



Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities.

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme

GEF ID

10451

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities.

Countries

Regional

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s):

Bay of Bengal Programme Intergovernmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Asia Regional Office South East Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), National execution partners include Ministries of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministries of Environment, and other national agencies from all 8 participating countries.

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, International Waters, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Fisheries, Marine Protected Area, Large Marine Ecosystems, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Coastal, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Seagrasses, Mangrove, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Biodiversity, Mangroves, Wetlands, Sea Grasses, Mainstreaming, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Species, Threatened Species, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Communications, Strategic Communications, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

5In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

853,101.00

A. Focal Area Strategy Framework and Program

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-2_P4		GET	504,587.00	4,000,000.00
IW-3_P6		GET	2,017,149.00	11,931,717.00
IW-3_P7		GET	6,957,163.00	41,152,717.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	57,084,434.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

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.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Sustainable management of fisheries.	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1.1 The ecosystem approach to fisheries management institutionalized at national level, including targeted transboundary fish stocks.</p> <p>Outcome 1.2 IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced.</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 At least 2 EAFM plans implemented in each country.</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 National and regional platforms established or strengthened to involve grassroots stakeholders in management decision-making.</p> <p>Output 1.1.3 EAFM training embedded in national and regional training institutions.</p> <p>Output 1.2.1 BOBLME countries join and implement a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on IUU fishing.</p> <p>Output 1.2.2 National POAs-IUU and national IUU MCS systems and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) strengthened.</p> <p>Output 1.2.3 Tools for promoting best practices, to combat IUU fishing developed and</p>	GET	3,888,442.00	24,500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1 Coastal and Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) contribute to conservation of biodiversity.	Output 2.1.1 MMAs established or strengthened, and contribute to conservation of transboundary biodiversity.	GET	2,032,939.00	15,000,000.00
		Outcome 2.2 National MMAs established or strengthened resulting in improved MMA management effectiveness at national level: (CCM Bangladesh).	Output 2.1.2 Regional capacity development program promoting best practices in management and evaluation of MMAs.			
		Outcome 2.3 Regional consensus and agreements on reduction of threats to marine biodiversity in coastal and open waters.	Output 2.2.1 Enhancing the role of Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of forest stocks in Bangladesh (BGD-CCM).			
		Output 2.3.1 A regional plan of action for ETP species. Output 2.3.2 Legislative frameworks on ETP species harmonized across countries.				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health.	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1. Pollution from discharge of untreated sewage and wastewater; solid waste and marine litter¹⁹; and nutrient loading reduced or minimized in selected hotspots in river, coastal and marine waters.</p> <p>* Activities and targets for marine litter using GEF IW portfolio funding and co-finance.</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1 Improved waste management practices in fishing harbours.</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 Marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding regional guidelines.</p>	GET	380,952.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME (supporting implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines; VG-SSF).	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4.1 Enhanced resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change of selected coastal communities.</p> <p>Outcome 4.2 Enhanced sustainable livelihoods and diversification for selected coastal communities.</p>	<p>Output 4.1.1 Resilience plans developed based on valuation of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Output 4.1.2 Inclusion of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty reduction and development, as well as climate change policies, strategies and planning processes promoted.</p> <p>Output 4.1.3 Gender considerations mainstreamed into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks.</p> <p>Output 4.2.1 Livelihood diversification for women piloted (in at least one site per country).</p> <p>Output 4.2.2 Access to innovative financial services and insurance mechanisms improved.</p> <p>Output 4.2.3 Regional capacity</p>	GET	1,133,333.00	10,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination, and monitoring of the BOBLME.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 5.1 Strengthened institutional mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME.	Output 5.1.1 CCR-BOBLME established to promote stakeholder participation and awareness, ecosystem assessment, and application of best practices in implementation of the SAP.	GET	1,591,857.00	3,584,434.00
		Outcome 5.2 Adaptive results-based management and sharing of information and lessons learned.	Output 5.1.2 Long-term partnership arrangements agreed for sustainable regional coordination mechanism and sustainable financing for ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME.			
			Output 5.1.3 National inter-sectoral coordination committees to support SAP implementation established.			
			Output 5.1.4 Stakeholder consultation mechanism established for engagement of civil			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	9,027,523.00	54,084,434.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	451,376.00	3,000,000.00
				Sub Total(\$)	451,376.00	3,000,000.00
				Total Project Cost(\$)	9,478,899.00	57,084,434.00

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount(\$)
Government	Bangladesh Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	In-kind	8,500,000.00
Government	Bangladesh Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Development Wing	In-kind	3,500,000.00
Government	India Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department	In-kind	4,000,000.00
Government	Malaysia Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries	In-kind	14,100,000.00
Government	Maldives Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture	In-kind	4,000,000.00
Government	Maldives Ministry of Environment	In-kind	2,000,000.00
Government	Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation	In-kind	1,040,000.00
Government	Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (DOF)	In-kind	4,000,000.00
Government	Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	In-kind	1,500,000.00
Donor Agency	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Grant	4,355,434.00
Donor Agency	IUCN	In-kind	489,000.00
Donor Agency	BOBP-IGO	In-kind	320,000.00
Donor Agency	SEAFDEC	In-kind	300,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	SEAFDEC	Grant	200,000.00
Donor Agency	BOBP-IGO	Grant	180,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	4,300,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	4,300,000.00
		Total Co-Financing(\$)	57,084,434.00

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Regional	Climate Change		No	504,587	45,413
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters		No	8,974,312	807,688
Total Grant Resources(\$)						9,478,899.00	853,101.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

18,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Regional	Multi Focal Area		No	200,000	18,000
Total Project Costs(\$)						200,000.00	18,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	2,000,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park BGD Nijhum Dwip	125689	Select		12,500.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park BGD St. Martin's	125689	Select		7,500.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park BGD Swatch on G	125689	Select		172,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park IND Gulf of Mannar	125689	Select		7,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park IND Palk Bay	125689	Select		30,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park IND Sundarbans	125689	Select		100,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park INS Aceh	125689	Select		60,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park INS N Sumatra	125689	Select		70,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park INS W Sumatra	125689	Select		86,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MAL Peninsular Malaysia	125689	Select		150,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MAL Pulau Payar	125689	Select		500.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MDV Huvadho Atoll	125689	Select		150,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MDV Lhaviyani Atoll	125689	Select		300,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MYA Irrawaddy Delta	125689	Select		80,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park MYA Rakhine	125689	Select		80,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park MYA Tanintharyi	125689	Select		120,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park SRL Jaffna Lagoon	125689	Select		40,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park SRL Northeast Coast	125689	Select		70,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park SRL Puttalam Lag.	125689	Select		250,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park THA Phang Nga	125689	Select		35,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park THA Ranong	125689	Select Wilderness Area		30,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park THA Similan	125689	Select Wilderness Area		12,500.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park THA Surin	125689	Select Wilderness Area		10,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>
Akula National Park THA Tarutao	125689	Select		127,000.00					<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
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Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
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0	0	0	0
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LME at PIF

LME at CEO Endorsement

LME at MTR

LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)

Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)

Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)

Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

100.00

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit

(At PIF)

(At CEO Endorsement)

(Achieved at MTR)

(Achieved at TE)

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)

0

2959482

0

0

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)

0

0

0

0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit

(At PIF)

(At CEO Endorsement)

(Achieved at MTR)

(Achieved at TE)

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)

Anticipated start year of accounting

Duration of accounting

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit

(At PIF)

(At CEO Endorsement)

(Achieved at MTR)

(Achieved at TE)

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)

Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)

Anticipated start year of accounting

2,959,482

2020

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
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Target Energy Saved (MJ)

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem		Bay of Bengual		
Count	0	1	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Bay of Bengual		2		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Select SWE				<input type="checkbox"/>

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Bay of Bengal		3		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Bay of Bengal		1		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Bay of Bengal		2		<input type="checkbox"/>
Select SWE				

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
	1,200,000.00		

Fishery Details

Various in BOBLME

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		6,500		
Male		6,500		
Total	0	13000	0	0

PART II: Project JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Description

A. Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PFD

a.Executing Agency (EA) arrangements:

In the PFD, the following tentative regional implementation partners had been identified to take a role in project execution: BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC, IUCN/MFF, UN Environment (e.g. COBSEA, GPA), UNIDO and APFIC.

During PPG consultations, IUCN, BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC were determined to be the partners best placed to deliver the project. The EA arrangements are different to the PFD (with the removal of UN Environment (COBSEA, GPA), UNIDO, and APFIC) which were proposed as options which were to be reviewed and decided on at submission. Specifically, APFIC as an executing agency did not endorse this role during governance meetings (by its member countries) during the PPG phase discussions. APFIC does not have an autonomous budget and its Secretariat is provided by FAO. APFIC as a regional fisheries body will therefore have the role to provide technical advice to implementation within its mandate, and ensure synergies with FAO regional programme activities relevant to the BOBLME objectives

As there were insufficient funds for significant partnership agreements, UN Environment (COBSEA, GPA) and UNIDO agreed to work through coordination and collaboration rather than as EA. Their roles are highlighted in the baseline and coordination sections of the Project document.

b.Co-finance:

The co-finance amounts differ from those proposed in the PFD. The current total co-finance ratio target is 1:6 which is different (but not significantly so) to the PFD.

The number of partners differs because some were unable to commit co-finance at the stage of Project document finalization and have been removed from that section. They will still be worked with through coordination and collaborative actions, including partner agencies such as UN Environment, UNIDO, WB and NOAA.

Norway and Sweden have considered the provision of grant rather than co-finance letters. Norway has made a commitment to provide NOK 39 603 960 in cash co-finance, for use in all 5 components. Sweden may provide co-finance under its new funding cycle starting 2021 and this discussion will be continued.

c.Project framework

The project framework has been changed to the extent that a new Outcome has been reinstated under Component 3 (Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health). The two outputs will be produced using GEF IW funding and co-finance from countries and partners.

d.Project targets

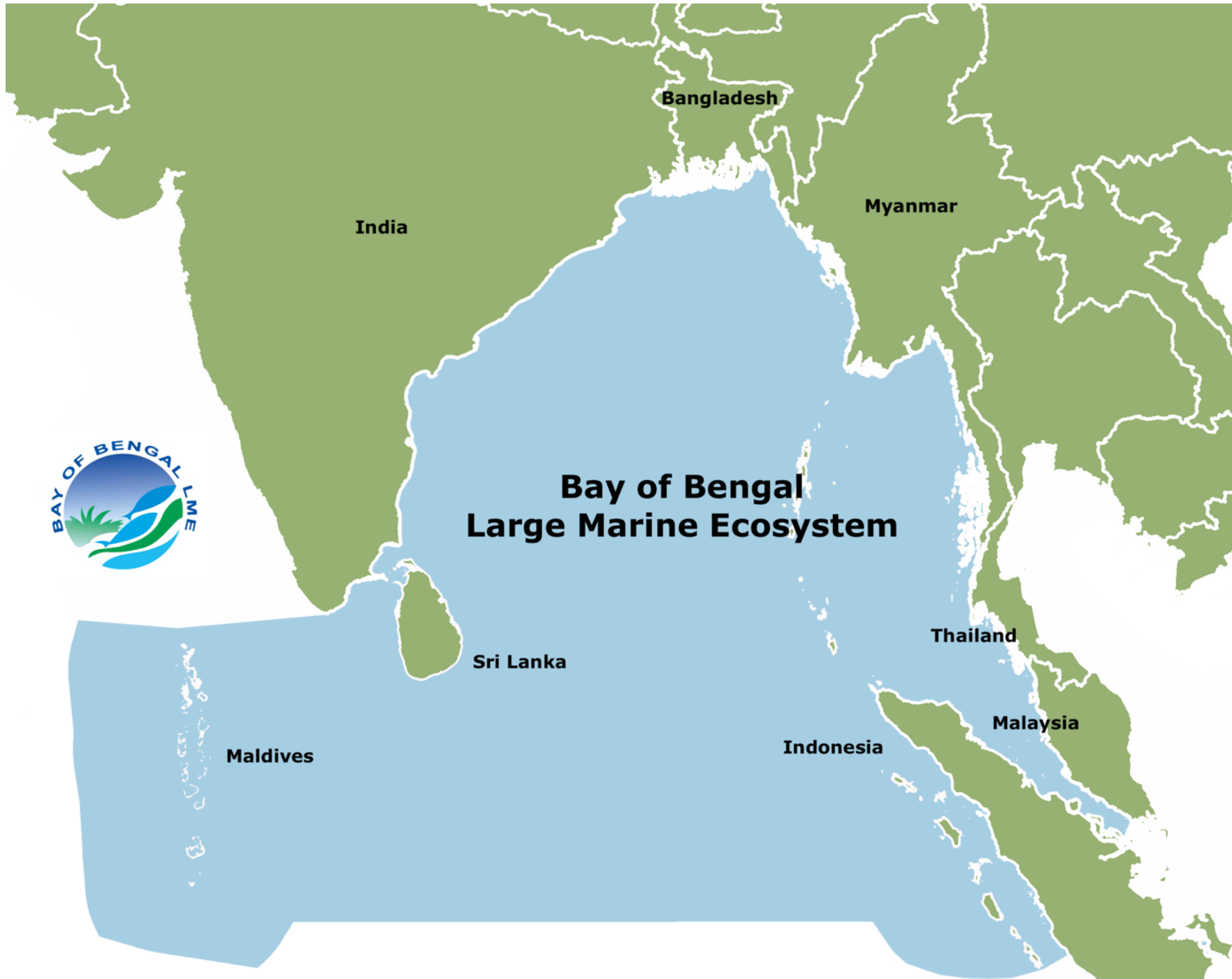
Some project targets have been revised due to the relatively low GEF grant available. During the PPG phase, it was confirmed that Component 2 targets would need to be reduced to “at least one (1) MMA per country”. With consideration of the geographical scope of EAFM plans as “other effective area-based conservation measures”, this target can be revised back to “2 MMAs per country”.

A.1. Project Description

1.1.1 Regional and global context

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) is LME 34 of the 66 currently described[1]¹. Eight very different countries border the BOBLME – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The combined population of these countries is ~2 000 million people with 450 million estimated as living in the coastal zones (see map Figure 1). It is one of the largest LMEs globally and covers 6.2 million km² with depths ranging between 2 000 and over 4 000 m for most of its central area.

Figure 1: The Bay of Bengal of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem as defined by the BOBLME project



Bangladesh

India

Myanmar

**Bay of Bengal
Large Marine Ecosystem**



Sri Lanka

Thailand

Maldives

Indonesia

Malaysia

The continental shelf around its perimeter is mostly narrow. Most (about 66 percent) of the BOBLME lies within the EEZs of BOBLME countries with the remainder being a high seas area. Thus, a large part of the BOBLME is subject to national jurisdictions. In this LME the areas of high primary production are concentrated in the coastal waters. Average sea-surface temperature is 28.6°C and has been rising slowly. The current average temperature is 0.5°C higher than it was in 1957, which makes the Bay of Bengal one of the slower warming LMEs in a changing climate.

Many large rivers flow into the BOBLME. These include the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna in the north that drain across Bangladesh and India; the Ayeyarwady and Thanlwin in the east from Myanmar; and the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery in the west from India. These rivers discharge large quantities of fresh water and silt into the coastal environment. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin covers nearly 1.75 million km², spreads across five countries and is the second largest hydrologic region in the world. Monsoonal rains and floods have a strong influence on the BOBLME dynamics, resulting in seasonal gyres and a warm, low salinity, nutrient- and oxygen-rich surface layer to a depth of 100 m, and a relatively stable stratification. Tides are mainly semidiurnal with a wide range in some coasts (up to 7m at spring tide in Myanmar) and the saline intrusion can extend up to 340 km in the north eastern estuaries of Bangladesh.

The BOBLME is rich in natural resources, including extensive mineral and energy resources; marine living resources that support major fisheries; and forest and land resources. The marine fisheries production in 2012 (BOBLME, 2015) was approximately six million tonnes (seven percent of the world's brackish water and marine catch), valued at USD 4 billion (about four percent of the value of the world catch). The BOBLME is an area of high biodiversity, including several species, which that classified as threatened under international and national criteria. The LME provides critical habitats for mangroves (12 percent of world mangrove resources); coral reefs (8 percent of the world's coral reefs) and seagrass. The LME and its natural resources are of considerable social and economic importance to the bordering countries, with activities such as fishing, shrimp farming, tourism and shipping contributing to food security, employment and national economies. The ecosystem services in the BOBLME are estimated to be worth around USD 240 billion over the next 25 years – services that will be lost if action is not taken to halt current rates of coastal and marine ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

The Bay of Bengal is a hydrocarbon-rich area, comparable to the Gulf of Mexico, Arabian/Persian Gulf and Bohai Bay in China. Until recently, it has been poorly explored due to a lack of financial support for exploration and international boundary disputes. An increasing emphasis on the exploration for, and exploitation of, oil and gas in the BOBLME presents many different opportunities and threats (including an increasing risk of pollution).

The regional human population is still growing from an already large base of about 1.78 billion, and it is expected that this figure will exceed two billion by 2020. The BOBLME's coastal population of 450 million is also expected to increase, both because of the general upward trend in regional population and because of urbanization and migration to the coast. With regional population densities averaging about 410 people per square kilometre – of which at least 30 percent is concentrated along the coasts – the pressure on the coastal and marine environment of the BOBLME is likely to be one of the highest in the world. The human pressure on the BOBLME will be further exacerbated by climate change that is expected to lead to ocean acidification, sea level change (rises in most areas), rising sea surface temperatures, changes in rainfall (decrease in some areas and increase in others), and possible increased frequency or intensity of storms and cyclones. These changes are expected to affect the ecology and biodiversity of the BOBLME.

1.1.2 BOBLME SAP development phase

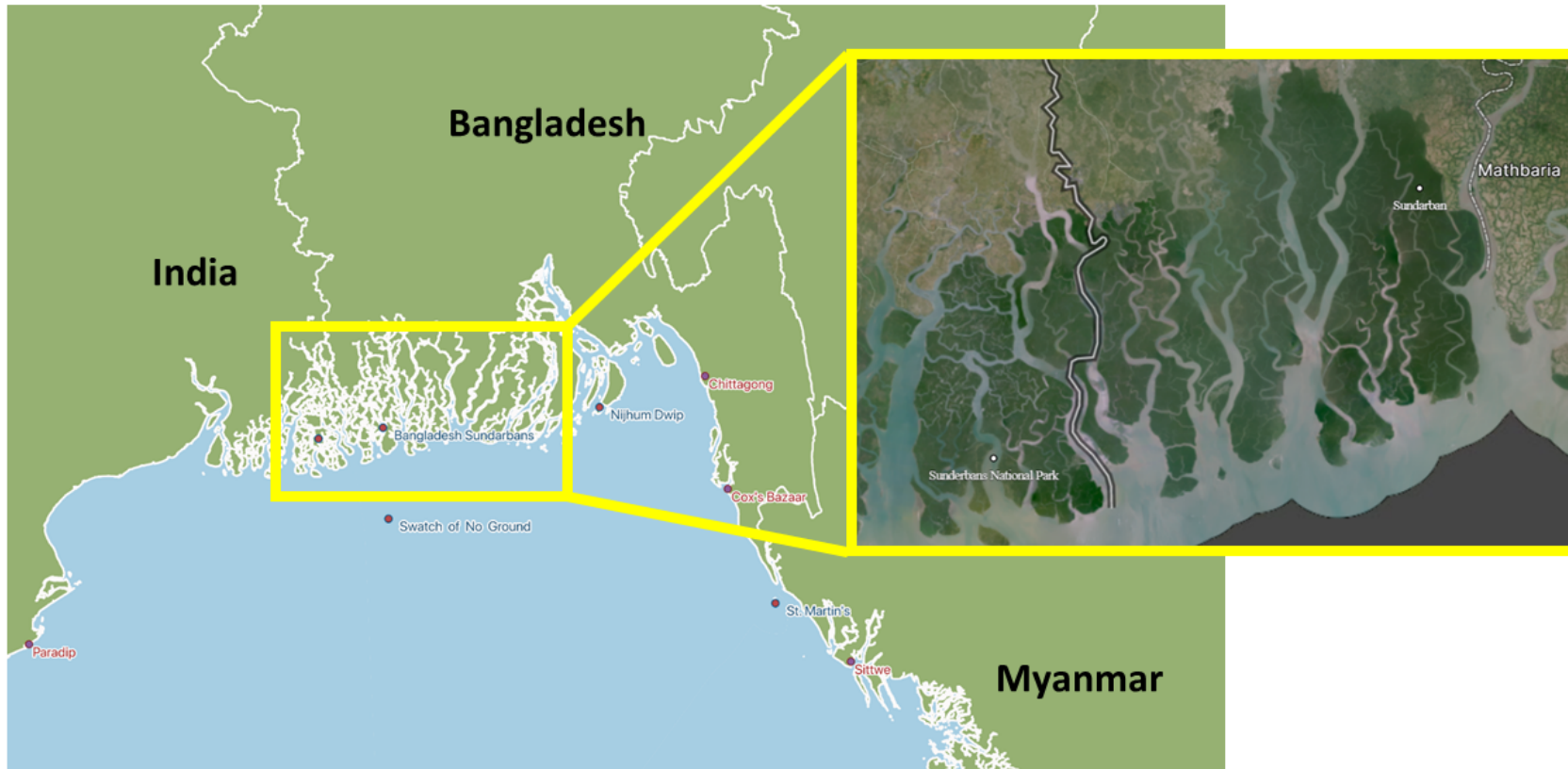
The first BOBLME project (2009-2015) principal achievements include the following:

- The successful completion of an eight-country consultative process to develop and agree on a TDA that identified priority environmental issues in the BOBLME and their causes;
- A well-designed, highly inclusive and collaborative process to develop a SAP to address the priority issues and causes identified in the TDA (which was endorsed by all BOBLME member countries in 2018), including regional institutional and financial arrangements;
- Collaborative activities that were carried out with a large number of partners to enhance regional cooperation, share best practices and resources, and avoid duplication of work;
- Interacting and influencing resource management processes at international, national and community levels;
- Studies and reviews conducted on a range of topics, and disseminated through publications, brochures, newsletters and a dedicated website (www.boblme.org);
- The production of cornerstone documents including: the first regional assessment of the economic value of marine and coastal ecosystem services in the BOBLME; best practices in ICM; determination and characterization of the sub-regional ecosystems within the BOBLME; LME gender assessment; migratory fishers; and studies to benchmark environmental indicators and management capacity;
- BOBLME working groups formed and implemented for fisheries statistics, MPAs, ecological indicators, pollution, oceanography, as well as for two transboundary fish stocks;
- Consultative processes and policy analyses undertaken to strengthen coastal resources management and governance of transboundary fisheries and critical habitats;
- An assessment of governance in the BOBLME, in partnership with the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and GEF's Transboundary Water Assessment Programme;
- The first ever regional fisheries advisories based on scientific assessments of Hilsa shad and Indian mackerel developed as a result of transboundary collaboration;
- An improved knowledge base on sharks and rays, and the development and strengthening of National Plans of Action for Sharks (NPOAs – sharks), leading to a draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA);
- Support to regional consultations, leading to the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (VG-SSF), and to regional and national dissemination in support of implementation planning.
- The first ecosystem survey of Myanmar marine resources for 30 years, conducted by the research vessel (RV) Dr Fridtjof Nansen;
- A wide range of training used to develop capacity in natural resource management, oceanography and governance; and
- Increased skills and knowledge on scientific communication and on applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries: an essential ecosystem approach to fisheries management (E-EAFM) training package was developed and launched with partners.

1.1.3 The Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Within the BOBLME the Sundarbans in Bangladesh is a unique mangrove ecosystem and major carbon sink. It is the world's largest single tract of mangrove forest covering an area of 601,700 ha (4% of the world's mangrove forest and 38.12% of the forest land of Bangladesh) (Figure 2). It provides ecosystem services of great importance for local livelihoods, national economies and the global environment. It provides livelihood support through delivering ecosystem services such as timber, construction materials, energy, food, tourism and contributes to reduce impacts from cyclones, tidal surge, protecting millions of people. It is unique in term of biodiversity with over 185 aquatic species, 334 plant species, 300 bird species, 42 species of mammals constituting 35% of the total fauna of Bangladesh, including the largest tiger population in the world. The carbon density in Sundarbans is estimated at 257 t/ha. The total Carbon stock in the Sundarbans is estimated at 106 Mt. The amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalents contained in the Sundarbans is estimated at 387.7 Mt, which is over 7 times the annual CO₂ emission rate of Bangladesh from fossil fuel consumption.

Figure 2: The Sundarbans region of Bangladesh and India



1.1.4 National Development Context

The pace and current status of development in the countries around the BOBLME varies considerably. In terms of development countries in the BOBLME have made good progress both in planning for and implementing the MDG's and SDG's.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has attained a lower middle-income country status with per capita income rising to USD 1466 in 2015-16, with the Bangladesh National Perspective Plan (Vision 2021) setting a target of achieving developed country status by 2041. The 7th five-year plan seeks to accelerate growth as a necessary condition to reduce poverty rate to 18.6% and extreme poverty to around 8.9% by 2020. It emphasizes growth through an inclusive pathway that is responsive and adaptable to the ongoing transformations, is resilient to climate change and sustainable over the long term without damaging the natural environment. The 7th five-year plan for the country underscores a just, equitable and inclusive economic growth together with ensuring food security for all people with due attention for environmental-friendly development. The major priorities of the plan with respect to food and nutrition security include agricultural growth, enhancement of sustainable intensification and diversification of climate resilient agricultural production, livelihood improvement, transformation from subsistence to commercialization of production system, value addition and agro-processing commensurate with the strategies for environmental protection and climate change adaptation. Government's commitments and guiding strategies to achieve faster agricultural growth and ensure food security are entailed in several policies and laws addressing crops, livestock, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, water resources, food and agro-processing sub-sectors. Sustainable food and agriculture have great potential to revitalize the rural landscape, deliver inclusive growth to Bangladesh and drive positive change right across the 2030 Agenda including Blue Growth.

India

India is committed to achieving the SDGs through the "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas," SSSV which translates as "Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth" which forms the basis of its national development agenda. The Government of India has developed a Three-Year Action Agenda covering years 2017-18 to 2019-20. The Government of India has launched several ambitious programme including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which is the world's largest financial inclusion programme. Further, special efforts have been made to invigorate the federal governance structure of the country through cooperative and competitive federalism. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), communicated to the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, form a significant part of its SDG strategy. These include substantially reducing the emission intensity of GDP, tapping non-fossil fuel energy sources and creating additional carbon sinks. The Three-Year Action Agenda as well as the Union Budget represent the key overarching framework for the agriculture sector. The main objective of the government is to double farmers' income by solving the twin problems of maximising efficiency and ensuring equity in a sustainable manner.

Indonesia

Indonesia is populated by close to 260 million people and has achieved significant economic progress over the past two decades reaching Middle Income Country (MIC) status in the early 2000s. The agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors have contributed significantly to economic growth and poverty reduction although food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty remain challenges. Indonesia's centres on community development, increased welfare, prosperity and productivity increases to narrow the income gap. Indonesia has played a key role in contributing to global and regional partnerships in fisheries and aquaculture. MMAF's Strategic Plan focuses on combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; enhancing independence in the sustainable management of marine and aquaculture resources; enhancing competitiveness in marine and aquaculture products; and developing human resource competencies and institutional capacity. Indonesia is the largest economy in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and net official development assistance (ODA), as a percent of gross national income (GNI), has been in sharp decline over the past decade and reached 0.01 percent in 2014. In 2016, Indonesia's annual budget for the agricultural sector stood at USD 2.4 billion, providing the Ministry with significant capacity in developing the food and agricultural sectors. In addition to agriculture, the forestry and fisheries sectors play a major contributing role to the economy and people's livelihoods. Nevertheless, 29 million Indonesians still live below the poverty line while rural poverty stands at 14.2% of the rural population (World Bank). Indonesia has been successful in reducing inequality, complemented by sustained and inclusive economic growth and accountable governance. Poverty has been reduced to single digits for the first time in history, job opportunities and education access increased in all levels, while GHG emission and disaster risks were reduce

Malaysia

Malaysia started its journey to sustainable development in the 1970s when the New Economic Policy (NEP) was introduced to eradicate poverty and restructure societal imbalance. All subsequent 5-year development plans have underscored the elements of sustainable development encompassing sustainable economic growth, growth with equitable distribution to all sections of society, access to basic infrastructure and utilities, access to education and healthcare services and mainstreamed environmental conservation. In 2009, Malaysia formulated the New Economic Model (NEM) which strengthened the country's commitment to pursue sustainable development based on three pillars, namely high income, inclusivity and sustainability, which mirrors the three elements of the SDG. The NEM provides the basis for 5-year Malaysia development plan until 2020. The current 5-year Malaysia plan (i.e. the 11th Malaysia Plan 2016-2020) is premised on the three pillars of NEM. The theme of 11th Malaysia plan is “Anchoring Growth on People” where people will be the centrepiece of all development efforts and to ensure that no section of society is left behind in participating and benefiting from the nation's development. Agriculture is still a major pillar of the Malaysia economy. The agriculture sector is one of the National Key Economic Areas. Malaysia has unique dualistic agricultural sector with the co—existence of single crop plantations and smallholder sector. With approximately 70 per cent of agricultural land under palm oil plantation, palm oil is the dominant plantation crop. Small holders mostly dominate livestock, fisheries including aquaculture and other agriculture crop (paddy, fruits, vegetables and horticulture).

Maldives

As a small island developing state, the Maldives faces significant economic, social and environmental challenges. These are exacerbated by the impacts from climate change and vulnerability to both internal and external shocks. In addition to this, the geographic insularity coupled with a dispersed population and high transaction costs results in limited potential for economies of scale. Despite these challenges, the country has made significant progress in areas of eradicating extreme poverty, achieving universal education and health care and protecting terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Additional efforts have to be made in other area such as empowering women, strengthening mechanisms of governance and justice, minimizing economic disparity and sustainable consumption and production in order to ensure that no one is left behind. The overarching national strategic development plan of the Government of Maldives is the Manifesto and its pledges form the policies at sectorial. The Maldives have also developed the Nationally Determined Contributions document of 2015 which provides recommendations for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and policies for the agriculture and fisheries sectors. In addition, fisheries and climate change policy documents have been published.

The BOBLME has extended the original geographic boundary of the LME to include Maldives and its EEZ (see map Figure 1). Maldives has a long history of cooperation with other Bay of Bengal countries, is a member of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), is integrated with existing mechanisms for regional cooperation in South Asia and shares transboundary management issues

Myanmar

Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia and has one of the lowest population densities and many and diverse ethnic groups. Despite recent positive economic growth, increases in disposable incomes and attainment of national food self-sufficiency in some major staple crops, poverty remains substantial (with 25.6 percent of the population still below the national poverty line). The poverty rate is twice as high in rural areas where 70 percent of the population lives. Most rely on agriculture and casual employment for their livelihoods. Myanmar has the second highest rate of infant and child mortality among ASEAN countries and a number of challenges in terms of malnutrition continue to persist especially among children. The causes of these high figures are multiple and complex. Inadequate agricultural productivity and diversity, low household incomes, poor food safety, land tenure and governance issues, lack of access to clean water, and lack of knowledge and awareness remain key constraints for improving the food security and nutrition situation in Myanmar.

Myanmar possesses rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems and is known for its wealth of natural resources including minerals, fuel, gems, timber and forest products and water. The country is facing critical challenges including land degradation, deforestation and climate change threats. The Fisheries sector is the fourth largest contributor to GDP in the past five years and employs more than 3 million people. Uncontrolled expansion of fisheries and illegal fishing have put the sector under heavy stress which has resulted in the over exploitation of natural resources. Surface water from rivers and storage reservoirs is plentiful in Myanmar but sparse infrastructure and high pumping cost constrain people's access to it, accompanied by high variability in water resources and increasingly unpredictable rainfall and insufficient capacity to manage this variability. Myanmar is highly prone to natural disasters and has experienced several significant disasters in the last 10 years. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2017, Myanmar ranks among the top three countries most affected by extreme weather related events.

Sri Lanka

Emerging from thirty years of conflict Sri Lanka has begun its "transformation towards a sustainable and resilient society". The poverty rate has dropped to 4.1% in 2016 and the country is reaching towards the upper-middle income status with a per capita GDP of USD 4,066 in 2017. The unemployment has been under 5% for last seven years. Free education and health policies have resulted in high life expectancy (75 years) and high youth literacy (98.7%) rates. The UN has recognized Sri Lanka as among "high human development" achieved countries. The government's "Vision 2025" provides the overall vision and the Public Investment Programme. The three-year rolling plan aligns significantly with SDGs. The National Budget 2018 focuses on a "Blue Green Economy". Sri Lanka is one of the world's top 35 biodiversity hotspots. However, a considerable number of species are threatened. Deforestation has become a challenge due to increased demand for land. Solutions have been identified in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.

Thailand

Thailand attaches great importance to the concept of sustainable development, which has long taken root in the country. The country has been guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), conceived by His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. SEP has been adopted as the core principle of National Economic and Social Development Plan since 2002. The current constitution has integrated SEP and sustainable development as integral parts. The Royal Thai Government (RTG) has articulated a 20-year National Strategy covering 2017 to 2036 that envisions Thailand reaching a state of prosperity, stability and sustainability based on the adoption of a "Sufficiency Economy". The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021 (NESDP) is the first of four five-year plans required by the 20-year National Strategy. The strategy for agriculture development and sustainable natural resource management are clearly stated in the NESDP. The agricultural sector contributed 11.05% of GDP during the 11th NESDP (2012-2016) however; there is a declining trend due to stronger economic expansion opportunities in the industrial and the service sectors. With 25 million people or 38% of the population in Thailand currently engaged in agriculture, income inequality is a major concern.

1.2 The global environmental problem, root causes and barriers to be addressed

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) conducted for the BOBLME identified five priority transboundary problems, including their more proximate causes and barriers, which are summarized below:

Problem 1: Overexploitation of marine living resources:

Overexploitation of some fisheries resources is likely in the BOBLME as the trends of several fisheries statistics (e.g. changes in species composition in catches, high proportion of juvenile fish in the catch, and changes in marine biodiversity, especially through loss of vulnerable and endangered species) indicate declining condition of the ecosystem. Many of the marine living resources in the BOBLME traverse the international boundaries of adjacent and sometimes non-adjacent countries and many of them are targeted by several BOBLME countries. Large pelagic species, such as tunas and billfishes, range over large ocean spaces and pass through the EEZs of many countries both inside and outside the BOBLME. Smaller pelagic species, such as anchovies, herrings, mackerels and shads, usually migrate through the coastal waters of at least two or more neighbouring countries. Examples include hilsa shad, which is shared by most countries but concentrated in the waters of India, Bangladesh and Myanmar; Indian mackerel, which occurs in all countries; and sharks that are of global and regional concern. Resources that appear to be more sedentary or only locally mobile – such as reef fish, lobsters, sea cucumbers and corals – often have patterns of larval dispersal that give their distribution a transboundary dimension.

Excessive fishing effort, destructive fishing methods, unselective fishing practices and gear; and illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing have been identified as proximate causes that are contributing to the declining condition of the BOBLME. “Open access” policies, government emphasis on increasing production, inappropriate subsidies, increasing fishing effort (especially by trawlers and purse seiners), high consumer demand for fish (including for seed and fishmeal for aquaculture), weak fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and enforcement, and strong incentives to encroach into areas with better returns, are primary contributors to such poor fishing practices.

Problem 2: Degradation of critical habitats

This includes especially mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses. Mangroves have been classified as either degraded or under threat in all countries. Over 4 500 km² of mangroves have been lost in the region over the last 30 years. The major cause of loss of mangroves has been conversion for agriculture (82 percent) and conversion for aquaculture (12 percent).

Coral reefs are also classified as degraded or under threat. Coral reefs in South Asia and Southeast Asia suffered large scale bleaching in 1998, caused by high water temperatures associated with an extreme El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)/Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) effect. Some recovery has occurred but further damage has been reported from the 2016 ENSO/IOD event. Although the BOBLME is one of the slower warming LMEs, the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) rises reported, especially in the Maldives and the Andaman Sea are sufficient to indicate high potential for the recent marine heatwaves observed to be permanent changes to the system. The increased frequency of elevated SST inducing coral bleaching and subsequent degradation is a serious problem for the BOBLME that may induce state change to its ecology. Reefs considered to be at greatest risk from a combination of (i) coastal development, (ii) overexploitation and destructive fishing practices, (iii) the impact of inland pollution and erosion, and (iv) marine pollution, are the reefs around Aceh and the islands off Sumatra in Indonesia; Malaysia west coast; Myanmar; Sri Lanka and the Gulf of Mannar.

There is insufficient information to assess the status of seagrass, although it is thought that many of the BOBLME region’s seagrass beds are either already degraded or threatened. The biodiversity supported by the seagrass beds will also be at risk, especially with regard to endangered species such as marine turtles, dugongs and seahorses, although little quantitative information is available. The productivity of the coastal fisheries supported by seagrass beds could also be declining as the seagrass beds degrade. Seagrass beds are mainly threatened by sedimentation and eutrophication, destructive fishing practices, such as trawling and push netting, and coastal modification, including dredging and mining for sand.

Problem 3: Pollution and water quality

The priority transboundary pollution issues in the BOBLME are sewage-borne pathogens, organic load from sewage and other sources, marine litter, increasing nutrient inputs, oil pollution, POPS and PTS, and mercury pollution. The effects of pathogens and high organic loads are likely to be localized except in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna system where sewage and other organic contaminants are shared by India, Bangladesh and Myanmar due to high river discharge and ocean circulation patterns. Marine litter, including plastic and discarded fishing gear, can be transported long distances in the marine environment and are clearly a major transboundary issue. Increasing nutrient inputs from rivers can lead to inner-shelf hypoxic zones that could adversely affect transboundary fish stocks. Recent reports indicate a large (approx. 60,000 km²) hypoxic or 'dead' zone in the northwest part of the Bay, which appears to be growing. An increase in nutrients has also resulted in Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), also known as red tides. There is a general lack of information in the BOBLME on the distribution of PTSs and POPs, but because of the potentially serious impacts and transboundary distribution, this is a priority issue. Another emerging issue in most coastal area is pollution from plastics – specifically effects of micro plastics - and its impacts on ecosystem. The proximate causes of these issues are the widespread discharge of untreated or inadequately treated domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater; inadequate solid waste management, including widespread discharges of solid waste into rivers and coastal waters and the open burning of solid waste which generates dioxins and furans; increasing emissions of nutrients from fertilizer use in agriculture, expanding aquaculture, and atmospheric emissions from industry and fossil fuel burning; and routine operational discharges of oil from shipping and dumping of waste oil by vessels and vehicles on land.

Problem 4: Climate Change:

The IPCC (2014) report provides an estimate of 4 °C increase in the ocean heat content in the Indian Ocean between 1960 and 2010. The Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are forecast to be among the marine areas with highest increases in temperature and precipitation by the end of century, with forecasts of increases of 4 °C and 40 percent precipitation under the high emission scenario for these two areas[1]. The impacts of climate change on the Asia Pacific region and the BOBLME are expected to threaten the livelihoods of millions who depend on the sector for food and nutrition security, trade, livelihoods and the economy, especially so for the large numbers of small-scale fishers and fish farmers (FAO, 2011a). BOBLME countries in the region recognise this and their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) under the Paris Agreement on climate change, and associated priority actions by sector, reveals that agriculture (comprising crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) are key concerns.

The TDA SAP, program formulation and PPG phase consultations identified the following three key barriers to be addressed:

Barrier 1: Weak Institutional, legal and administrative frameworks at regional, national and community levels

At the regional level, the lack of an appropriate forum for region-wide multi-national dialogue, planning, monitoring and reporting on the progress of sustainable development is an institutional barrier affecting a country's ability to implement change. To be addressed by all components but mainly Component 1 and Component 5.

i. **Lack of regional coordination and policy setting mechanisms:** In the BOBLME there remains no overarching mechanism for planning and coordination for the marine environment. However, there several agencies and organizations with mandates to coordinate some activities in the BOBLME region. In the first BOBLME Project, 12 existing sub-regional, regional and international institutions and their current mandates were examined. This review concluded that these institutions were either too narrow in their sectoral mandate [e.g. current operation of the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC)]; too narrow in their geographic competence with respect to the BOBLME [e.g. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)]; or both [e.g. Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) and BOBLME (2015) Preliminary assessment of national-regional mechanisms to address transboundary marine issues in the Bay of Bengal. BOBLME-2015-Governance-05].

This barrier will be addressed by component 5 through the development of a CCR BOBLME and through component 1 by the establishment of regional mechanisms for the sharing information on MCS/IUU and development of regional plans for management of transboundary fisheries and component 2 which includes establishing a regional network of MPA's.

ii. **Lack of supportive institutional and legal frameworks:** The form and type of responsible agency or authority varies widely between the BOBLME countries but in each country, at least on paper, some form of authority has the mandate to conserve marine living resources, protect critical habitats and implement pollution control legislation and regulations. However, the exercising of this authority is largely ineffective, as adequate governance systems are often not in place. Achieving an effective level of compliance, and enforcement of laws and regulations, is an ongoing challenge. In part, this lack of effective governance is complicated because national, state and local governments have sectoral responsibility and accountability that is divided between different governmental bodies. Responsibility and accountability are not always clearly assigned. Moreover, such layering of responsibilities has resulted in applicable legislation often being derived by multiple agencies leading in some cases to overlaps or conflicts. In these circumstances, there is a further lack of clarity with regard to responsibility and accountability.

Barrier 2: Socio-economic barriers

The principal social factors affecting BOBLME countries are population growth and increasing migration to the coast; urban growth and coastal infrastructural, commercial, industrial and residential development for the expanding urban – and usually more affluent – coastal communities, e.g., tourist resorts, ports, airports, roads, harbours; lack of alternatives for securing food, livelihoods and shelter (space and materials) in the poor, rural coastal communities; and lack of stakeholder awareness of the issues and, in some cases, lack of commitment.

The relatively low standard of living and working conditions of coastal communities and the high vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change, is often related to undervaluation of small-scale fishing, inadequate social protection strategies, absence of social dialogue, and low levels of education and human capital. Moreover, national demand for foreign exchange is driving government policy and incentives that promote unsustainable practices (e.g. high chemical applications and clearing of land) and the increasing productivity of agriculture (and aquaculture). This puts unprecedented pressure also on fish resources. Manufacturing and service industries are showing a trend of relocating to countries in the region to benefit from lower production costs that may, in part, be related to lower environmental standards. The damage to the environment – and to other sectors and public health – from industrial, agricultural pollution, unsustainable fishing and degraded habitats is not added to the cost of doing business and is not reflected in prices, taxes or national financial and development plans.

These socio-economic barriers will be addressed by improving stakeholder awareness, capacity, gender equity and participation, and also reducing vulnerability and insecure livelihood status, as well as introducing valuation of ecosystem services, also including non-monetary or social and cultural values, likewise leading to improved governance. These barriers are addressed by component 4 and component 1.

Barrier 3: Lack of integration of climate change resilience in planning and management

While various **global** scenarios have been predicted (rise in sea level, increase in the frequency of major storms and the intensity of the most extreme storms, etc.), it is not clear how these will manifest in the Bay of Bengal. Relative sea level rise has been advanced as possibly the greatest threat to mangroves, especially in areas where mangrove sediment surface

elevation is not keeping pace with sea level rise and there is limited area for landward migration. However, more analysis is needed to investigate where this is occurring in the BOBLME e.g. in the Ganges Delta where sea level change is caused mostly by subsidence and partly by climate change. Global climate change may also have a number of deleterious effects on other critical habitats. Sea level rise may cause lack of light at deeper levels and sea temperature warming is related to coral bleaching. Acidification causes an increase in dissolved bicarbonate and a decrease in the available carbonate in seawater. It will thus become more difficult and energy consuming for coral and reef animals and plants to make skeletons, and growth and productivity may be impaired. There are also observations of a starting geographical shift in fish species distribution to higher latitudes, with accompanying physiological and phenological changes. Threats identified above need to be addressed to enhance the resilience of fisheries, critical habitats, and people's livelihoods, as current management practices will determine the possible impacts of future climate change.

The lack of integration of climate change resilience in planning and management will be addressed by ensuring it is fully integrated into sector plans and policies at all levels. There will be a focus on strengthening the resilience of fisheries, critical habitats, and people's livelihoods. The underlying paradigm of ecosystem approach of ecosystem-based management will be a move away from the traditional sectoral approaches. This will be addressed in component 4.

1.3 The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

All BOBLME countries have made progress towards full implementation of the SAP since its publication in 2015 including actions that support the components of the PFD and their intended outcomes. The tables below provide a concise summary of the national actions currently being implemented by country for each component of the approved PFD to be implemented in this project.

Component 1: Sustainable management of fisheries

For outcome 1.1 (institutionalising EAFM) actions include the updating of (or preparation of new) legal and policy frameworks that prescribe an EAFM approach, recognizing the need to equitably share the marine resources among users and implementation of fisheries management planning that constrain catch to ensure stock sustainability and maximise livelihood and economic opportunities. Actions for outcome 1.2 (combatting IUU Fishing) have strengthened legal frameworks covering flag, coastal and port state responsibilities, developed relevant NPOA, and populated information and surveillance systems for effective control and prosecution of IUU Fishers. Actions specifically designed to support transboundary species management and the establishment and operation of MCS networks are less developed across the BOBLME. The actions amount to an estimated minimum of USD 25 000 000 from countries and partners as co-finance.

Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity

National actions supporting outcome 2.1 have established MMA's including areas that protect critical mangrove, mudflat, sandflat and coral reef habitats and for the protection of endangered, threatened and protected species have been drafted. Regulation has also been imposed to protect ETP species.

Bangladesh also has a number of baseline initiatives related to its policies on climate change and climate change mitigation. These are highlighted in Annex Q (BOBLME-sub project on CCM in Bangladesh). These include a range of actions to strengthen the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Capacities of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and to promote Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and strengthen livelihoods. The work aims to protect key ecosystems, wetlands and ecological critical areas in Bangladesh while improving their ability to withstand climate change shocks.

Capacity Reduction	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
Independent surveys to assess status of stocks	ü		ü	ü		ü		ü
Stock assessment institutionalised	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Small scale fisher rights	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Co-management	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü
Hilsa Domestic EAFM Plan	ü	ü				ü		
Domestic Stocks – EAFM Plans	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Transboundary EAFM Plans	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Outcome 1.2 IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced

	BGD	IND	INS	MY	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Improved Legal Frameworks	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
EEZ Boundary definition	ü	ü	ü	ü				
Revised NPOA-IUU			ü	ü			ü	ü
Draft NPOA-IUU	ü	ü			ü	ü		
MCS Programme	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Vessel Tracking	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü
Vessel Registration	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
PSMA responsibilities			ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
MCS Networks	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Outcome 2.1 Coastal and marine managed areas (MMAs) contribute to conservation of biodiversity

	BGD	IND	INS	MY	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Policy Revision	ü	ü	ü			ü		
Mangrove habitat Protection	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Tidal and mud flats Protection		ü		ü	ü			
Coral reef Protection	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
MPA regional registration	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
ICM plans	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
MMA declarations	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Outcome 2.2 National MMAs established or strengthened resulting in improved MMA management effectiveness at national level: (CCM Bangladesh)

Some relevant project initiatives in Bangladesh:

- National Forest Inventory and Satellite Land Monitoring in Support of REDD+
- Expanding the Protected Area System to Incorporate Aquatic Ecosystem
- Enhanced Coastal Fisheries
- Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods

Outcome 2.3 Regional consensus and agreements on reduction of threats to marine biodiversity in coastal and open waters

	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
MMA scorecard			ü					
ETP species protection	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Coastal Vulnerability Index				ü			ü	

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

Output 3.1.1 Improved waste management practices in fishing harbours

	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Studies on pollution from harbours								
Good practice for fishing harbours developed		ü					ü	
National guidelines developed for fishing harbours		ü					ü	
Training and extension materials for fishing harbours		ü					ü	
Fishing harbour sites for waste management identified	ü	ü					ü	
Participation in GPNM / GPML								

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

	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
National studies on ghost gear loss of gear in specified fisheries			ü					

Socio-Economic Monitoring	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
SME Financing		ü			ü	ü		

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

	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
CCR-BOBLME established								
Partnerships developed for CCR-BOBLME								
National inter-sectoral committees for SAP implementation								
Stakeholder consultation mechanisms established								
SAP baseline data collection and monitoring systems								

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

	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
APFIC	ü	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü
FAO	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
IUCN	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
MFF	ü	ü	ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
BOBP-IGO	ü	ü			ü		ü	

SEAFDEC			ü	ü		ü		ü
ASEAN			ü	ü		ü		ü
BIMSTEC	ü	ü		ü		ü	ü	ü
SAARC	ü	ü			ü		ü	
SACEP	ü	ü			ü		ü	

1.4 The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project.

Despite the current baseline set of national actions these investments alone do not have the resources, scope or mandate to fully implement the LME approach needed and to address the barriers and common issues that threaten the LME. Consequently, the BOBLME stakeholders are not benefiting from the integrated and collaborative approaches required to address priority transboundary issues. Nor do they benefit from sharing institutional capacities and technical knowledge essential for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches at the LME scale. Mostly, the existing baseline initiatives are directed at specific sites or are species-based initiatives and in a national or bilateral context. Initiatives that are taking a sub-regional approach generally lack the coordination and resources required for impact. Capacity development undertaken by the baseline investments has also not been undertaken at the scale required or has been short-term.

In combination with anticipated climate change impacts, pressures on the LME and the lack of a comprehensive framework for the BOBLME marine and coastal environments, the pressures on the LME are likely to lead to reduced ecosystem productivity and resilience. This will have detrimental consequences for the coastal communities of the region, including reduced livelihoods, decreased food security and increased poverty levels.

In view of these shortcomings in the baseline scenario, the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand have requested assistance from the GEF to formulate and implement this alternative scenario that will not only leverage the extensive baseline initiatives but also make targeted adjustments to produce significant global environmental benefits that would not be realized in the baseline scenario alone.

The GEF Alternative will support the achievement of the Project Development Objectives and Global Environment Objective through strategic actions addressing the key threats and barriers. The project will produce key IW Global Environmental Benefits and CCM benefits through five well-defined components, as follows:

Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries

The baseline activities with respect to implementation of EAFM and specifically the development and implementation of fisheries management plans at national levels in the BOBLME have institutionalised EAFM. However, without an extension of investment to include plans for sub-regional areas and transboundary species the social, economic and environment benefits within the LME will be undermined. Similarly, the lack of coordinated efforts to combat IUU fishing in the sub regional and region also undermines efforts to manage fisheries and ensure social, economic and environment benefits derived from the fisheries are sustained. Improving regional networks to more easily and rapidly share information on suspected IUU fishing activities will increase capacity for apprehension of IUU fishers and close loopholes that encourage transboundary transgression. At a community level access to improved technology and training will increase community-based surveillance and reporting of IUU fishing activity and remove obstacles to non-reporting of catch.

The proposed GEF project will help national, provincial and local government resource managers, private sectors partners, non-governmental organizations, and local resources users to reorient their practices by adopting participatory ecosystem approaches to fisheries management that will conserve marine and coastal ecosystem services (including climate change resilience) and support the sustainable use of resources to enable livelihoods, strengthen food security, and promote gender mainstreaming. The project will also work with partners to strengthen capacities for transboundary cooperation for the monitoring, control and surveillance of IUU fishing, building on baseline activities that currently are individual to each country.

Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity

Current baseline national actions have identified degradation of critical habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses as priorities to address. Over 4,500 km² of mangroves have been lost in the region over the last 30 years. The major cause of loss of mangroves has been conversion for agriculture (82 percent) and conversion for aquaculture (12 percent). Coral reefs in South Asia and Southeast Asia continue to suffer, including from rises in SST which results in bleaching. Reefs that continue to be at greatest risk from a combination of (i) coastal development, (ii) overexploitation and destructive fishing practices, (iii) the impact of inland pollution and erosion, and (iv) marine pollution, are the reefs around Aceh and the islands off Sumatra in Indonesia; Malaysia west coast; Myanmar; Sri Lanka and the Gulf of Mannar. There is insufficient information to assess the status of seagrass, although it is thought that many of the BOBLME region's seagrass beds are either already degraded or threatened. Protection of critical habitats and ETP species needs to increasingly be incorporated into EAFM and more MMA are required nationally but also planning at a sub-regional and regional level to ensure necessary protection and representation is assured.

The proposed GEF project will lead to improved management and status of degraded, vulnerable and critical coastal and marine habitats and Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species in the BOBLME through integrating marine spatial management tools, such as Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), and Vulnerable Ecosystems (VEs) into fisheries and biodiversity conservation management of critical habitats, such as the Sundarbans mangroves area, the Gulf of Mannar (coral reefs and seagrass), and the Andaman Sea. The project will support national, provincial and local government resource managers, private sector partners, non-governmental organizations, and local resources users to strengthen management of existing MMA's and establish new MMA's where agreed. Regional and national capacity development programmes will be established. In Bangladesh alone 303,000 ha of mangroves will have improved protection/conservation, enabling sequestration of approximately 2,959,482 tCO₂e of blue carbon.

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

Under the baseline scenario the problems causing poor water quality and transboundary pollution will continue unabated. The priority issues of sewage-borne pathogens, organic load from sewage and other sources, marine litter, increasing nutrient inputs, oil pollution, POPS and PTS, and mercury pollution will all intensify. The effects of pathogens and high organic loads are likely to be localized except in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna system where sewage and other organic contaminants are shared by India, Bangladesh and Myanmar due to high river discharge and ocean circulation patterns. Marine litter, including plastic and discarded fishing gear, will continue to be transported long distances in the marine environment and will continue to be a major transboundary issue. Increasing nutrient inputs from rivers will lead to inner-shelf hypoxic zones that will adversely affect transboundary fish stocks - a large (approx. 60,000 km²) hypoxic or 'dead' zone in the northwest part of the Bay has been detected. Increasing nutrients will result in Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), also known as red tides. The widespread discharge of untreated or inadequately treated domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewater and marine origin pollution will continue.

The proposed GEF project will lead to reductions in the amount of marine litter and pollution from fishing through the marking and recovery and recycling of gear and reduction of pollution from fishery landing areas. These changes will benefit coastal populations and other stakeholders such as tourism. The reduction in marine litter will benefit marine life. This component will also constitute a platform to support implementation of the FAO 2018 Voluntary Guidelines on Marking Fishing Gear and support countries in their participation in the newly commencing IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Project.

The proposed GEF project will further support increased understanding and awareness of the issues and strengthen monitoring and reporting at LME level and participation in the GPNM and GPML.

Component 4: Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME

Under the current baseline, livelihoods and resilience in the coastal communities of the BOBLME remain vulnerable. Over 50 percent of all of the world's coastal poor live in the countries of the BOBLME. Although under the current baseline investment the contribution to GDP by fisheries remains low, marine living resources remain important for the livelihoods of millions of people and communities (in particular as a source of food). Most of the region's governments have set marine and freshwater fishery production targets to meet demands, many of which are at the limits of stock sustainability and consequently require accuracy and precision on catch information to ensure biological limits are not exceeded. Most countries have relatively well-formulated legislation and policies to regulate the different sectors, however harmonization across sectors is still required. This includes harmonization within government services that are applied in multi-layered manner (national-provincial/state and local). Many countries now have "decentralization" policies that present new challenges for the coordination and implementation of policies.

The proposed GEF project will contribute to positive changes in the overall well-being of coastal people and their involvement in both fishery management and biodiversity conservation. This is expected to lead to both enhanced ecosystem resilience of the BOBLME and of local livelihoods and food security. Vulnerability to natural hazards, and climate variability and change will be reduced and livelihoods diversified for selected coastal communities, with equal opportunities for women, men and youth. This component will also constitute a platform to support implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and

Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines (VG-SSF), as well as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG-Tenure).

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

Under the current baseline, transboundary cooperation on management of shared coastal and marine resources across the BOBLME will remain limited. Some cooperation exists within and between organisations including Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP-IGO), the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA), South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), and the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU).

The proposed GEF project will strengthen the capacity of stakeholders at all levels (in countries and regional partners) to plan and coordinate management activities at regional level. The project will strengthen regional cooperation between countries and between government agencies within countries with the engagement of civil society and the private sector. The Project will focus on strengthening the mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination, and monitoring of the BOBLME. The project will support the development of the “Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME” (CCR-BOBLME) which by the end of the project will meet regularly to promote information exchange and capacity development; monitor BOBLME health and status and monitor progress of the SAP implementation activities and projects. The establishment of the CCR-BOBLME will involve the development of a cooperative agreement for monitoring ecosystems targets in the SAP and compilation, analysis, safe storage and sharing of information of historical baseline ecosystem data at national and regional levels.

1.5. Project Objectives

The overall project objective is **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.**

This objective will be achieved by the following five interlinked Components along with associated Outcomes, Outputs and tentative activities, which are summarised here. The gap since SAP endorsement in 2015 means that the project will need to invest in restablising governance mechanisms at all levels.

During the first year the project will support BOBLME countries and partners in undertaking detailed bottom-up participatory planning at community, national, sub-regional and regional levels. This planning will ensure that activities have endorsement at all levels of implementation.

The following priorities have been identified during the PPG consultations at national level. Full details of the consultations are found in Annex P.

The project work plan is attached in Annex G, project budget in Annex A2 and Results framework (with indicators) in Annex A1.

The gender targets associated are provided in the Gender Action Plan (GAP Annex O).

Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries

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:

- Over 1000 practitioners will have capacities and demonstrated ability to apply EAFM approaches in their work.
- At least 16 fisheries or area-based management plans will have been modified or developed using EAFM approaches (2 per country).
- EAFM principles for fisheries and marine ecosystem planning will be institutionalized in at least 16 competent agencies for BOBLME resources and applied within existing national and local co-management and stakeholder engagement processes which will be sensitive of inclusivity and respect, 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.

To achieve these result areas existing national and regional level mechanisms will be strengthened. This will include:

- Reviews of the current status of fisheries and area-based management plans and recommendations for improved application of EAFM in their development and implementation.
- Evaluation of gender in current applications of EAFM including participation; integration in EAFM training materials; perspectives, gender values, trainers/educator opportunities, collection of gender statistics, terminology in networks and communication platforms; and representation and participation in national and regional fora will be included in the reviews.

· Undertaking capacity development and needs assessments for EAFM for those actors who influence existing national or local management arrangements for priority ETP (including Irrawaddy Dolphins, blue whales, dugongs, whale sharks and sea turtles) and transboundary species (Hilsa, Indian Mackerel, Anchovy, Neritic Tuna). This will include identifying local issues and/or areas where co-management arrangements may also need strengthening.

EAFM applications will be tailored to national circumstances, taking into account also how resource users, communities, government and other actors are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. EAFM applications have been identified for development of Regional Plans of Action for ETP species and Fisheries Plans for transboundary fish stocks. Some countries (e.g. Indonesia) have well developed zone-based fisheries management in place and others (e.g. Bangladesh) have a greater emphasis on feature or area-based fisheries management.

Where zone-based management is embedded in a country’s fisheries administration, strengthening EAFM will value-add to the existing planning processes. Whereas in other circumstances, EAFM strengthening will focus on particular areas/habitats.

The tables below summarise the broad actions that will be implemented during the project. These include coordinating (through the sub-regional hubs) the preparation of RPOAs for ETP species and transboundary fisheries plans for key fish stocks (Table 1.1). Table 1.2 summarises the types of EAFM applications and priority species for each BOBLME country.

The sub-regional hubs will facilitate EAFM training platforms through maintaining and improving the “Essential EAFM”, “EAFM-LEAD for Policy makers” and “EAFM-Training of Trainer” courses (on-site training and online access) and establish networks for trainers to develop and improve training materials. These hubs will also facilitate translation of training material into local languages to improve accessibility of EAFM to grass-roots stakeholders. The sub-regional hubs will provide training in EAFM but prioritise the “EAFM Training of Trainers” through accredited courses. Accreditation of trainers will ensure consistency across the region in EAFM course delivery and provide a pool of qualified trainers that can be drawn upon to deliver country and regional training courses.

Table 1.1: Transboundary EAFM applications

Transboundary Issue	BGD	IND	INS	MY	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA	Coordination	Activity
ETP species	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	SEAFDEC BOBP-IGO	RPOA
Hilsa	ü	ü				ü			SEAFDEC BOBP-IGO	EAFM Plan
Indian Mackerel			ü	ü		ü		ü	SEAFDEC	EAFM Plan

Anchovy			ü	ü		ü		ü	SEAFDEC	EAFM Plan
Neritic Tuna			ü	ü		ü		ü	SEAFDEC	EAFM Plan
Accredited EAFM training	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	SEAFDEC BOBP-IGO	TOT course certification
Grass-roots EAFM capacity	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	SEAFDEC BOBP-IGO	Training material translation
EAFM course & training development	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	SEAFDEC BOBP-IGO	Trainers network

Table 1.2: Potential priority areas for project intervention (tentative)

Country	Priority Areas and Species	Activity
<i>Bangladesh</i>	Nijhum Dip at Noakhali District Swatch of No Ground (SoNG), including Hilsa shad and ETP species St. Martin's Island at Cox's Bazar including Hilsa shad and lobster fisheries	Support existing local and national management committees Support regional committee for transboundary Hilsa stock. EAFM capacity development should include awareness raising and training for policy makers and managers
<i>India</i>	Hilsa shad Sharks Value add to existing MMAs	Gap analyses in legal and policy frameworks RPOA for sharks and other ETP Regional co-operation and co-ordination

Country	Priority Areas and Species	Activity
<i>Indonesia</i>	Indian Mackerel Anchovy Neritic Tuna Shrimp Value add to existing MMAs	Fisheries Improvement Plans for existing FMPs in FMA 571 and 572 to further adopt / strengthen EAFM
<i>Malaysia</i>	Indian Mackerel Neritic Tunas Value add to existing MMAs West coast of Peninsular Malaysia (Malacca Straits)	EAFM Plan development Data collection and analysis to support sustainability assessment of transboundary stocks GIS systems for monitoring fishing activities
<i>Maldives</i>	Bait fish fisheries Reef fisheries (mixed demersal and semi-pelagic species) Huvadho Atoll and Lhaviyani Atoll	EAFM Plan development EAFM capacity development across government sectors
<i>Myanmar</i>	Irrawaddy Delta region Tanintharyi region Rakhine region Neritic tuna Indian mackerel Hilsa shad Sharks Seabass	EAFM Plan development RPOA for ETP species EAFM capacity development across government sectors Strengthening data on stocks and research to assess stock status
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	Northwest small pelagic species Southeast Demersal species Sea cucumber fishery Gulf of Mannar	EAFM Plan development Alternative fisheries livelihood evaluation for inclusion in EAFM applications EAFM training to include reduction of post-harvest losses Improved data collection and monitoring of SSF landings

Country	Priority Areas and Species	Activity
<i>Thailand</i>	Indian mackerel Neritic tunas Anchovy Mysid shrimp & other small crustaceans Andaman Sea Ranong Biosphere Phang Nga Bay ETP species	EAFM Plans RPOA for ETP species Stock Assessment of transboundary stocks Small scale fisheries EAFM plans

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.
- Eight 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. Countries supported in acceding to the PSMA.
- 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.

The project will target reduction in IUU fishing by 20% by supporting the implementation of National Plans of Action on IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU). The International Plan of Action for IUU Fishing recommends that NPOAs are reviewed and updated every 4 years. In addition to supporting flag, port and coastal state responsibilities specified in the NPOAs the project will support the review and updating of existing NPOAs and preparation of NPOA-IUUs where they are not yet endorsed.

Regional Plans of Action will provide opportunities for efficiencies in implementing NPOAs through country level collaborations and identify actions that can only be completed by regional cooperation. The BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC are supporting regional initiatives to enhance cooperation among states to combat IUU fishing. The BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC

will coordinate the preparation of RPOAs for South Asia and South East Asia to generate these efficiencies. Further efficiencies will be generated through the preparation of a BOB RPOA-IUU, which will specify coordination of actions across all members.

Central to supporting flag, port and coastal state responsibilities are effective IUU Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems. The project will support training in MCS for participating countries and sharing of knowledge and experience of effective MCS infrastructure. This will include supporting study tours and placements in the facilities of BOBLME countries to establish a common understanding of the limitations some countries have to undertake effective MCS and expose some participants to what constitutes modern MCS systems (e.g. those in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand). Annual dialogue will be supported for countries to share information and develop intelligence networks that collect forensic evidence of IUU fishing and strengthen cooperation between relevant fishery enforcement institutions. A focus of this dialogue will include the shared development of capacity to utilise MCS in small-scale fisheries in the BOBLME.

Support for capacity development will include the use tools for promoting best practices in MCS. These include vessel tracking systems (including VMS operations), procedures and inspection for port control and at sea control, and catch documentation and post-harvest traceability (including the electronic ASEAN catch documentation scheme in SEAFDEC countries) and verification, e-reporting, monitoring, and licensing for small-scale fisheries. Support will be provided to those countries that have not yet acceded to the Port State Measures Agreement or require assistance with implementing its requirements. MCS training will be inclusive of enforcement institutions (e.g. Port inspectors, Customs and Trade inspectors, Navy, Coastguard and Maritime Police).

Gender will be mainstreamed in all actions by ensuring gender representation and participation in national and regional plans of action working groups; women’s and men’s perspectives are included in planning processes; gender representation in NPOA development and implementation; gender sensitive training materials; and women and men participating in training events.

Table 1.3: Regional actions to combat IUU fishing

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MY	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA	SEAFDEC	BOBP-IGO
BOBLME RPOA	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
SE Asia RPOA			ü	ü		ü		ü	ü	
South Asia RPOA	ü	ü			ü		ü			ü

Table 1.4: National actions to combat IUU fishing

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
NPOA Development	ü	ü				ü		ü
NPOA Revision			ü	ü			ü	ü
Vessel tracking	ü				ü	ü		
Small-scale fisheries MCS	ü				ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.5: Tools to combat IUU fishing

Tools	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
PSMA Ratification	ü							
MCS Best Practice guides	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Catch Documentation and traceability (CDT)	ü					ü	ü	
eReporting	ü		ü		ü	ü	ü	ü
SSF Licensing					ü			

Table 1.6: Capacity development actions to combat IUU fishing

Capacity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Port and at sea inspection	ü					ü	ü	
Customs and Trade inspection					ü			

Navy and Maritime Police						ü		
VMS operation						ü		
Apprehension and enforcement							ü	

Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity:

Outcome 2.1 Coastal and marine managed areas (MMAs) contribute to conservation of biodiversity

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

- At least two MMA strengthened in each country to address issues related to climate change, transboundary fisheries, Vulnerable Ecosystems (VEs), biodiversity and/or Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, covering a total of 2,000,000 ha of marine areas.
- In priority areas of these MMAs, conservation of coral reefs, associated biodiversity and ETP species (200,000 ha under more effective management, leading to improved status)
- Regional capacity development programme promoting best practices in management and evaluation of MMAs and training of 200 practitioners at all levels, using IUCN Green List process.
- Gender mainstreamed into MMA planning and management

Countries have prioritised the Sundarbans mangroves area, the Gulf of Mannar (reefs and seagrass), and the Andaman Sea (Myeik Archipelago) as priorities for considerations as MMAs given the presence of vulnerable ecosystems and their importance for fisheries, ETP species and livelihoods. A number of potential national areas that collectively contribute to ensuring the resilience of the BOBLME’s biodiversity have also been identified as candidate areas for MMA consideration (Table 1.7 below). The design of this component is focussed on adding value to existing national processes to reach the target of 2,000,000 ha under MMA management rather than identifying new candidate MMA areas. This will maximise the resources available to this component while upskilling country capacity for MMA planning and management. The project inception phase will identify which areas the project resources are maximised. EAFM applications (from component 1) will be integrated into MMA design and management with the IUCN coordinating the execution of this component. Key actions under this outcome will include consideration of ecological corridors of critical habitats, migratory species requirements, fisheries exclusion zones in MMA design, and agency harmonisation and coordination of management both a national and regional levels.

Community training needs assessments will be implemented for existing MMAs to identify best practice and priority stakeholders requiring training in MMA management tools. MMA enforcement plans and associated MCS training for agency and community-based surveillance will be provided to strengthen the regions capacity to ensure adherence to MMA regulations. Annual fora for MMA government and community participants to share experiences are planned to develop networks for collaboration and best practice adoption.

Training in application of Health Index - Ecosystem services valuation methods will be provided to facilitate reporting on MMA contributions to improvement in the ecosystem status of the BOBLME.

To support the implementation of effective MMAs in each of the participating countries, the project will support the development of national standards and guidelines for representative MMA selection, assessment and monitoring standards. These will be local and contextual adaptations of global standards and best practice guidance, with the relevance and applicability to each specific BOBLME country or site. Key to these is the adaptation of the IUCN Green List Standard for protected and conserved areas, which will help set criteria and indicators suitable for benchmarking progress of protected and conserved areas using tools such as METT. Participatory management systems will be developed (or strengthened) for priority MMAs aimed at bringing together key stakeholders to support decision-making relevant to protected area management and species conservation, including local communities, private sector, civil society, research institutions and Government.

In close cooperation with national academic institutions, international institutions and other Non-Governmental Organizations with a keen interest or on-going longterm biodiversity monitoring at the national and/or site level, systems will be put in place to monitor changes in species diversity and environmental status, utilizing available technology to subsequently feed this information back to relevant decision makers. Such systems may include spatial planning tools with integrated inventory, classification and monitoring of habitats for sustainable resource management strategies. Based on these assessments standardized changes to operations, processes and procedures on MMAs will be produced, documented and made available through the appropriate authorities.

Project support will enhance management effectiveness for MMAs at sites that cover nationally – and sometimes globally – important critical habitats. At least one target MMA site in each country will be selected to demonstrate the potential for upscaling. The site will be diagnosed for required improvements needed, using the IUCN Green List Standard adapted for each country. This will diagnose needs in terms of good governance, improved design and planning, effective management and monitoring for conservation outcomes. Using this framework, a management plan will be developed and MMA site management and operation will be strengthened to address existing threats to biodiversity, achieving sustainable management and use in the MMA through; (i) regulatory and management measures, (ii) strengthening of enforcement (patrol, surveillance, interception of restricted activities) through operationalisation of a monitoring system; (iii) development and operationalisation of habitat and biological monitoring systems for key ecosystems and threatened species; and (iv) clear site boundary demarcation for decreasing encroachment.

The approach will demonstrate considerations of ecosystems, habitats and resource uses in the wider context of the selected / priority MMA. Progress will be benchmarked and attributable to the project through the Green List Standard, using tools such as METT. The aim is to place well managed protected areas and implement biodiversity conservation actions while making MMAs more attractive and capable to welcome visitors and improve the ability of coast guards and rangers to actively protect biodiversity. Project support will also support the development of multi-sector coordination mechanisms that bring together different stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management and use of these critical habitats. The coordination mechanism will be connected across different scales of governance, linking to site-level governance, to national and regional / international scales via the existing international partnerships in which the countries participate. Coordination could be patterned after the existing model of the Expert Assessment Group for the Green List Standard – e.g. as BOBLME-EAGL

Table 1.7: Actions to restore and conserve critical marine habitats (Provisional list. Countries will decide on which areas are priority during inception)

Country	Priority Areas	Activity
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Country	Priority Areas	Activity
<i>Bangladesh</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Niihum Dwip at Noakhali District · Swatch of No Ground (SoNG) · St. Martin's Island at Cox`s Bazar 	<p>Priority habitat management specification</p> <p>MMA planning applies EAFM</p> <p>Include design of ecological corridors of critical habitats, migratory species and fisheries exclusion zones in MMA designation</p> <p>Agency harmonisation and coordination of management</p>
<i>India</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support existing MMAs (sites to be identified during inception) 	
<i>Indonesia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support existing MMAs (sites to be identified during inception) 	
<i>Malaysia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Support existing MMAs () · Pulau Payar · West coast of Peninsular Malaysia 	
<i>Maldives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Huvadho Atoll and Lhaviyani Atoll 	
<i>Myanmar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Irrawaddy Delta region · Tanintharyi region · Rakhine region 	
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gulf of Mannar · Jaffna Lagoon · Great and Little Basses · Vidattaltivu · Kokkilai · Chundukulam · Nagar Kovil · Puttalam Lagoon · Panama 	
<i>Thailand</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Andaman Sea · Ranong Biosphere · Phang Nga Bay 	

Table 1.8: Activities to restore and conserve critical marine habitats.

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Implementation of MMA enforcement plans	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
MCS Training	ü				ü	ü	ü	
Tools for community based MCS for MPAs	ü				ü	ü	ü	
Health Index Ecosystem services valuation	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	
Experience sharing workshops	ü				ü	ü	ü	
Community training needs assessments	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Outcome 2.2 National MMAs established or strengthened resulting in improved MMA management effectiveness at national level: (CCM Bangladesh):

This expected outcome refers to the national sub-project activities in the Sundarbans of Bangladesh, supported by GEF CCM portfolio funding. Additional activities in critical habitats of other BOBLME partner countries will target biodiversity conservation in MMAs including other habitat types, and are considered under Outcome 2.1 above.

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

- Conservation of blue carbon (mangroves, seagrass), associated biodiversity, and ETP species (303,000 ha of mangrove habitat, approx. 2,959,482 tCO₂).

Using the STAR CC-M funding in Bangladesh, a contribution will be made to the creation of a robust management plan for the Sundarbans that integrates carbon storage and ecological considerations with socio-economic needs, and is founded on improved collaboration between the local and national scale, heightened awareness of the value of the ecosystem services of the forest and how to use them in a sustainable manner, and on improved understanding of the complex web of interactions between people, fauna, forest, water quality and sedimentation that is unique to the Sundarbans. The implementation of this plan will result in the protection and enhancement of the carbon stocks and other ecosystem services of the Sundarbans. A separate concept note has been developed for this Output (Annex Q). Key outputs include:

- Sundarbans ecosystem services are better understood and valued; non eco-friendly utilization of forest and aquatic resources is reduced in collaboration with local stakeholders; Increased capacities and institutional collaboration for blue carbon management
- 303,000 ha of mangroves with improved protection/conservation, and sequestration of approx. 2,959,482 tCO₂e of blue carbon

RPOA Marine Mammals	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
RPOA Birds	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Identification of migratory pathways and critical habitats	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.10: National activities to strengthen conservation of ETP

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
National reviews of ETP laws and frameworks	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Agreement on areas for harmonisation of ETP laws	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Capacity development on law harmonisation	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Revise NPOAs where legal basis needs strengthening	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Raise awareness of laws associated with trade of ETP species	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

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

The health of the BOBLME is threatened by wastewater and solid waste from upriver and coastal cities and settlements, industrial zones, ports and shipping, and excessive nutrient application in agriculture and high nutrient loads in rivers and water courses. Marine and coastal resources represent important natural capital assets, but increasingly are subject to negative impacts of upstream activities on land and along river systems. In this connection, steps will be taken to increase understanding of the complexities of the source-to-sea management continuum – 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. It can remain in the oceans for years continuing to entangle fish and marine animals in its nets and killing them – a phenomenon known as ‘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 (solid waste / marine litter to be addressed using bilateral donor funds).

Development and dissemination of guidelines, action plan or good practice document	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Promotion of implementation of good waste management practices in selected FA or hotspots	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Promotion of collaboration with GPNM and GPML	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

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

Fishing gear is often lost through uncontrollable circumstances - such as storms or accidents - or because there are no adequate facilities at ports for the reception of fishing gear. However, sometimes fishing gear is also dumped by vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the hope of evading detection. Over time, fishing nets left in the ocean may break down into microplastic pieces, which become accessible to a wide range of organisms, including small fish and plankton, and may cause serious toxicological harm to marine wildlife. Abandoned, lost or discarded gear can continue to "ghost fish" even when it is no longer under the control of humans. This can have serious detrimental impacts on fish and other marine organisms that become entangled in these nets, often unable to escape.

The project will develop regional good practice and promote good practice in the FA communities.

Table 1.12: National and regional activities to promote marking of fishing gears and reduce related marine litter

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Sub-regional study on lost fishing gear and fishing gear marking	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Sub-regional workshops to validate study and select target fishing gear type(s)	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Development and dissemination of guideline / action plan or good practice document	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Promotion of fishing gear marking in selected fishery		ü	ü				ü	ü
Promotion of country participation in GloLitter Project / GPML		ü	ü				ü	ü

Outcome 3.2: Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds.

A part of the knowledge sharing and networking role of BOBLME the project will ensure local governments and related stakeholders share lessons and good practice with various regional and global ‘green cities’ and ‘sustainable cities’ initiatives, (through various channels including the BOBLME programme management unit, regional coordination mechanism /consortium etc.). This may include investment round table meetings to mobilize financial resources for urban infrastructure programs and projects across the BOBLME region

The project will coordinate with the ADB child project to ensure lessons learned are identified, disseminated, and scaled up across the region.

Component 4: Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME: (supporting implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines; VG-SSF)

Outcome 4.1. Enhanced resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change of selected coastal communities

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

- Resilience plans developed based on valuation of ecosystem services and threats related to livelihoods in at least one pilot coastal area per country to support decision making in the BOBLME at regional, national and local levels
- Inclusion of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty reduction and development, as well as climate change policies, strategies and planning processes promoted
- Gender considerations mainstreamed into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks

EAFM plans for fisheries stocks and MMAs will be complemented by ecosystem services valuations and coastal community vulnerability analyses to incorporate opportunities for alternate livelihoods and income enhancement and diversification. The activities will be executed by the IUCN with an emphasis also on EAFM plans including resilience plans, which will synthesise the information on the values of ecosystem services, livelihoods and economics into practical actions that minimize risks. Disaster Risk Reduction training will be provided to high-risk coastal communities together with assessments of infrastructure needs to minimise risks to natural hazards and climate variability. Local communities will be engaged in development of resilience plans through local NGOs and CBOs and ICSF. These plans will also be recognizant on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the communities, their livelihoods, and the government and other support services available to them.

Capacity needs will be identified, and institutional linkages and processes strengthened for improved cross-sectoral and multi-scale coordination and integration of coastal fisheries and aquaculture, including gender considerations and small-scale fishery rights, in poverty reduction, development, and climate change policies, strategies and planning processes. To achieve this outcome, the Project will actively engage with national and local governments, civil society and the private sector.

Table 1.13: Regional activities to enhance resilience.

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Ecosystem services valuations completed and national capabilities strengthened	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Participatory resilience plans developed in project Focus Communities	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Coastal community vulnerability analyses	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Infrastructure needs assessments	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Alternative livelihoods/income enhancement strategies	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
DRR Training for high risk coastal communities	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.14: National activities to enhance resilience.

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
National working group formed to review policies and their alignment to reduce poverty and improve resilience	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Capacity development in ICM in vulnerable coastal communities	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Warning system for storm	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Diversification of aquaculture opportunities	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Develop incentives for affordable insurance	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.15: National activities to enhance resilience.

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
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Value chain improvement analyses undertaken in vulnerable coastal communities and opportunities for expanded role by women identified	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Establish women's small-scale processor networks					ü			
Provide sharing of experiences opportunities	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.17: Regional activities to diversify livelihoods

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Regional Working groups formed to review best practice in financial services and insurance with recommendations for each country	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Implementation of national financial services and insurance strategies in focus areas	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.18: National activities to diversify livelihoods

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Analysis of status of capacity development needs of partners in each focus area	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Capacity development programs established for alternate/diversified livelihoods	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Capacity development program established for decent work principles	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Implementation of national capacity development strategy in focus areas	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

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

BOBLME countries have seen the benefit of forming strategic alliances and institutional arrangements at the appropriate geographical scale to address a given transboundary issue. However, during the SAP development consultations it was also clear that they did not want an over-arching regional arrangement, such as a Commission, to oversee regional activities. The Project developed and strengthened a number of networks that led to better regional/sub-regional coordination. The three main dimensions to this were (i) multi-sectoral collaboration, (ii) transboundary collaboration and (iii) multi-level collaboration within national governments.

Fisheries and environmental agencies from the BOBLME countries have learnt to work more cooperatively, and their respective roles and responsibilities in promoting a healthy ecosystem and sustainable use of the marine resources are more clearly defined. This has been facilitated by a number of activities including the formation of Working Groups.

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.

Community-based ICM also necessitated closer collaboration of the fisheries and environmental agencies. Bringing together of lessons learnt through past ICM implementation provided a forum to form closer links in the sub-regions of South Asia and Southeast Asia, respectively. The Project Steering Committee was also comprised of representatives from both the fisheries and environmental agencies of each BOBLME country and this arrangement also contributed to increased multi-sectoral collaboration.

The BOBLME-wide nature of the activities and outputs in this component requires coordination by the RCU and IUCN with support of implementation partners and countries.

The project will rebuild and further strengthen these actions and this component will be delivered through 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:

- 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.
- 8 National inter-sectoral coordination committees established 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.

The establishment of the CCR-BOBLME will involve the development of a cooperative agreements between a range of major regional partners, e.g. (but not limited to) SACEP, SEAFDEC, COBSEA, BOBP-IGO, and APFIC for monitoring ecosystems targets in the SAP. It also includes compilation, analysis, safe storage and sharing of information of historical baseline ecosystem data at national and regional levels. Cooperative arrangements will also extend to the oceanographic community: support to the scientific and monitoring programs of IOGOOS (e.g. Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER)), Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) and to the International Indian Ocean Expedition 2 (IIOE-2) for the Bay of Bengal.

The implementation of the national elements of the project and associated national plans for EAFM, IUU fishing, ETP species, Marine Managed Areas, etc. will be supported by national inter-sectoral coordination committees to strengthen coordination and regulatory and institutional frameworks at national level. NGO and civil society engagement in the project will be strengthened and a stakeholder consultation mechanism will be established.

Table 1.19: Basic activities to support development of the CCR BOBLME

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Working groups formed to develop the CCR-BOBLME	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Review of Governance arrangements in BOBLME to facilitate coordination and reporting of activities and sharing best-practice	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
TOR developed for the CCR-BOBLME	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

Table 1.20: Regional activities to support development of the CCR BOBLME

Biodiversity monitoring implemented	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Fishing and resource extraction activities monitoring implemented	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Regional oceanography and hydrology monitoring implemented	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

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 and Child Project management arrangements established
- Regional information sharing mechanism enabling broad access to best practices and lessons learned in the participating countries and among Child Projects
- 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 child project progress, 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. M&E will be one of the key functions provided by IUCN and the RCU. An important task for the RCU will be to work with partners and countries to review the project indicators to ensure they are fully up to date and aligned to national policies and project targets. SAP targets may be reviewed also at this time if agreed by the RPSC. A deeper review of the SAP and update of targets will help the development of the CCR-BOBLME and this may be considered but only if funding is present and if the RPSC agrees.

The CCR-BOBLME will be supported to assist the monitoring and evaluation of programme progress.

Table 1.24: Activities to support communication

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
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SAP implementation monitoring framework developed and implemented		ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
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Table 1.28: Activities to support overall child project management

Activity	BGD	IND	INS	MYA	MDV	MYA	SRL	THA
Functional RCU (and sub-regional coordination hubs) established	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü
Effective Child Project management arrangements and processes established and implemented	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü	ü

1.6. Theory of Change

The health of the Bay of Bengal and the sustainability of living resources are threatened by overexploitation of these living resources, degradation of habitats, increasing pollution and declining water quality. All of these have negative impacts on poverty, food security, and nutrition of the coastal communities, as well as ecosystem health. Whilst many of these problems are of a transboundary nature and need bi-lateral, sub-regional and regional mechanisms and arrangements for cooperation they also need action at the national level.

The long-term goal, or expected long-term change of the project is ***a healthy ecosystem and sustainability of living resources for the benefit of the coastal populations of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME)***. The underpinning long-term “Theory of Change” (TOC) outlined during the first phase of the project still holds for this implementation phase and is summarised in Figure 3 below. During the PPG it was recognised that updating and strengthening the TOC during inception would be of benefit. The update should focus on the description of causal linkages between activities once they are agreed.

The first-tier enabling activities of the first phase of the project aim to establish the following:

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the BOBLME and its fisheries inform development of indicators and setting of EBM targets
- Capacity in place at both the national and regional levels through increased understanding of ecosystem approaches
- Enabling conditions in place to encourage concerned institutions to change their structures and processes in support of EBM
- Platforms, fora and networks for dialogue and planning in place that encourage partners in the BOBLME to collaborate.

The second-tier behavioural change sought during this SAP implementation phase is aimed to provide support that:

- Partners in the BOBLME are collaborating in application of ecosystem-based management of fisheries and natural resources (mainly Project Component 1 and Component 5)
- Local governments are applying Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) principles to improve biodiversity and capture carbon in the BOBLME (mainly Project Comp 2 and Component 4)
- Concerned institutions are changing their structures and processes to be supportive of targets and goals developed for the BOBLME (Cross-cutting, and Project Component 5)
- Fishers, fish workers & fisheries-related business & groups (fisheries stakeholders) are modifying their practices in response to market and regulatory incentives (Project Components 1 and 4)

The 1st tier change carried out during the foundational phase was based on developing capacity and demonstrating how the interventions would work before this longer-term action programme would be implemented.

The first phase of the project did not complete the 1st tier TOC objectives in full and there remains action needed to (i) develop capacity for collaborative natural resource management, (ii) increase knowledge about the ecosystem services (iii) develop indicators for tracking changes, and (iv) understand and start addressing the underlying causes of the problems, and to demonstrate how to address these in several demonstration sites and fisheries.

This SAP implementation phase can be considered to also focus on partial implementation of the key 2nd tier changes required. This will also include actions by countries and (regional) partners, which are not strictly considered “project activities”, but other initiatives in support of achieving SAP targets. The reason for this is that the overall resources required for full implementation are more than provided under this project.

The overall TOC was seen as the first step in the chain of interventions (see box) eventually leading to a healthy ecosystem and sustainability of living resources for the benefit of the coastal populations of the BOBLME (see global environment objective below). The SAP specifies the reforms, activities, and interventions as well as the financial and institutional arrangements needed to achieve the required changes in the long term. The SAP will need to be implemented as the second phase of a longer-term BOBLME programme.

Based on this TOC, the overarching global environment objective and the development objective of the Project were underpinned by enabling first stage actions, followed by actions to achieve intermediate change (e.g. changed behaviour of government agencies), and then actions to achieve the desired environmental and social impact:

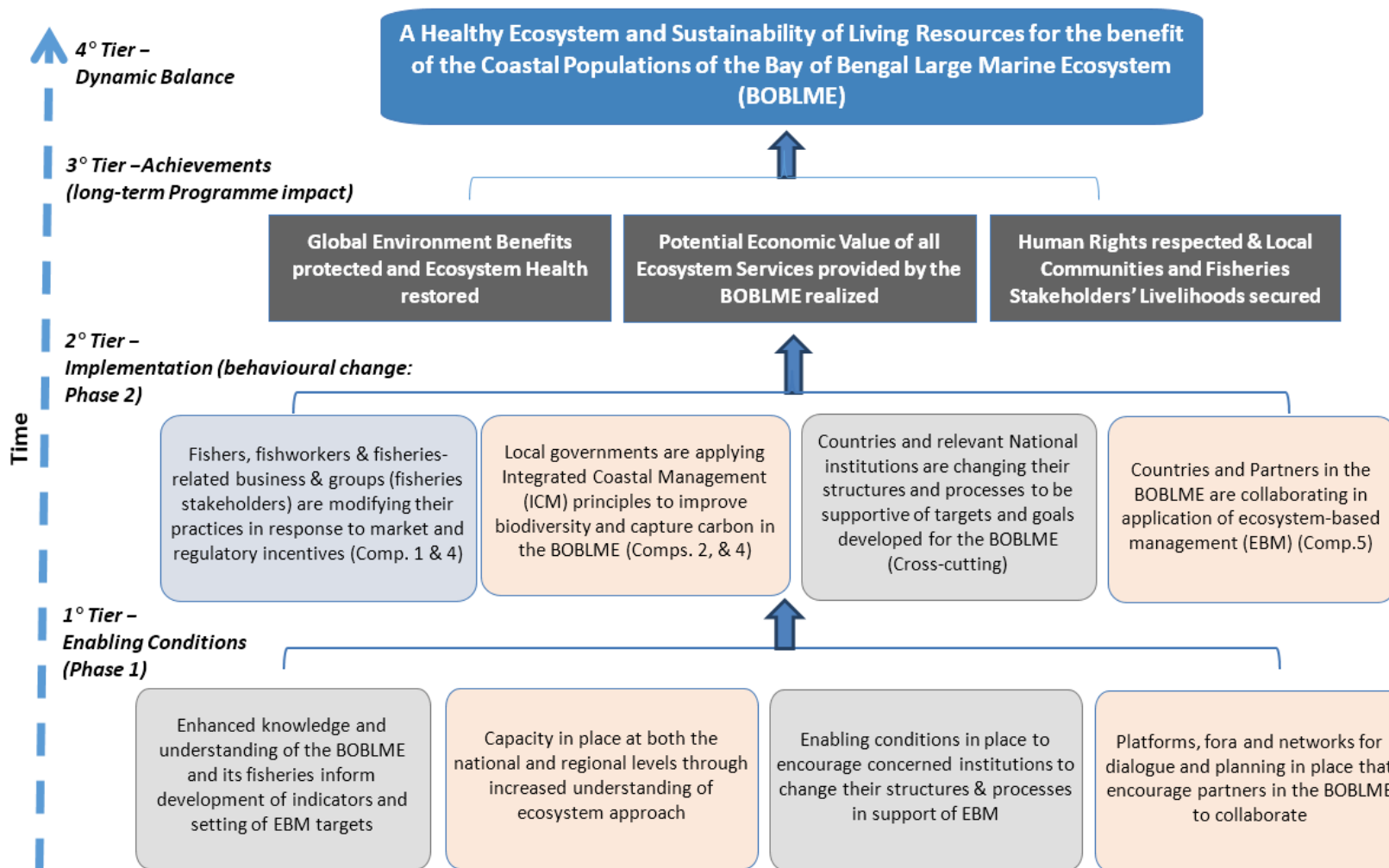
Global environment objective: “Global Environment Benefits protected and Ecosystem Health restored”

Development objective: “Potential Economic Value of all Ecosystem Services provided by the BOBLME realized”

Human Rights respected, and Local Communities and Fisheries Stakeholders’ Livelihoods secured. The achievement of these impacts will be underpinned by the production of the outputs and realization of the various outcomes, ranging from the adoption of an ecosystem approach to fisheries and combatting IUU fishing, to biodiversity conservation using spatial approaches (MMAs), improving water quality as well as resilience and livelihoods of coastal communities. All of these will be secured through establishing a regional collaborative mechanism using a consortium-type arrangement.

The integrated Focus Area implementation approach adopted by the project (see Annex S) will ensure TOC objectives are achieved at multiple levels and including in the implementation areas. Achievement of the 3rd tier TOC impacts and longer-term impact will likewise depend on a second phase of a longer-term BOBLME programme.

Figure 3: BOBLME Project Theory of Change



1.7 Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The Project will foster multi-state cooperation in transboundary management of marine and coastal resource as well as water quality concerns through comprehensive ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. The Project will support implementation of the SAP through Focus Area implementation on fisheries and MPA management.

The global environment benefits of the proposed project relate directly to transboundary concerns recognized in the IW focal area, including: i) multi-state cooperation to reduce threats to international waters; ii) reduced pollution load in international waters from nutrient enrichment and other land-based activities; iii) restored and sustained freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems goods and services, including globally significant biodiversity, as well as maintained capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon; and iv) reduced vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related risks, and increased ecosystem resilience.

Through institutional strengthening, policy and regulatory reforms at the regional, national and local levels, and demonstration of concrete actions at project target sites, the Project will bring about regional, national and local benefits. Many of these benefits will extend beyond the International Waters and climate change mitigation focal areas.

The project is fully aligned with the following GEF focal areas:

- IW-3 Program 6.1 Coasts in globally most significant areas protected from further loss and degradation of coastal habitats while protecting and enhancing livelihoods. This objective is contributed to by Components 1, 2 and 4
- IW-3 Program 7.1 Introduction of sustainable fishing practices into 1 % of globally over-exploited fisheries. This outcome is contributed to by Component 1 and Component 4.
- CCM Objective 2: Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts Carbon stocks in forests and other land-use, and climate-smart agriculture. This objective is contributed to by Component 2 and Component 4.

1.8 Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

Overall and during the SAP preparation phase it was estimated that halting the degradation of marine and coastal environments and maintenance of existing ecosystem services through the implementation of the SAP will generate economic benefits worth more than USD 1 350 billion from BOBLME resources and habitats over the next 25 years. Conversely, under a business-as-usual scenario of continued ecosystem degradation and loss, economic values will decrease to around USD 110 billion. Thus, the added value and costs avoided by incremental GEF funding to implementing the SAP are substantial for local, national and even international economies, and would build on a substantial baseline of support from BOBLME countries, multilateral and bilateral institutions and programmes, and the private sector as described above.

Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries

The GEF project grant will assist national, provincial and local government resource managers, private sectors partners, non-governmental organizations, and local resource users to reorient their practices by adopting participatory ecosystem approaches to fisheries management that will conserve marine and coastal ecosystem services (including climate change resilience) and support the sustainable use of resources to enable livelihoods, strengthen food security, and promote gender mainstreaming. The project will also work with partners to

strengthen capacities for transboundary cooperation for the monitoring, control and surveillance of IUU fishing, building on baseline activities that currently are individual to each country. The baseline activities described above (Section 1.3 and 1.4) with respect to implementation of the EAF and specifically the development and implementation of fisheries management plans and combatting IUU fishing at national, sub-regional, regional level and for transboundary species will contribute an estimated USD 70 million from all countries and partners during the lifetime of the project.

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

The proposed GEF project will support countries in improving the management and status of degraded, vulnerable and critical coastal and marine habitats and Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species in the BOBLME through integrating marine spatial management tools, such as Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), and Vulnerable Ecosystems (VEs) into fisheries and biodiversity conservation management of critical habitats, such as the Sundarbans mangroves area, the Gulf of Mannar (reefs and seagrass), and the Andaman Sea. The project will support national, provincial and local government resource managers, private sectors partners, non-governmental organizations, and local resources users to strengthen management of existing MMAs and establish new MMAs only where agreed. Regional and national capacity development programmes will be established. In Bangladesh alone 303,000 ha of mangroves will have improved protection/conservation, enabling sequestration of approximately 2,959,482 tCO₂. Within the boundaries of the MMAs, over 200,000 ha of coral reefs will have improved protection/conservation. The baseline activities described above include some strengthening of the management and protection of critical habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses (Section 1.3 and 1.4) and is undertaken by local and national government and partners. It is estimated that these will contribute an estimated USD 15.5 million from all countries and partners during the lifetime of the project.

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

The proposed GEF project does not have significant specific activities related to this component, it will support increased understanding and awareness of the issues and strengthen monitoring and reporting at LME level. However, some planned activities will address globally significant issues regarding coastal and marine pollution (concerning certain types of pollution caused by the fisheries sector, in selected fish landings / fishing ports and by selected gear types. Some direct interventions will be underpinned by capacity development and strengthening of related institutional and policy frameworks, as well as participation in regional fora and initiatives.

Component 4: Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME

The GEF grant will be used to bring about positive changes in the overall well-being of coastal people and their involvement in both fishery management and biodiversity conservation. This is expected to lead to both enhanced ecosystem resilience of the BOBLME and of local livelihoods and food security. Vulnerability to natural hazards, and climate variability and change will be reduced, and livelihoods diversified for selected coastal communities, with equal opportunities for women, men and youth. This component will also constitute a platform to support implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines (VG-SSF), as well as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG-Tenure). The strong baseline activities described above (Section 1.3 and 1.4) involve ongoing livelihoods and resilience projects in the in the coastal communities of the BOBLME countries undertaken by national and local governments and partners. It is estimated that these will contribute an estimated USD 10 million from all countries and partners during the lifetime of the project.

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

The GEF grant will strengthen the capacity of stakeholders at all levels (in countries and regional partners) to undertake monitoring of the whole BOB ecosystem and to plan and coordinate management activities at regional level. The project will strengthen regional cooperation between countries and between government agencies within countries with the engagement of civil society and the private sector. The Project will focus on strengthening the mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination, and monitoring of the BOBLME. The project will support the development of the “Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME” (CCR-BOBLME) which by the end of the project will meet regularly (at least annually) to (Promote information exchange and capacity development; monitor BOBLME health and status and monitor progress of the SAP implementation activities and projects). The establishment of the CCR-BOBLME will involve the development of a cooperative agreement for monitoring ecosystems targets in the SAP. It also includes compilation, analysis, safe storage and sharing of information of historical baseline ecosystem data at national and regional levels. The project will support planning, coordination and implementation of national elements of the SAP (SAP/NAPs) including the Focus Areas and associated national plans for EAFM, IUU fishing, ETP species, Marine Managed Areas, etc. will be supported by national inter-sectoral coordination committees to strengthen coordination and regulatory and institutional frameworks at national level. NGO and civil society engagement in the SAP will be strengthened and a stakeholder consultation mechanism will be established. The project will adopt an adaptive results-based approach to management and sharing of information and lessons learned. The baseline activities described above (Section 1.3 and 1.4) with respect to the level of existing transboundary cooperation on management of shared coastal and marine resources and cooperation exists within and between organisations and at national level (and between environment and other sectors) will contribute an estimated USD 1 500 000 from all countries and partners during the lifetime of the project.

1.9 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

The project will generate global environmental benefits that will be underpinned by socio-economic benefits related to improved and diversified livelihoods and food security and nutrition, accruing from improved delivery of ecosystem services thanks to improved management of fisheries and coastal and marine habitats. Global environmental benefits targeted by GEF’s work in international waters relate to transboundary concerns, including:

- Multi-state cooperation to reduce threats to international waters
- Reduced pollution load in international waters from nutrient enrichment and other land-based activities
- Restored and sustained freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems goods and services, including globally significant biodiversity, as well as maintained capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon, and
- Reduced vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related risks, and increased ecosystem resilience

The Project will generate global environmental benefits in the International Water focal area with associated benefits related to biodiversity, climate change and chemicals and waste management and will include:

Introduction of sustainable fishing practices in the BOBLME, including:

- At least 2 EAFM plans implemented in each country and introduction and adoption of EAFM among target fisher communities

- 1 RPOA-IUU and 8 NPOAs-IUU fishing implemented leading to reduction of IUU fishing in the BOBLME by 20%
- Increased abundance and biomass of selected national and transboundary fish stocks by 5%

Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats in the BOBLME:

- A total of 2,000,000 ha of marine areas under improved management
- RPOA-ETP (e.g. whale sharks and sea turtles) developed and implemented leading to enhanced abundance of threatened and endangered species
- 303,000 ha of mangroves protected/conserved and sequestration of 2,959,482 tCO₂ of blue carbon
- 200,000 ha of coral reefs protected/conserved
- Improved management effectiveness of existing and new MPAs according to GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score and the Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) in line with the international benchmark for performance quality - the overarching IUCN Green List standard.

The project also generates climate change mitigation global environmental benefits. The broader goal of the CCM component is to enhance and protect carbon stocks and other ecosystem services of the Sundarbans. Carbon stocks of Bangladeshi Sundarbans are quantified for conservation, to contribute towards BOBLME target of almost 3 million tCO₂e (total amount of avoided emission from project area in Sundarbans is computed as 2,959,482 tCO₂e). While the current level of degradation is very low, if anthropogenic pressures remain, the increase in sea level, water salinity, and climate change effects will degrade the Sundarbans, and it is assumed that in the absence of the project, the degradation level will be 2%.

The carbon benefits from the project are estimated in terms of lifetime direct GHG emissions avoided over the default time horizon of 20 years under the IPCC guideline and the guidance. For this project, the durations of implementation phase and the capitalization phase are defined as 4 years and 16 years, respectively. The carbon benefits are calculated using EX-Ante Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT), version 8 using IPCC default values (Tier 1), and region-specific coefficients (Tier 2) based on Chanda et al. (2016).

The EX-ACT results file is available separately.

1.10 Innovativeness, potential for scaling, sustainability and capacity development

The project adopts innovative approaches to collective action in the BOBLME to ensure sustainable management of its fisheries and critical marine habitats, and improved management of coastal and marine pollution to ensure ecosystem health.

The establishment of the Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME (CCR-BOBLME) (Component 5) as a multi-stakeholder platform for interaction and engagement in monitoring ecosystem status, as well as the impact generated through implementation of SAP initiatives, will for the first time enable a concerted transboundary approach to ecosystem-based management of the BOBLME and removal of barriers to institutional cooperation and awareness raising across the LME.

Institutional strengthening at regional, national and local levels coupled with mainstreaming of SAP priorities into national development policies and frameworks and sector budgets, and improved access to innovative financing for demonstration of innovative practices will contribute to the sustainability of programme interventions. Long-term sustainability (including financial) and ownership of the SAP implementation and this program are a key priority. This will build on lessons learned during the BOBLME SAP development phase and draw on FAO's extensive experience working with and strengthening regional cooperation and governance. In addition, the programme's win-win approach to generating interlinked global environmental and socio-economic benefits will ensure sustained support and interest from local communities to adopt measures such as EAFM and spatial management of critical marine habitats for provision of ecosystem services important for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem health of the BOBLME.

Another long-term legacy of the programme will be the institutionalization of training programmes on EAFM, MMAs, alternative livelihoods, 'decent work' and 'social protection' (Components 1, 2, 4)

The findings of the numerous studies and reviews, on resources, habitats, water quality, socio-economics and governance, some of which had only been published late during the SAP development phase, need to be more widely and more effectively disseminated during the SAP implementation phase, and their recommendations implemented. Furthermore, the second phase project will build on these works, expand and upscale. Experiences and lessons learned from the demonstration projects in the first phase of the BOBLME project will be replicated and scaled up, as appropriate, as best practices examples of how to address common concerns related to coastal and marine management in the BOBLME. This includes experiences with implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), spatial management regimes and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), as well as human rights-based approaches. Best practices for possible scaling up will be expanded by the Programme to include experiences from governance reforms supporting ecosystem-based management, establishment of MPAs, and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change in coastal areas. It is expected that positive experiences such as these will also further catalyse investments in ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME leading to improved environmental status as well as improved livelihoods of coastal communities ensuring the long-term sustainable development of the BOBLME.

Sustainability will be ensured through working within current structures and programmes and building the capacity of stakeholders and institutions at local, national and regional level. Project activities will be scaled-up through integration with the national development programmes implemented by NGO/CSO, government and partner agencies.

The project will be designed to ensure replicability and scaling up. Lessons learned from project evaluations and science-based studies will be communicated to stakeholders to ensure systematic and informed decision-making is possible. Peer-to-peer/community-to-community exchanges and coordinated efforts with government development partners will support scaling-out of the project's lessons learned. The project will be fully integrated into the governments' fisheries and aquaculture development planning through the project's lead executing agencies.

Replication/scale up of actions are expected to occur primarily through the strengthening of enabling environment and through institutional capacity development.

Ongoing support to the implementation of the BOBLME SAP will ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes are addressed. Sustainability considerations have been integrated into project design and will be mainstreamed across all components during implementation. Project activities will be planned and implemented to provide for their sustainability following the completion of the project, subject to availability of funding.

[1] LME's 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. They encompass a range of habitats, from river basins and estuaries to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves and the high seas, and also contain a number of nested ecosystems. As LME's do not follow political/governance boundaries, and often cross jurisdictions, there are many challenges to overcome for the effective implementation of the ecosystem approach.

[2] Southern Asian fisheries in the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and East Indian Ocean in: Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture: Synthesis of current knowledge, adaptation and mitigation options, FAO 2018

A.2. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This Child project is directly aligned with the PFD's Components 1, 2, 4 and 5. This child project's components directly contribute to achievements of all outcomes under Components 1, 2 and 5 of the PFD.

Component 3 of the PFD is aligned to another child project, which is led by ADB.

Component 4 of the PFD is contributed by both FAO and ADB led child projects.

A.3. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The engagement of stakeholders in the BOBLME has been a continuous process and underway since the TDA and SAP development phase, through to the development of the PFD. These stakeholders are well sensitized to the project and prepared for implementation. The TDA/SAP development phase of the BOBLME worked with a wide range of stakeholders and participants. It is foreseen that this wide range of stakeholders will also be fully engaged in the SAP implementation.

2.1 Stakeholders and Roles in Project Implementation in the BOBLME.

SAP partners	Roles and responsibilities
<i>International partners</i>	
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Lead child project on “Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds”, which will support knowledge sharing and transfer of good practices across BOBLME region
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)	Science provider, ecological characterization and ecosystem-based management
Fauna and Flora International (FFI)	Biodiversity conservation
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Fisheries and aquaculture
Future Earth Coasts (FCE)	Integrated coastal management
Government of Norway	Sustainable development, human rights-based approach
Government of Sweden	Sustainable development, human rights-based approach
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC)	Large-scale processes, climate change
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)	Small-scale fisheries, human rights-based approach
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Environment, ICM, MPAs, biodiversity; socio-economics; coordinating or lead Executing Agency
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Decent work conditions
USA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States and USAID)	Large-scale processes, climate change, EAFM, IUU
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Environment, marine spatial planning, land-based pollution, nutrient management, biodiversity

SAP partners	Roles and responsibilities
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Sustainable development interventions
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Waste and wastewater management, pollution reduction
World Bank (WB)	Investments on fisheries projects in Maldives, India and Bangladesh
WorldFish Center	Fisheries research
<i>Regional partners</i>	
Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC)	FAO Regional Fisheries Body (Fisheries policy forum).
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Policy and technical input
ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA)	Livelihoods and climate change
Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)	Technical cooperation
Bay of Bengal Programme – Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)	Regional Fisheries Body, Fisheries, safety at sea; sub-regional collaboration; Executing Agency
Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS)	Large scale processes, climate change
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)	Fisheries
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA)	Aquaculture
PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF)	Sustainable development, ICM
South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	Policy and technical input
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)	Environment, biodiversity
Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)	Regional Fisheries Body. Fisheries, training; sub-regional collaboration; Executing Agency
<i>National partners</i>	
Bangladesh: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock – Department of Fisheries; Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute; Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change – Forest Department	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
India: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dept. of Fisheries; Ministry of Environment and Forests	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Indonesia: Ministry of Marine Affairs & Fisheries - Directorate General of Capture Fisheries; Ministry of Environment and Forestry – Coastal and Marine Environmental Degradation Control	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP

SAP partners	Roles and responsibilities
Malaysia: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MOA) – Department of Fisheries, Department of Marine Park, Fisheries Development Board; Ministry of Environment and Water – Department of Environment	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Maldives: Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture; Ministry of Environment and Energy – Environmental Protection Agency	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Myanmar: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) – Forest Department, Environmental Conservation Department; Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) – Dept. of Fisheries	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP; Implementation of National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2030)
Sri Lanka: Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development; State Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Thailand: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives – Dept. of Fisheries; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - Dept. of Marine and Coastal Resources	Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
<i>Sub-national/local partners</i>	
Local Governments	Implementation of SAP in focus areas
Local environmental and social/cultural NGOs	Implementation of SAP in focus areas
Community Based Organizations	Participating in implementation of SAP in focus areas
<i>Private sector</i>	
Fishers, small scale fishers and their community associations and federations (at national and regional level)	Participating in implementation of SAP (all Components)
Coastal community members and their associations	Participating in implementation of SAP (all Components)
Fishing vessel owners and companies	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. Comp. 1)
VMS service providers	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. Comp. 1)
Seafood processing and marketing companies	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. Comp. 1 and 4, and co-finance)
Shipping companies and owners	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. in co-finance and CSR)
Oil and gas associations and CSR foundations	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. in co-finance and CSR)
CSR foundations	(e.g. Comp. 4 and co-finance)
World Ocean Council (WOC) and member companies	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. in co-finance and CSR)

SAP partners	Roles and responsibilities
Tourism operators (ecotourism)	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. Comp. 4 and co-finance)
Waste treatment and recycling business operators	Participating in implementation of SAP (e.g. Comp. 3 and 4)

During the BOBLME PPG stage a wide range of stakeholders were consulted. These represented stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional level. Full details of the consultation process outputs are attached in Annex P. The process included stakeholders from all levels and classifications, and their potential roles in project implementation were defined. The stakeholders' engagement plan is presented in Annex H2.

The primary stakeholders of this project are the men and women of the coastal communities the project will work in. These include the fishers and those relying on the sector for their livelihoods. During implementation, at the national level, national, provincial and local authorities and partners will be secondary stakeholders and will be empowered to develop EAFM plans with those communities and working closely with relevant fishery sector representatives. Beyond, this the project will engage with commercial fishing private sector companies, private sector servicing and marketing ventures and interests will be engaged where their activities overlap with project focus site planning as well as in the broader work associated with combatting IUU fishing. Small-scale fishers and the coastal communities they live in will also be engaged in the identification of potential alternative livelihoods; while NGO/CSO rural development programmes will support options for alternative livelihoods and inform the development of supporting policies. A key part of these initiatives entails exploration of value chains, and engagement with private sector and marketing stakeholders to create viable linkages.

NGOs engaged will also be important stakeholders in activities related to the FA approach, e.g. concerning fisheries, MMA/MPA, ETP and community resilience, as well as livelihoods.

Preliminary engagement of these stakeholders will be achieved through a process of dialogues in the focus areas where the SAP implementation activities will be undertaken. Engagement with communities will be sensitive of inclusivity and respect – this pertains also to all following phases of project implementation.

Women's inclusion is a priority, in ensuring gender mainstreaming.

Engagement with regional partners will be initiated through the existing and planned mechanisms of the regional hubs and the regional meetings and capacity development events.

At the same time, a private sector dialogue will be initiated around key aspects of the project, notably IUU fishing and issues of IUU fishing in the value chain and the more effective entry of small-scale fishery

Documents

Title

Submitted

Annex P Stakeholder Consultation

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder Engagement Matrix

1) Stakeholder Consultation in project formulation^[1]

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Date	Comments
Fishers and coastal communities	Direct beneficiary	Local community	Representatives consulted during regional and national consultations.	Broad and supportive Update on Baseline and national priorities	8 x country consultations from March – October 2019 x 4 State consultations (India) 2 x Regional consultations	See Annex P, Stakeholder meeting reports.
Government agency staff	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consulted during regional and national consultations.	Broad and supportive Update on Baseline and national priorities	8 x country consultations from March – October 2019 x 4 State consultations (India) 2 x Regional consultations	See Annex P, Stakeholder meeting reports
NGO staff	Partner	Non-Governmental Organization	Consulted during regional and national consultations	Broad and supportive Update on Baseline and national priorities	8 x country consultations from March – October 2019 x 4 State consultations (India) 2 x Regional consultations	See Annex P, Stakeholder meeting reports
Fisheries bodies	Partner	Regional Government Institution/body	Consulted during regional and national consultations Undertook consultations for PPG	Identification of regional priorities	2 x Regional consultations	See Annex P, Stakeholder meeting reports

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Date	Comments
Donors and GEF Agencies	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Resource Partner/Donor</i>	<i>Consulted during regional and national consultations</i>	<i>Broad and supportive Update on Baseline and national priorities</i>	<i>8 x country consultations from March – October 2019 x 4 State consultations (India) 2 x Regional consultations</i>	<i>See Annex P, Stakeholder meeting reports</i>

Stakeholder Consultation in project Implementation^[2]

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Expected timing	Comments
Fishers and coastal communities	Direct beneficiary	<i>Local community</i>	<i>During national planning and implementation.</i>	<i>Starting Year 1 (Inception)</i>	<i>Engagement with communities will be sensitive of inclusivity and respect – this pertains also to all following phases of project implementation</i>
Government agency staff	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	<i>During national planning and implementation.</i>	<i>From start of inception onwards</i>	
NGO staff	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>	<i>During national planning and implementation</i>	<i>Starting Year 1 (Inception)</i>	
Fisheries bodies	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Regional Government Institution/body</i>	<i>During planning and implementation</i>	<i>From start of Inception onwards</i>	
Donors and GEF Agencies	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Resource Partner/Donor</i>	<i>During national planning and implementation</i>	<i>From start of inception onwards</i>	

[1] See [FAO Operational Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement](#)

[2] Please include identification and consultations of disadvantage and vulnerable groups/individuals in line with the [GEF policy on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and [GEF Environmental and Social Safeguard](#).

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

Private Sector Engagement

The project works indirectly with private sector operators and the main categories are outlined in Section 2 and Annex H2 (Stakeholder engagement plan) of this document.

The project will work with fishers, fish processors and traders noting that most fishers in the BOBLME are either commercial or small-scale private sector owner operators. At regional level the project will work with larger commercial operators. Pilots of certification schemes may be adopted and implemented through the private sector.

A private sector dialogue will be initiated around key aspects of the project, notably IUU fishing and issues of IUU fishing in the value chain and the more effective entry of small-scale fishery products into national and regional markets. With an emphasis on corporate social responsibility (CSR), engagement with national and multi-national business actors will be pursued selectively, either from the membership of the World Ocean Council (e.g. shipping company J.P. Moller-Maersk) or from those companies with a particular link to using the resources of the BOBLME, either e.g. through shipping or mineral exploration and exploitation or tourism.

Institutions responsible for fishery management will be empowered to develop EAFM plans working closely with relevant fishery sector representatives.

At the Focus Area level private sector fishers-producers are primary stakeholders for inclusion in the implementation. In the target fishery management areas, the project will work with communities and small-scale private operators.

Beyond, this engagement with commercial fishing private sector companies, private sector servicing and marketing ventures and interests will be engaged where their activities overlap with target site planning as well as in the broader work associated with the IUU fishing component.

This component will also engage small-scale artisanal fishers. Small-scale fishers and the coastal communities they live in will also be engaged in the identification of potential alternative livelihoods; while NGO/CSO rural development programmes will support options for alternative livelihoods and inform the development of supporting policies. A key part of these initiatives entails exploration of value chains, and engagement with private sector and marketing stakeholders to create viable linkages. A full list of companies, marketing organizations and fisher associations will be developed during inception.

A key part of the work under Component 4 entails exploration of value chains, and engagement with private sector and marketing stakeholders to create viable linkages. The relevant companies, and their respective marketing organizations, as well as the fisher associations will be identified during project inception.

Another consideration is developing and piloting innovative new mechanisms to accelerate private sector financial, technical and in-kind contributions in the BOBLME, such as:

- Launching a public call for partnership to strengthen private sector contributions in the BOBLME. FAO could consider possibilities for doing this in collaboration with key donors, such as:
 - o USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia, drawing on USAID's experience with its Global Development Alliance model
 - o Key private sector platforms, such as the World Ocean Council; and/or key market actors, such as the Marine Stewardship Council
- Establishing a multi-donor trust fund to crowd in resources, which could potentially be done in collaboration a private foundation such as ADM Capital Foundation (ADMCF), which is experienced in organizing and administering sustainable development trust funds.
- The trust fund could also potentially leverage funding associated with the Asian Development Bank's [Oceans Financing Initiative](#) launched in 2019.

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

4.1 Alignment with FAO and GEF gender policies

The project is fully aligned to and supports FAO and GEF policies on gender equality and mainstreaming. In particular, in relation to supporting countries to implement the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and their commitments to gender equality and achieving SDG Goal 5 (gender equality and empower all women and girls). The SSF Guidelines call for equal participation of women and men in organizations and in decision-making processes. Policies and legislation must support equality, and both women and men must have access to appropriate technologies and services to carry out their work. Gender equity and equality are core objectives and guiding principles of the SSF Guidelines. FAO's policy on gender equality is to work with countries, other UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs) and bilateral and private sector partners to make progress towards achieving the following objectives:

- Women participate equally with men as decision-makers in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes
- Women and men have equal access to and control over decent employment and income, land and other productive resources
- Women and men have equal access to goods and services for agricultural development, and to markets
- Women's work burden is reduced by 20 percent through improved technologies, services and infrastructure, and
- The share of total agricultural aid committed to projects related to women and gender equality is increased to 30 percent

In fisheries, women's involvement in, and contribution to, the sector is more significant than often assumed. These roles can include gleaning, near-shore fishing, and aquaculture to post-harvest activities. FAO (SOFIA 2018) estimated that in 2016, overall, women accounted for nearly 14 percent of all people directly engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture primary sector as compared with an average of 15.2 percent across the reporting period 2009–2016. However, when both the primary and secondary sectors of aquaculture and fisheries are considered the work force was evenly divided between men and women.

During the SAP development phase, BOBLME participating countries recognised the importance of gender in fisheries and small-scale fisheries in the region in particular. A comprehensive gender analysis was undertaken during this phase. BOBLME member countries and partners considered this analysis as current and relevant. Support to BOBLME countries to implement these recommendations is still required.

This comprehensive gender analysis and audit was undertaken of the BOBLME and made a range of recommendations on mainstreaming gender in the ongoing project and the SAP implementation^[1]. The gender audit covered a number of international and regional instruments and national development and fisheries policies. The findings indicated uneven progress in tackling gender inequalities and accounting of gender issues overall and a cultural and institutional environment that was not conducive to gender mainstreaming initiatives.

Key entry points to mainstream gender in the SAP were identified as follows:

- Addition of a statement of political will or commitment to gender
- Consideration of gender-sensitive actions
- Addition of a section on cross-cutting issues covering gender training, communication, legislation, capacity building at field level, gender-disaggregated data collection and research on gender issues
- Consideration of incentives and accounting mechanisms
- Earmarking of a specific budget for gender-related activities at project level and strategic actions
- Addition of a pathway to impact, and
- Use of outcome mapping as a form of monitoring and evaluation

The last two are seen as pivotal in capturing the changes that are expected as a result of both mainstreaming gender in the project, and the project's own influence in progressing towards gender equality. In addition to these, key recommendations for future action by the BOBLME partner countries include:

- Commissioning of a gender-sensitive review of legislation and regulatory frameworks in the BOBLME partner countries
- Following through the mainstreaming of gender in the NAPs, mirroring what has been proposed to mainstream gender in the SAP
- Tackling gender-disaggregated data collection as soon as possible
- Ensuring the continuous provision of gender inputs throughout the project duration
- Strengthening the participatory processes undertaken so far by the project
- Avoiding falling in the Women in Development/efficiency rhetoric and maintaining a focus on the addressing of gender issues and inequality, and
- Supporting gender training and capacity building at all levels, beyond the life of the project

4.2 Gender Action Plan

A draft Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the project has been prepared along with tentative activities (Annex O).

This GAP will be developed fully during inception work planning period and based on country needs and consultations with implementing partners. This updated GAP will include gender specific outcomes, outputs and activities, budgets and revised indicators for the project, including an updated project baseline.

Gender focal points and/or champions in each country will be identified and consulted throughout the GAP elaboration process.

The updating of the GAP will be undertaken at the same time as the national and regional work planning and will include capacity development for key staff. Tentative targets relating to gender equality according to project outcome are described below.

Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries

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

- Gender balance in participation in EAFM planning and implementation
- Gender analysis and review to ensure integration into all EAFM training courses and materials;
- Perspectives of men and women taken into account in all EAFM plans and training materials;
- Potential negative impacts of EAFM plans on livelihoods of men and women in the fisheries value chain identified and addressed
- Training days for women organized at EAFM Focus area sites
- Gender disaggregated data collection at all levels
- Number of gender specialists contracted and engaged in work of the project

- Gender balance of trainers
- Women and men have equal opportunity to participate in working groups at all levels
- Gender relevant terms of reference for networks and communication platforms
- Gender representation and participation in national and regional training platforms

Outcome 1.2: IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced

- Gender representation and participation in national and regional plans of action working groups
- Women's and men's perspectives included in planning processes
- Gender representation in NPOA development and implementation
- Gender representation in sub-regional hubs
- Gender representation and participation in national and regional training platforms
- Gender sensitive training materials
- Women and men participating in training events

Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity

Outcome 2.1. Coastal and Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) contribute to conservation of biodiversity

- Women and men can participate equally in MPA/MMA planning processes

- Women and men's needs considered in MPA/MMA planning and implementation processes, and potential negative impacts on livelihoods of men and women analysed and addressed
- Gender disaggregated reporting
- Gender representation and participation in national and regional training platforms
- Gender sensitive training materials
- Women and men participate in training
- Gender considerations integrated into assessments

Outcome 2.2. National MMAs established or strengthened resulting in improved MMA management effectiveness at national level: (CCM Bangladesh)

- Gender representation and participation in mangrove rehabilitation planning and training
- Gender sensitive ESV and roles of women and men identified
- Gender balance in Sundarbans management bodies
- Gender representation and participation in coral reef rehabilitation planning and training
- Gender balance in coral reef management bodies
- Participation of men and women in training
- Women and men participate equally in MPA planning processes
- Women and men's needs considered in MPA planning and implementation processes, and taking into consideration potential negative impacts on the livelihoods of men and women in the fisheries value chain, and
- Gender disaggregated reporting

Outcome 2.3: Regional consensus and agreements reached on reduction of threats to marine biodiversity in coastal and open waters

- Women and men participate equally in ETP planning processes
- Women and men's needs considered in ETP planning processes
- Men and women involved in RPOA-ETP implementation
- Gender sensitive review of ETP laws and policies
- Men and women involved in capacity development and update of laws and frameworks, and
- Gender disaggregated reporting

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

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

- Specific needs of men and women identified and taken into consideration
- Women and men involved equally in developing and disseminating guidance and good practice materials on improved hygiene
- Women and men participate equally in capacity development for improving waste management practices for fish landing sites
- Women and men involved in implementing good practices
- Women and men involved in promoting the marking of fishing gear and related good practice, and
- Gender disaggregated reporting

Outcome 3.2: Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds.

- ADB led component (child project), gender balance on project steering committees and coordination mechanisms.

Component 4 Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME (supporting implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines; VG-SSF)

Outcome 4.1. Enhanced resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change of selected coastal communities:

- Gender balance in capacity development activities for ESV and resilience planning
- Ecosystem services valuations take into consideration the perspectives of men and women
- Men and women participate in focus area planning and implementation
- Gender balance in national working groups
- Gender sensitive review of policies and frameworks, taking into consideration the differential impacts on men and women
- Men and women participate in ICM training
- Men and women contribute to good practice identification for FA communities
- Men and women involved in gender analysis, and
- Gender balance in capacity development

Output 4.1.3. Gender considerations mainstreamed into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks

- Gender analysis completed and mainstreaming strategy developed for each country (and at community level in focus areas)

- Capacity development for gender mainstreaming into policy and regulatory frameworks in each country developed (x8)
- Project Gender strategy developed and implemented

Outcome 4.2. Enhanced sustainable livelihoods and diversification for selected coastal communities:

- Gender balance in participation in livelihoods diversification analysis
- Actions to reduce gender inequalities in livelihoods diversification identified and implemented
- Potential increase in women's burden considered in livelihoods diversification analysis, and actions identified to mitigate such impact
- Men and women involved in implementation of project gender strategies
- Gender balance in participation of men and women in working groups
- Gender sensitive recommendations for best practices
- Gender balance in implementation of financial services strategy
- Implementation of financial services strategy takes into consideration the specific needs and context of men and women
- Gender balance in participation of men and women in capacity development needs assessment, and
- Men and women involved in implementation of capacity development strategy

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

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

- Gender balance in the formation of working groups

- Gender sensitive review of policies
- Opinions of men and women considered in recommendations
- Gender balance in meetings of CCR BOBLME, also taking into consideration the constraints women may face in participating in such meetings
- Gender balance in participation for inter-sectoral committees at regional and national level
- Gender issues addressed in committees
- Gender balance in stakeholder engagement plan
- Gender balance in the development of M+E strategy, and
- Gender sensitive indicators and reporting

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

- Gender considerations integrated into communication strategy
- Communication considerations for men and women
- Gender sensitive lessons learned
- Gender balance in participation in IW:LEARN and other meetings
- Gender balance in establishment of hubs and communication networks
- Gender sensitive topics reported
- Gender balance in working groups, and,
- Gender disaggregated data collection and reporting

[1] BOBLME 2012: Mainstreaming gender in the BOBLME Project, Gender audit and recommended actions for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the BOBLME project and its Strategic Action Programme (SAP) https://www.boblme.org/mainstreaming_gender.html

Documents

Title

Submitted

Annex O Gender Action plan

Draft Gender Action plan

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

If yes, please upload document or equivalent here

The FINAL version of the Gender Action Plan has been uploaded and labeled as Annex O Gender Action plan. Kindly disregard the file Draft Gender Action Plan.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

A.5. Risks

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being, achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.

Description of risk	Impact ^[1]	Probability of occurrence ³	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<i>Internal</i>				
The SAP implementation mechanism is ineffective and inefficient (not well resourced, and technically and administratively not sufficiently competent) to implement the SAP.	M	L	<p>The CCR-BOBLME consortium of countries and major partners and donors is envisaged as an intermediate arrangement, and the possibility of a permanent arrangement will be explored during the SAP implementation phase</p> <p>The baseline funding to the Program is already impressive and the SAP objectives will be further mainstreamed into relevant national sector budgets to ensure that the CCR-BOBLME will be sufficiently resourced and supported by competent national staff</p>	GEF Agency and implementing partners

Description of risk	Impact ^[1]	Probability of occurrence ³	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<p>Limited or uneven institutional absorptive capacity in some countries may hamper timely and coordinated SAP implementation and child project progress</p>	L	L	<p>The Program is in line with the agreed SAP and country specific priorities, and other relevant strategies and priorities at regional, sub-regional and national levels and is thus strongly anchored in existing policies.</p> <p>Child project implementation will employ targeted capacity building measures. Training will focus on a triple track: first, to orient and increase awareness at the level of politically elected officials; second to internalize knowledge and skills at the level of career track civil service officials to provide long term technical support services; and third to engage, uplift and deploy civil service organizations, research and academic institutions, foundations and private sector to fill financial and technical gaps and assist with service delivery efforts. Furthermore, the coordination framework outlined in Section 6 of this document, is structured such that adaptive management measures can be facilitated as needed.</p>	
<i>External</i>				
<p>Climate change impacts and/or other natural disasters exceed the adaptive capacities of countries and overwhelm a country's capacity to cope.</p>	L	M	<p>The Program will introduce measures to enhance the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems, involving improved habitat management, and adaptive management of fish stocks through training of key technical staff in ecosystem-based management and adaptation. It will also enhance the awareness of policy and decision makers of climate change threats to the BOBLME through information dissemination and outreach.</p>	
<p>Changes in the security conditions of participating countries affect SAP implementation.</p>	L	L	<p>The countries of the BOBLME have become gradually more stable during the implementation of the first phase of the BOBLME and this trend is expected to continue.</p>	

Description of risk	Impact ^[1]	Probability of occurrence ³	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
<p>Pressing domestic economic and social issues prevent senior national political decision-makers from realizing the long-term need to sustainably manage the living marine resources and environment of the BOBLME.</p>	L	L	<p>Socio-economic development of coastal communities is closely tied to the resources provided by the BOBLME. Economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by the BOBLME and their contribution to sustainable livelihood will therefore be further refined and findings will be widely disseminated to decision-makers.</p>	
<p>Changes in the restrictions and accessibility to rural areas and regional travel as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic affect SAP implementation.</p>	M	M	<p>Short term impacts will affect engagement and planning activities with project stakeholders.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has required a considerable shift in the way meetings and workshops, rural consultations and fieldwork are conducted.</p> <p>Over the medium term, the contracting and supervision of local teams to operate in field locations is now necessary, with international or regional backstopping provided remotely.</p> <p>In terms of regional coordination and between country sharing, the use of virtual meetings has been relatively successful. It is expected that this will be increasingly used in place of traditional face to face meetings. The advantage is that more meetings can be held. There are also cost savings which could be transferred to increased costs incurred at local level.</p> <p>Long term it is expected that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on project activities will gradually decline or cease to be relevant during the project lifetime.</p>	

Grievance Mechanism

1. In line with FAO's corporate commitment under the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) framework^[1] to ensure target communities have access to provide feedback and complaints, the project will ensure that formalized feedback system is established and that the project's target communities are aware of it. This will be in addition to any feedback and complaints procedures already in place in the countries and in the FAO regional office.

2. While feedback from beneficiaries could be general and will always provide useful information to management, a complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction and represents an urgent call for action.

•Feedback can include day to day observations, or minor issues in the implementation of activities. Feedback can be both positive and negative, and may not necessarily call for immediate response or action; however, any information provided by the beneficiaries is valuable and can be used to make important adjustments in programming and will result in a better quality of interventions. Stakeholder feedback will be a critical component of ensuring Free Prior Informed Consent by target communities during all parts of project implementation. All project staff and partners involved in this project are expected to actively engage with stakeholders and seek their feedback. Formal mechanisms for feedback will be through regular monitoring of project activities. Obtaining and responding to stakeholder feedback will be key part of the project's monitoring and evaluation framework.

•Complaint: Humanitarian Accountability Partnership defines a complaint as "a specific grievance of anyone who has been negatively affected by an organization's action or who believes that an organization has failed to meet a stated commitment."^[2] These may include issues such as poor quality of interventions, misappropriation of project resources, and exploitation and abuse- including sexual exploitation. Serious allegations will be handled, and appropriate actions taken by FAO Ethics Office or Office of Inspector General (OIG) in FAO HQ, following specific set of procedures developed for highly sensitive and confidential cases.

To enable effective and efficient management of feedback and complaints, **FAO** will:

1. Communicate accountability commitments to the affected population, including their rights to complain as and when needed- through brochures, posters, awareness raising events.
2. Actively seek beneficiary feedback at all events, workshops, training.
3. Assess beneficiaries' preference on feedback systems and adapt accordingly through formal and informal consultations.
4. Train project staff on handling beneficiary feedback and complaints.

5. Systematically document all feedback and identify trends in beneficiary complaints.
6. Create response mechanisms for complaints –including telephone number of assigned staff at FAO country offices and FAO RAP to receive complaints, and or email. If the beneficiaries wish, they can also contact FAO Regional Office or HQ.
7. Report and take action on feedback, complaints and allegations received through the Compliance Unit, technical teams, and management, OIG or Ethics Office.

If the EA partners have their own grievance mechanisms in place these should be used first for feedback and complaints, if any.

The timeframe for managing feedback including giving appropriate response to the complaints raised by beneficiaries will vary based on the nature and magnitude of the reported problem. Response may not be necessary for routine feedback, or in some cases can be given instantly. Feedback will always be reviewed and continuous efforts to improve program will be undertaken, including reduction or prevention of similar occurrences of negative events.

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the Institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

6.1 Project implementation

FAO is the GEF Agency for the project “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 full outline of FAO’s roles and responsibilities in the project is provided in detail in Annexes J and K (FAO’s role in internal organization and FAO and Government Obligations).

The project will be implemented through three Executing Agencies (EA). IUCN will be the lead EA providing coordination of implementation across the BOBLME. FAO will develop partnership agreements (PA) with:

- 1) IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature

- 2) The Bay of Bengal Programme - Intergovernmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)
- 3) The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

BOBP-IGO will act as the South Asia sub-regional coordination and implementation hub, while SEAFDEC will have the same role for the Southeast Asian BOBLME countries. While the BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC will provide mainly technical advice and capacity development, the IUCN will be responsible for technical advice, capacity development (in particular for components 2 and 4) and overall coordination of the project and joint work planning. Details of financial management responsibilities as well as reporting tasks are laid down in the respective partnership agreements (OPA) with the FAO.

The project is to be executed respectively by the three executing agencies/partners plus the Bangladesh CCM component with the coordination by the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) hosted by IUCN. The RCU is responsible for the overall coordination including to prepare work plans, harmonize field deliveries, monitor and consolidate reporting of project progresses at both sub-regional and regional levels.

In Bangladesh the National STAR funding for the Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) sub project entitled “*Enhancing the role Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of carbon stocks*” will be implemented through a separate local partnership agreement as outlined (Letters of Agreement).

The need for special arrangements for the BOBLME was identified during the TDA, SAP and PFD development phases. Analysis showed that there is no single institution or agency with a mandate wide enough in thematic and geographical coverage to be selected as the single lead executing entity for SAP implementation. This is in part due to the fact that the Bay of Bengal covers two geopolitical regions (South and Southeast Asia), the absence of a major regional Convention covering the Bay of Bengal, and that traditionally, environmental and fisheries issues are taken care of by different actors at national level. The BOBLME countries did agree to develop a Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (CCR-BOBLME).

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organizations and the input of 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN experts are organized into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law communication.

IUCN is a GEF agency and a member of the GEF LME community including IW:LEARN. IUCN served as co-chair and has hosted the secretariat for the long-standing Mangroves for the Future (MFF) programme. IUCN also played a direct role in supporting the national consultations for the design of this project. During the TDA-SAP development phase of

the BOBLME, IUCN (and also MMF) had been active partners in a wide range of activities covering the ecosystem approach to fisheries, integrated coastal management and biodiversity conservation (including MPAs) as well as capacity development.

Under the FAO-IUCN Partnership Agreement IUCN will provide overall BOBLME wide coordination of the project including the work of the two partner agencies (SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO). IUCN will host the project RCU and be responsible for facilitating the regional and national steering committee meetings. IUCN will be responsible for implementation of key parts of the work plan including ensuring the coordination and delivery of the work on EAFM and IUU (C1). IUCN will support countries in the establishment and/or strengthening of and implementation of project MPA's, ETP plans (C2), and work to address marine based pollution (C3) and community resilience plans (C4). IUCN will have a key role in strengthening BOBLME wide governance mechanisms including the establishment of the CCR-BOBLME (C5).

A key role for IUCN will also be supporting countries and partners in the implementation of the project "focus area" (FA) approach (Annex S). This approach will bring together all of the project's components in at least one area in each country for efficient participatory implementation. The FA approach, guided by the principles of "Ecosystem-based management" (EBM, in particular the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, EAFM), will link the local level good practice to sub-national, national and regional level policy learning and sharing good practice.

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) is mandated to enhance cooperation among its member countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region. The BOBP-IGO is focused on helping the member countries in sustaining fisheries production and ensuring livelihood security for millions of fisher folk in the region and has been an active project partner during the TDA-SAP development phase of the BOBLME. The BOBP-IGO was formally set up on 26 April 2003. The Headquarters of the Organization are located at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The core team of permanent staff include the Director, Publication Officer and Secretariat. The Governing Council members of the BOBP-IGO are drawn from the Focal Ministry in the member countries. The Secretariat operates under the policies set by the Governing Council. The BOBP-IGO implements a wide range of related projects. The BOBP-IGO is expected to be a key partner for sub-regional and national initiatives in South Asia and beyond.

The Partnership Agreement with BOBP-IGO will broadly cover their role as a sub-regional hub, supporting coordination of the work of the project in fisheries management, combatting IUU (C1), resilience and livelihoods (C4) with their member countries. BOBP-IGO will also provide technical advice and capacity development to their member countries and implementation partners on areas within their mandate to support the implementation of the project Focus Areas. This will include the development and implementation of the EAFM plans, actions to combat IUU fishing and the sub regional MCS networks, livelihoods, resilience and climate change. BOBP-IGO will also play a key role in the development of the strengthening of regional governance including the proposed CCR-BOBLME.

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an inter-governmental body that has the mandate to develop and manage the potential of fisheries in the Southeast Asia region (also considered the ‘fisheries technical arm of ASEAN’). Of its 11 member countries, 4 are also BOBLME countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand. SEAFDEC’s work is coordinated by the Secretariat, which channels guidance from Member Countries to address fisheries issues in the region. SEAFDEC’s governance mechanisms include annual meetings. SEAFDEC is part of the governance mechanisms of the BOBLME and was fully involved in the TDA-SAP development phase and formed part of the consortium of organizations involved in developing and implementing the EAFM. The BOBLME EAFM training program is being sustained through SEAFDEC in collaboration with other partners and the Governments of Malaysia and Indonesia. SEAFDEC is also implementing regional initiatives on combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Southeast Asia and optimizing energy use in fisheries in the Southeast Asian region through fishing vessels energy audits. This will be carried out through its Bangkok, Thailand, based Secretariat and Training Department, as well as the Malaysia-based Marine Fishery Research Development and Management Department (MFRDMD).

The FAO-SEAFDEC Partnership Agreement will broadly cover their role as a sub-regional hub coordinating the work of the project with their member countries. SEAFDEC will also provide technical advice to countries and implementation partners on areas within their mandate. The task of SEAFDEC will include the development and implementation of the EAFM plans, actions to combat IUU fishing, and the sub-regional MCS networks (C1), livelihoods, resilience and climate change (C4) and to support the implementation of the project Focus Areas. SEAFDEC will also play a key role in the development of the strengthening of regional governance including the CCR-BOBLME (C5).

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the GEF Agency for the child project, and will be responsible for project oversight, technical backstopping and overall guidance for project implementation and undertaking evaluations. FAO will function as an implementation agency rather than executing agency.

As the implementing agency FAO will contract the executing partners (IUCN, BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC) and also the lead partner in Bangladesh to deliver the planned outputs. FAO will also channel the relevant GEF fund directly to each of the partners thus allow the partners to deliver agreed assignments through formal agreements.

As part of FAO, APFIC with its extensive global and regional experience and mandate in fisheries and the development of regional entities (such as RFB’s and RFMO’s) will be expected to support member countries and partners with technical advice within its mandate including specifically the development of the CCR-BOBLME.

FAO will ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements. As the IA, FAO will support the three EAs in their engagement with major global and regional programmes and initiatives (see also Annex M), not limited to, but in particular those with major FAO and Norwegian donor contribution, the EAF Nansen Programme, the GloLitter Project, and the Global Programme for the promotion and application of the VG-SSF. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO in coordination with regional and government representatives participating in the Regional Project Steering Committee. As the GEF Agency, FAO will:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;

- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers and the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year,
- Monitor the project progress and ensure the project objectives are delivered;
- Ensure that GEF and FAO financial rules are followed and the project fund is used properly to deliver the project objectives and outputs/outcomes, and
- Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

A Project Task Force (PTF), as a FAO internal project management and consultative body, will be established to ensure effective technical, operational and administrative project management throughout the project cycle. The PTF consists of designated FAO staff possessing the appropriate authority and skills mix, including the Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO), Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) and FAO HQs Technical Officer (HQTO). The PTF will also be supported by the relevant offices in FAO HQ such as finance office, legal office, OPIM team as well as FAO country offices in the participating countries.

Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (CCR-BOBLME). During SAP development phase, BOBLME member countries recognized the need for the development of an institutional arrangement for SAP implementation, which would consist 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. The CCR-BOBLME was seen as an intermediate arrangement with the possibility of a permanent arrangement to be explored during the SAP implementation phase. This “Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME” (CCR-BOBLME) was proposed to 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 projects
- Coordinate the development of future Regional Projects (GEF IW and other) that support the implementation/ delivery of the SAP goals and targets
- Review the SAP priorities on a periodic basis

The establishment of the CCR-BOBLME is seen as a priority for this project to ensure the mechanism is in place within 2 years from the end of the project inception phase. IUCN will facilitate this process with countries and regional partners through the RPSC, working groups or other mechanisms agreed by countries. Under Component 5, the project will develop the CCR-BOBLME, which will increasingly assume functions of the project oversight and will be supported by the project secretariat and RCU. The CCR-BOBLME will:

- Promote stakeholder participation and awareness, ecosystem assessment, and application of best practices in implementation of the SAP
- Support long-term partnership arrangements for a sustainable regional coordination mechanism and sustainable financing for ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME
- Develop 8 National inter-sectoral coordination committees to strengthen the regulatory and institutional frameworks and to develop national implementation plans in support of SAP/NAP implementation (including EAFM plans, NPOAs-IUU, ETP plans, marine protected area management, pollution monitoring plans)
- Ensure stakeholder consultation mechanisms are established for engagement of civil society, cooperatives, and the private sector
- Promote effective sharing and communication of information
- Establish baseline data (fisheries, trends and threats of critical habitats and ETP species, pollution, oceanography, and climate change), monitoring systems and information repository established at national and regional levels

The Ministries of Fisheries/Departments of Fisheries of BOBLME participating countries will be the lead government counterparts for the project and will have the overall technical responsibility for the project (with FAO providing technical oversight as GEF Agency).

The Ministries of Fisheries/Departments of Fisheries will coordinate all efforts to implement the project's components at national level through National Project Steering Committees. They will ensure alignment with other initiatives and that all deadlines and targets are achieved. They will ensure that the project's results are discussed with stakeholders under the oversight of a national steering committee. The Ministries of Fisheries/Departments of Fisheries will provide a National Coordinator and Project Steering Committee member.

The Ministries of Environment (or their equivalent) will provide a Project Steering Committee member and provide technical advice and coordination support for areas within their mandate.

The project executing partners will work with the implementing agencies of other programs and projects to identify opportunities and mechanisms to facilitate synergies with other relevant government programmes, projects supported by GEF and projects supported by other donors. This partnership will be achieved through: (i) informal communications between GEF bodies and partners implementing other programs and projects; (ii) exchange of information and materials from other projects.

In Bangladesh, the National STAR funding for the Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) sub project entitled “Enhancing the role Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of carbon stocks” implementation will be coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The relevant national ministries in each of the member countries are the project beneficiaries, and at the same time they are also the national project counterparts and national project implementation partners. Many of the field activities, to be executed by the three executing partners, will be delivered with or through these national departments.

Country and lead agencies	Role in project implementation
Bangladesh:	
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock – Department of Fisheries	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Forest Department	Lead CCM sub-project implementation
India:	
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Dept. of Fisheries	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP

Country and lead agencies	Role in project implementation
Ministry of Environment and Forests	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Indonesia:	
Ministry of Marine Affairs & Fisheries - Directorate General of Capture Fisheries	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Environment and Forestry – Coastal and Marine Environmental Degradation Control	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Malaysia:	
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry – Dept. of Fisheries Malaysia, Fisheries Research Institute	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Environment and Water, Department of Environment	PSC Member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Maldives:	
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Environment and Energy – Environmental Protection Agency	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Myanmar:	

Country and lead agencies	Role in project implementation
Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) – Dept. of Fisheries	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) – Forest Department, Environmental Conservation Department	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate Implementation of National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2030)
Sri Lanka:	
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
State Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate
Thailand:	
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives – Dept. of Fisheries	Lead Ministry for BOBLME IW implementation, Participation in regional governance PSC member; National Coordination Implementation and coordination of SAP/NAP
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - Dept. of Marine and Coastal Resources	PSC member Implementation of SAP/NAP within mandate

The BOBLME Partnership implementation approach.

The breakdown of budget for the partners responsibility and budget for implementation is outlined in Table 6.1, the budget in Annex A2 and PA's in Annex M.

The BOBLME implementation partners will work flexibly and in coordination to deliver project results to all the key project stakeholders under the project stakeholder engagement plan (Section 2 and Annex H) including primary stakeholders (and Local communities), Civil Society Organizations, NGO's, Local Government, Regional Government, National Government, International government or regional body, Private sector and academic/research institutions. They will also ensure coordination with the initiatives and projects of their own and other resource partners or resource partners (donors) and GEF projects.

BOBLME implementation partners will work under the guidance of the RPSC and NPSC and through their own contracting and implementation mechanisms with regional and local partners (outlined in the Partnership Agreement) to deliver the project outputs.

To allow flexibility in management the initial allocation to partners through the PA's will be adjusted after the inception phase and with the endorsement of the RPSC (year 1 and year 2) to allow the project to implement adaptive management.

Table 6.1 Summary draft estimates for PA structure for BOBLME implementation

OPA COMPONENT STRUCTURE	GEF Agency		Executing Agency						Other partners	Total		
	FAO		IUCN		BOBP-IGO		SEAFDEC		BGD			
	GEF	Norad*	GEF	Norad*	GEF	Norad*	GEF	Norad*	GEF	GEF	Norad*	Total
Component 1 Sustainable management of fisheries	0	98,538	175,000	0	1,725,904	253,052	1,987,538	308,039	0	3,888,442	659,629	4,548,071
Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity	0	98,538	1,552,380	643,352	0	0	0	0	0	1,552,380	741,890	2,294,270

Output 2.2.1 Enhancing the role of Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of forest stocks in Bangladesh (BGD-CCM)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	480,559	480,559	0	480,559
Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health	0	52,431	130,952	180,359	125,000	54,987	125,000	0	0	380,952	287,777	668,729
Component 4 Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME	0	98,539	1,133,333	693,924	0	0	0	0	0	1,133,333	792,463	1,925,796
Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME	277,000	218,215	873,857	995,091	279,000	104,283	162,000	104,283	0	1,591,857	1,421,872	3,013,729
Activity Budgets (w/o PMC)	277,000	566,261	3,865,522	2,512,726	2,129,904	412,322	2,274,538	412,322	480,559	9,027,523	3,903,631	12,931,154
5% PMC	13,850	n.a.	193,276	125,636	106,495	20,616	113,727	20,616	24,028			
PMC (+/-)	121,750	0	41,500	0	44,500	0	35,750	0	0			

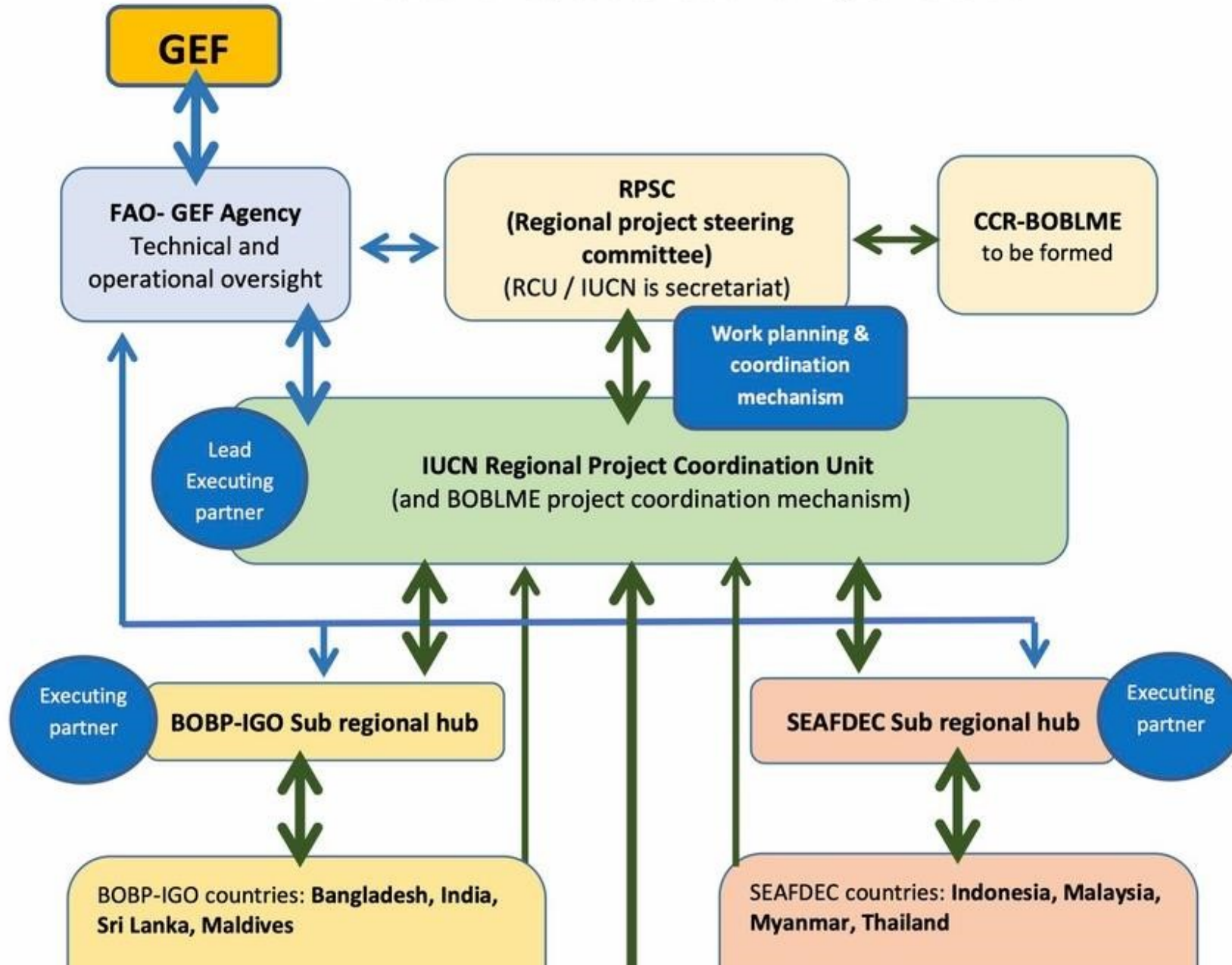
Adjusted 5% PMC	135,600		151,776	125,636	61,995	20,616	77,977	20,616	24,028	451,376	166,868	
Grand Total for EAs	412,600	566,261	4,017,298	2,638,362	2,191,899	432,938	2,352,515	432,938	504,587	9,478,899	4,070,499	13,549,399
*Based on UN USD-NOK exchange rate at date of submission (https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php) **This is the withheld cost for audit and spot checks of Executing Agencies under OPA												

6.2 Project governance and coordination mechanisms

The FAO child project implementation and execution arrangements, as well as the governance mechanism is outlined in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: Implementation and execution arrangements of the BOBLME II project

BOBLME 2 Governance, coordination & implementation



Regional Project Steering Committee

The project governance mechanism will be the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC), which will be established at the project inception, and the chair elected on a rotating basis by the members from BOBLME countries. The RPSC will be facilitated by the RCU and the Project Coordinator will serve as the secretary of the RPSC. The RPSC will be comprised of members from the Ministries of Fisheries and/or Agriculture and Ministries of Environment (draft terms of reference for the RPSC are provided in Annex L). GEF, FAO, and bilateral donors (Norway, Sweden). The Executing Agencies (IUCN SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO) and other key partners will be represented on the RPSC as observers. The RPSC will have the role to endorse/approve regional documents developed during the project, such as annual work plans and budgets.

The RPSC will meet at least once a year to ensure:

- Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs
- Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project
- Coordination with the FAO programme and ADB child project
- Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support
- Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication
- Effective coordination of government partner work under this project
- Review and approval of Annual Work Plan and Budget
- Approval of mid-term review and terminal evaluation plans and review/endorsement of their reports

The members of the RPSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned RPSC members will (i) technically oversee activities in their sector, (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project, (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency, and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

The governments will also designate National Coordinators to the project. The NC will have the responsibility of supervising and guiding the project on the government policies and priorities. He/she will also be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners.

National Project Steering Committee (NPSC)

At national level, a National multi-stakeholder Steering Committee (NPSC) will support the project implementation. The RCU will facilitate and organise NPSC meetings and act as secretariat for them. The NPSC will be chaired by the Regional PSC member and have members from ministries, GEF, FAO, Lead and relevant executing agencies and other key project partners (e.g. NGOs, academe) invited as agreed by the lead government agency.

The primary functions of the NPSC may include:

- Provide overall guidance to the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) and OPs in the execution of the project at country level
- Review and comment the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) at country level prepared by the RCU and the OPs, which will contain details of the previous years' technical activities and the plan for the next year
- Support the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU), OPs and National coordinator in developing national and regional governance mechanisms and overseeing the bottom-up participatory planning during the inception phase (to develop the national work plan and identification and priority of Focus Areas);
- Support the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU), OPs and National coordinator in the execution of national activities, and national components of regional activities undertaken within the country
- In collaboration with the National Coordinator, OPs and RCU, request members of the National Technical Advisory or Working Groups to provide inputs to the NPSCs and NRCUs on planning and implementation of the project at the National level, including the development of National Action Plans for SAP implementation
- Advise on independent evaluations of significant technical proposals, assessments and analyses, and take account of such comments
- Convene, as required, thematic groups / local expert groups to consider reports covering specific technical areas
- Support the project in the achievement of FPIC and GAP targets
- Support the communication of national activities to all stakeholders, including government, private sector and NGOs, and local communities
- Support high-level decision making such as Ministers or Vice Ministers in relation to the BOBLME project and its implementation

- Facilitate the “mainstreaming” of relevant project findings and recommendations into national policy
- NPSC members meet at least once a year or at ad hoc

In Bangladesh the National STAR funding for the Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) sub project entitled “Enhancing the role Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of carbon stocks” will have its own national steering committee under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This steering committee will coordinate closely with the BOBLME national steering committee.

In Myanmar, the BOBLME 2 national steering committee will coordinate closely with the ADB child project “Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds” to ensure lessons learned can be taken up and shared with other BOBLME partner countries.

Sub-national implementation arrangements

For countries in which Focus Areas or sub-national activities are to be implemented, the NPSC will be responsible for the formation of advisory and (multi-sectoral) coordination committees. These will be formed at an appropriate level and supported by local experts to advise on implementation of the project.

Wherever possible, the project will work through and strengthen existing national mechanisms.

Implementation of the project work in focus areas in countries will be through local partners (to be selected during inception). The local partners will ensure FAO FPIC guidance and gender targeting is followed.

Project management (Regional Coordination Unit - RCU)

The RPSC and countries will be supported in implementation of the project through a regional coordination unit (RCU) in IUCN and the two sub-regional implementation hubs (SEAFDEC and BOBP-IGO).

Because of the challenges in coordinating the work of many implementation partners the RCU will develop an effective work planning mechanism to coordinate and organise the work of the project at regional, sub-regional and national /Focus Area level. This will involve coordination with the 2 Sub-Regional Hubs for fisheries (Component 1)

implementation. At the request of the RPSC, the RCU may support establishment of technical working groups or committees (at all levels) on an ad hoc basis to provide technical advice to implementation.

The RCU will be established within the office of the IUCN Asia Regional Office. The main functions of the RCU will be to follow the guidance of the RPSC and NPSC and ensure overall efficient coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The RCU will be composed of a Regional Project Coordinator or manager who will work full-time for the project lifetime. In addition, the RCU will include administrative support staff.

The Regional Project Coordinator will be in charge of daily project management and technical supervision of the work of the RCU including: (i) coordinating and closely monitoring the implementation of project activities; (ii) day-to-day management; (iii) coordination with related initiatives; (iv) ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels; (v) tracking the project's progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs; (vi) implementing and managing the project's monitoring and communications plans; (vii) organizing annual project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan (AWP/B); (viii) submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO; (ix) preparing the Project Implementation Review (PIR); (x) supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED); (xi) prepare IUCN financial statement and expenditure reports for submission to FAO; (xii) prepare draft terminal report and IUCN final financial statements.

The Regional Project Coordinator will work in close consultation with the FAO Budget Holder (BH, see below), Lead Technical Officer (LTO, see below) and all project executing partners, and will ensure that there is coordination (where needed/relevant) between the executing agency activities and to manage their participation/input and that of the countries into the regional arrangements.

The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) and Project Team (PT) are listed in Annex L.

6.3 Programme level coordination

FAO is the GEF Agency for the overall parent regional programme “*Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme*”. This programme includes two child projects

- 1) “Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities” (FAO) and,
- 2) “Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds” under ADB implementation, and outlined in the PFD.

The child project “Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds” aims to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks, promote cross-sector institutional arrangements, strengthen technical and management capacity and invest in long term science-based data collection systems and supporting laboratory facilities in the water sector. It also aims to improve public understanding of health and environmental consequences of business-as-usual scenarios with respect to waste and water management and investigate the need for incentives and financing mechanisms to sustain operations and maintenance of waste and waste water management infrastructure. Whilst this child project is focused on Mandalay City, Myanmar, its innovative approaches will have relevance and applicability across the BOBLME.

Noting that the ADB Child project will have its own implementation and governance arrangements (PSC and reporting to the Government of Myanmar).

6.4 Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will coordinate with a wide range of interventions as outlined below. Additional non-GEF projects and initiatives are highlighted in Annex M.

Project title/Country	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Area	GEF Funding (million USD)	BOBLME SAP Component	Coordination approach
Global/Regional					
Enabling Transboundary Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the Indonesian Seas	FAO	IW	4.0	1 – Marine Living Resources	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Indonesia); sharing of knowledge products; Twinning
Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI)	FAO, UNDP, UNDP, WB, WWF	IW, BD	33.7	1 – Marine Living Resources	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Indonesia); sharing of knowledge products; Twinning
Establishment and Operation of Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	UNEP	IW	3.0	1 – Marine Living Resources	Regular exchange of experiences facilitated by EA SEAFDEC; sharing of knowledge products; Twinning

Project title/Country	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Area	GEF Funding (million USD)	BOBLME SAP Component	Coordination approach
PEMSEA Reducing Pollution and Preserving Environmental Flows in the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management in ASEAN Countries	UNDP	IW	8.5	3 – Water Quality	LME Learn exchange mechanism; Knowledge Products and events
Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3) International Waters, Biodiversity	WB	IW	10.2	1 – Marine Living Resources; 5 - Governance	LME Learn exchange mechanism; Knowledge Products and events
(NGI) The Meloy Fund: A Fund for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia Biodiversity	CI	IW		1 – Marine Living Resources; 4 – Livelihoods and Resilience	LME Learn exchange mechanism; Knowledge Products and events
Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Program	UNDP	IW	9.7	all Components	Regular exchange of experiences facilitated by EA SEAFDEC; sharing of knowledge products; Twinning
Bangladesh					
Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Biodiversity	UNDP	BD	3	1 – Marine Living Resources; 2 – Marine Managed Areas	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level; facilitated by BOBP-IGO; sharing of knowledge products
Community-based Climate Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in Bangladesh	FAO	CC-A	5.43	4 – Social and Economic Considerations	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level; facilitated by BOBP-IGO and FAO; sharing of knowledge products

Project title/Country	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Area	GEF Funding (million USD)	BOBLME SAP Component	Coordination approach
India					
Manas Integrated River Basin Management Project (M-IRBMP)	WWF	IW	6.4		IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events
Indonesia					
Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation				all components	
Integrated Management of Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (IMPLI)	IFAD	CC/BD/LD	4.8	all components	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Indonesia); sharing of knowledge products
Eco-system Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in Eastern Indonesia (Fisheries Management Area (FMA)- 715, 717 & 718)	WWF	BD/IW	6.9	1 – Marine Living Resources	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Indonesia); sharing of knowledge products; Twinning
Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Inland Fisheries Practices in Freshwater Ecosystems of High Conservation Value (IFish)	FAO	BD	6	all components	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Indonesia); sharing of knowledge products;
Malaysia					
GoTFish: Promoting Blue Economy through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand	FAO	IW	9.7	1 – Marine Living Resources	Regular exchange of experiences on both sub-regional level and NPSC level (Malaysia, Thailand); sharing of knowledge products
Maldives					

Project title/Country	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Area	GEF Funding (million USD)	BOBLME SAP Component	Coordination approach
Enhancing National Development through Environmentally Resilient Islands (ENDhERI)	UNEP	BD	3.5	4 – Livelihoods and Resilience	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Maldives); sharing of knowledge products;
Maldives mainstreaming of biodiversity and strengthening of MPAs	UNEP	BD	4	2 – Critical Habitats; MMAs	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Maldives); sharing of knowledge products
Myanmar					
Reducing Climate Vulnerability of Coastal Communities of Myanmar through an Ecosystem-based Approach	UNDP	LDCF	7	1 – Marine Living Resources; 4 Livelihoods and Resilience	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Myanmar); sharing of knowledge products
Rural Productivity and Ecosystems Services Enhanced in Central Dry Zone Forest Reserves, Myanmar	ADB	MFA	GEF: 4.9 ADB loan: 45	3 – Water Quality	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Myanmar) facilitated by ADB; sharing of knowledge products
My-Coast: Ecosystem-Based Conservation of Myanmar's Southern Coastal Zone	FAO	BD, CC-M, SFM	4.42	1 – Marine Living Resources 2 – Critical Habitats	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Myanmar); sharing of knowledge products
Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi, Myanmar	UNDP	LD, BD	5.25	2 – Critical Habitats	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Myanmar); sharing of knowledge products
FishAdapt: Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity and Resilience of Fisheries and Aquaculture-dependent Livelihoods in Myanmar	FAO	LDCF	6	1 – Marine Living resources; 4 – Livelihoods and Resilience	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Myanmar); sharing of knowledge products

Project title/Country	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Area	GEF Funding (million USD)	BOBLME SAP Component	Coordination approach
Sri Lanka					
Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya Districts in the Central Highlands, Sri Lanka	FAO	LD	1.34	3 – Water Quality	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Sri Lanka); sharing of knowledge products
Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Sustenance of Ecosystem Services in Environmentally Sensitive Areas Biodiversity	UNEP	BD	5.8	2 – Critical Habitats	Regular exchange of experiences on NPSC level (Sri Lanka); sharing of knowledge products
Thailand					
GoTFish: Promoting Blue Economy through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand	FAO	IW	9.7	1 – Marine Living resources	Regular exchange of experiences on both sub-regional level and NPSC level (Malaysia, Thailand); sharing of knowledge products;

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Socio economic benefits

The project's approach to generating interlinked global environmental and socio-economic benefits will ensure sustained support and interest from local communities to adopt measures such as EAFM and spatial management of critical marine habitats for provision of ecosystem services important for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem health of the BOBLME. Another long-term legacy of the project will be the institutionalization of training programmes on EAFM, MMAs, alternative livelihoods, 'decent work' and 'social protection'.

The global environmental benefits (Section 1.9) will be underpinned by socio-economic benefits related to improved and diversified livelihoods and food security and nutrition, accruing from improved delivery of ecosystem services thanks to improved management of fisheries and coastal and marine habitats, as well as reduction of pollution and improved water quality at selected hotspots.

In addition to the environmental benefits highlighted some of the key socio-economic benefits generated include:

- Resilience plans will be developed based on valuation of ecosystem services and threats related to livelihoods in at least one pilot coastal area (Focus Area) per country to support decision making in the BOBLME at regional, national and local levels
- Inclusion of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty reduction and development, as well as climate change policies, strategies and planning processes will be promoted
- Gender considerations mainstreamed into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks
- Alternative livelihood options, for both men and women, identified along the fisheries value chain and other blue growth opportunities, such as tourism
- Livelihood diversification for women piloted in at least one site per country
- Access to innovative financial services and insurance mechanisms to enhance resilience and improve livelihoods promoted
- Regional capacity development programme on alternative livelihoods and promotion of decent work opportunities, including social protection for empowerment and enhanced participation in coastal and marine resource management and conservation

Decent Rural Employment

Globally the fisheries sector is an important source of employment and income, supporting the livelihoods of 10-12 percent of the world's population. Just under 60 million people are employed in the primary sector alone, with a further 140 million employed along the value chain, from harvesting to distribution. While it is recognized that many fishing and aquaculture operations provide acceptable (and often good) conditions for fish workers, employment in fisheries and aquaculture typically does not provide sufficient income, and commonly exploits fish workers under hazardous conditions. Forced labour and poor working conditions at sea are a significant problem in some countries and the region.

A significant number of men and women work in or rely on the coastal and fisheries sector in the BOBLME countries.

The project promotes decent rural employment and will contribute to the FAO decent work pillars:

- *Pillar 1. Employment generation and enterprise development.* For the fisheries sector, the issues and decent work deficit include: low earnings and labour productivity, threats to sustainable livelihoods and also limited data and policy gaps
- *Pillar 2. Social protection.* For the fisheries sector, the decent work deficit includes issues such as lack of social protection and hazardous employment environment
- *Pillar 3 Standards and the right to work.* For the fisheries sector, the decent work deficit includes issues such as ineffective labour regulation, flags of convenience and IUU fishing, child labour, vulnerable migrant labour
- *Pillar 4. Governance and social dialogue.* For the fisheries sector, the decent work deficit may include low levels of organisation and participation

The project will build on the existing good practice developed during the TDA-SAP phase and the good progress many BOBLME countries have made in this context. In addition, several FAO and ILO guidelines may be relevant:

- 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

The project will support countries and partners in implementing key conventions in relation to work and conditions on fishing vessels for example:

- The Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS) key treaty concerning the safety of merchant and passenger vessels (most fishing vessels are from SOLAS's provisions).
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS) State jurisdiction over vessels and activities at sea
- The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F)
- The 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC) establishes decent working and living conditions for all seafarers worldwide on ships engaged in commercial activity, except ships engaged in fishing (who are regulated by the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)). The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) supplemented by the Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199) aims to ensure that fishers engaged in commercial inland and marine capture fisheries have decent conditions of work on board fishing vessels that meet minimum requirements
- The FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2009 (PSMA) focuses on the complementary responsibilities of flag States, coastal States and port States in combating illegal and non-sustainable fishing practices, especially in situations where flag states are unable to monitor vessels flying their flag

- The Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, replaced by the Torremolinos Protocol, 1993, contains safety requirements for the construction and equipment of new, decked, seagoing fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over, including those vessels also processing their catch
- Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 (2012)
- The ILO Protocol on Forced Labour, 2014, brought the existing ILO Convention on Forced Labour, 1930 (No. 29), into the modern era to address practices such as human trafficking. The Protocol will enter into force 12 months after the second ratification
- The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995 (CCRF) emphasizes the importance of fish workers' rights. Reference is made to effective participation in decision making and safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions in relation to relevant international agreements on conditions of work and service. The code is voluntary but parts are based on relevant or binding international law (UNCLOS) and UNFSA (United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA))
- The International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2001 (IPOA-IUU), calls for State action plans that address all the economic, social and environmental impacts of IUU fishing. Requests flag States ensure vessels on their register hold a valid authorization to fish in waters beyond its jurisdiction and that such authorization is contingent on compliance with applicable international conventions and national laws and regulations pertaining, among others, to maritime safety
- The Document for Guidance on Training and Certification of Fishing Vessel Personnel, 2001, Training and certification of both small-scale and industrial maritime fishers
- The Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005.
- The Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005, provide information on the design, construction, and equipment of small fishing vessels with a view to promoting the safety of the vessel and safety and health of the crew
- The Guidelines for Port State Control Officers carrying out inspections under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) have been developed to assist port State administrations to effectively implement their responsibilities under the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188); and promote harmonization in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention concerning port State responsibilities
- The Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, 2011, provide guidance for the development, organization and implementation of credible aquaculture certification schemes. The guidelines establish that aquaculture should be conducted in a socially responsible manner, within national rules and regulations, having regard to the ILO convention on labour rights, not jeopardizing the livelihood of aquaculture workers and local communities

- The Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 meters in length and undecked fishing vessels, 2012, provide information on the design, construction, equipment, training and protection of the crews of small fishing vessels with a view to promoting the safety of the vessel and the safety and health of the crews. The Safety Recommendations may also serve as a guide for those concerned with the safety of vessels used in support of aquaculture activities. The Guidance on Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture, 2013, provides an overview of concepts and current situation of child labour practices in the sub-sectors with subsequent recommendations on how to tackle child labour issues.
- The Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, 2014, spell out a range of actions that countries can take to ensure that vessels registered under their flags do not conduct IUU fishing, including monitoring, control and surveillance
- The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, 2014 (VGSSF guidelines) complement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) with the understanding that even though the CCRF covers small-scale fisheries, there is a need to address the subsector more comprehensively. The SSF Guidelines apply a human rights-based approach and refer to social and economic development alongside resource management, with a particular section dedicated to employment and decent work. All workers, particularly the most vulnerable such as women and migrants, along the SSF value chain (including pre- and post- harvest), in full-time, part-time, occasional and/or subsistence activities, both in the formal and informal sectors should be recognized by States. It calls for all States to ensure that ILO Conventions concerning occupational health unfair working conditions of fishers, as well as FAO, IMO and ILO instruments and guidelines on safety at sea are transferred into national legislation. The guidelines specifically identify the vulnerability of migrant workers, the need to prevent child labour and empower post-harvest fish workers of which the majority are women
- The Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure and Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) (FAO, 2012)

[1] FAO has globally adopted seven AAP commitments, applicable in both emergency and development programmes:

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/Guidance%20Note%20Accountability.pdf

[2] HAP (2010b) The 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management. Geneva: HAP. <http://www.hapinternational.org/pool/files/2010-hap-standard-in-accountability.pdf>

A.8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate on the Knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management and effective communication will be a cross-cutting priority under all of the project's Outputs and Outcomes. This will be facilitated through the project's

Output 5.2.1 Communication Strategy developed and implemented; Output 5.2.2. Programme findings and lessons learned identified and contribute to IW:LEARN and LME Learn and Output 5.2.3. Regional information sharing mechanism developed enabling broad access to best practices and lessons learned in the participating countries. In addition, regional network of EAFM trainers; national committees / sub-regional hubs established by the project under Outcome 1.1, and regional information sharing network on MPA under Outcome 2.2 are some examples of key knowledge management and communication channels that the project will support.

The project will develop a knowledge management and communication strategy at the outset of the project implementation, with participation of all BOBLME partners. This will be based on strategic principles presented in FAO Knowledge Strategy 2011 and GEF's KM strategy. This Strategy will aim at "stimulating the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge, including statistics." The Knowledge Strategy will be conceptually rigorous but practical and results-based. It will both build upon successful techniques already being used and encourage innovation. The project will play a key facilitation role in ensuring that the world's knowledge resources are available to BOBLME countries but also the relevant knowledge from the BOBLME countries, especially those generated through the project, are also available to the world. The knowledge management and communication strategy will also build on best practices that have been outlined in Knowledge Sharing Toolkit (<http://www.kstoolkit.org/home>). The Strategy will also facilitate knowledge sharing between BOBLME countries and from BOBLME to others through programmes such as IW:LEARN.

There will also be a strong focus on effective communication within the project institutional structure so that there is smooth flow of communication between regional steering committee to national committees to the ground. There will also be strong focus of communication and knowledge sharing between the FAO-led BOBLME child project and the ADB-led BOBLME child project. Reaching, informing, and engaging external stakeholders at local, State, national and international level outside of the project will also be high priority. The project will also use existing government, partner, GEF and FAO communication channels to disseminate knowledge. One element of knowledge management and communication will be through BOBLME website and its use as a regional information sharing mechanism to support wide dissemination of Project and Programme findings and lessons to the participating countries as well as to the GEF IWLearn. The Project's communication is also going to focus on sharing lessons with other relevant programmes and projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B.1. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with nation strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

Linkages to national priorities in BOBLME SAP/NAPs: The BOBLME SAP identifies national actions under each of its components in each participating country. All eight countries committed to either continue supporting and aligning actions in support of the SAP components or initiate new actions necessary to meet the common targets under the SAP. For example, EAFM will be new to the Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, while it is already ongoing in the other countries, but in need of strengthening; development of NPOAs for ETP species will be new to Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka, but ongoing in the other countries; and introduction of new measures to improve management of nutrients will be important to most countries.

Linkages to CBD NBSAPs: The Project is fully consistent with the countries' National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that all have elements focusing of conservation of biodiversity in the coastal and marine environment. The Project will also collaborate with UNEP/SACEP Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to provide a framework for coordination and collaboration between South Asian Seas countries' NBSAPs, enhancing national and regional interventions for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity targets, particularly those addressing coastal and marine issues relevant to the region.

Linkages to UNFCCC NCs/INDCs and NAPAs/NAPs: All countries have developed National Communications to the UNFCCC where forestry is a priority sector for emission reduction. Bangladesh and Myanmar have also developed National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs) to protect vulnerable populations and ecosystems, including coastal areas. However, potential (negative) secondary impacts of many proposed NAPA adaptation actions on the fisheries and aquaculture sector have not been fully analysed (e.g. watershed management for irrigation, flood protection, mangrove replanting). Regional fisheries management and transboundary fisheries management issues had not been considered (for example migratory species). All BOBLME countries have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC. These include mitigation and adaptation targets for fisheries and aquaculture and the blue sectors. Priority actions include employing stress tolerant fish varieties, enhancing resilience to marine disasters, strengthening insurance schemes for fisherfolk and promoting adaptive aquaculture practices. Reduction of emissions from the forestry sector, including mangroves, is a high priority of the INDCs, and protection of coastal and marine resources is a key adaptation priority. The BOBLME Project will fully support countries in achieving targets under the INDCs and it will work closely with GCF agencies and NDAs.

Expected outcomes of the proposed project are fully consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will contribute to a range of important socio-economic and environmental SDG targets, especially SDG 14 : Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, and its targets 1-5: by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution; by 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal

ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans; minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels; by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics; and by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- National Legislation, Governance and provisions for Environmental and Social Risk Management

C. Describe The Budgeted M & E Plan:

Project oversight will be carried out by the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) and FAO as the GEF agency (including the FAO GEF Coordination Unit, Technical Units in FAO RAP and HQ).

Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered.

Regular Monitoring is a task of Regional Coordination Unit (RCU), with support of the Executing Agencies and the FAO; FAO will be responsible for the Mid-term review and the Final Evaluation.

9.1 Indicators and information sources

Specific indicators and targets have been established in the Results Framework (see Annex A1) to monitor project progress, outputs and outcomes. The framework's indicators and means of verification will be applied to monitor both project performance and impact. The main sources of information to support the M&E will be:

- Inception Report
- Workshop reports and workshop evaluation forms / feedback sheets
- Reports from the high-level meetings
- Mid-term review and Final evaluation
- Six-monthly project progress reports
- Quarterly and six-month financial reports and annual budget revisions
- Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)
- Supervision mission reports

9.2. Project supervision

FAO will provide oversight of GEF-financed activities, outputs and outcomes, establishing a project task force consisting of the Budget Holder, the project Lead Technical Officer, Funding Liaison Officer and HQ Technical Officer(s). Oversight will be primarily delivered through the annual project implementation report, project evaluations, the meeting of the Regional Project Steering Committee and annual supervisory missions and audits.

As a GEF Agency, FAO provides overall supervision and technical guidance, and will undertake supervision missions to project sites to provide technical backstopping, and they are also part of assurance activities including field visits to the project sites in a timely manner for monitoring the completion by the Operational Partners in accordance with the work plan, budgets, and progress towards producing the project outputs, particularly in cases where gaps or shortcomings are identified so to agree upon corrective actions and risk mitigation measures.

9.3 Reporting

Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Coordination Unit (RCU). Project performance will be monitored using the project results framework, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception the results framework will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results framework and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E specialist.

Specific reports that will be prepared under the RCU and under the M&E programme are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the GEF Monitoring Evaluation Tracking Tools against the baseline (completed during project preparation) will be required at mid-term and final project evaluation.

Executing partner reporting requirements are the responsibility of each partner (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO) and outlined in their individual partnership agreements (PA) and Table 9.1. The preparation of the consolidated report for submission to FAO is a task of the RCU.

Table 9.1 Monitoring and evaluation framework.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Inception Workshop	IUCN-RCU Project implementation partners and FAO	Within six months of project document signature	25,000 USD
Project Inception Report	IUCN-RCU, LTO, BH	Within two weeks of inception workshop	Included in M+E expert TOR
FAO Supervision visits	FAO: BH, LTO, FLO and possibly FAO country offices.	Annually	Included in GEF Agency fee (FAO LTO fee); and supported by project monitoring budget
Project Progress Reports (PPR) to FAO (1 report from each partner)	Partners (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO), RCU, LTO, BH.	Annually	Included in the OPA and M+E expert TOR
Six-monthly financial statements	Partners (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO), RCU, BH	Semi-annually	OPA
Project Implementation Review report (PIR) to be submitted by IA to GEF	FAO with support of Partners (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO), RCU, LTO	Annually (July)	Included in OPA and M+E expert TOR
Co-financing Reports (1 report each partner, RCU to consolidate reports from country partners); part of MTR	FAO (MTR), with support of Partners (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO), RCU, LTO, BH	Annually	Included in OPA and M+E expert TOR
Mid Term Review of Bangladesh CCM component	FAO Office of evaluation, with support of RCU, BH, LTO	During the mid- point of sub component implementation	FAO independent evaluation office
Mid Term Review of BOBLME FAO Child project (and programme)	FAO Office of evaluation, RCU, BH, LTO, OPs	During the mid- point of implementation	FAO independent evaluation office 110,000

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Final evaluation of BOBLME (Programme and FAO Child project)	FAO Office of Evaluation, BH, LTO, RCU, OPs	At least three months before operational closure	FAO independent evaluation office 160,000
Terminal Report (FAO programme and FAO child project)	BH, LTO, RCU, Project Regional Coordinator	Within two months of project closure	Included in FAO fee and TOR of regional coordinator
Audit and reporting for all 3 partners.	BH, LTO, OPIM Audit, OPs	Annually	121,750 USD
Final report	FAO, BH, LTO	At end of project	7 000 USD
Total Budget			423,750 USD

Implementation partner reporting requirements are the responsibility of each partner (IUCN, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO) and outlined in their individual operational partnership agreements (OPA).

Project Inception Report.

It is recommended that the RCU prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with FAO (LTO, BH) and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized through follow up planning and start-up actions with the executing partners and countries.

The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, and a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be prepared in the third quarter after project start-up and circulated to the PSC members once finalized. This report will be cleared by the FAO (BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit) prior to the first PSC meeting.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B)

The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the RCU and OPs in consultation with FAO and key project stakeholders. After FAO initial clearance RCU will submit the first draft to the Project Inception Workshop (IW) for review and comments. Then the RCU with support of OPs, will incorporate the IW inputs into it and will submit an updated draft AWP/B within two weeks of the IW to the FAO for operational clearance by BH and technical clearance by LTO. The cleared final draft will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) for review and approval before it is put into implementation. Once finalized the AWP/B is to be uploaded on the FAO FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators so that the project's work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented by each OPs to achieve the project outputs as well as the output divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates with indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed overall project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year.

Each OP will be responsible for preparing their own annual work plans and budgets according to their individual assignments under the coordination of the RCU. The RCU will coordinate and integrate these into the regional work plan and budget. More details about the roles of the OPs are available in the Annex L (TORs of Operational Partners, Committees and Experts)

Project Progress Reports (PPR)

PPRs will be prepared by each OP based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to report the achievements or results made in the past six-months and also to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The RCU and OPs should follow the reporting schedule and submit PPR to the Budget Holder who has the responsibility will to coordinate with the PTF members and the FAO finance unit to review the project progress and the relevant expenditures. RCU and OPs would explain and provide additional information to address inquires and comments raised from FAO. Once the PPR is operationally and technically cleared by FAO, the PPR will be submitted to FAO-GEF Unit for endorsement and to be uploaded to the FPMIS by FLO accordingly

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR)

With the support of the OPs, the RCU is to coordinate the inputs among the project execution partners and prepare the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) using GEF PIR format, which should be submitted to LTO before end of July for review and technical clearance in consultation with the BH and the other PTF members. The LTO will submit the final version to FAO-GEF Unit. Annual PIR covers the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) and is to be submitted to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) for review and approval. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit.

Key milestones for the PIR process:

- Early August: the LTO submits the draft PIR (after consultations with BH, project team) to the GEF Coordination Unit (faogef@fao.org , copying respective GEF Unit officer) for initial review
- Mid August: FAO GEF Coordination Unit responsible officers review main elements of PIR and discuss with LTO as required
- Late August: the FAO GEF Coordination Unit prepares and finalizes the FAO Summary Tables and sends to the GEF Secretariat by the date communicated each year by the GEF Secretariat through the FAO GEF Coordination Unit
- September/October: PIR is finalized. PIR carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and discussed with the LTO for final review and clearance
- Mid November: (date to be confirmed by the GEF): the FAO GEF Coordination Unit submits the final PIR report - cleared by the LTU and approved by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit - to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

Technical Reports

Technical reports are prepared by national, international consultants or the project contracted service providers as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted to the respective operational partner and LTO for clearance. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said report. The LTO will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and reported to the Project Steering Committee as appropriate. Technical reports that are to be published will be submitted to FAO for review and clearance in accordance with FAO rules and regulations on publications.

Co-financing Reports

The RCU with support and inputs from the OPs will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Request. The RCU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the LTO and BH. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

GEF Tracking Tools

Following the GEF policies and procedures, the relevant tracking tools will be submitted at two points: (i) with the project document at CEO endorsement and (ii) with the project's terminal evaluation or final completion report. The TT will be uploaded in FPMIS by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The TT are developed by the Project Design Specialist, in close collaboration with the RCU and the FAO Project Task Force. They are filled in by the PMU and made available for the final evaluation.

Terminal Report

Within two months before the end date of the project the RCU will submit to the BH and LTO a draft Terminal Report on the basis of the inputs from the Operational Partners (OPs) who provide their inputs of their parts three months before the project end date. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to report to project results and also to give advice at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

9.4 Evaluation provisions

An independent mid-term review will be undertaken at the mid-point of project implementation and its plan for MTR should be endorsed by the PSC. The review will determine progress being made towards achievement of objectives, outcomes, and outputs, and will identify corrective actions if necessary. It will, inter alia:

- Review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation
- Analyse effectiveness of implementation and partnership arrangements
- Identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions
- Identify lessons learned about project design, implementation and management
- Highlight technical achievements and lessons learned
- Propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary

An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place three months prior to the Final Project Steering Committee meeting of the project partners and will focus on points (iv) and (v) listed above. In addition, the Terminal Evaluation will review project impacts and analyse sustainability of results and whether the project has achieved its environmental and development objectives. The evaluation will furthermore provide recommendations for follow-up actions (in particular related to any future SAP implementation projects for the BOBLME).

Drafting the evaluation Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Mid-term and Final Evaluations is under the ultimate responsibility of the FAO Office of Evaluation (OEDD), with participation from the RCU and the FAO Project Task Force (PTF).

A thematic assessment will be undertaken for the Bangladesh CCM sub project component to inform stakeholders on completion of the component (after 3 years) and share lessons.

PART III: Certification by GEF partner agency(ies)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Jeffrey Griffin		Lorenzo Paolo Galbiati		lorenzo.galbiati@fao.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Project Objective: 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</p>	<p>1. Areas under sustainable management (MPA, Fisheries) GEF indicator 2. Landings [or value] of fisheries 3. Sequestration of Carbon (CO₂). (refers to Outcome 2.2) 4. Gender balance in project activities</p>	<p>1. 6.2 million km² under existing management in 2019 2. Landings (value) of 6 million tonnes under existing management 3. 170,000 tCO₂ sequestered (refers to Outcome 2.2) 4. Gender balance at inception.</p>	<p>1. 3.1 million km² x under improved management in 2023 2. Landings (value) 3 million tonnes under sustainable management 3. 1,500,000 tCO₂ sequestered (refers to Outcome 2.2) 4. Gender balance at mid-term</p>	<p>1. 6.2 million km² x under improved management in 2025 2. Landings (value) 6 million tonnes under sustainable management 3. 2,959,482 tCO₂ sequestered (refers to Outcome 2.2) 4. Gender balance achieved</p>	<p>Government statistics RFB reports Project reports Project reports Gender review</p>		<p>Government agencies, Implementing partners RFB IUCN FAO</p>
Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 1.1 The ecosystem approach to fisheries management institutionalized at national level, including targeted transboundary fish stocks	1. Practitioners applying EAFM in each country 2. EAFM plans implemented in project areas (through Focus Area approach) 3. Number of institutions applying EAFM 4. Policies include EAFM 5. Gender balance of implementation activities (involvement of men and women)	1. 300 x people applying EAFM 2. 0 x EAFM plans under implementation 3. 10 x institutions currently applying EAFM 4. 4 x policies include EAFM 5. Gender balance at inception	1. 500 practitioners (to be confirmed on implementation) 2. 8 x project supported EAFM plans implemented through Focus Area approach 3. 16 Institutions applying EAFM 4. 6 x policies include EAFM 5. Gender balance at MTR.	1. 1,000 practitioners 2. 16 x project supported EAFM plans implemented through Focus Area approach. 3. 16 Institutions applying EAFM. 4. 8 x policies include EAFM 5. Gender Balance at completion achieved	Project progress reports Project evaluations Project training reports National policies Regional strategies Project reviews	National strategies to support implementation of EAFM implementation are maintained. Practitioners and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities	Government agencies Implementation partners
<u>Output 1.1.1 At least 2 EAFM plans implemented in each country.</u> · 3 x countries existing EAFM plans strengthened (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand implementing EAFM) · 5 x countries EAFM plans developed (Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar to develop 2 each). <u>Output 1.1.2. National and regional platforms established or strengthened to involve grassroots stakeholders in management decision-making</u> · 2 x regional platforms supported. · 8 x countries existing platforms strengthened <u>Output 1.1.3 EAFM training embedded in national and regional training institutions.</u>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 1.2 IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced:	1. IUU catch (in tonnes) in the BOBLME (2014 BOBLME Baseline[1]). 2. BOBLME wide Regional plan of action to combat IUU (RPOA-IUU) endorsed. 3. NPOA-IUU endorsed. 4. Tools for promoting good practice in combatting IUU developed. 5. Regional platform for capacity development on MCS and training. 6. Gender balance in project activities. activities	1. Catch reported in BOBLME assessment tonnes 2. No RPOA-IUU 3. 5 x countries with endorsed NPOA-IUU 4. Some tools exist for promoting good practice in combatting IUU developed (TBD on inception). 5. No regional platform or training 6. Gender balance at inception	1. 10% reduction in IUU catch. 2. BOBLME RPOA IUU drafted 3. 3 additional countries prepare NPOA-IUU 4. 8 x countries develop tools for promoting good practice in combatting IUU 5. Regional platform piloted and training of 80 people 6. Gender balance at mid-term	1. 20 % reduction in IUU catch 2. BOBLME RPOA-IUU endorsed by countries. 3. 8 countries with implemented NPOA-IUU 4. 8 x countries with tools for promoting good practice in combatting IUU developed 5. Regional platform operating and 160 people trained. 6. Gender balance at completion achieved	RFB reports FAO PSMA reports Country reports Project evaluation Project reports RPOA-IUU BOBLME Regional platform TOR.	Capacity of government to estimate IUU catch. Political support to combatting IUU remains strong. Practitioners and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities Agreement between countries on regional actions can be reached.	Government agencies Implementation partners
<u>Output 1.2.1 BOBLME countries join and implement a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on IUU fishing</u> <u>Output 1.2.2. National POAs-IUU and national IUU MCS systems and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) strengthened</u> <u>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)</u> <u>Output 1.2.4 Regional Capacity Development Program on port inspections, MCS and traceability implemented</u>							
Component 2: Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcome 2.1 Coastal and Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) contribute to conservation of biodiversity</p>	<p>1. Hectares of protected areas under management 2. Number of MMA's established or strengthened 3. Regional capacity development programme 4. Gender balance target.</p>	<p>1. 2,000,000 hectares under existing management 2. At least 8 MMAs in need of strengthening. 3. No regional capacity development programme for BOBLME. 4. Gender balance at inception.</p>	<p>1. 1,000,000 hectares under improved management 2. Strengthening process in at least 8 MMAs in progress and achieving measurable results. 3. Regional capacity development programme for BOBLME developed and 100 people trained 4. Gender balance at mid-term</p>	<p>1 2,000,000 hectares under improved management 2. At least 8 MMAs strengthened and under improved management based on advice from the Green List assessment process. 3. Regional capacity development programme for BOBLME developed and 200 people trained 4. Gender balance at project completion</p>	<p>Project progress reports Project evaluations Project training reports National policies Regional strategies Project reviews Green List assessment reports</p>	<p>Stakeholders can agree on protected area management measures. Political support to implementing MPA/MMA remains strong. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities. Agreement between countries on regional actions can be reached.</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners</p>
<p><u>Output 2.1.1 MMAs established or strengthened, and contribute to conservation of transboundary biodiversity.</u> <u>Output 2.1.2 Regional capacity development program promoting best practices in management and evaluation of MMAs</u></p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcome 2.2 National MMAs established or strengthened resulting in improved MMA management effectiveness at national level: (CCM Bangladesh)</p>	<p>1. Area of mangroves protected/conserved and under improved management. 2. Sequestration of Carbon (CO₂). 3. Gender balance target.</p>	<p>1. 0 hectares with improved management (of 303,000 Ha hectares). 2. 170,000 tCO₂ sequestered 3. Gender balance at baseline.</p>	<p>1. 150,000 hectares with improved management (of 303,000 Ha hectares). 2. 1,500,000 tCO₂ sequestered 3. Gender balance target at mid-term.</p>	<p>1. 303,000 hectares with improved management (of 303,000 Ha hectares). 2. 2,959,482 tCO₂ sequestered 3. Gender balance at project completion</p>	<p>Project (sub component progress reports Project evaluations Project training reports National policies Regional strategies Project reviews</p>	<p>Stakeholders can agree on protected area management measures. Political support to CCM actions and mangrove conservations remains strong. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities. Interagency coordination is able to support implementation effectively. Interagency agreement can be reached.</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners IUCN</p>
<p>Output 2.2.1 Enhancing the role of Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of forest stocks in Bangladesh</p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcome 2.3 Regional consensus and agreements reached on reduction of threats to marine biodiversity in coastal and open waters</p>	<p>1. Regional plan of action for ETP species. 2. National ETP species plans developed (e.g. whale sharks and sea turtles) 3. Gender balance target.</p>	<p>1. No regional plan of action for ETP exists. 2. 4 x national ETP in BOBLME countries. 3. Gender balance at baseline.</p>	<p>1. 1 x BOBLME Regional plan of action for ETP species. 2. 6 x ETP plans in BOBLME countries. 3. Gender balance target at mid-term.</p>	<p>1. 1 x BOBLME Regional plan of action for ETP species. 2. 8x National ETP species plans developed (e.g. whale sharks and sea turtles) 3. Gender balance at project completion.</p>	<p>Regional ETP plan endorsed by countries. National ETP plans developed and endorsed. Project progress reports Project evaluations Project training reports National policies Regional strategies Project reviews</p>	<p>Stakeholders can agree on protected area management measures. Political support to implementing MPA/MMA remains strong. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities. Agreement between countries on regional actions can be reached.</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners IUCN</p>
<p>Output 2.3.1 A regional plan of action for ETP species Output 2.3.2 Legislative frameworks on ETP species harmonized across countries.</p>							
<p>Component 3: Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health</p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>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.</p>	<p>1. Good practice documents / National guidelines developed 2. Improved waste management practiced in 8 fishing ports 3. Action plans for gear marking developed and disseminated 4. Gender balance target in capacity development and waste management practice</p>	<p>1. Poor waste management practices 2. No gear marking scheme exists 3. Gender balance at baseline</p>	<p>8 Fishing ports / fish landings covered by studies with recommendations / Good Practice documents 4 National guidelines on waste management 4 Action Plans on gear marking</p>	<p>8 National Guidelines on waste management 8 Action Plans on gear marking 8 countries participate in GPNM / GPML</p>	<p>National Guidelines documents Action Plans Project progress reports Project evaluations GPNM / GPML reports</p>	<p>Agreement reached on fishing ports / fish landings Political support / will on combatting marine pollution remains strong Resource users' and private sector participation in waste management and gear marking schemes maintained</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners IUCN</p>
<p>Output 3.1.1 Improved waste management practices in fishing harbours</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 Marking of fishing gears and the development and dissemination of corresponding regional guidelines</p>							
<p>Outcome 3.2 Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds</p>	<p>This is the ADB-led BOBLME Child Project</p>						
<p>Component 4: Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME (supporting implementation of key concerns of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication SSF-Guidelines; VG-SSF)</p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcome 4.1 Enhanced resilience and reduced vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and change of selected coastal communities:</p>	<p>1. Community resilience plans developed based on valuation of ecosystem services (integrated with fisheries management and MMA and delivered through the project Focus Area approach)</p> <p>2. Number of national Policies or strategies developed integrating sectors relevant to BOBLME</p> <p>3. Gender mainstreaming strategy developed</p>	<p>1. No resilience plans in selected communities</p> <p>2. x 8 National policies exist but are not integrated</p> <p>3. No gender mainstreaming strategy exists,</p>	<p>1. 8 x resilience plans developed and implemented using project Focus Area approaches implemented (1x in each country)</p> <p>2. x 8 integrated national polies/strategies endorsed.</p> <p>3. gender mainstreaming strategy implemented,</p>	<p>1. x 8 resilience plans developed. An additional x 8 communities may be considered to give x 16 if funds available at MT.</p> <p>2. x 8 integrated national polies/strategies endorsed.</p> <p>3. Gender balance in project activities.</p>	<p>Project progress reports</p> <p>National Policies/strategies developed.</p> <p>Community plans developed and endorsed by communities.</p> <p>Project evaluations</p> <p>Project training reports</p>	<p>Communities /stakeholders participate in and agree plans. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities.</p>	<p>Government agencies</p> <p>Implementation partners</p> <p>IUCN</p>
<p>Output 4.1.1 Resilience plans developed based on valuation of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Output 4.1.2 Inclusion of coastal fisheries and aquaculture in poverty reduction and development, as well as climate change policies, strategies and planning processes promoted</p> <p>Output 4.1.3. Gender considerations mainstreamed into relevant policy and regulatory frameworks</p>							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 4.2 Enhanced sustainable livelihoods and diversification for selected coastal communities.	1. Number of Livelihood diversification strategies developed. 2. Sites piloting livelihood diversification for women (through project Focus Areas) 3. Number of innovative financial services and insurance mechanisms developed. 4. Regional capacity development programme on alternative livelihoods and promotion of decent work. 5. Gender balance in project implementation	1. No strategies present. 2. No sites piloting livelihood diversification for women. 3. No financial services developed. 4. No regional training programme. 5. No gender mainstreaming at baseline.	1. 8 x strategies developed (1 for each community). 2. 8x sites piloting livelihood diversification for women. 3. Financial services developed. 4. No regional training programme developed and initiated. 5. Gender mainstreaming target at mid-term.	1. 8 x strategies developed (1 for each community). 2. 8x sites piloting livelihood diversification for women. 3. Financial services developed, available and utilized. 4. Regional training programme on-going. 5. Gender mainstreaming at project completion	Project progress reports Livelihood diversification strategies Community plans developed and endorsed by communities. Project evaluations Project training reports	Communities /stakeholders participate in and agree livelihood diversifications plans. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities	Government agencies Implementation partners IUCN
<u>Output 4.2.1 Livelihood diversification for women piloted (in at least one site per country)</u> <u>Output 4.2.2. Access to innovative financial services and insurance mechanisms improved</u> <u>Output 4.2.3. Regional capacity development programme for selected coastal communities on alternative livelihoods, promoting decent work, social protection for empowerment.</u>							
Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME							

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Outcome 5.1. Strengthened institutional mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME</p>	<p>1. A regional mechanism established to coordinate action on BOBLME. 2. National multi stakeholder mechanisms established to coordinate action on the BOBLME. 3. Financing partnerships agreed 4. National inter and intra ministerial committees established (or strengthened if they exist). 5. BOBLME monitoring system developed. 6. Gender balance in implementation.</p>	<p>1. No regional mechanism established to coordinate action on BOBLME. 2. No national multi stakeholder mechanisms established to coordinate action on the BOBLME. 3. No financing partnerships. 4. Some coordinating mechanism exist but no national inter and intra ministerial committees established. 5. No BOBLME monitoring system developed. 6. Gender balance at baseline</p>	<p>1. 1 x regional mechanism established to coordinate action on BOBLME. 2. 8 x National multi stakeholder mechanisms established to coordinate action on the BOBLME. 3. Financing partnerships drafted. 4. 8 x National inter and intra ministerial committees established. 5. BOBLME monitoring system developed. 6. Gender balance at mid-term</p>	<p>1. 1 x regional mechanism established to coordinate action on BOBLME. 2. 8 x National multi stakeholder mechanisms established to coordinate action on the BOBLME. 3. Financing partnerships agreed 4. 8 x National inter and intra ministerial committees established. 5. BOBLME monitoring system developed and on-going. 6. Gender balance at project completion</p>	<p>Regional agreement on coordination of the BOBLME. National and regional meeting reports Project reports. Draft sustainable financing strategy document, National coordination committees established or strengthened. Regular reports on the health of the BOBLME.</p>	<p>There is political and financing support for establishing and sustaining a regional governance mechanism for the BOBLME. Practitioners, stakeholders and government staff are able to dedicate time to support project activities Countries are able to reach agreement on BOBLME coordination.</p>	<p>Government agencies Implementation partners IUCN FAO</p>

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 5.1.1 CCR-BOBLME established to promote stakeholder participation and awareness, ecosystem assessment, and application of best practices in implementation of the SAP</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.1.2 Long-term partnership arrangements agreed for sustainable regional coordination mechanism and sustainable financing for ecosystem-based management in the BOBLME</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.1.3 National inter-sectoral coordination committees to support SAP implementation established.</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.1.4 Stakeholder consultation mechanism established for engagement of civil society, cooperatives, and the private sector</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.1.5 Baseline data collection and analysis systems developed for monitoring systems and sharing information.</u></p>							
<p>Outcome 5.2. Adaptive results-based management and sharing of information and lessons learned</p>	<p>1. Project communication strategy</p> <p>2. Number of lessons learned/policy documents</p> <p>3. SAP implementation monitoring systems</p> <p>4. Gender balance on implementation</p>	<p>1. No project communication strategy</p> <p>2. No lessons learned/policy documents</p> <p>3. No SAP implementation monitoring systems</p> <p>4. Gender balance at baseline</p>	<p>1. x 1 Project communication strategy</p> <p>2. 20 lessons learned/policy documents</p> <p>3. SAP implementation monitoring systems in place</p> <p>4. Gender balance at mid-term</p>	<p>1. x 1 Project communication strategy</p> <p>2. 40 lessons learned/policy documents</p> <p>3. SAP implementation monitoring systems in place.</p> <p>4. Gender balance at project completion</p>	<p>Project communication strategy.</p> <p>Lessons learned documents</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Reports on SAP implementation</p>		<p>Government agencies</p> <p>Implementation partners</p> <p>IUCN</p> <p>FAO</p>
<p><u>Output 5.2.1 Communication Strategy developed and implemented</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.2.2. Programme findings and lessons learned identified and contribute to IW:LEARN and LME Learn</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.2.3. Regional information sharing mechanism developed enabling broad access to best practices and lessons learned in the participating countries</u></p> <p><u>Output 5.2.4. Monitoring system operating and providing systematic and regular information updates on progress towards reaching BOBLME SAP targets</u></p>							

[1] The baseline document is :

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

B.1 Agency response to Comments at PFD submission (24-1-18)

Questions	Secretariat Comment at PIF	Agency Response
5. Are the components in Table B sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve project objectives and the GEBS?	L Karrer (Sept 7, 2017) No. Please address the following points:	

1) The Implementing Agencies (FAO and ADB) cannot be the Executing Agencies. The child projects (Annex A, B) note FAO as both IA and EA. This needs to be corrected to identify a different organization as EA.

1. The program will be executed and implemented through agencies and partners at a) regional, sub regional and b) national level. Please refer to the revised PFD, “*Part I, program identification*” and *Annex B* where a number of potential execution agencies have been listed.

With respect to an execution agency at a) regional and sub-regional and, as discussed with GEF, at present there is no single entity with the mandate nor geographic coverage to directly implement the regional BOBLME SAP. As outlined in the PFD, a high priority for the program is the development of the proposed *Consortium for the Conservation and Restoration of the BOBLME (CCR-BOBLME)*. It is acknowledged that the development of the consortium will take time to ensure full ownership and agreement with the 8 participating countries, and commitment to its sustainability. During the PPG phase FAO will develop options for execution through regional and sub regional partners. Existing regional partners will again be reviewed with respect to their potential to act as overall regional executing partners (these may include but are not limited to APFIC, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO). Based on this required consultation and dialogue, the mandate and a clear work program for the CCR-BOBLME itself will be developed during the PPG. In this interim period, it is important that FAO continue to lead and provide support to execution and to the establishment of the CCR-BOBLME itself. Please refer to the revised PFD, *Sections in PFD paragraphs 80 and 84*, and child projects where regional and sub-regional executing partners (including APFIC, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO, IUCN/MFF, COBSEA, UN Environment and UNIDO) are identified.

b) At country level the program will be nationally executed, and implemented through executing agencies and partners. Discussion with these key institutional partners is ongoing, and will be further solidified during PPG. These include relevant Ministries of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministries of Environment, and other focal national agencies from all eight participating countries will undertake execution.

c) The ADB child project will be executed by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) and Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and Equivalent bodies in Thanlyin.

<p>2) For the overall Programme the Executing Agency needs to be identified and cannot be FAO or ADB. If this is going to be determined during PPG, then plans to do so need to be clearly stated.</p>	<p>2. As above, the program will be executed through a number of agencies and partners at regional, sub regional and national level. Please refer to the revised PFD, <i>Sections 80 and 84, and child projects</i>). Ongoing and planned country and partner (e.g. APFIC, SEAFDEC, BOBP-IGO, IUCN/MFF, COBSEA, UN Environment, UNIDO) consultations will continue to formalize the CCR-BOBLME, and mobilize other critical Executing partners (e.g. relevant National Government Agencies), National Task Force members, technical and implementation details (e.g. hotspots, location, specific intervention) with qualified targets and indicators. Please refer to paragraph 80.</p> <p>The ADB child project is executed by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) and Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC)</p>
<p>3) OFP endorsement letters are missing from India, Malaysia and Thailand.</p>	<p>3. OFP endorsement letters from OFP's in all countries have been received and the OFP letters from India and Malaysia are attached. Thailand had issued an endorsement letter, which only listed FAO as GEF Implementing Agency. Therefore, a new letter has been requested that lists both FAO and ADB as GEF IAs. The Thailand's letter (although not the correct version) is also being submitted for information to the GEFSEC.</p>
<p>4) The SAP with ministerial level signatures from all countries needs to be provided.</p>	<p>4. The SAP with ministerial level signatures can be downloaded from http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME%20SAP-Final.pdf. Owing to its large size, the document is not being submitted with this PFD resubmission.</p>

	<p>5) There is a heavy bias toward fisheries activities, which are much more explicit and impressive. For example there will be 2 fisheries plans for all countries; whereas only 2 new MMAs in total. This needs to be reconsidered or justified, especially given that the SAP identifies needs for pollution and habitat restoration in all the countries.</p>	<p>5. These priorities have been influenced by the following considerations:</p> <p>a) The priorities of the countries and partners identified during country and partner consultations for the finalization of the PFD (and during the preparation of the SAP). Complete implementation of the SAP will require significantly more funds and time. Selective implementation approach, based on country needs and priorities, and availability of funding, was needed.</p> <p>b) The need (proposal from the GEF) for National STAR allocation to support national level actions under Component 2 (such as habitat restoration). This approach was agreed after discussions with GEF. However, because the finalization of the PFD occurred during the end of the GEF 6 cycle most countries had already allocated their GEF 6 STAR resources. Further, overall reduction in the GEF budget for GEF 6 in 2016-2017 resulted in reductions in some middle-income country STAR allocation. Only Bangladesh were able to allocate funds from their CCM allocation. The overall impact of these changes has been to reduce the relative availability of funds for national level activities related to Component 2 BD and CCM during this GEF cycle.</p> <p>FAO, partners and countries fully recognize the importance of these elements of the SAP. It is expected to balance this later, once additional funding has been identified for critical habitat and water quality work, and new child projects have been added for GEF 7; discussions with donor agencies and countries are underway.</p> <p>c) The countries' wish to maintain the Lead by Ministries of Fisheries and Agriculture.</p> <p>The focus shall be revisited and revised during PPG phase—and where it is anticipated additional GEF and co-finance will be identified for new child projects to focus on, by example, MMAs (habitat restoration) and pollution reduction.</p>
	<p>6) Outcome 2.1 (para 47 and title in Results Framework) notes "At least two MMAs contribute to..."; yet the italicized text in the Results Framework notes "two MMAs established or strengthened". The text needs to be edited for consistency and clarity to "established and strengthened".</p>	<p>6. The intended meaning is "established or strengthened". Please refer to the revised PFD's Results Framework and paragraph 47.</p>

<p>7) Outcome 2.2 notes "MMA established/strengthen" implying activities could be establishing new MMAs or strengthening existing MMAs. Yet the outputs imply new MMAs. This needs to be clarified.</p>	<p>7. Agreed. Again, the intended meaning is “established or strengthened”. Please refer to the revised PFD, Results Framework and paragraph 48.</p>
<p>8) In addition the Bangladesh activities have inconsistent outputs that are notably vague (i.e. avoided over-exploitation and informed valuation of ecosystem services). These outputs need to be modified to be specific and preferably in line with other commitments (i.e. improved /mitigated).</p>	<p>8. These are outputs on a sub-component level (2.2) and more detail will be provided in PPG with inputs from the BGD Forestry Team, indicating “Number of ha covered” and estimate of “t CO₂eq sequestered”. A value of 2 million t CO₂ sequestration is expected (from 15-20% of the Sundarbans area of Bangladesh – 100,000 ha – and the remainder from other BOBLME countries). Please see Annex B Child Project summary (1.a FAO project activities in Bangladesh with CCM STAR funding.)</p>
<p>9) Outcome 3.1 needs to be edited to clarify the outputs both in the RF and in next (para 52). Currently unclear the actual outputs and inconsistent between RF and text. According to para 52 outputs are sharing tools (TEST), disseminating materials in fishing harbours and sharing guidelines about abandoned gear. There need to be concrete activities to reduce land based sources of pollution. Also what is the justification for focusing only on fishing ports when land based sources of marine pollution is occurring along the entire coastline and part of the reason for the massive hypoxic zone in Bay of Bengal. Fishing ports are not a noted priority in the SAP. This project is not only addressing fisheries but the suite of threats to marine and coastal waters, which are not limited to ports.</p>	<p>9. Recognizing that concrete activities will be further identified as based on the priorities and needs of the countries, during the PPG phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · An expected output on reduction of nutrient pollution and partnership with GPNM has been added, and inconsistencies removed. Please refer to section Results Framework and paragraph 52. These initiatives will mainly be funded utilizing IW funds. · The focus on fishing ports was chosen given available funding and opportunities offered by ports to reduce transaction costs (e.g. coordinated outreach with lead government and partner agencies while still addressing relevant identified key pollution issues (e.g. point/non-point source harbour discharge; vessel, public and private sector and infrastructure consolidation, etc.). It is proposed that bilateral donor funding will be utilized to fund a large part of these activities.

	<p>10) For the ADB project it needs to be clear what GEF will cover relative to co-financing. Note that GEF does not support cover marine litter or conventional waste water infrastructure; rather GEF focus is on innovations and new technologies and policy development and implementation.</p>	<p>10. GEF funding will not cover marine litter or conventional waste-water infrastructure. GEF funding will complement the ADB loan, and support: i) city level integrated policy and planning, ii) innovative approaches to freshwater ecosystems restoration / rehabilitation at project sites, iii) capacity development for Mandalay City Development Committee and Environmental Conservation Department in MONREC (Myanmar) on water quality monitoring and water use efficiency at project sites, iv) public awareness and social marketing campaigns on water resources management, and v) knowledge sharing on best practices in integrated water resources management across BOBLME countries. These are highlighted in the revised PFD.</p>
	<p>11) Finally, please note that during PPG the following measures need to be addressed:</p> <p>a) Outcome 5 on knowledge sharing plans is particularly weak and needs significant attention and strengthening during PPG, including internal and external sharing of experiences. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring sharing with IWLEARN. b) Plans for long-term financial sustainability need to be developed during PPG.</p> <p>c) During PPG In considering stakeholder engagement the private sector needs to be better included in plans. There is a vague list in the Stakeholder Table, which needs to be detailed. More importantly, these organizations need to be contacted and engaged in PPG planning as a priority.</p>	<p>11.</p> <p>a) This point is well taken and the PFD will be strengthened here, also including other regional or national knowledge sharing platforms relevant to the SAP implementation and including those for water; noting, IW:LEARN and LME Learn were already included, with 1% of the IW funds allocated to support, as stated in the child projects. See paragraph 92.</p> <p>b) Long term sustainability (including financial) and ownership of the SAP implementation and this Program are a key priority. Careful consultation and planning will be undertaken with participating countries, agencies and partners during PPG and a road map developed. This will build on lessons learned during the BOBLME SAP development phase and draw on FAO's extensive experience working with and strengthening regional cooperation and governance. Please refer to paragraph 69.</p> <p>c) A full stakeholder analysis and an engagement strategy will be developed and implemented during PPG phase. The need for early engagement with stakeholders is a lesson learned from BOBLME Phase 1. Initial discussions have been held with a range of stakeholders listed. Please refer to paragraph 72.</p>

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
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Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
Program Consistency	1) Is the program aligned with the relevant GEF strategic objectives and results framework?[1]	L. Karrer (Sept 7, 2017) Yes; however, during PPG the RF outputs need to be quantified and targets need to be determined. The IW Tracking Tool also needs to be completed.	
	1) Is the description of the baseline scenario reliable, and based on sound data and assumptions? Are the activities that will be financed using GEF/LDCF/SCCF funding based on incremental/ additional reasoning?	LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017) Yes	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
<p>Program Design</p>	<p>2) Is the program framework (Table B) sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve program objectives and the GEBs?</p>	<p>LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017)</p> <p>No. Please address the following points:</p> <p>1) The Implementing Agencies (FAO and ADB) cannot be the Executing Agencies. The child projects (Annex A, B) note FAO as both IA and EA. This needs to be corrected to identify a different organization as EA.</p> <p>2) For the overall Programme the Executing Agency needs to be identified and cannot be FAO or ADB. If this is going to be determined during PPG, then plans to do so need to be clearly stated.</p> <p>3) OFP endorsement letters are missing from India, Malaysia and Thailand.</p> <p>4) The SAP with ministerial level signatures from all countries needs to be provided.</p> <p>5) There is a heavy bias toward fisheries activities, which are much more explicit and impressive. For example there will be 2 fisheries plans for all countries; whereas only 2 new MMAs in total. This needs to be reconsidered or justified, especially given that the SAP identifies needs for pollution and habitat restoration in all the countries.</p> <p>6) Outcome 2.1 (para 47 and title in Results Framework) notes "At least two MMAs contribute to..."; yet the italicized text in the Results Framework notes "two MMAs established or strengthened". The text needs to be edited for consistency and clarity to "established and strengthened"</p> <p>7) Outcome 2.2 notes "MMA established/strengthen" implying activities could be establishing new MMAs or strengthening existing MMAs. Yet the outputs imply new MMAs. This needs to be clarified.</p> <p>8) In addition, the Bangladesh activities have inconsistent outputs that are notably vague (i.e. avoided over-exploitation and informed valuation of ecosystem services). These outputs need to be modified to be specific and preferably in line with other commitments (i.e. improved management in ha or GHG emissions mitigated).</p> <p>9) Outcome 2.1 needs to be edited to clarify the outputs both in the PE</p>	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
	3) Are socio-economic aspects, including relevant gender elements, indigenous people, and CSOs considered?	LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017) Yes	
	4) Does the program take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)		
	5) If there is a non-grant instrument in the program, is the GEF Agency(ies) capable of managing it?		
	6) Is the program coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?		
	7) Is the program implementation/ execution arrangement adequate?		
	8) Does the program include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?		
	9) Does the program have description of knowledge management plan?		
	1) Is the proposed Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available from (mark all that apply):		

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
Resource Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the STAR allocation? 	LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017) Yes for CCM.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the focal area allocation? 	LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017) Yes for IW; however, during PPG 1) 1% of funding needs to be allocated to IW:LEARN activities to ensure knowledge exchange. 2) Attention needs to be paid for ensuring grant co-financing, not only in-kind.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the LDCF under the principle of equitable access? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> focal area set-aside? 		
Secretariat Recommendation			
PFD Clearance	Is the PFD recommended for clearance to include in the work program?	LKarrer (Sept 7, 2017) No. The above comments need to be addressed. LKarrer (Feb 11, 2018) No. The revised Thailand letter of endorsement needs to be submitted. LKarrer (March 5, 2018) Yes. The programme is recommended for technical clearance.	

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comments	Agency Response
Review Date (s)	Review*	September 07, 2017	
	Additional Review (as necessary)	February 11, 2018	
	Additional Review (as necessary)	March 05, 2018	

B.2 Comments from Council

Comment	Agency response
<p>1. We suggest establishing a regional mechanism for coordination and collaboration at the BOBLME level in order to catalyze the implementation of the SAP and bring all baseline programs under one umbrella. Currently there is no governing body or environmental convention that has a complete mandate over aspects of the SAP across its entire geographical range. Please consider including this in the next version of the document, or explain to us why you do not think this proposal is viable.</p>	<p>This is covered under component 5. And section 6 (implementation arrangements) that mechanism is part of the and will be developed during implementation</p>
<p>2. We would like more clarity on how the large populations of indigenous communities that depend directly on coastal and marine resources were included in the consultation and collaboration process to date, and detail on how they will be involved (not just consulted) moving forward. We appreciate the additional information that both FAO and ADB have strong indigenous peoples safeguards policies, but information on how they will be influenced by and involved in the project must be made explicit by the next iteration of the project document.</p>	<p>This is covered under the Stakeholder consultation sections and FPIC.</p> <p>Local community consent will be required before the project works in an area of</p>
<p>3. We look forward to more detailed and specific project objectives, and information on project monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management. This includes clarification of what constitutes “strengthening” a marine managed area (MMA) – one of the project outcomes. Please include these details in the next version of the project document.</p>	<p>Project M+E is covered in detail in the section</p>
<p>4. It would be helpful if the program activities can be broken down by regional and country levels, to more easily map this program against ongoing regional and national projects supported by the U.S. and our partners.</p>	<p>Activities are broken down in the Project document.</p>
<p>5. We suggest that the project collaborate with NOAA, which has a long-standing and productive relationship and partnership with the BOBLME, and can help provide insight into the joint development and implementation of training materials for an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM). EAFM is a major focus of Component One (sustainable management of fisheries) and its respective Program Outcomes in this project identification form (PIF). We are happy to make the connection between NOAA and the project team, please reach out to Rebecca Fisher (Rebecca.fisher@treasury.gov) and Elizabeth Nichols (nicholses@state.gov)</p>	<p>The EAFM training materials had been developed jointly with NOAA.</p> <p>There is ongoing collaboration with NOAA on this subject</p>
<p>6. In the next iteration of this document, please include explicit outreach and education activities related to the benefits of EAFM for sustainable fisheries, since these activities may contribute to reduced risk of continued overexploitation of fisheries resources and habitat destruction.</p>	<p>This is covered in the relevant section.</p>

Comment	Agency response
7. We suggest linking Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 directly to Outcome 2.3, so that all noted species of concern (including the Irrawaddy Dolphin, Indian Ocean blue whales, dugongs, whale sharks, sea turtles, etc.) are addressed with the MMA development, management effectiveness, and capacity building	Outcomes shall be linked – but these are structured to distinguish national and regional concerns.
8. We strongly support that MMA development is planned in accordance with predicted climate-induced shifts of species and habitats.	Agreed
9. In addition, we would like to clarify that NOAA has made no co-financing commitments at this time, but would be happy to consider this during the PPG phase.	Agreed
10. We suggest improving the project’s current Theory of Change (TOC) so it can inform regional and country contributions towards the program’s outcome. Please include this in the next version of the PIF.	The TOC has been updated
11. To ensure that both funder and implementing partner have the same expectations, a series of definitions used in the program outcomes should be added, such as: fish stocks, fisheries management unit, platform, MPAs versus MMAs, EAFM Plan, etc.	Good suggestion for the Project document
12. We look forward to greater clarity regarding <i>who</i> will endorse the regional documents, such as regional plan of action (RPOA) for ETP species, and the RPOA for IUU Fishing	These will be endorsed by countries and the project steering committees as relevant.
13. We recommend increasing project support to livelihood activities. In the document, livelihood support is limited (i.e. a single country has a pilot program) and this may compromise the long-term sustainability of the project. Please consider amending the project document as such, or explain to us why this is not a viable solution.	The project focus areas integrate all livelihood activities
14. We advise reconsideration of the plan for a 20% increase in the “landings” of higher value fishery species. This target should be for 20% increase in “value”, not in landings.	This is a valid point – but this is intended as a crude indicator of selected key species in defined areas, <u>to indicate stock recovery</u> , not a blanket target to increase landings, as this would probably undermine the environmental objectives of the project.
15. We look forward to greater clarity as to how the project will be sustained following the GEF grant conclusion.	This is outlined in the Project document

Additional comments from Council

Q: What MMAs (national and transboundary) already exist, and which have existing management plans? Without more context and information on this, Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 suggest that this project will be responsible for the establishment of the first MMAs in the area. As there really no existing MMA in the BOBLME?

There are numerous MMAs (mostly MPAs, sanctuaries, reserves etc.), some with management plans, some with management measures implemented. The term MMA is used as a general term, with the option to include also fisheries management areas. Please see <http://boblme.reefbase.org/mapgallery.aspx> and <http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2014-Ecology-15.pdf> for more detail.

The PFD mentions ‘MMAs established OR strengthened’ – these could be new and additional, and also in transboundary areas; e.g. Myeik Archipelago, Gulf of Mannar, Sundarbans or Malacca Straits – noting that the extent of such work will have to be limited as very little additional BD STAR funding had been identified.

Q: Please explain how this project will engage indigenous people. And please include this information in the next version of the project document.

So far, only a PFD has been prepared, not a project document. The terms of engagement will be identified during PPG and project implementation – this refers mostly to Moken / Salong people of the Andaman Sea, but also to indigenous people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (if so permitted or approved by India). Indigenous people in Sri Lanka are mainly inland dwellers.

Q: How will this project address interagency and related challenges, particularly within Thailand?

There is a high level of awareness of these challenges (in almost all countries), and they will be responded to by selecting a National Coordinator in the appropriate level and institution, and by having National Steering Committees (not National Task Forces, as during Phase 1)

Q: How will the project implementers coordinate with the Department of Fisheries when the Thai focal point is the Environment Ministry permanent secretary?

We are not aware of this. Most likely, this comment confuses the GEF OFP position with the National Coordinator position for the BOBLME Programme. Again, the fostering of smooth communication and coordination between Environment and Fisheries is one of the key tasks of the national coordination and programme steering mechanism, in Thailand and in all countries.

Q: How does UNIDO envision implementing “the Transfer of Environmentally Sustainable Technology (TEST)” with Thai partners and across the Thai interagency (noted in the associated activities)?

Marine plastic pollution, for example, touches on the Pollution Control Division (environment), Department of Marine Resources, Department of Interior, and the Thai Park Service.

This work package will be trialled in one of the countries where UNIDO already has existing interventions, e.g. Myanmar, and then adapted to other programme countries. It will be implemented in the “Letter of Agreement” (LoA) modality (unlikely to reach the financial volume suitable for OPIM implementation), through a local partner institution or agency – in Thailand, this could be the Pollution Control Department, in coordination with other concerned agencies.

Q: Will the impacts of sediment pollution be studied further with targeted reduction strategies due to their impact on the sea grass beds?(page 10, Program Description)

If there are still gaps on the knowledge of causes of seagrass degradation, these could be addressed, in line with work carried out in Myanmar in phase 1.

<http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2015-Brochure-13.pdf>

<http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2015-Brochure-13-MY.pdf> <http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2015-Ecology-50.pdf>).

More likely, seagrass habitat conservation will be integrated into MMA work or specific work for conservation of resources using ecosystem approaches as started in Phase 1 in India on seahorse and sea cucumber conservation.

<http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2015-Ecology-54.pdf> <http://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2015-Ecology-58.pdf>

Sediment reduction interventions could be attempted under additional child projects, following the Source-to-Sea (S2S) approach; e.g. for the Sittaung Basin in Myanmar draining into the Andaman Sea.

Q: Since one of the greatest challenges to the region is untreated wastewater, how will the creation of more effective water treatment infrastructure be handled and directly improved by this project outside of just Mandalay? (page 19, Baseline Scenario and Associated Baseline Projects)

The child project implemented by ADB has an approved change of scope. The new title is "Demonstration Investments in Eco-Waste Infrastructure Solutions: Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Watersheds". The GEF co-finance will create enabling conditions and support actions to reduce pollution discharged to the Thanlyin and Ayeyarwady Rivers, and ultimately the Bay of Bengal LME. The scope change includes expansion of geographic areas to two coastal cities in Mon and Kayin States. The project will be focussed on: i) Support for development and implementation of Pollution Reduction Strategic Action Plans for Mawlamyine, Hpa-An and Mandalay, ii) Three eco-demonstration investments in the coastal cities of Mawlamyine and Hpa-An; reducing pollution discharged to the BOBLME, iii) Good practice on policy and waste infrastructure investments shared across the BOBLME, including platforms provided by IW:LEARN and the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management.

The scope change also addressed a concern identified during project preparation, which was the limited capacity of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), which has regulatory responsibility for waste management in the country. Under the watershed scale SAPs, project efforts will build up the skills base of the ECD from local to national levels, and provide much needed scientific equipment for systematic water quality assessment and monitoring in the project areas. The demonstrations in coastal cities will be aligned with another ADB loan which will install solid waste management infrastructure in Mawlaymine and Hpa-An. Among other things, the GEF funds will support an innovative approach which utilizes septage waste for water content in the solid waste treatment - called a "biophilic" landfill.

The project will support replication and scaling to the extent possible; and will also be aligned with ADB's Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) regional investment framework; as well as the recently launched ADB "Healthy Oceans" action plan, which includes 'pollution reduction' as one its main pillars. The Healthy Oceans action plan will be supported by an oceans financing framework which aims to incorporate 'blue finance' principles into proposed new investments, targeting USD 5 billion, which will include waste infrastructure across Asia and the Pacific.

Q: How will each country be held to their commitments made towards the project?

This will be addressed through concerted efforts of the Project's PSC members (high-ranking persons in their respective Ministries), the GEF OFP in the country, in collaboration and coordination with the FAO Representative.

Q: What kind of enforcement power will the Consortium have?

It will be a planning, coordination and M&E mechanism, not a Convention or Commission, or an Enforcement Agency. I consider the expectation of enforcement power unrealistic – at least at the start of a Phase 2 SAP implementation project/programme.

Q: Will protected areas be established for mangroves/reefs/sea grasses?

This is related to bullet 1 above – there will be options to establish new PAs, and also to improve the management effectiveness of existing PAs. And these are likely to be PAs for the conservation of critical habitats (and resources).

Q: How will public awareness of pollution issues be increased? (page 4, Indicative Program Results Framework)

Detailed activities are not included in the PFD – likely to follow established communication strategies, and using all suitable media. As this is context of the ADB child Project – ADB may want to respond further.

Q: Are there mandates for full disclosure of data in all projects to share across countries? (page 6, Indicative Program Results Framework)

These mandates (or modalities) will be agreed during the PPG Phase, or early in project implementation. This had not been an issue in Phase 1, and is not expected to be a major issue in Phase 2. Cases could be expected where data on fisheries are considered national and confidential, but even here there are appropriate data sharing procedures (e.g. to FAO, SEAFDEC) in place.

B3. STAP Advisory Response based on PIF screening, to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency(ies):

Minor issues to be considered during project design III.

Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the FAO and ADB proposal "Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme." The project aims to foster sustainable management of fisheries, support the restoration of important marine habitats, reduce coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health, improve the livelihoods and resilience of selected coastal communities, and strengthen regional planning, coordination and monitoring mechanisms. STAP believes the PIF is generally scientifically and technically sound, but notes below some areas which need to be strengthened prior to or after CEO endorsement.

1. This is a very ambitious program not only in terms of its geographical extent, but also because of the diversity of participating countries, stage of development (GDP/capita), technical/technological capabilities, as well institutional capacities and cultures. The idea of building on existing institutional hierarchies is a practical one, but it is not clear to what extent they will be willing or able to fulfil the functions expected of them. A combination of diplomatic and firm management is likely to be required to ensure efficient implementation.

A: the program will require collaboration and cooperation between countries and sectors according to capacity. A section on current development stage has been included.

2. A related concern is financing. Almost half of the co-financing (USD 80 million) is expected to come from the eight recipient governments (in unspecified but presumably not equal shares). An indication of which components of the program would be affected if only a part of the expected contributions are provided, how this would affect other components indirectly, and what is Plan B to minimize the resulting deficiencies.

A: Co-finance in preparation

3. The programmatic justification is built on strong foundations, largely coming from Phase 1 of the project. The environmental problems are clearly identified, the three concerns and the three main barriers to be addressed are clearly and convincingly presented. The baseline scenario lists several earlier and ongoing international and national projects on which the new program intends to build. Activities and results of Phase 1 of this program are also documented in such a way that makes the presentation of activities planned in the proposed program more understandable. All these (national and international projects, Phase 1 of BOBLME) form a strong basis for the planned activities; however, they also increase the organization and coordination challenge (and related transactions costs) necessary to avoid overlaps and repetitions.

A: This is agreed.

4. STAP appreciates the chart in Figure 3 supporting the presentation of the theory of change. The five components and the related outcomes are presented clearly. However, the description of the causal linkages between the activities and the desired outcomes is mostly missing. Although the linkages are plausible, it would be useful to add some detail during the PPG phase.

A: The TOC has been updated

5. Component 1 does not cover the on-board conditions for crews fishing for tuna etc., where concerns have been expressed that crews are not well-managed, including time spent at sea without coming ashore, and very low pay. It is not clear to what extent does the (otherwise commendable) stakeholder involvement plan includes fishing crews (beyond vessel owners and companies). The work of ICSF is mentioned (paras 22, 57 and elsewhere) and STAP wishes to reinforce the essential need for this association – even if this might relate more to small-scale fisheries, than to the crews of large trawlers.

6. The Mandalay Urban Services Improvement Loan Project is an important complementary investment funded from sources external to this project. It might be worth considering similar child projects in the BoB region because they could piggyback on the large BoB program and contribute to its results, without significantly increasing the management complexity.

A: These will be considered if additional relevant investments are identified.

7. The incremental cost reasoning is convincing, the benefits from coordinating baseline efforts and complementing them with specifically targeted activities are plausible. However, some of the numerical estimates should be reconsidered or at least better documented based on firm evidence – see next two points.

A: a revised additional cost estimate is provided. The PPG phase was unable to update these estimates substantially. This work will be undertaken during implementation.

8. In paragraph 66, halting the degradation and the maintenance of existing ecosystem services is estimated to generate economic benefits worth more than US\$350 billion: is this new net benefit generated, i.e. an incremental value of ecosystem services relative to today or relative to the decreased value of US\$110 billion that would result under the baseline scenario? Moreover, with all the conservation programs and development activities listed in the baseline scenario, is the estimate of degradation of this magnitude realistic? The coordination, integration, and other activities to be undertaken in this program will produce significant benefits, but the estimated magnitude of incremental benefits is difficult to comprehend.

A: The USD 350 billion is based on the decreased value, therefore the net economic benefit is USD250 billion above the decreased value of USD110 billion. Although there are concrete gains in terms of coastal protection, fishery resources continue to be subjected to considerable pressure and other forms of coastal degradation from over development of tourism and urbanization continue apace. Efforts will be made to update the valuation during the lifetime of the project.

9. In paragraph 67 regarding climate change mitigation benefits, 170,000 t CO₂ emissions are claimed to be sequestered through conservation and protection of 200,000 ha of mangroves. It is not clear how this 0.85t CO₂/ha was calculated; is it based on UNFCCC inventory or IPCC guidelines? Moreover, mangroves are also sources of CH₄ and N₂O emissions, therefore a more comprehensive inventory in CO₂-equivalent terms should be considered. However, the FAO child project cited to protect 601,700 ha of the Sundarban forests in Bangladesh is claimed to avoid 7,546,292 t CO₂. Apart from the spurious accuracy of an estimate to the nearest tonne, this equates to 12.5 t/ha or around 0.6t CO₂/ha/year of avoided emissions which tends to confirm that the 0.85t number calculated for the mangroves is reasonable.

A: These figures have been recalculated in the Project document.

10. In a program of this magnitude, stakeholder involvement from various levels (international, regional, national and subnational) will be key to successful implementation. It is understandable that, after initial discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, detailed stakeholder engagement strategies will be developed during the PPG phase. The right methods and sequencing of stakeholder events will be crucial for ensuring buy-in from key stakeholders.

A: This is agreed and a stakeholder engagement plan has been developed.

11. The risk assessment and management component is weak. In a complex and ambitious integrated program like this, numerous financial, political, institutional and other risks are looming, therefore a deeper and more detailed risk assessment is needed with not only some sketchy mitigation measures but serious alternative plans for cases should a key institution, stakeholder or action fail to deliver and undermine other activities/outcomes.

A: A revised risk assessment is presented in the Project document section.

B.4 Agency response to GEFSEC Comments at CEO Endorsement (13 February 2020)

Response sheet to GEFSEC comments at CEO endorsement (13 February 2020)		
Project Design and Financing		
1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?	(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) There have been several significant changes from the PFD, which have not been justified. Specific concerns regarding these changes are reflected in comments in subsequent sections of this review.	FAO response to main issues raised, with justifications of changes provided
	· Most notably, there are major reductions in co-financing,	At the time of submission, the co-financing letters from many countries had not yet been secured. Co-financing secured so far now reaches USD 57 million. 9 country co-finance letters are secured (out of 16). All executing and implementing partners have provided co-financing letters. The total co-finance ratio target is 1:6 which is different to, but not significantly so from the PFD. Norway has provided cash co-financing of NOK 39 603 960 in a funding agreement, in lieu of a co-financing letter. Sweden are also considering the provision of grant funds, but this will not be decided before their next programming cycle in 2021. Some partners were unable to commit co-finance at this stage and have been removed from that section. They will still be worked with through coordination and collaborative actions including UNEP/COBSEA, SACEP, WB and NOAA.
	· Outcome 3.1 is completely absent,	Component 3 was reduced as no activities could be programmed at Project document submission. Outcome 3.1 is now reinstated and funding is allocated from components 1 & 2 (with funding of USD 400,000 from GEF-IW portfolio), and USD 300,078 from Norad.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EA responsibilities have changed, 	<p>The EA arrangements will be justified in section 1.11 and revised to ensure they are clear throughout the Project document including the role of government agencies.</p> <p>Tentative regional implementation partners in the PFD included: BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC, IUCN/MFF (retained), UN Environment (e.g. COBSEA, GPA), UNIDO; APFIC (dropped).</p> <p>FAO accepts the EA arrangements are different to the PFD (with the removal UNEP, UNIDO, APFIC and UNEP/COBSEA). However, FAO notes the PFD only proposed options which were to be reviewed and decided on at submission as they have been. APFIC as an executing agency did not endorse this role during governance meetings (by its member countries) during the PPG phase discussions. APFIC as a regional fisheries body will provide technical advice to implementation within its mandate. As there were insufficient funds for significant partnership agreements, UN Environment (COBSEA, GPA) and UNIDO agreed to work through coordination and collaboration rather than as EA. Their roles are highlighted in the baseline and coordination sections of the Project document.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and the CO2 targets increased dramatically. An explicit explanation of these significant changes needs to be provided. 	<p>The original EX-ACT and CO2 targets were undertaken by FAO experts and the figures have now been reviewed.</p> <p>The targets for both area coverage (303,000 ha of Sundarbans Reserve Forest) and CO2 reduction 2,959,482 tCO2 over a 20-year period) have been recalculated, agreed and approved by Bangladesh Forest Department.</p> <p>These targets are used throughout the Project document text, and details are contained in the embedded Annex Q: Project sub-proposal for the BOBLME II CCM component Blue Carbon for the Future (BCF): Enhancing the role Sundarbans ecosystem services and conservation of carbon stocks</p>
<p>2. Is the project</p>	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No.</p>	

<p>structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?</p>	<p>GEF: Clarification is needed with regard to the execution of the project. The role of FAO as implementing agency, not executing agency, needs to be clear.</p>	<p>Section (6.1) and other sections have been revised for clarity.</p> <p>FAO's role will be as GEF implementing agency. FAO has no role in execution, beyond the oversight functions of the mid-term review and final evaluation. The detail of FAO's role is provided on page 70.</p> <p>IUCN will host the RCU and provide overall coordination of the execution and BOBLME outputs. IUCN will execute components and sub-components within their mandate and provide technical advice and capacity building. IUCN will coordinate national focus area level execution.</p> <p>SEAFDEC and BOBPIGO will execute component 1 and contribute to Outcome 3.1 and component 5 on sub-regional coordination and approaches in areas within their fishery mandates and provide technical advice and capacity development (Component 1 EAFM capacity development, combatting IUU and MCS capacity development).</p> <p>All three executing agency partners should coordinate between components including, and all contribute to Component 5 (regional mechanism; governance).</p>
	<p>Further, the relationship between FAO and the regional organizations, particularly BOB-IGO and APFIC, needs to be clarified.</p>	<p>APFIC (which has 21 members and scope far beyond BOBLME) did not endorse this role during governance meetings (by its member countries) during the PPG phase discussions. In addition, APFIC cannot act as an executing agency as it does not have an autonomous budget, separate from FAO.</p> <p>APFIC, as a regional fisheries body with competence across the BOBLME, and with a secretariat in the FAO Regional Office, will provide technical advice to executing agency partners (BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC, IUCN), seek synergies on regional cooperation and learning, within its mandate.</p>
	<p>2) GEF</p> <p>Also with regard to institutional arrangements, the role of IUCN as overall regional lead (and host to PCU) needs to be clear as well as how IUCN will relate to the other regional entities. These roles, including the PCU hosted by IUCN, need to be reflected in the two organograms (Figures 6.1 and 6.2).</p>	<p>Section 6 is now updated. Please refer to the short paragraph on IUCN above, and Project Document text (pages 68-69).</p> <p>The two figures 6.1 and 6.2 have been merged and the organogram is now reflected as Figure 6: Implementation and execution arrangements of the BOBLME II project (page 76).</p> <p>All three EAs have a contractual relationship with FAO (the Operational Partnership Agreement). In addition, the two RFBs BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC have reporting duties to IUCN (as overall regional Lead and host of the RCU), under Memoranda of Agreement or similar collaborative arrangements.</p>
	<p>Relatedly, the budget in Table 6.1 needs to reflect the various roles.</p>	<p>The budget table 6.1 has been comprehensively updated to reflect the respective allocations and component responsibilities of the 3 EAs.</p>
	<p>In addition, the relevant ministry for each country needs to be listed and more information provided on their roles.</p>	<p>Ministries are listed in Section 6.1 (pages 71-73), and details on their respective roles in project implementation are provided (in tabulated form).</p>

<p>3) The PFD Component 3, Outcome 3.1 activities are missing from the CEO Endorsement Request.</p> <p>These activities are noted in the child project summary for FAO in Annex A List of Projects Under the Program Framework and must, therefore, be addressed in this child project.</p> <p>Bilateral funding was anticipated at PFD and if this was not secured, thereby affecting plans for the ports, then this change needs to be explained and funding provided for the other activities under Outcome 3.1.</p>	<p>This component and outcome have been reinstated along with some limited activities.</p> <p>Funding options have been reviewed and resources redirected from Components 1 and 2. FAO has made efforts to find bilateral and other donors to support the component. Whilst these have not yet been realized the prospect for additional resourcing is positive.</p> <p>Discussions with Norway and Sweden show promise, although funding will not be available in 2021. It is anticipated that additional funding could be leveraged in 2022 with the next round of SIDA planning and interaction with Norad programmes related to marine litter.</p> <p>There are synergies with global FAO and Norway programmes on marine litter and abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gears (ALDFG). In-kind support is potentially available through the FAO global work on marking fishing gear (lost and abandoned gear); Norwegian supported IMO/FAO GloLitter project (participating countries India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand); IUCN activities related to marine plastic assessments; and in-kind activities of SEAFDEC. Local partnerships (e.g. with EJF in Thailand) may also provide synergies to build on and leverage additional resources.</p>
<p>In addressing this concern, attention needs to be given to answering Council’s inquiries: “how will the creation of more effective water treatment infrastructure be handled and directly improved by this project outside of just Mandalay?” and “How will public awareness of pollution issues be increased?”</p> <p>Attention also needs to be given to address STAP’s request to consider additional child projects related to waste water pollution (#6 in STAP concerns).</p>	<p>The original project document was prepared based on the implementation of the FAO Fisheries Child project. These comments relate to the broader programme. To address the linkage, some coordination is now integrated, through component 3.</p> <p>FAO will discuss resources from the ADB child for this purpose and reintegrate to this Outcome. A significant change that has been introduced to the ADB funding is the inclusion of coastal sites beyond the original focus on Mandalay. The additional ADB Child Project Areas are: Mawlamyine and Hpa-An, on water quality issues. These are both coastal / river mouth locations, improving coherence with the BOBLME II objectives.</p> <p>Mawlamyine is the capital of Mon State and is located at the mouth of the Thanlwin River. Hpa-An is the capital of Kayin State and is located 50 km upstream on the Thanlwin River. Mawlamyine and Hpa-An are similar towns with a population of 250,000 and 150,000 respectively. Currently, domestic waste in both cities is not treated, and nearly 100% of the waste drains directly into the Thanlwin River, and the Bay of Bengal.</p> <p>At this time, additional child projects are not available under national STAR allocation; they can be explored through GEF 7 allocation for IW.</p> <p>The elements of new child projects have been discussed with countries during PPG discussions and these will need to be taken forward at a later date.</p>

<p>4) Section 6. Institutional Arrangements notes that the Bangladesh sub-project will be implemented "through a separate local partnership agreement". There is also mention that the sub-project will have its own NPSC.</p> <p>Please elaborate on the institutional arrangements for this sub-project, including what is meant by the local agreement</p>	<p>This is now described more fully in Annex Q (Section 15).</p> <p>The project will be governed by the regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) The project will be executed by the country-level Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will act as country-level secretariat, and be responsible for providing country-level PSC members with all required documents in advance of meetings, including agendas and background documents. PMU will ensure timely and appropriate logistical arrangements for meetings, including translation services as requested. It will circulate minutes to the PSC members for review and clarification prior to finalization and will archive the meeting minutes, and will facilitate the relevant inter-sessional collaboration of PSC members.</p> <p>The National Project Coordinator from the Forest Department will oversee the project's execution and ensure that all activities are executed in accordance with the project document, inception report, and updates or amendments approved by the PSC.</p> <p>The CCM sub project is developed under the national STAR allocation with Forestry Department (FD), who have expressed their desire to strengthen existing Sundarbans focused governance mechanisms.</p> <p>As per the Government of Bangladesh rules, a PSC and PIC are constituted by the lead ministry for any project that includes external (international) financial flows.</p> <p>The local partnership agreement will be a Letter of Agreement with FD.</p>
<p>5) The draft gender action plan (section A.4 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment section) is focused on project operations, specifically ensuring women participate in training and planning.</p> <p>It is equally important to ensure the impacts of the project activities on women and men are considered. For example, if MPAs are established then the project needs to consider how both men and women will be affected and measures to address adverse effects. There is only one bullet noting consideration of women and men's needs (Outcome 2.1); all others are on participation.</p>	<p>The PPG was unable to develop a full gender strategy during consultations, although the first phase of BOBLME developed a gender assessment and plan. The text on gender targets was removed at submission and has now been reinstated.</p> <p>Please refer also to narrative on gender in Section 3.2 Gender Action Plan (page 57).</p> <p>A draft Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the project has been prepared along with tentative activities (Annex O).</p> <p>This GAP will be developed fully during inception work planning period and based on country needs and consultations with implementing partners. This updated GAP will include gender specific outcomes, outputs and activities, budgets and revised indicators for the project, including an updated project baseline.</p> <p>Gender focal points and/or champions in each country will be identified and consulted throughout the GAP elaboration process.</p> <p>The updating of the GAP will be undertaken at the same time as the national and regional work planning and will include capacity development for key staff. Tentative targets relating to gender equality according to project outcome are described.</p>

<p>6) The stakeholder summary table information in the CEO Endorsement (section A.3 Stakeholders, second table) suggests that there were a series of consultations in the countries. However, there is a lack of further detail.</p> <p>For each country only the government agencies are noted, not the CSOs or private sector organizations that need to be engaged.</p> <p>Also the stakeholder consultation information (Annex O) is missing for multiple countries.</p> <p>Further for the agencies that are noted, it does not explain how they have been or will be engaged in the project. The limited information makes it difficult to understand if stakeholders were sufficiently consulted and to understand who and how they will be engaged in the future.</p> <p>As noted in this section, the fishers in the community are the primary stakeholders; the authorities are secondary. It is, therefore, important to understand who these fishers are and how to engage them (i.e. their associations).</p> <p>A clear stakeholder plan is needed that considers all the stakeholders.</p>	<p>Section 2.1 Stakeholders and Roles in Project Implementation in the BOBLME (page 54) has now been expanded. A more complete list of stakeholders and their engagement has been developed based on the TDA SAP and other projects with roles and responsibilities added and provided in tabulated form.</p> <p>During the BOBLME PPG stage a wide range of stakeholders were consulted. These represented stakeholders at national, sub-regional and regional level. Full details of the consultation process outputs are attached in Annex P (Annex P: Stakeholder Consultation (PPG) Meeting Reports and country baselines – also PPG Inception Workshop and PSC Meeting Reports)</p> <p>The consultation process included stakeholders from all levels and classifications, and their potential roles in project implementation were defined. The stakeholders’ engagement plan is presented in Annex H2.</p> <p>At time of submission some reports were pending. FAO now has all the reports available. FAO were unable to consult directly with primary stakeholders due to the limited budget for PPG. One national workshop was undertaken in each country (but also state level consultation in India, and a sub-regional consultation in South Asia).</p> <p>The Project document proposes that national implementation plans along with full stakeholder identification and engagement plans will be developed during extended inception planning. Detailed stakeholder consultation activities will be planned during inception and once the sites for implementation are agreed. At this time, additional primary stakeholders (e.g. resource users, communities) will be identified.</p>
<p>7) The description of Outcome 2.1 Coastal and marine managed areas indicates several areas that have been selected and then notes several more candidate sites. A final list of sites was expected in the CER.</p>	<p>The section has been revised and updated to reflect sites identified.</p> <p>The list of tentative sites is provided in Table 1.7 in that section and in the Annex E (Maps). The maps section was not included in the original submission.</p> <p>Sites identified build on those discussed during the TDA-SAP and PFD discussion (and PPG consultations), and FAO is confident that these remain priority areas for countries.</p> <p>It was only possible to identify sites in some countries. Deeper consultation will be undertaken during inception planning to allow countries to identify areas that are priority and where integration of implementation can be effective (Focus Areas). Countries were asked to provide one or two priority sites for implementation.</p> <p>The level of consultation and planning required to identify and agree these during PPG was significantly beyond the resources available.</p>

<p>8) The Theory of Change section needs further consideration. The project components need to relate back to the Theory of Change. Further, as requested by STAP the causal linkages between the activities and the outcomes is missing. STAP requested this point be addressed during PPG.</p>	<p>The TOC had been updated as per the request of the STAP and additional details and linkage have been provided.</p> <p>The long-term goal, or expected long-term change of the project is a healthy ecosystem and sustainability of living resources for the benefit of the coastal populations of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME). The underpinning long-term “Theory of Change” (TOC) outlined during the first phase of the project still holds for this implementation phase and is summarized in the figure below (Figure 3). During the PPG it was recognized that updating and strengthening the TOC during inception would be of benefit. The update should focus on the description of causal linkages between activities once they are agreed.</p> <p>The TOC narrative now also refers to the Development objective: “Potential Economic Value of all Ecosystem Services provided by the BOBLME realized”:</p> <p>Human Rights respected, and Local Communities and Fisheries Stakeholders’ Livelihoods secured. The achievement of these impacts will be underpinned by the production of the outputs and realization of the various outcomes, ranging from the adoption of an ecosystem approach to fisheries and combatting IUU fishing, to biodiversity conservation using spatial approaches (MMAs), improving water quality as well as resilience and livelihoods of coastal communities. All of these will be secured through establishing a regional collaborative mechanism using a consortium-type arrangement.</p> <p>The integrated Focus Area implementation approach adopted by the project (see Annex S) will ensure TOC objectives are achieved at multiple levels and including in the implementation areas. Achievement of the 3rd tier TOC impacts and longer-term impact will likewise depend on a second phase of a longer-term BOBLME programme.</p>
<p>9) Ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of this initiative post-GEF funding needs to a part of the project. This issue needs to be addressed as noted by STAP.</p>	<p>This is included in the work plan under Component 5: Regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME and specifically Outcome 5.1. Strengthened institutional mechanisms at regional and national levels for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME.</p> <p>Along with other activities this output includes the formation of a country-led regional working group to review sustainable long-term financing of the CCR BOBLME. This is included under Component 5 (Table 1.20) and includes the appointment of a working group to address this issue within the first year.</p> <p>Achieving financial sustainability is likely to require the future agreement (and availability) of dedicated - while perhaps relatively modest - country (national) budgets to provide means for post-GEF funding coordination, monitoring, reporting or similar activities.</p>

<p>10) It is not clear how the project proposal for the CCM component in Bangladesh will lead to avoided degradation of 200,000 hectares of mangroves.</p>	<p>This sub-component has now been revised and the avoidance of degradation is achieved through three main outputs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Output 1: Sundarbans ecosystem services are better understood and valued · Output 2: Non-ecofriendly utilization of forest and aquatic resources is reduced in collaboration with local stakeholders · Output 3 Increased capacities and institutional collaboration for blue carbon management <p>The proposal is presented in Annex Q, the changes from the originally submitted proposal, are explained in the embedded document below. This includes an updated Theory of Change and Institutional arrangement diagram. Please refer to this for details.</p> <p>Please note: The hectarage has been increased to 303,000 hectares. This is approved by BGD Government Forest Department.</p>
<p>The theory of change for this portion needs to be strengthened.</p>	<p>The TOC has been improved in the document embedded above.</p>
<p>Current situation: while there is a description of the importance of the Sundarbans ecosystem as a carbon sink, in addition to other ecosystem services, as well as some of the drivers of mangrove ecosystem changes, the proposal does not explain what is the current state of degradation and/or deforestation in the targeted project area and its specific drivers. Please clarify.</p>	<p>This is addressed in the first two paragraphs of Section 1.4 of the BGD-CCM proposal, and to a limited extent in Section 1.3.</p>
<p>Baseline projects: a list of potentially relevant projects in the country is listed, yet there is no sense of which are most relevant for the specific project area, activities and key stakeholders. Further, there is no overarching explanation of the existing baseline situation and remaining gaps. Please clarify.</p>	<p>This is now addressed in Section 1.4 of the proposal, starting paragraph 3.</p> <p>The list of baseline projects ends with sentences in italics to indicate the type of alignment or coordination that will occur with projects that are most relevant.</p>

<p>Output 1: Sundarbans ecosystem services is better understood and co-management plans are improved: Please clarify to what extent data on natural resources extraction is already collected and what are the specific gaps in data and capacities of the Forest Department to justify the incremental reasoning of this output. Please also clarify how this information relates to the drivers of mangrove degradation (including activity 1.3). Please strengthen Activity 1.5 to ensure its focused on enhancement and protection of carbon stocks (as opposed to the general “sustainability lens”).</p>	<p>The activity (1.1) has been revised to indicate incremental reasoning. There is no activity 1.5.</p>
<p>Output 2: Overexploitation of aquatic resources is reduced: This output does not seem to be aligned with the CCM focal area strategy. Please clarify how this output will support the objective of enhancing and protecting carbon stocks.</p>	<p>Output 2.2 has been revised to explain the links between protection of aquatic resources and carbon stock.</p>
<p>Output 3: Blue carbon management and conservation activities are enhanced: there is not enough baseline information to assess if the activities under this output would effectively lead to the protection of 200,000 hectares of mangroves. Please clarify if it is expected that these activities reach 200,000 hectares directly.</p>	<p>Some answer required here.</p> <p>The Sub-component aims to achieve improved protection mainly through capacity development, primarily directed at Forest Department personnel, and enhanced institutional collaboration, including the institutions Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Khulna University, and Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, and following the key principles of co-management.</p> <p>Please note: The hectarage has been increased to 303,000 hectares. This was approved by BGD Government Forest Dept.</p>
<p>Please also clarify the theory of change of promoting alternative income-generating activities in the project area to reduce mangrove degradation.</p>	<p>A Theory of Change has been developed and is provided in the document embedded above.</p> <p>There is no longer the alternative income generation activity in Output 3. However, the initiative under Activity 2.2 will “demonstrate climate-resilient fisheries or aquaculture technologies”, which could also include management innovations that can reduce non-ecofriendly forest and aquatic resource utilization, mitigate climate risks, and improve incomes.</p>
<p>11) Minor issues:</p>	
<p>· The Pro Doc left out Component 3; whereas the CER moved what was Component 4 to be Component 3. There needs to be consistency between the two documents.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Reinstating Component 3, Output 3.1 has resolved this issue</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Fix the grammar in the 1.6 Theory of Change section so consistent among bullets. 	Corrected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Edit “Table XXX” to “Table 1.7” in description of Outcome 2.1 section. 	Corrected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Edit “figure below (Figure 1.6.1) in Theory of Change to reference instead the Pro Doc 	Corrected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A.3 section should reference Annex O, not L 	Corrected. This now refers to Annex Q, the embedded revised BGD-CCM proposal.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Section 9 refers to “Appendix 1” which should be “Annex A” and edit Annex A1 to be Annex A 	This has been corrected – 9.1 Refers now to Annex A1: Results Framework
3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No.</p> <p>The PFD indicated the ADB child project would be \$4,583,105; whereas the ADB CEO Endorsement request indicates \$4,587,156. The PFD indicated that \$504,587 would be spent from CCM Bangladesh STAR funding; however, the CEO Endorsement indicates it will be \$494,161.</p> <p>Please correct these figures to align with the PFD.</p>	<p>The Project document does not make a reference to the budget or value of the ADB child project.</p> <p>The CCM STAR Bangladesh values have been updated to USD 494,161 throughout.</p>
	<p>The allocations for audits noted in the Pro Doc Annex A2, Table A2.3 row 41 and in Table 9.1 in the CER need to be moved to be covered by the PCU budget.</p>	<p>Noted. The budget table has been revised as requested and is presented as Annex A2 Table A2.2</p>

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) Yes

n.a.

<p>5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?</p>	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No.</p> <p>There has been a dramatic reduction in co-financing since the PFD. The PFD indicated \$105M (not including the ADB \$60M loan); the CER indicates \$2.5M in co-financing. The PFD anticipated co-financing from the recipient governments (\$80M), FAO (\$10M), Japan Fund and donor countries none of which has materialized. Co-financing is now only from BOBP-IGO, SEAFDEC, and Thailand government. This reduction is a major concern. \$2.5M co-financing is not sufficient for a \$9.5M GEF project. This reduction indicates a lack of support. Such a potential reduction will have a signification effect on the execution of activities, the ability to meet the envisioned project outputs and outcomes and raises serious concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the project activities. A substantial effort needs to be put into securing co-financing to support this project as it cannot be technically cleared with this current level of co-financing. This possible reduction was noted as a concern by STAP in their review and needs to be addressed.</p> <p>In Council comments, there was the suggestion to consult with NOAA regarding possible co-financing. Please explain to what extent that possibility was pursued.</p>	<p>There is no intention to reduce the co-finance. Overall, the level of co-finance reflected the co-finance letters received on the day of submission.</p> <p>Since then additional co-finance letters have been received for total of USD 57 million, with expectation of additional letters.</p> <p>At the time of submission, the co-financing letters from many countries had not yet been secured.</p> <p>Countries have agreed to the co-finance and are processing our request since August 2019 (and earlier). Co-financing secured so far now reaches USD 57 million. 9 country co-finance letters are secured (out of 16).</p> <p>All executing and implementing partners have provided co-financing letters. The total co-finance ratio target is 1:6 which is different to, but not significantly so from the PFD.</p> <p>Norway has provided cash co-financing of NOK 39 603 960 in a funding agreement, in lieu of a co-financing letter. Sweden are also considering the provision of grant funds, but this will not be decided before their next programming cycle in 2021.</p> <p>Some partners were unable to commit co-finance at this stage and have been removed from that section. They will still be worked with through coordination and collaborative actions including UNEP/COBSEA, SACEP, WB and NOAA.</p>
<p>6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?</p>	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No.</p> <p>Information is provided on the core indicators in section G; however, the calculations are missing in Annex E. Please provide.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The FAO Project document has 2 sections for the core indicators: with all details in Annex F, and a shorter version in Annex N (the Project Information Section).</p> <p>The core indicators/targets now are reflected the same way throughout the document</p> <p>Details on the core indicators are now provided in Annex F.</p>

	<p>Also, thank you for providing the EX-ACT tool; however, there is not enough information on the assumptions made to adequately assess the GHG mitigation targets. How were the 200,000 ha (of 601,700 ha total) selected as the targeted area to be supported by this project with this small budget? Further, the EX-ACT calculation assumes that this area currently has no level of degradation, which without the project would lead to “very low” degradation and with the project would remain as “none”. Please justify and clarify these assumptions. If there is currently no degradation, what will lead the are to suffer very low degradation that will be avoided through the project?</p>	<p>Agreed and corrected. Details for the EX-ACT carbon calculations are provided in Annex 2 of the Project document Annex Q.</p>
	<p>In addition, Indicator 6 is incorrectly filled out. The reduction in GHG emissions for this project falls under Sub-Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector, not 6.2. Please move.</p>	<p>This has been corrected</p>
<p>7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?</p>	<p>n.a.</p>	
<p>8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?</p>	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No. In the CER Section 6.4 Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives lists other relevant projects; however, it does not articulate how the GEF projects will be coordinated with these initiatives. Please elaborate on coordination plans.</p>	<p>Agreed. The contents on coordinating plans has been elaborated and is found in Section 6.4 (pages 80-83) – information has been added, summarized as “coordination approach”</p>

<p>9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</p>	<p>(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No. There are several concerns</p>	<p>These points are agreed and the results framework has been double-checked against the targets in the document resolved in the text and results framework Text has now been included on METT score and IUCN Green List Assessment. Section 9 contains an extensive M+E plan and budgeted framework Annex A1 contains the results framework.</p>
	<p>a) The target indicator in the PFD was 170,000 metric tons of CO2 mitigated. In the CEO Endorsement this amount increased to 1,953,453 metric tonnes. Please explain this dramatic increase.</p>	<p>This recalculation is explained in the above embedded PIF-PPG comparison document for BGD-CCM. The substantial increase is due in part to the increase of area covered, and also taking into account the additional 16-year capitalization period.</p>
	<p>b) The Project objective indicators do not include CO2 indicators, which were in the PFD.</p>	<p>The indicator for CO2 reduction target has been added on Project Objective level in Annex A 1 (with reference to Outcome 2.2)</p>
	<p>c) The baseline numbers are the same as the target.</p>	<p>This has been corrected in Annex A1</p>
	<p>d) The Final Target numbers are not consistent with the PFD (i.e. ha, percent)</p>	<p>Some selected targets have been validated during PPG and reformulated. This became necessary as it was felt that more precision was required.</p>
	<p>e) Outcome 1.2 baseline 3. is higher than the midterm.</p>	<p>This been corrected. Up to 5 countries have existing NPOA-IUU (the implementation thereof will be supported), while an additional 3 NPOAs is the target at midterm</p>
	<p>f) As requested in PFD review, there needs to be clarification as to what constitutes a “strengthened MMA”. This is an issue in Outcome 2.1 and 2.2.</p>	<p>There is now reference inserted to the text that “improved protection and conservation (of species and habitats)” is evidenced by applying tools such as METT and also the IUCN Green List Assessment Reports</p>
	<p>g) For some outcomes, plans are developed but not implemented. This concern is the case for Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 in which the “established MMAs” need to have management implemented in order to ensure conservation; otherwise they are paper parks.</p>	<p>Changes been made to indicate “implemented”, both for EAFM plans and MMAs – throughout the Project document and in particular in Annex G – Indicative work plan.</p>

	h) For Outcome 2.1, 2. Number of MMA’s established or strengthened – the baseline is “4xMMA’s not established in project areas”, which is unclear. Similarly, the midterm and final target of MMAs “not established” is equally confusing. Do you mean establish MMAs in areas outside the project area? This indicator does not reflect the idea of strengthened MMAs.	This has been reformulated and is clarified, under Outcome 2.1, in Annex A1. Please note that the Project will focus on already existing / established MMAs, notwithstanding the consideration of (the geographical scope of) “implemented EAFM plans” as “Other effective area-based conservation measure”, and therefore an MMA.
10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?	(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No. The paragraph description of knowledge management plans is insufficient. More information is needed regarding on what topics you plan to draw insights and how you propose to share those insights. A plan needs to be provided.	Section 8, Knowledge Management has been revised (page 85) <i>The project will develop a knowledge management and communication strategy at the outset of the project implementation, with participation of all BOBLME partners. This will be based on strategic principles presented in FAO Knowledge Strategy 2011 and GEF’s KM strategy. This Strategy will aim at “stimulating the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge, including statistics.” The Knowledge Strategy will be conceptually rigorous but practical and results-based. It will both build upon successful techniques already being used and encourage innovation.</i>
Agency responses		
11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:	(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No. STAP: Most of STAP’s concerns have been addressed; However, responses are completely lacking for items #5 (labor conditions) and #8 (economic benefits). The following points have also not been sufficiently addressed as noted in previous comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Co-financing reductions (#2) – noted in co-financing comment. · Theory of change detail (#4) – noted in design. · Suggestion to include additional wastewater projects (#6) – noted in design. · Stakeholder engagement plans (#10) – noted in design. 	Noted and these will be addressed in relevant sections in the responses section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · (#2) Co-financing has not been reduced and is explained earlier. · (#4) Theory of change has been amended. · (#5) Labour conditions – included primarily in Section 11 (page 91 ff. on decent rural employment), and throughout the text on EAFM and livelihoods · (#6) Possibility of future child projects under additional financing to Component 3. · (#8) Economic benefits are addressed in Component 4 in project design. · (#10) Stakeholder engagement plans strengthened in the text, with updated table and engagement details.

<p>GEF Council (LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No.</p> <p>Council requested that the Project Document provide information on how indigenous peoples have been consulted and will be consulted as well as involved in the project. During PPG the indigenous communities were not consulted. Instead the Pro Doc (Annex I) provides a list of indigenous communities and indicates that additional steps will be undertaken once the project is underway through the FPIC (free, prior and informed consent) process. The steps reflect a top-down, one-way process that is not inclusive.</p>	<p>The PPG did not have sufficient funds to work extensively with countries to identify communities and consult.</p> <p>FPIC will be undertaken if IP exist in areas.</p> <p>A draft Focus Area approach has been developed (Annex S) jointly with EA IUCN. IUCN has developed and adheres to a Rights-Based Approach, based on the Union’s Policy Instruments, Standards and Guidelines (2016, and updates).</p>
<p>The steps note “information will be disclosed”, “documentation of indigenous people’s needs” and “complaints mechanisms”. In contrast, there is an explanation of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) that does reflect a more inclusive process, including measures to ensure the communities are included in planning and that affected populations receive benefits. Realizing consultations with the indigenous communities need to wait until the specific areas have been identified.</p>	<p>The language follows the standard text of FAO policy and guidelines.</p> <p>Consultations with IP were not conducted during PPG, due to insufficient funding.</p> <p>This will be conducted as part of the inception process.</p>
<p>However, the process for engaging with the communities needs to be rethought to ensure inclusivity and respect for the communities</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>This requirement has now been incorporated in Section 2.1 and Annex H2 (Stakeholder engagement), as well as Annex S (Focus Area Approach); the latter has been developed jointly with EA IUCN.</p>
<p>Council also requested that the Theory of Change be improved to inform regional and country contributions towards the program’s outcomes. It is not clear how this was addressed.</p>	<p>The text of section 1.6, and the TOC diagram have been amended to reflect better the role of countries and (regional) partners, in particular on the 2nd tier: effecting behavioural change in order to achieve longer-term impact – environmental benefits, (economic) ecosystem services while securing human rights and livelihoods.</p>
<p>As requested by Council, clarification is needed in the CER and Pro Doc as to who will endorse the regional documents.</p>	<p>Regional documents will be endorsed by the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC).</p> <p>A section has been included in the text of section 6.</p>

	FAO needs to respond to Council comment #14 “We advise reconsideration of the plan for a 20% increase in the ‘landings’...” The response provided (“This point d point – but this is intended...”) is incoherent.	This has been resolved. The countries did not agree. A value rather than percentage has been inserted to provide flexibility
	Council requested clarification as to how each country will be held to their commitments to the project. Please respond.	All countries are fully committed to the project and have signed up at high level to the SAP, PFD and now Project document. Countries have provided their co-financing commitments – while the processing of some letters is still pending. All countries will also sign the project implementation agreement.
	The following Council concerns were noted in previous comments	
	· need to clarify what constitutes “MMA strengthening” - noted in the M&E comments.	MMA strengthening is considered as the process which results primarily in improved protection and conservation, as evidenced by METT score and IUCN Green List Assessment reports. Text to this effect has been reinstated with reference to Outcome 2.1, also in the Results Framework Annex A1.
	· offer to consider NOAA co-financing during PPG - noted in the co-financing comments.	NOAA were unable to commit co-finance 2019-2020. FAO will follow up during implementation.
	· request for clarification on water treatment outside Mandalay - noted in the design comments	FAO has discussed with ADB. New coastal sites agreed in Mawlamyine and Hop An (river mouth of Thanlwin River and coast)
	· provide stakeholder consultation information – noted in design comments.	This information as is now provide as Annex P. Noting the limitation on resources for stakeholder consultation during the PPG phase.
12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?	(LKarrer Feb 13, 2020) No. Please address previous comments.	

[1] For BD projects: has the project explicitly articulated which Aichi Target(s) the project will help achieve and are SMART indicators identified, that will be used to track the project's contribution toward achieving the Aichi Target(s)?

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS.

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 9909			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (USD)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>

<p>The PPG enabled FAO to develop the FAO Child project document: <i>Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities</i>. The inception workshop was held in March 2019 with all eight BOB countries participated to work out the plan and roadmap. IUCN and BOBP-IGO were identified to support the preparation of baseline information and to undertake national and sub regional stakeholder consultations. IUCN supported national consultations in Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand.</p> <p>BOBP-IGO undertook State and Federal level consultations in India and a sub-regional consultation on combatting IUU (with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka). In addition, FAO undertook national stakeholder consultations directly with Indonesia and supported the government of Malaysia in organising their own consultations and also the CCM in Bangladesh, with FAO additional resources through TCP funding.</p> <p>Within this context the consultant was tasked to support the development on relevant areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) undertook consultations in Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh; · FAO supported consultations in India and Indonesia; · Malaysia undertook its own consultation (with internal funding); and, · BOBP-IGO supported consultations in India and a sub-regional consultation with members (with FAO funding). · FAO FSP project formulation experts were hired to support the preparation of the FSP project document as well as to communicate with stakeholders for co-financing letters and explore partnership and co-financing by potential donors. <p>Through the consultations, the three execution partners (IUCN, BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC) have been identified with sound project institutional/implementation arrangement designed for the future project delivery.</p> <p>The PPG has completed almost all the field activities and consultations by May 2020 and the draft project document was submitted to GEFSEC in December 2020. The PPG uses its balance fund to improve the final the project document by follow up the GEFSEC comments and to harmonize the Norad co-financing. The PPG will be closed by end December 2020.</p>	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total	200,000	200,000	200,000

Categories	Budget	Hard Commitment	Total Commitments	Actuals	Commitments & Actuals
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5011 Salaries Professional	10,000	0	0	0	8000
5013 Consultants	53,600	13,561	13,561	32,758	46,316
5014 Contracts	0	2,555	2,555	111,433	113,988
5020 Locally Contracted Labour	50,000	0	0	0	0
5021 Travel	13,450	0	0	18,899	18,899
5023 Training	70,156	0	0	12,772	12,772
5028 General Operating Expenses	2794	0	0	25	25
Total expenses	200,000	16,116	16,116	183,927	200,000

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

ANNEX E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table G to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	2,000,000
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)	
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	

5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	TBD
	Total area under improved management (Hectares)	
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2,959,482 tCO ₂ e
7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	1 LME
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tonnes)	1,200,000
9	Reduction , disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tonnes of toxic chemicals reduced)	
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	13,000

ANNEX F: Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part1 by ticking the most relevant keywords/topics//themes that best describes the project

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing models			
	Transform policy and regulatory environments		

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	Demonstrate innovative approaches		
	Deploy innovative financial instruments		
Stakeholders			
	Indigenous Peoples		
	Private Sector		
		Capital providers	
		Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		Large corporations	
		SMEs	
		Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
		Non-Grant Pilot	
		Project Reflow	
	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities		
	Civil Society		
		Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
		Academia	
		Trade Unions and Workers Unions	
	Type of Engagement		
		Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications		
		Awareness Raising	
		Education	
		Public Campaigns	
		Behavior Change	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	Enabling Activities		
	Capacity Development		
	Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	Targeted Research		
	Learning		
		Theory of Change	
		Adaptive Management	
		Indicators to Measure Change	
	Innovation		
	Knowledge and Learning		
		Knowledge Management	
		Innovation	
		Capacity Development	
		Learning	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality			
	Gender Mainstreaming		
		Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas		
		Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	
		Knowledge generation	
Focal Areas/Theme			
	Integrated Programs		

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Commodity Supply Chains ([1]Good Growth Partnership)	
			Sustainable Commodities Production
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Financial Screening Tools
			High Conservation Value Forests
			High Carbon Stocks Forests
			Soybean Supply Chain
			Oil Palm Supply Chain
			Beef Supply Chain
			Smallholder Farmers
			Adaptive Management
		Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			Resilience (climate and shocks)
			Sustainable Production Systems
			Agroecosystems
			Land and Soil Health
			Diversified Farming
			Integrated Land and Water Management
			Smallholder Farming
			Small and Medium Enterprises
			Crop Genetic Diversity
			Food Value Chains
			Gender Dimensions
			Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			Sustainable Food Systems
			Landscape Restoration
			Sustainable Commodity Production
			Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			Integrated Landscapes
			Food Value Chains
			Deforestation-free Sourcing

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
			Smallholder Farmers
		Sustainable Cities	
			Integrated urban planning
			Urban sustainability framework
			Transport and Mobility
			Buildings
			Municipal waste management
			Green space
			Urban Biodiversity
			Urban Food Systems
			Energy efficiency
			Municipal Financing
			Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			Urban Resilience
	Biodiversity		
		Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			Terrestrial Protected Areas
			Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			Productive Landscapes
			Productive Seascapes
			Community Based Natural Resource Management
		Mainstreaming	
			Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			Tourism
			Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
			Fisheries
			Infrastructure
			Certification (National Standards)
			Certification (International Standards)
		Species	
			Illegal Wildlife Trade

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
			Threatened Species
			Wildlife for Sustainable Development
			Crop Wild Relatives
			Plant Genetic Resources
			Animal Genetic Resources
			Livestock Wild Relatives
			Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		Biomes	
			Mangroves
			Coral Reefs
			Sea Grasses
			Wetlands
			Rivers
			Lakes
			Tropical Rain Forests
			Tropical Dry Forests
			Temperate Forests
			Grasslands
			Paramo
			Desert
		Financial and Accounting	
			Payment for Ecosystem Services
			Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
			Conservation Trust Funds
			Conservation Finance
		Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
			Biosafety
			Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
	Forests		
		Forest and Landscape Restoration	
			REDD/REDD+
		Forest	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
			Amazon
			Congo
			Drylands
	Land Degradation		
		Sustainable Land Management	
			Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			Ecosystem Approach
			Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			Community-Based NRM
			Sustainable Livelihoods
			Income Generating Activities
			Sustainable Agriculture
			Sustainable Pasture Management
			Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
			Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
			Sustainable Fire Management
			Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
		Land Degradation Neutrality	
			Land Productivity
			Land Cover and Land cover change
			Carbon stocks above or below ground
		Food Security	
	International Waters		
		Ship	
		Coastal	
		Freshwater	
			Aquifer
			River Basin
			Lake Basin
		Learning	
		Fisheries	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Persistent toxic substances	
		SIDS : Small Island Dev States	
		Targeted Research	
		Pollution	
			Persistent toxic substances
			Plastics
			Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
			Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
		Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
		Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
		Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
		Large Marine Ecosystems	
		Private Sector	
		Aquaculture	
		Marine Protected Area	
		Biomes	
			Mangrove
			Coral Reefs
			Seagrasses
			Polar Ecosystems
			Constructed Wetlands
	Chemicals and Waste		
		Mercury	
		Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
		Coal Fired Power Plants	
		Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
		Cement	
		Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
		Ozone	
		Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
		Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
		Waste Management	
			Hazardous Waste Management
			Industrial Waste
			e-Waste
		Emissions	
		Disposal	
		New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
		Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
		Plastics	
		Eco-Efficiency	
		Pesticides	
		DDT - Vector Management	
		DDT - Other	
		Industrial Emissions	
		Open Burning	
		Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
		Green Chemistry	
	Climate Change		
		Climate Change Adaptation	
			Climate Finance
			Least Developed Countries
			Small Island Developing States
			Disaster Risk Management
			Sea-level rise
			Climate Resilience
			Climate information
			Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			Adaptation Tech Transfer
			National Adaptation Programme of Action
			National Adaptation Plan
			Mainstreaming Adaptation

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
			Private Sector
			Innovation
			Complementarity
			Community-based Adaptation
			Livelihoods
		Climate Change Mitigation	
			Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
			Energy Efficiency
			Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
			Technology Transfer
			Renewable Energy
			Financing
			Enabling Activities
		Technology Transfer	
			Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer
			Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)
			Endogenous technology
			Technology Needs Assessment
			Adaptation Tech Transfer
		United Nations Framework on Climate Change	
			Nationally Determined Contribution

[1]

ANNEX G: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Annex A2: Project Budget

Table A 2.1 IW & Norad Funding Allocations by Country and Components

Country	Funding source	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	IW Total	CCM STAR Bangladesh Component 2.2 Total	NORAD* Total	Subtotal by funding allocations
BGD	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789	504,587		1,626,376
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
IND	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
INS	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
MAL	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
MDV	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
MYA	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
SRL	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789

	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
THA	GEF	510,358	203,750	50,000	148,750	208,931	1,121,789			1,121,789
	NORAD*	91,997	103,469	40,135	110,523	198,305			544,429	544,429
TOTAL	GEF	4,082,864	1,629,999	400,000	1,190,000	1,671,450	8,974,312	504,587		9,478,899
	NORAD*	735,974	827,756	321,084	884,182	1,586,439			4,355,434	4,355,434

* Based on UN USD-NOK exchange rate November 2020 (<https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>)

Table A 2.2 IW & Norad Funding Allocations by executing agency

Activities	GEF					
	TOTAL	IUCN IW	BOBP-IGO IW	SEAFDEC IW	FAO IW	BGD-STAR
Component 1	3,888,442	175,000	1,725,904	1,987,538	0	0
Outcome 1.1:	2,431,524	175,000	1,065,986	1,190,538	0	0
Outcome 1.2:	1,456,918	0	659,918	797,000	0	0
Component 2:	2,032,939	1,552,380	0	0	0	480,559
Outcome 2.1:	1,362,380	1,362,380	0	0	0	0
Outcome 2.2:	480,559	0	0	0	0	480,559
Outcome 2.3:	190,000	190,000	0	0	0	0
Component 3:	380,952	130,952	125,000	125,000	0	0
Outcome 3.1:	380,952	130,952	125,000	125,000	0	0
Outcome 3.2: (ADB Child)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Component 4:	1,133,333	1,133,333	0	0	0	0
Outcome 4.1:	130,000	130,000	0	0	0	0
Outcome 4.2:	1,003,333	1,003,333	0	0	0	0
Component 5:	1,591,857	873,857	279,000	162,000	277,000	0
Outcome 5.1:	341,117	187,117	75,000	79,000	0	0
Outcome 5.2:	1,250,740	686,740	204,000	83,000	277,000	0

Activities	Norad*				
	TOTAL	IUCN	BOBP-IGO	SEAFDEC	FAO
Component 1	659,629	0	253,052	308,039	98,538
Outcome 1.1:	448,560	0	198,064	198,064	52,431
Outcome 1.2:	211,069	0	54,987	109,975	46,107
Component 2:	741,890	643,352	0	0	98,538
Outcome 2.1:	382,355	329,924	0	0	52,431
Outcome 2.2:	46,107	0	0	0	46,107
Outcome 2.3:	313,428	313,428	0	0	0
Component 3:	287,777	180,359	54,987	0	52,431
Outcome 3.1:	287,777	180,359	54,987	0	52,431
Outcome 3.2: (ADB Child)	0	0	0	0	0
Component 4:	792,463	693,924	0	0	98,539
Outcome 4.1:	415,348	362,917	0	0	52,431
Outcome 4.2:	377,115	331,007	0	0	46,108
Component 5:	1,421,872	995,091	104,283	104,283	218,215
Outcome 5.1:	579,969	318,971	104,283	104,283	52,432
Outcome 5.2:	841,903	676,120	0	0	165,783

Component 1:	3,888,442	175,000	1,725,904	1,987,538	0	0
Component 2 (includes BGD STAR) :	2,032,939	1,552,380	0	0	0	480,559
Component 3:	380,952	130,952	125,000	125,000	0	0
Component 4:	1,133,333	1,133,333	0	0	0	0
Component 5:	1,591,857	873,857	279,000	162,000	277,000	0
Total	9,027,523	3,865,522	2,129,904	2,274,538	277,000	480,559
Program Management Cost (PMC)	451,376	193,276	106,495	113,727	13,850	24,028
Total Project Cost	9,478,899	4,058,798	2,236,399	2,388,265	290,850	504,587
IW Project cost	8,974,312					
CCM Project Cost	504,587					
PPG Budget	200,000					
TOTAL (GEF)	9,678,899					
GEF Agency Fee (9% (including PPG))	871,101					
Requested amount GEF-IW:	10,550,000					

659,629	0	253,052	308,039	98,538
741,890	643,352	0	0	98,538
287,777	180,359	54,987	0	52,431
792,463	693,924	0	0	98,539
1,421,872	995,091	104,283	104,283	218,215
3,903,631	2,512,726	412,322	412,322	566,261
166,868	125,636	20,616	20,616	n.a.
4,070,499	2,638,362	432,938	432,938	566,261
284,935	FAO management and support cost			
4,355,434	TOTAL (Norad)			

*Based on UN USD-NOK exchange rate November 2020
<https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>

Annex A³: Project Budget for CC-M Bangladesh

The proposal for this Sub-component (2.2) is presented in Annex Q.

Estimated costs for Bangladesh CCM Child project	Unit	Units	Cost/ Unit	Total
Project staff				
-	-	-	-	-
International consultants				
International Technical Expert (salary & living allowance)	Days	86	464	39,904
National Consultant				
Program/operations associate	months	18	1,300	23,400
Senior Environmental Advisor	days	60	225	13,500
Web platform developer/data entry consultant	months	12	1,080	12,960
Forestry Expert (with a focus on wetlands/mangroves)	months	18	1,990	35,820
Socio-economic Expert (household surveys, ecosystem valuation)	months	18	1,990	35,820
Travel				
International Travel	trips	1	9,000	9,000
National Travel	trips	18	1,200	21,600
Contracts				
Socio-economic assessment of resource dependence/harvesting/extraction (1.2)	LS	1	19,500	19,500
Quantification of carbon stocks (1.3)	TBD	1	105,000	105,000
Ecosystem Services Valuation (1.4)	TBD	1	35,400	35,400
Demonstrate climate resilient fisheries and aquaculture technologies (2.2)	Lumpsum	1	45,605	45,605
Technical support to FD for understanding fisheries value chain, in support of AIG activities under SPP	Lumpsum	1	20,000	20,000
Mid-term & Terminal Evaluation	Lumpsum	1	5,000	5,000
Training and Workshops				
Training on cross-sectoral data collection, analysis and use for Sundarbans staff (3.1)	Workshop	2	4,500	9,000

Training on aquatic/terrestrial ecosystem management and conservation (3.2)	Workshop	2	4,500	9,000
Regular meetings with PSC and PIC, including other meetings deemed necessary	Meeting	8	600	4,800
Expendable procurement				
Communication and awareness raising materials, stationary	Lumpsum	1	15,000	15,000
Non-expendable procurement				
Office furniture and accessories	Lumpsum	1	3,000	3,000
Tablet	Number	15	200	3,000
Laptops	Number	3	1,150	3,450
GOE				
GOE	Months	18	600	10,800
Total				
				480,559
5% PMC				24,028
Project Total				504,587