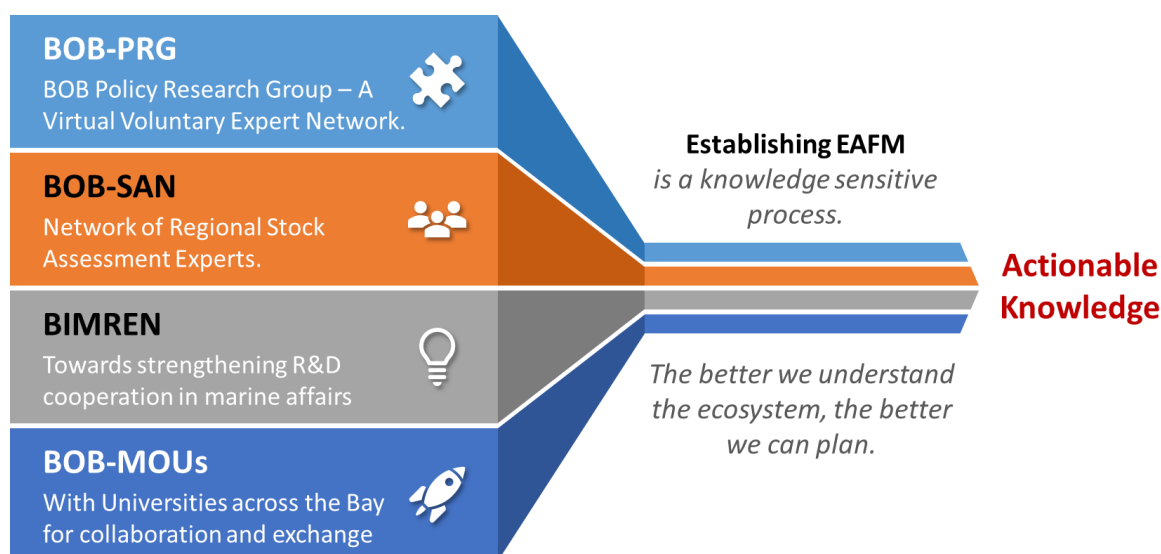
Fig. 5. Additional support from BOBP-IGO to Fastrack EAFM

Specific support needed from the Government during this year to implement EAFM

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
• Identification of project sites (2)	• Facilitate implementation of project activitires in identified sites.	• Provide for scaling up through identification and financing of additional FMUs	• Political support in establishment of FMUs
• Assisting in stakeholder mapping and approach	• Organize meeting of the NWG	• Effective coordinatiion of NWG.	• Joint project preparations
• Setting up of NWG	• Facilitate setting up of co-management in the sites	• Support CDP	• Necessary administrative changes to recognise co-management mechanism.
• Support in identification of national experts and institutions	• Assistance in stock assessment		• Support CDP
• Ensure availability of staffs assigned throughout the project cycle.	• Assistance in CDP		

NOTE: The limited implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in marine fisheries, despite its adoption by member countries in 1995 is a cause of concern. The BOBLME Project aims to establish Fishery Management Units (FMUs) and promote EAFM.

This project will provide knowledge transfer, capacity building, and international expertise to facilitate the implementation. Member countries may consider leveraging this scope to fund activities in additional sites, aligning with their national goals for sustainable fisheries management. The additional funding can provide economics of scale and snowball effect to fast track EAFM adoption.

4.2. Component 1. Sustainable Management of Fisheries

	Component 1: CURBING IUU FISHING (Jan 2024 – Dec 2024)			
#	Activity	Approach	Month	Responsibility
1	Setting up of NWGs	Discussion with Ministry/Dept Fisheries	Feb-Apr 2024	BOBP & Ministry of Fisheries
2	Hiring of consultant(s)	Procurement process	Feb-Apr 2024	BOBP
3	Review status of RPOA	On-line meeting with NWG	Feb-June 2024	
4	Review status of IUU fishing	Field visits, published reports	Feb-June 2024	BOBP-IGO (National consultant) & Ministry of Fisheries
5	Organising annual sub-regional workshops	Annual stakeholder consultations	Sep 2024; and through project period	BOBP, NWG, Min of Fisheries
6	Establishing RPOA-network in the sub-region	Support for joint programmes, study tours	July-Dec 2024	BOBP, NWG, Min of Fisheries
7	Reviewing status of NPOA and national MCS system	Management & Functional Reviews (MFR) of Ministry of Fisheries	July-Nov 2024	BOBP, NWG, Min of Fisheries
8	Assessing Capacity development needs	MFR of Ministry of Fisheries	Apr-Nov 2024	BOBP, NWG, Support from Govts
9	Implementing capacity development (reorganization of institutes)	Training based on MFR	Aug-Dec 2024	BOBP, NWG, Support from Govts
10	Strengthening sub-regional hubs and sharing lessons	Recommendation from NWGs, sub-regional workshops	July-Oct 2024	BOBP, NWG, Support from Govts
11	Developing and confirming capacity needs of personnel	Recommendation from NWGs, sub-regional workshops & national reviews	Aug 2024-Dec 2024	BOBP, NWG, Support from Govts

A detailed note on implementation of IUU plan is given in Annex 3.

Specific support needed from the Government during this year to curb IUU

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
•Assisting in stakeholder mapping and approach •Setting up of NWG-IUU •Support in identification of national experts and institutions •Review of NPOAs and RPOA-IUU	•Assistance in data collection. •Facilitating discussion with national enforcement agencies. •Review of NPOAs and RPOA-IUU	•Review of IUU report. •Participate in regional workshop •Review and endorsement of RPOA-IUU •Support MFR study •Update/Notified NPOA-IUU	•Identification of dedicated staff deployed in the fisheries MCS •Assist in CDP •Ensure redployment of staff in MCS activities post-CDP

4.3. Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health – Waste Management

Component 3: IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN FISHING HARBOURS (Feb 2024 – Dec 2024)				
#	Activity	Approach	Month	Responsibility
1	Hiring of consultant(s)	Procurement process	Feb-Apr 2024	BOBP-IGO
2	Setting up of National Working Group – Waste Management	Consultation with countries	Feb-Apr 2024	BOBP-IGO
3	Developing methodology for scoping cleaner fishing harbour	Consultation with stakeholders	May-Aug 2024	NWG, BOBP-IGO
4	Assessing waste management practices in fishing harbours in 4 countries	Field visits, published information	Sep – Nov 2024	NWG, BOBP-IGO
5	Validating the assessment	National Workshops (4)	Nov-Dec 2024	NWG, BOBP-IGO
6	Developing guidelines, action plan and good practice document	National Workshops (4)	Nov-Dec 2024	NWG, BOBP-IGO

Specific support needed from the Government on Waste Management

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
•Assisting in stakeholder mapping and approach •Setting up of NWG •Support in identification of national experts and institutions •Identification of pilot harbours/FLCs	•Assistance in data collection. •Facilitating discussion with national enforcement agencies. •Review of wate management guidelines. •Dovetelling ongoing programmes on harbour management with BOBLME	•Implementation of the Waste Management Guidelinee on the pilot sites •Assisting in setting up of user groups/ harbour management committee as required. •Assist in CDP	•Approval of the guidelines •Notification of the guidelines •seek joint projects for scaling up and CDP.

4.4. Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health – Gear Marking

Component 3: PROMOTION OF FISHING GEAR MARKING AND DISSEMINATION OF REGIONAL GUIDELINES (Jan 2024 – Dec 2024)				
#	Activity	Approach	Month	Responsibility
1	Consultation with FAO	Building synergy with Glo litter project	Jan 2024	BOBP-IGO (Done)
2	Hiring of consultant(s)	Procurement process	Feb-Apr 2024	BOBP-IGO
3	Assessing loss of fishing gear and gear marking practices in the sub-region	Sub-regional study	May-Nov 2024	BOBP-IGO
4	Validating sub-regional assessment	Sub-regional workshop	Nov 2024	BOBP-IGO, Governments
5	Developing guidelines/ action plan to reduce gear loss	Stakeholder consultation	Nov - Dec 2024	BOBP-IGO

Specific support needed from the Government on Gear Marking

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quater 4
• Support in conducting regional study • Assistance in data collection. • Facilitating discussion with national enforcement agencies.	• Review of Sub-regional study. • Participation in sub-regional workshop • Assistance in formulation of guidelines. guidelines. • Funding piloting of gear marking in selected harbours	• Review and notify finanl guideline on gear marking. • Assist in CDP • Assisting in development of joint projects, linking with ongoing projects to promote gear marking.	• Approval of the guidelines • Notification of the guidelines • seek joint projects for scaling up and CDP.

4.5 Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME

#	Activity	Approach	Month	Responsibility
1	Forming WGs to form CCR BOBLME	Need-based support to project activities	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
2	Review governance arrangement in the sub-region	Consultation with countries	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
3	Establishing sub-regional mechanism to coordinate and monitor actions on BOBLME	Consultation with countries	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
4	Facilitating participation of countries in the sub-region in CCR BOBLME meetings	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
5	Forming WGs to review long-term financing of CCR BOBLME	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
6	Facilitating establishing multi-stakeholder mechanism	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments

|				
7	Facilitating establishing ministerial & inter-ministerial committees	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN		IUCN, BOBP, Governments
8	Developing project communication strategy	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN		IUCN, BOBP, Governments
9	Documenting lessons learnt	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
10	Developing SAP implementation monitoring system	Interaction and discussion with countries and IUCN	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments
11	Providing inputs to WGs established to develop CCR BOBLME	Meetings, report	Through the project period	IUCN, BOBP, Governments

Specific support needed from the Government on Regional Mechanism

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
•Keep BOBP in loop on Government priorities which may have impact on project activities. •Exploring possible institutional and financial mechanism to sustain BOBLME philosophy beyond project.	•Ensure regular participation of office bearers in BOBLME and NWG meeting. •Keep BOBP in loop on Government priorities which may have impact on project activities. •Exploring possible institutional and financial mechanism to sustain BOBLME philosophy beyond project	•Keep BOBP in loop on Government priorities which may have impact on project activities. •Exploring possible institutional and financial mechanism to sustain BOBLME philosophy beyond project	•Keep BOBP in loop on Government priorities which may have impact on project activities. •Exploring possible institutional and financial mechanism to sustain BOBLME philosophy beyond project

5. Funding & Resources

Total funding for the project (for BOBP-IGO activities) is USD 25,86,349, of which, USD 2.1 million is funded by GEF under the International Waters Portfolio & USD 0.4 million is funded by NORAD.

Seventy-seven percent of the funding is available for component 1, followed by 16 percent for component 5 and 7 percent for component 3.
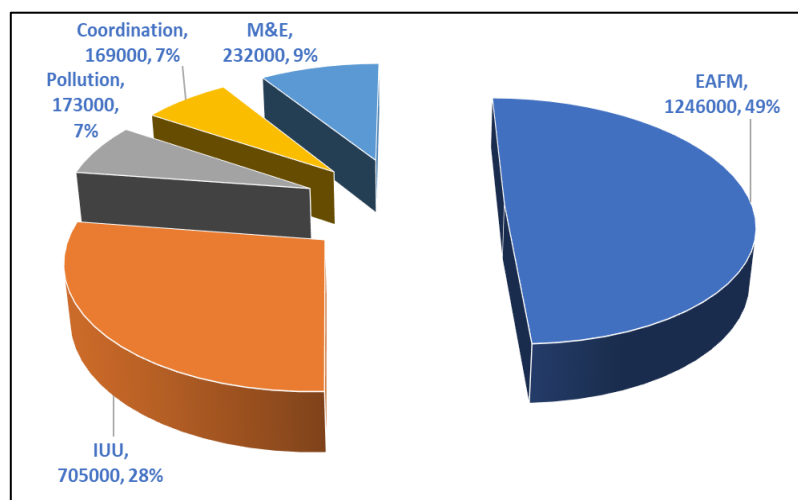
5.1. Financial commitments from the member-countries

While signing the BOBLME-2 project agreement, the member-countries made following commitments towards co-financing the project.

Country	Via Ministry	Commitment (USD)	Total (USD)
Bangladesh	Fisheries	8,500,000	12,000,000
	Environment	3,500,000	
India	Fisheries	4,000,000	4,000,000
Maldives	Fisheries	4,000,000	6,000,000
	Environment	2,000,000	
Sri Lanka	TBD		TBD
Total	Fisheries	16,500,000	22,000,000
	Environment	5,500,000	
BOBP-IGO			500,000

6. Conclusion

The project will leverage existing best practices established during the TDA-SAP phase and the commendable progress made by many BOBLME countries in this regard.

Additionally, it will draw upon relevant guidelines from FAO and ILO, including:

- FAO Technical guidelines for responsible fisheries.

- FAO Microfinance in fisheries and aquaculture: Guidelines and case studies.

- FAO/ILO Good practice guide for addressing child labour in fisheries and aquaculture.

- WB/FAO/IFAD Gender in Fisheries and Aquaculture Module (Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook).

- FAO Gender policies for responsible fisheries: Policies to support gender equity and livelihoods in small-scale fisheries.

- FAO Farm ponds for water, fish, and livelihoods.

- FAO The state of world fisheries and aquaculture 2018 (SOFIA).

- ILO Policy brief on sustainable fishing.

- FAO Achieving poverty reduction through responsible fisheries.

- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

- FAO International guidelines on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

- ILO Maritime Activities: Shipping; ports; fisheries; inland waterways.

- FAO Learning materials for fisheries and aquaculture.

By building on these established guidelines and combining them with the previous successes of BOBLME countries, the project aims to enhance its effectiveness and promote sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture in the region.

Terms of Reference for the BOBLME NATIONAL COORDINATOR
(Nominated by the Governments)

The National Coordinator will take primary responsibility for the implementation of BOBLME activities within his/her country of operation and will ensure that all national inputs and processes required for the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and any additional activities agreed upon under the GEF/FAO BOBLME II project document are adequately prepared and carried out. Specifically, he/she will:

- Act as Chairperson and Secretary of the National Task Force (NTF), with responsibility for convening meetings, drafting agendas and assembling and preparing materials for consideration by the NTF.

- In consultation with the RCU, identify nominations for the National Scientific Advisory Panel (NSAP) and arrange for their pre-approval by FAO.

- In consultation with the NTF and RCU, determine those proposals and studies requiring evaluation by the NSAP, select appropriate members of the NSAP for this purpose, and prepare TORs for their work.

- In consultation with the NTF and RCU, identify consultants to undertake national level assignments in accordance with the approved Annual Work Plan, and submit all required documentation to the RCU for their approval and contracting.

- Monitor and supervise the work of the above consultants, and as far as possible, ensure the timely and responsive delivery of contracted outputs.

- Provide assistance and support to staff of the RCU or regional consultants visiting, or engaged in assignments in, his/her country of responsibility, including preparing itineraries, appointments and assisting with travel and other logistical arrangements.

- In consultation with the NTF, determine dates, agendas, budgets and participation for national workshops, and upon approval of these plans by the RCU, undertake the organization and conduct of the workshops.

- Ensure adequate communication of national activities to all stakeholders, including government, private sector and NGOs, and invite and encourage the participation of non-NTF stakeholders, particularly local groups, in national activities and consultations when appropriate.

The NC is expected and shall be able to contact and coordinate as necessary with other relevant government ministries and departments and state and local authorities whose input is important to the BOBLME II Project, consistent with appropriate government communication channels.

Collaboration: The National Coordinator shall communicate and/or meet with the Regional Coordinator and IUCN National Coordinator (in countries with IUCN Programme Offices) on a regular basis to ensure timely delivery of national inputs and to request assistance to address any problems that may arise during the course of the process, including the identification and recruitment of specialists unavailable within the country. He/she will also collaborate closely with any organization or individual undertaking an approved BOBLME regional activity or study which requires action or input.

Approved work plan and budget of BOBP-IGO for 2024

Output	Activities BOBP-IGO	Year 1			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1.1.1. At least 2 EAFM plans implemented in each country.	(a)National Workshops to review the past work, current status and needs for BOBLME EAFM (each of the 4 countries covering site selection, formation of Working Group and capacity need assessment).	▨			
	(b) Report with recommendations for each country.	▨	▨		
	(c) RCU to coordinate and finalize the report to build synergy with other components (2 & 4).		▨		
	(d)Identification of National Focus Area (NFA)) sites with sub-regional synergies identified and agreed (4 countries)	▨			
	(e). Development of EAFM plans for specific species or areas, including discussions among EAFM core team (for each country) and key stakeholders		▨	▨	▨
	(f)Undertake capacity development needs assessment for EAFM and deliver training (EAFM core sites)	Apr-Jun'24	▨	▨	▨
	(g). Implementation of two (2) EAFM plans in each country		▨	▨	▨
Output 1.1.2. National and regional platforms established or strengthened to involve grassroots stakeholders in management decision-making.	(a). Encourage countries to identify and strengthen skills of the EAFM national working groups	▨	▨	▨	▨
	(b). Establish the EAFM sub-regional working group (4 countries) including departments of fisheries	▨	▨		
	(c). BOBP-IGO, based on monitoring and reporting of activities by EAFM National Working Groups, updates the status to CCRBOBLME (RCU) at regular intervals.			▨	▨

Output 1.1.3 EAFM training embedded in national and regional training institutions	(a). Periodic review and assessment of EAFM capacity development in the region through an agreed framework in consultation with national and regional training institutions.			�	▒
	(b). Member-country EAFM trainers provided opportunity to undertake training courses through E-EAFM and TOT E-EAFM		▒	▒	▒
	(c). Active association in development of regional (South Asia) network of EAFM trainers and updating their skills and knowledge using electronic platform.		▒	▒	▒
Output 1.2.1 BOBLME countries join and implement a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on IUU fishing	(a). Setting up of National IUU Working Groups (NWG-IUU) to review the status of RPOA and NPOA-IUU and monitoring of IUU fishing vessels and organization of annual sub-regional workshops.	▒	▒	▒	▒
	(b). Supporting and actively engaging in BOB-RPOA-IUU.	▒	▒	▒	▒
	(c). Supporting member-countries to participate in BOBLME workshops/ meetings and support in establishment of RPOA IUU network.	▒	▒	▒	▒
Output 1.2.2. National POAs-IUU and national IUU MCS systems and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) strengthened	(a). Review the current status of national MCS system and NPOA IUU through national/Sub-regional consultants and carry out Management Functional Reviews (MFR) of the Ministry/Department of Fisheries to assess the capacity development needs.	▒	▒	▒	▒
	(b). Based on the MFRs, implement capacity development programmes.			▒	▒
	(c). Based on the recommendation of the NWG-IUUs and sub-regional workshops, actively engage in strengthening of sub-regional hubs and sharing of lessons.			▒	
Output 1.2.3 Tools for promoting best practice to combat IUU developed and implemented. (MCS, PSM and traceability, and policies and national actions to combat IUU fishing developed and implemented in national pilot/investment projects)	(a). Based on the national level reviews, reports of the NWG-IUUs and sub-regional workshop confirm the capacity needs to implement MCS, PSM and Traceability in the member-countries.	▒	▒		
	(b). Based on international best practices and the requirement of the countries identified in 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, capacity development plans will be formulated and implemented.			▒	▒

Output	Activity				
Output 1.2.4. Regional Capacity Development Program on port inspections, MCS and traceability implemented	(a). Identification of sub-regional CD partners and assessment of their CD needs through sub-regional consultancy.	▨	▨		
	(b). Formulation of regional capacity development programme (CDP)		▨	▨	▨
	(c). Implementation of capacity development programme				▨
Output 3.1.1: Dissemination of improved waste management practices in fishing harbours	(a). Setting up of National Working Groups on Waste Management (NWG-WM) with focus on cleaner fishing harbours	▨	▨		
	(b). Best practices to be drawn from BOBP and BOBP-IGO's past work on cleaner fishing harbours and current developments in management of fishing harbours and landing centres.	▨	▨		
	(c). Development and dissemination of guidelines, action plan(s) and awareness material on good practices related to waste management in selected FA or hotspots		▨	▨	
	(d). Promotion of collaboration with GPNM and GPML	▨	▨	▨	▨
Output 3.1.2: Promotion of marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding regional guidelines	(a). Sub-regional study on lost fishing gear and fishing gear marking		▨	▨	▨
	(b). Sub-regional workshops to validate study and select target fishing gear type(s)				
	(c). Development and dissemination of guideline / action plan or good practice document				
	(d). Promotion of fishing gear marking in selected fisheries (4 countries; 4 fisheries)	▨			
	(e). Promotion of country participation in GloLitter Project / GPML	▨	▨	▨	▨
Output 5.1.1 CCR-BOBLME established to promote stakeholder participation and awareness, ecosystem	(a). Provide inputs to the working groups formed to develop CCRBOBLME.	▨	▨	▨	▨
	(b). Provide inputs to review of Governance arrangements in BOBLME	▨	▨		
	(c). Provide inputs for the TOR developed for consideration of CCR BOBLME		▨	▨	

Output	Activity				
assessment, and application of best practices in implementation of the SAP	(d). Participate in CCR BOBLME meeting regularly and taking decisions (as required)	▨	▨	▨	▨
Output 5.1.2 Long-term partnership arrangements agreed for sustainable regional coordination mechanism and sustainable financing for ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME	(a). Provide inputs to the working group for the review of sustainable long term financing of the CCR BOBLME			▨	▨
	(b). Review of existing regional partnership mechanisms with recommendations on coordination			▨	▨
	(c). CCR BOBLME TOR and long-term arrangements endorsed				▨
	(d). Meeting of CCR-BOBLME (as required)				▨
Output 5.1.3. National inter-sectoral coordination committees to support SAP implementation established.	(a). Provide inputs to the working group to review existing inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (Focus Area, national and regional)	▨	▨		
	(b). Recommendations for inter sectoral committees implemented (Focus Area, national and regional)			▨	
	(c). Inter-sectoral meetings at national, sub-regional and regional levels			▨	
Output 5.1.4. Stakeholder consultation mechanism established for engagement of civil society, cooperatives, and the private sector	(a). Participation in the working group to review stakeholder engagement and develop stakeholder consultation plan (as required)	▨	▨	▨	
	(b). Implementation of stakeholder engagement plan	▨	▨	▨	
Output 5.1.5. Baseline data collection and analysis systems developed for monitoring systems and sharing information.	(a). M+E strategy developed and endorsed by PSC (including baseline data collection)	▨			
	(b). Project M+E strategy implemented		▨	▨	▨
Output 5.2.1 Communication Strategy developed and implemented	(a). Provision of inputs for the development of the communication strategy		▨		
	(b). Communication strategy endorsed by PSC		▨		
	(c) Implementation of the communication strategy			▨	▨

Outcome 5.2.2. Programme findings and lessons learned identified and contribute to IW-Learn and LME Learn	(a). Lessons learned developed and shared (linked to implementation of all components)		▓	▓	▓
	(b). Project staff and stakeholders engage with IW and LME learn	▓	▓	▓	▓
	(c). IW Learn/LME Learn meetings attended (as required)				
Output 5.2.3. Regional information sharing mechanism developed enabling broad access to best practices and lessons learned in the participating countries	(a). BOBLME website and social media platforms strengthened.				
	(b). Support the establishment of sub-regional hubs	▓			
	(c). National BOBLME networks established and supported	▓	▓	▓	▓
Output 5.2.4. Monitoring system operating and providing systematic and regular information updates on progress towards reaching BOBLME SAP targets	(a). Provision of inputs to the working groups to develop recommendations on LME SAP implementation monitoring framework	▓	▓	▓	▓
	(b). Implementation of monitoring system				▓

Component 1.2

Curbing IUU Fishing

Output 1.2.1: BOBLME countries join and implement a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on IUU fishing

Activity (a)	Setting up of National IUU Working Groups (NWG-IUU) to review the status of RPOA and NPOA-IUU and monitoring of IUU fishing vessels and organization of annual sub-regional workshops.

Approach

Step 1: Identification of constituents of NWG-IUU (Sri Lanka: January 2024; India: February 2024, Bangladesh and Maldives: February-March 2024)

The issue of setting up of NWG-IUU will be discussed with the Ministry of Fisheries (Nodal Ministry) during national consultation to identify the stakeholder based on a 3X3 (interest, influence, importance in curbing IUU fishing) stakeholder matrix and gender balancing.

Stakeholder Group	Interest	Influence	Importance
Government Bodies			
Local NGOs			
Fishers			
Research Institutions			
Private Sector			
Media			
Others			

Step 2: Preparation of TOR for NWG-IUU (January 2024)

BOBP-IGO (through IUU Consultant) will prepare a draft TOR for the NWG-IUU. It is expected that most of the NWG-IUU meetings will be held virtually considering the geographical spread of the activity and location of members.

Step 3: Virtual Meetings (starting from February 2024)

The nodal ministry with the assistance from BOBP-IGO will organise a virtual meeting of the NWG-IUU. The agenda for the first meeting are: 1] Review and approval of the NWG-IUU TOR; 2] review and finalization of the outline for preparation of a base white paper on subregional status of IUU fishing; 3] Preparation of TOR for National IUU fishing consultants.

When	With national EAFM Workshops
Support needed from Government	• Identification of stakeholders as per the proposed methodology • Selecting members of the NWG-IUU representing key stakeholders • Appointing coordinator for the NWG-IUU and organize meetings
Reports/ Milestones	Report on stakeholder analysis and setting up of NWG-IUU (by April 2024)

Activity (b)	Supporting and actively engaging in BOB-RPOA-IUU
How	*Step 1: Preparation of TOR for engagement of IUU consultant (January 2024)* *Step 2: Recruitment of IUU consultant (February 2024)* *Step 3: Review of status of national NPOA-IUUs (February – July 2024)* *Step 4: Preparation of whitepaper of sub-regional status of IUU fishing (August 2024)* *Step 5: Organization of regional workshop to present and validate the whitepaper and developing strategies for curbing IUU fishing. (September 2024)*
When	With national EAFM Workshops
Support needed from Government	• Critical review and agreement on methodology for preparation of whitepaper on IUU fishing. • Expression of interest for hosting the regional workshop on IUU fishing • Participate in the regional workshop to validate the whitepaper on IUU fishing and developing curbing strategies.
Reports/ Milestones	1. FOUR National status reports on IUU fishing (by July 2024) 2. Whitepaper on IUU fishing (By August 2024) 3. Report of the regional meeting (by September 2024)

Activity (c)	**Supporting member-countries to participate in BOBLME workshops/ meetings and support in establishment of RPOA IUU network**
How	*Step 1: Provide tailored resources to the countries to effectively participate in regional activities (as required).* *Step 2: Explore scope of joint programmes/ study tours for knowledge exchange and capacity building (from July 2024)* *Step 3: Organization/support joint programmes and study tours (December 2024).*
When	From first NWG-IUU meeting
Support needed from Government	• Assistance in knowledge and capacity need assessment. • Participation in the joint programmes and study tours
Reports/ Milestones	Reports of the Joint Programmes and Study Tours (within 22 working days of completion of study tours)

Output 1.2.2. National POAs-IUU and national IUU MCS systems and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) strengthened.

Activity (a)	**Review the current status of national MCS system and NPOA IUU through national/Sub-regional consultants and carry out Management Functional Reviews (MFR) of the Ministry/Department of Fisheries to assess the capacity development needs.**
How	*Step 1: Engagement of national consultants (April 2024).* *Step 2: Carry out national MFRs by the national and sub-regional consultants (October 2024)* *Step 3: Present the finding to NWG-IUU and preparation of a national CD plan (November 2024)*
When	From April 2024
Support needed from Government	Support in conduct of MFR which is a probing exercise to understand critical gaps.
Reports/ Milestones	1. FOUR MFR reports (October 2024) 2. National CD Plans (November 2024)

✋ What is MFR?

What is the Management and Functional Review?	Systematic and scientific assessments of the capacity and institutional framework of the Department of Fisheries and its subsidiary organization to deliver on national and international policy targets to suggest optimized solutions, changes, and reforms. The assessment is benchmarked against well-documented best management practices in fisheries. MFR is a popular tool among developmental aid agencies to understand the limiters and ways to address them in fisheries sector of country.
Scope and extent of MFR	• Appraisal of the current mandate, and current sets of policies that govern management of fisheries in India. • Based on the above, identify the following: (i) current capacity gaps appropriate management of the country-level fisheries activities; (ii) current capacity gaps managing and promoting sustainable value chains in fisheries; and (iii) current capacity gaps managing and responding to regional and international obligations. • Suggest the priority institutional capacity building actions, to be able to address the identified capacity gaps. ***Additional scope:*** • Identify the policy and legislative gaps (in comparison with international best practices. • Suggest what needs to be done, to close the above policy gaps (or what should be the outline of the future policy framework); and • Suggest what capacity gaps will need to be addressed in near and in short-term (both in future) to be able to deliver and institutionalize the enhanced policy framework (whenever in future the enhanced policy framework comes in force).
Process of carrying out MFR	MFR will be conducted in four phases, as follows: *Phase 1: Fisheries Sector Review* *Phase 2: Key Fisheries Organisation and Structural Review* *Phase 3: Function and Process review* *Phase 4: Synthesis and Reporting*
Fisheries Sector Review	It will include, *ex ante,* 1. Undertake characterisation of sector (profiling) 2. Describe sector timeline and key issues (since 1950) 3. Produce SWOT analysis (plus key issues) 4. Summarise current policy and law 5. Summarise key development projects 6. Summarise past sector performance reviews (*e.g.* 5-year Plan reviews)

Phase 2: Key Fisheries Organisation and Structural Review	It will include, *ex ante,* 1. Confirm Mandate, Vision, Mission 2. Describe organisational structure 3. Summarise human resource status 4. Confirm budget and other material resources 5. Identify and describe recent changes and impacts
Phase 3: Function and Process review	It will include, *ex ante,* 1. Define key functions and associated processes 2. Focus on policy and planning functions (*e.g.* policy design) 3. Focus on administrative functions (*e.g.* fisheries planning) 4. Focus on fisheries service functions (*e.g.* compliance) 5. Focus on corporate and service functions (*e.g.* human resources) 6. Confirm status and performance of each function, factors involved.
Phase 4: Synthesis and Reporting	1. Overview of Organisational Structure, Function and Processes 2. Confirmation of performance, issues, drivers and gaps 3. Proposed options for institutional strengthening (actions, inputs) 4. Roadmap for institutional strengthening (phases, schedule)

Activity (b)	Based on the MFRs, implement capacity development programmes.
How	*Step 1: In collaboration with NWG-IUU preparation of design for implementation of CD Plan (November 2024).* *Step 2: Implementation of CD Programmes (re-organisation of institutions) (December 2024)*
When	From August 2024
Support needed from Government	Design and implementation of CD programmes as its need highest level of political will.
Reports/ Milestones	FOUR national CD reports (December 2024).

Activity (c)	**Based on the recommendation of the NWG-IUUs and sub-regional workshops, actively engage in strengthening of sub-regional hubs and sharing of lessons.**
How	*Step 1: Develop a plan for integrating NWG-IUUs to develop Regional WG-IUU (RWG-IUU). (July 2024)* *Step 2. Organise the first meeting of RWG-IUU coinciding with the regional Consultation to develop a TOR for RWG-IUU (September 2024)* *Step 3. Conduct activities of RWG-IUU based on the TOR developed.*
When	From July 2024
Support needed from Government	Hosting of RWG-IUU.
Reports/ Milestones	Meeting reports

Output 1.2.3: Tools for promoting best practice to combat IUU developed and implemented. (MCS, PSM and traceability, and policies and national actions to combat IUU fishing developed and implemented in national pilot/investment projects)

Activity (a)	**Based on the national level reviews, reports of the NWG-IUUs and sub-regional workshop confirm the capacity needs to implement MCS, PSM and Traceability in the member-countries.** Note: The earlier CD programme is aimed at reorganization of institution for better functioning. Capacity building under this activity is aimed at personnel of relevant institution. Based on whether countries see the need for reorganization, the CB Plan for personnel will be tweaked.
How	*Step 1: Develop a CB plan for personnel to better understand and effectively implement measures to curb IUU (October 2024)* *Step 2. Present the plan to NWG-IUU for review and validation. (October 2024)* *Step 3. Discussion with the government for an agreed CB plan (e.g. ensuring release and redeployment of official in fisheries MCS related activities). (October 2024)*
When	From first meeting of NWG-IUU

Support needed from Government	• Review and agreement on structure of training programme • Hosting and financial support to the training programme
Reports/ Milestones	CB/ Training Programme

Activity (b)	**Based on international best practices and the requirement of the countries as identified in 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, capacity development plans will be formulated and implemented.**
How	*Step 1: Identification of suitable personnel/agencies for delivery of the training programmes (Ongoing)* *Step 2. Regional training of trainers' programme organized. (October 2024)*
When	July 2024
Support needed from Government	• Review and agreement on structure of training programme • Hosting and financial support to the training programme
Reports/ Milestones	Implementation report on CB/ Training Programme

Output 1.2.4. Regional Capacity Development Program on port inspections, MCS and traceability implemented	
Activity (a)	**Identification of sub-regional CD partners and assessment of their CD needs through sub-regional consultancy.**
How	*Step 1. Hosting a regional roundtable with potential CD partners to discuss unique aspects of port inspections and traceability.* *Step 2. Integrate CD partners with RWG-IUU and NWG-IUU for continuous dialogue and updates among sub-regional partners.* *Step 3. Compile a comprehensive report detailing the specific CD needs and potential partnership opportunities in the region.*
When	With output 1.2.3
Support needed from Government	• Assist in identification of CD partners. • Hosting and financial support to the training programme
Reports/ Milestones	Report on CD needs and potential partnership opportunities in the region.

Activity (b)	Formulation of regional capacity development programme (CDP)
How	*Step 1. Design specialized modules for the CDP, focusing on advanced techniques in port inspections, MCS, and traceability.* *Step 2. Develop an online repository of resources and tools specific to the program for easy access by participants. Plan for inclusion of experiential learning sessions, like simulated port inspections and MCS operations.*
When	With output 1.2.3
Support needed from Government	• Ensure continual availability of trainees. • Hosting and financial support to the training programme
Reports/ Milestones	Report on CD needs and potential partnership opportunities in the region.

Activity (c)	Implementation of capacity development programme
How	*Step 1. Launching of national pilot phase CDPs to refine the program based on real-world feedback.* *Step 2. Organize specialized online workshops focusing on practical applications of learned skills in port inspections and MCS.* *Step 3. Facilitating inter-regional study tours to ports and MCS centers for exposure to diverse operational environments subject to additional funding.* *Step 4. Conduct periodic assessments to measure the impact of the CDP on improving regional port inspections, MCS, and traceability capabilities.*
When	With output 1.2.3
Support needed from Government	• Provision of Access to Facilities and Equipment such as port facilities, monitoring centers, and surveillance equipment for practical training and on-site demonstrations. • Financial and Resource Allocation: Allocation of dedicated financial resources and personnel by the government to support the program. • Encourage private players (e.g. exporters association) to support the programme.
Reports/ Milestones	1. Programme Implementation Report 2. Report on Best practices and Lessons Learned