Regional Dialogue on Management of Highly Migratory Fish Species in the Bay of Bengal

23 November 2017; Kochi, India

Ocean Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation – Bay of Bengal Project Models for Innovation and Reform

Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation

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Tuna landings in India

- Annual tuna landings in India: 120,000 t
- Yellowfin: 21,900 t (27% of potential)
- Skipjack: 18,250 t (18% of potential)
- Neritic tunas: ~ 79,000 t

Government initiatives for development of tuna fisheries in India

Regional:

India plays a significant role in the activities of Indian Ocean Yuna Commission (IOTC).

At National level, India encourages deepsea fishing

- Governments of India and of different maritime states provide financial assistance to fishermen for procurement of deepsea fishing vessels.
- Schemes are available for development of cold chain and setting up of markets.
- Schemes have been initiated for improvement of hygienic landing and handling facilities at fishing harbours.

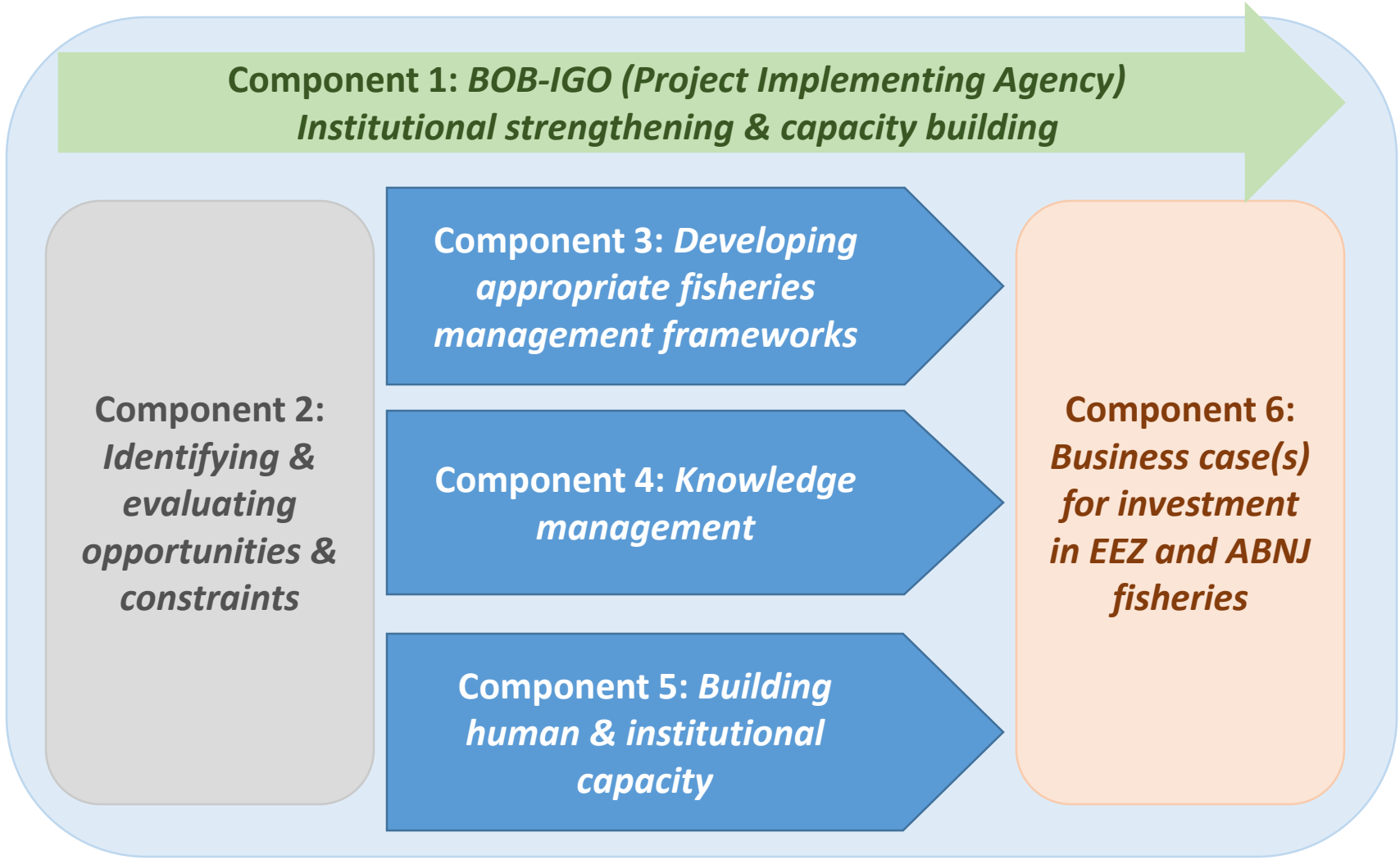
Government initiatives for development of tuna fisheries in India

- However, lack of proper skill, technology and infrastructure for deepsea fishing and processing hampers development.
- Marketing mechanism and value addition need improvement.
- Proper plan for development of tuna fisheries does not exist.

OPP-BOB Project objective

“To develop comprehensive business plan(s) to support long-term public-private partnership investment in a fisheries improvement pilot(s) based on shared, highly-migratory species (tuna and tuna-like species)”

Project Components and Work-Plan



Project Location & Scale

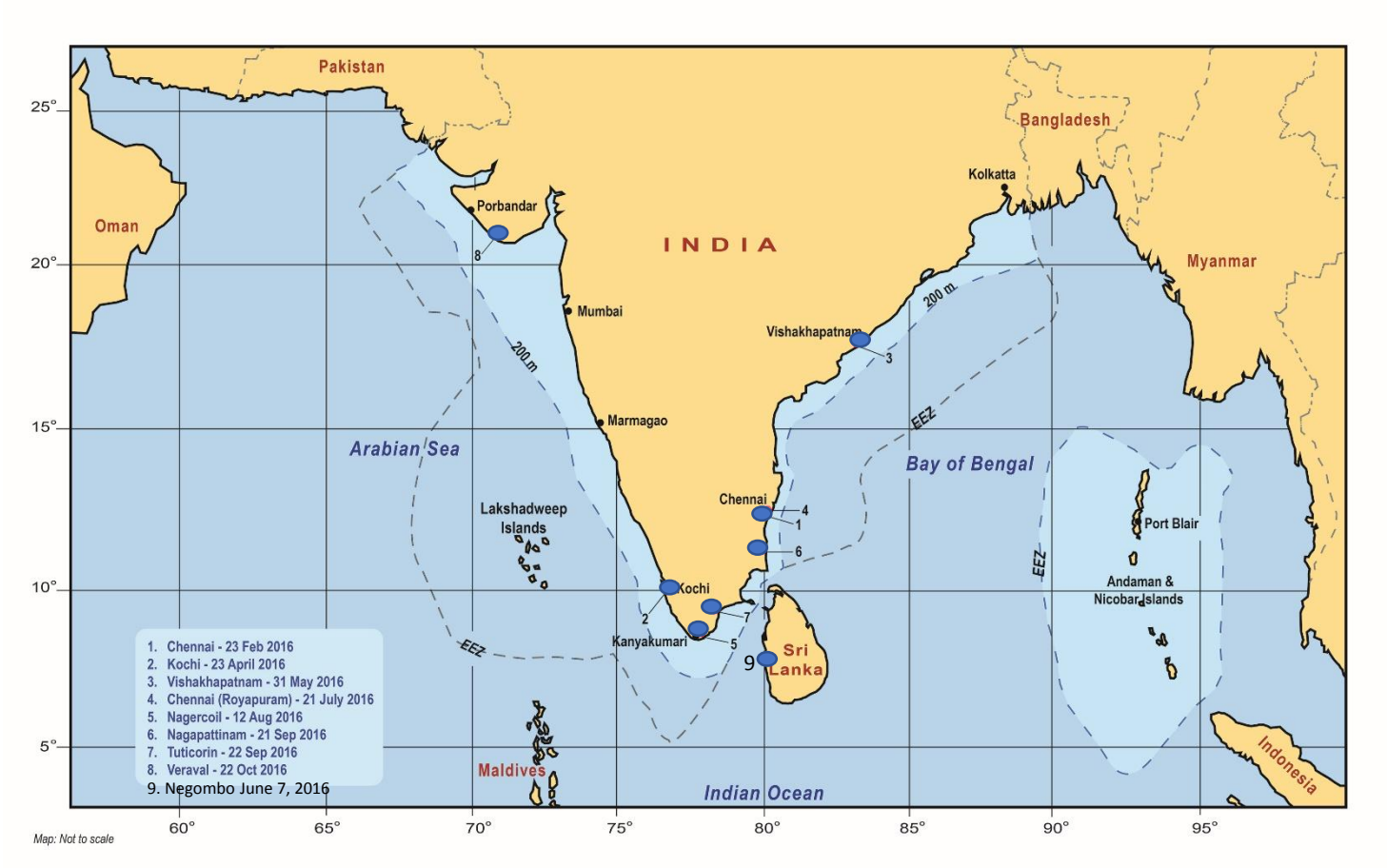
- Starting from **South India**
- Engaging with **regional partners** (Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh)
- Engaging with **Regional Fisheries Management Bodies** (IOTC)

Project Outputs (Expected)

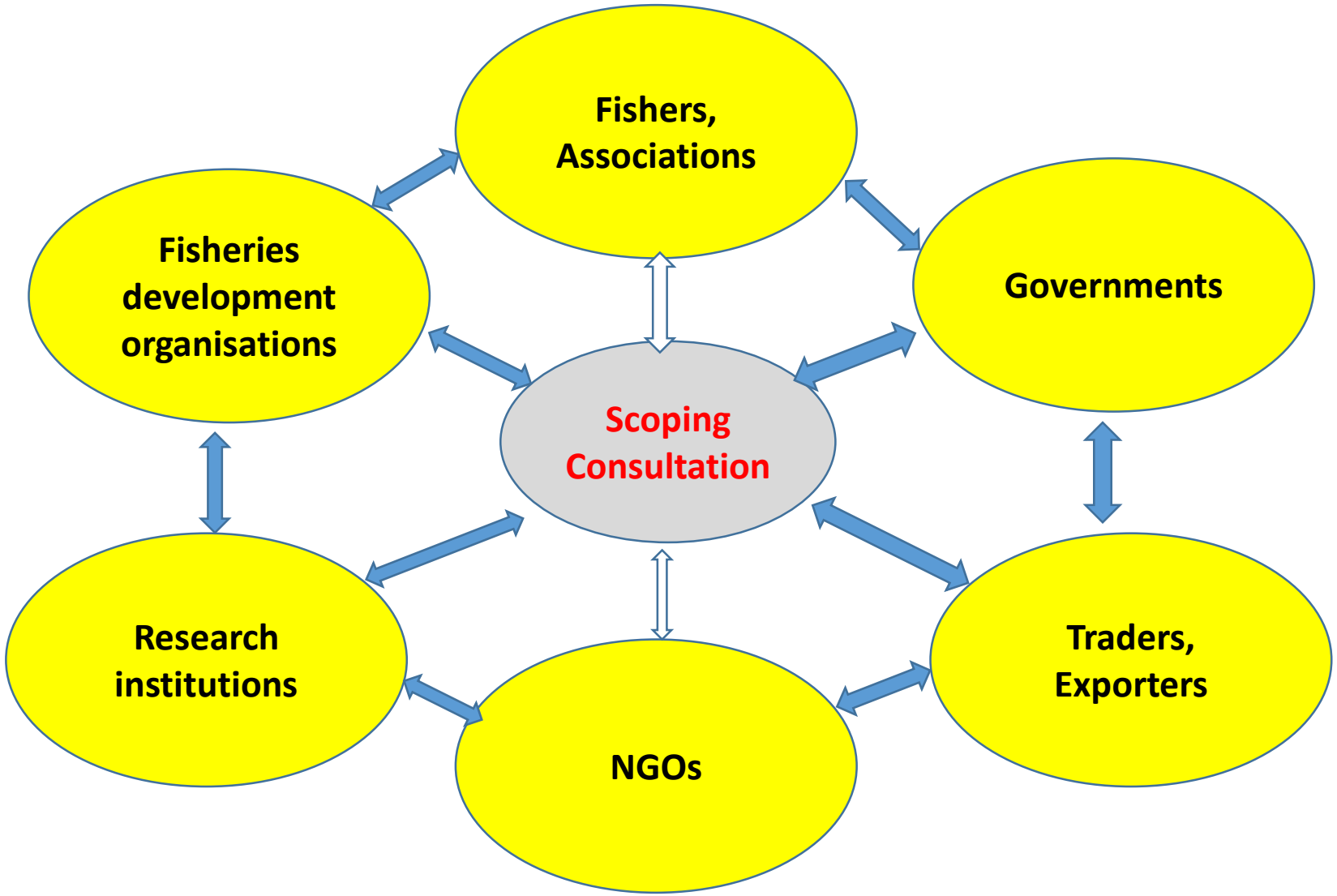
- Improved understanding of the fishery (national and regional)
- Appropriate fisheries management strategy
- Identification of opportunities for future development and investment
- Establishment of partnerships (regional/national)

Scoping Consultations on Tuna Fisheries

Locations of Consultation



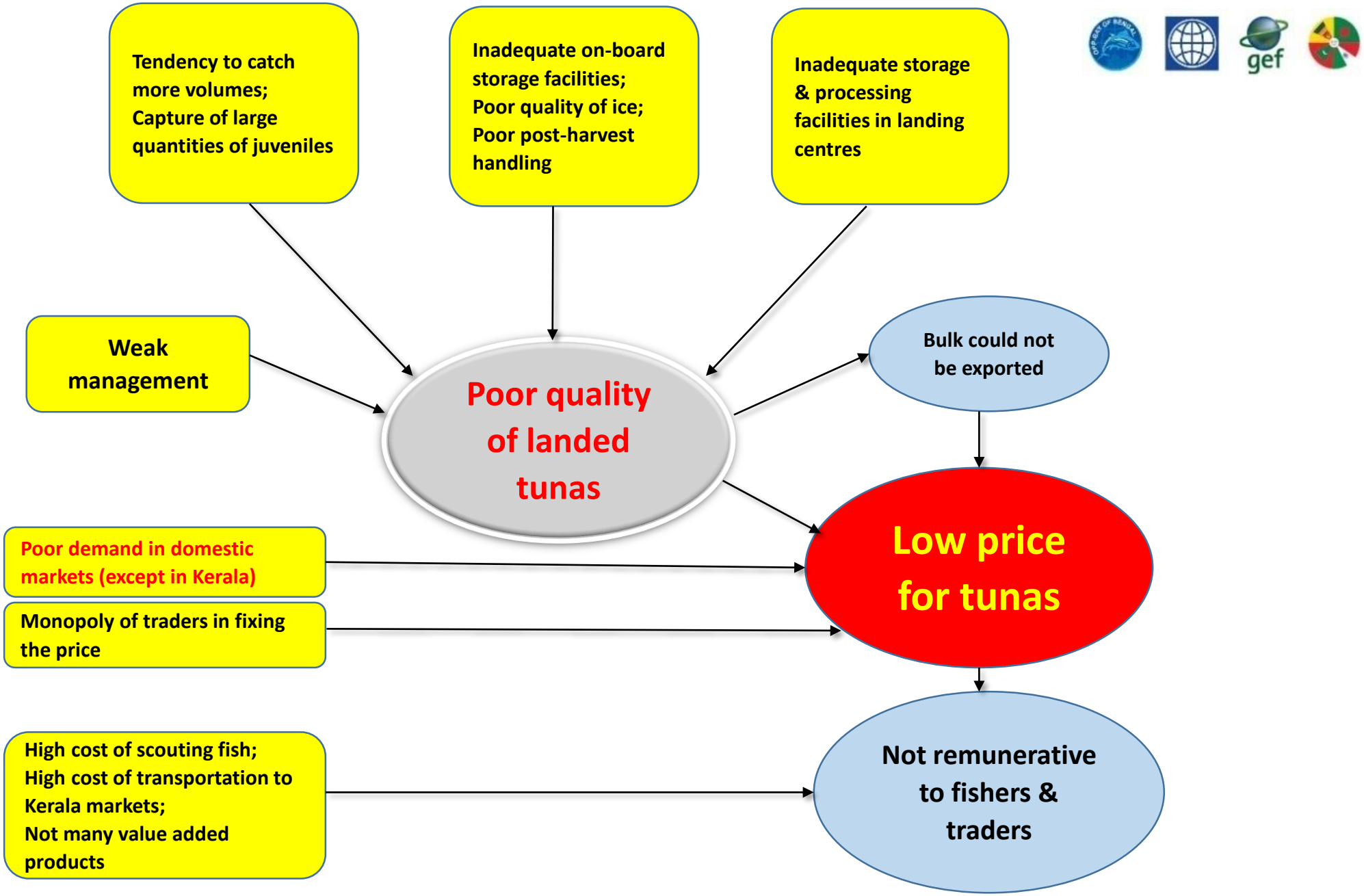
Stakeholder Engagement




Export
Shrimp & frozen skipjack to Iran
Limited market for chilled fish
Strong demand for skipjack in Iran
Most chilled fish to European countries
Limited demand nationally for tuna
Challenge of multiple compliance issues
No testing facility for ciguatera
Low awareness of international conventions & instruments
India committed to eliminating IUU
National Level
Porbandar
Tuna fishing ground Apr-May-June
INDIA
200 m
General Issues
Skipjack only used for canning
Low quality also affects other species i.e. mahe-mahe
Indian yellowfin widely regarded as low quality
Mumbai
Swordfish landings
Fresh tuna transported to Kochi & Kanyakumari for processing
Gillnetting for tuna reduces quality
No tuna processors
Some purpose-built tuna boats (double-decked)
Good harbour
Vishakhapatnam
Tuna fishing ground Sept-Oct-Nov-Dec-Jan-Feb
Tuna fishing ground Sept-Oct
Marmagao
Steel purpose-built double decked boats for tuna
Poor airport handling of tuna
c.200 50' boats gillnetting for tuna
Slow certification bureaucracy
Role of middle-men (merchants)
Exports to the Gulf
Using recommended hooks to reduce by-catch
No processing plant in harbour
Local ban on longlining
BAY OF BENGAL
High tuna potential
Lakshadweep Islands
Capacity limited to pole & line
Limited infrastructure
Well-developed processing industry for chilled fish
Chennai
Fishing in other states but can only land at Nagapattinam
Reconversion of gillnetters/long-liners back to trawlers
Good harbour
Nagapattinam
Kochi
Role of middle-men (merchants)
Good sailfish catches (but in Odisha)
Andaman Islands
Port Blair
Future air link to Bangkok
Good tuna resources
One third of India's EEZ
Limited infrastructure
Local opposition to outside fishers
Limited communications
Thoothoor
Compart-mentalised holds
Highly educated fishers
High levels of expertise
Good swordfish landings
Kanyakumari
SRI LANKA
Purpose-built double-decked boats for tuna fishing
Well-developed processing industry for chilled fish
Chilled fish processors concentrated in Kanyakumari & Kochi
EEZ
Tuna fishing ground June-July-Aug Jan-Feb-Mar
Nicobar Islands
gef

Issues confronting tuna fisheries

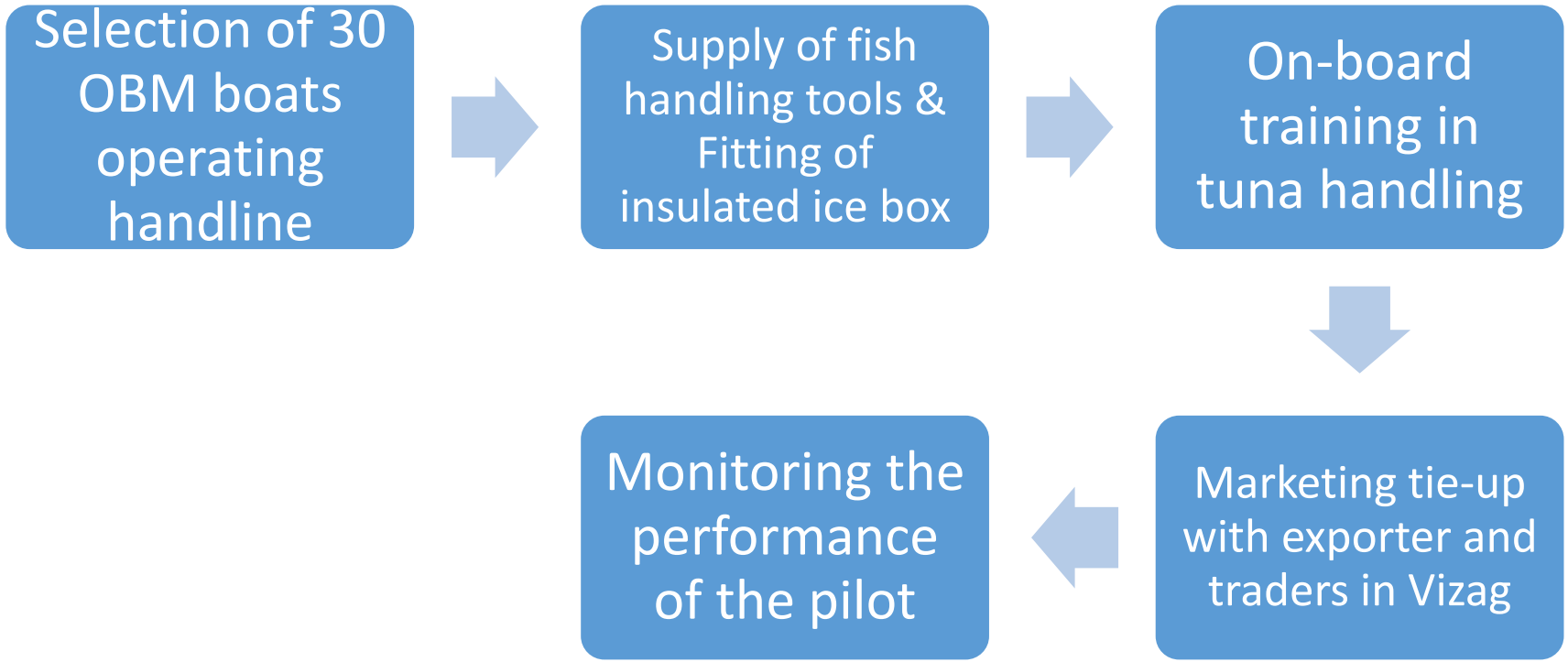
1. Challenges to ensure sustainability
2. Challenges to increase economic efficiency
3. Human capacity not in tune with the requirement
4. Strong partnership does not exist among the stakeholders


Tendency to catch more volumes; Capture of large quantities of juveniles
Inadequate on-board storage facilities; Poor quality of ice; Poor post-harvest handling
Inadequate storage & processing facilities in landing centres
Weak management
Poor quality of landed tunas
Bulk could not be exported
Poor demand in domestic markets (except in Kerala)
Monopoly of traders in fixing the price
Low price for tunas
High cost of scouting fish; High cost of transportation to Kerala markets; Not many value added products
Not remunerative to fishers & traders

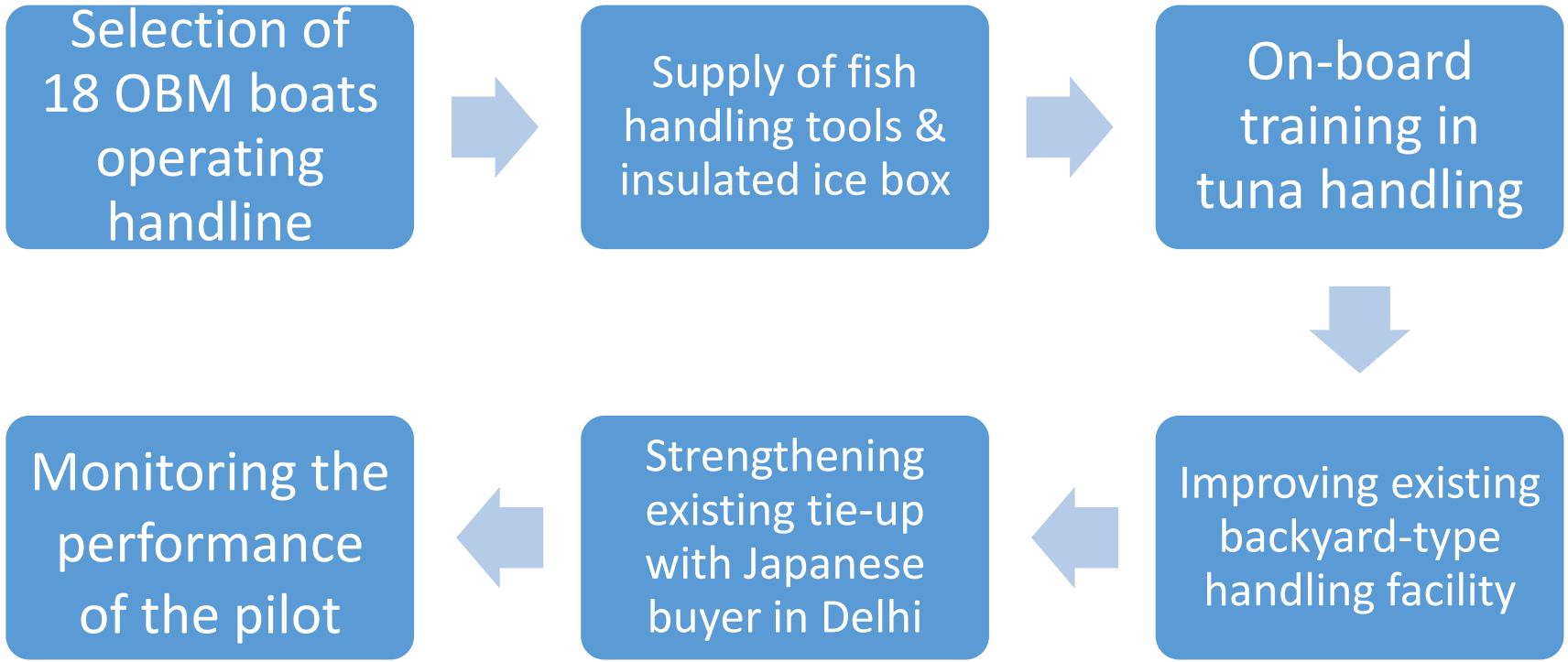
Business Plans

1. Establish effective MCS systems
2. Improve catch quality
3. Fisheries management system pilot for neritic tuna (longtail tuna in Gujarat)
4. Establish a regional approach to fisheries development
5. Management system for skipjack tuna fisheries in Lakshadweep

Improving harvest and post-harvest handling of tunas – 1. Jalaripalem Village, Andhra Pradesh



Improving harvest and post-harvest handling of tunas – 2. Vaithikuppam, Puducherry + Nadukuppam, Tamil Nadu



SINTEX Insulated Premium Box Model IRE 20-21
Dimensions: 1.34m L X 0.48m W X 0.54 m H

Expected outcomes

Better quality and price for tunas	Ensuring sustainability	Potential for replicating the model
• Creation of better marketing system • Economic benefit across supply chain	• Boat registration • Fishermen & trader participation by their monetary contribution	• Promoting switch-over from gillnetting to hand/longlining • Expansion of the model to more villages • Public-private participation

THANK YOU