



**Regional Training Course on
Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)
and Ecosystem Approach to
Fisheries Management (EAFM)**

A Foundation Course for Officers serving in Ministry / Dept. of Fisheries

15 – 30 November 2024 | Chennai & Kochi



Background

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) is one of the largest LMEs of the world with an area of about 6.2 million km². About 66 percent of the BOBLME lies within the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of BOBLME countries - Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The remainder is the high seas area. The BOBLME is home to rich biodiversity and critical habitats. The natural resources are of considerable social and economic importance to the bordering countries. Fisheries and aquaculture contribute immensely to food security, employment, and trade in the region.

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

In order to address these issues, the countries jointly developed the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which will be implemented under the BOBLME Phase II project titled, **“Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities”**.

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). It is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO, for its member-countries), and Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC, for countries part of BOBLME project and member of SEAFDEC) are the executing agencies of the project.

The project objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region, to reduce environmental stress and improve environmental status for the benefit of coastal states and communities.

To meet the objectives of the project, the project envisages conducting capacity building programmes to the stakeholders in the region. The Regional Training Course on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) caters to the requirement of BOBLME project.



Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)

Formulated in 1995, after years of global consultation, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) is a globally acknowledged document that guidelines to facilitate transition of a fishery towards sustainable fisheries and maintaining it. Although CCRF is not a legal document, it is closely linked with binding international laws such as the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity. Hence, adapting CCRF in national setting meets the commitment of the countries towards such international instruments. CCRF provides a set of broad guidelines which needs to be interpreted and adapted in the national context. Therefore, it is crucial that there is a clear understanding of the principles of CCRF amongst the fisheries practitioners.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

The need to apply an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) is now globally accepted and has been endorsed in several international fora. Introduction of EAFM, as a holistic concept and alternative way to manage fisheries started after the Rio +20 conference in 2012 and several countries have adopted the concept for their national fisheries management. In BOBLME project phase II, being executed now, one of the expected outcomes is implementation of EAFM in the Bay of Bengal rim countries. Under the project, the BOBP-IGO and SEAFDEC are executing agencies for implementing EAFM in south and southeast Asia, respectively. While support for

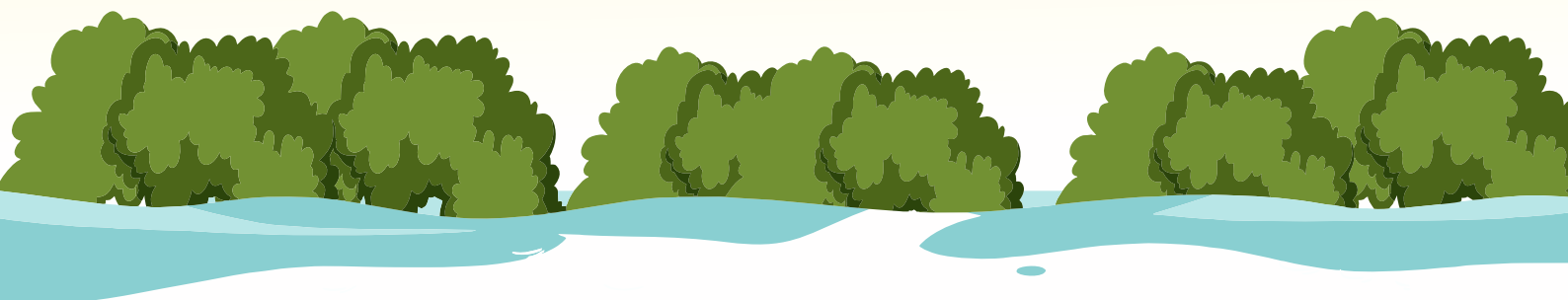
EAFM has been in place through a range of global declarations and policy instruments, progress in the implementation of an EAFM at national and regional levels has been slow, partly due to the practitioners lacking the relevant skills and experience to apply such an integrated and holistic approach. To address this issue, the BOBLME project has recommended conducting capacity building programmes in the region targeted at EAFM facilitators and practitioners.

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

The BOBP-IGO (www.bobpigo.org) is a leading regional fisheries body instrumental in fisheries development in the Bay of Bengal Region for the last 45 years. Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are the member-countries of the Organisation. The Organisation is currently implementing the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project phase II. One of the objectives of the Organisation is to improve the capacity of the countries to better participate in national and regional fisheries governance processes including CCRF and EAFM.

Since 2008, the BOBP-IGO has conducted Regional Training Programme in CCRF to meet the training and capacity building needs of the fisheries personnel in the member-countries. So far, 116 officers from member-countries and cooperating countries of the BOBP-IGO, viz., Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Myanmar have successfully completed the training course in six editions.

In addition, the BOBLME Project Phase I and BOBP-IGO jointly conducted a series of training courses in EAFM in the member countries in 2014 for junior and middle level fisheries and environmental practitioners to develop basic skills in understanding EAFM.



Regional Training Course on CCRF and EAFM

The broad objectives of the Regional Training Course on CCRF and EAFM are:

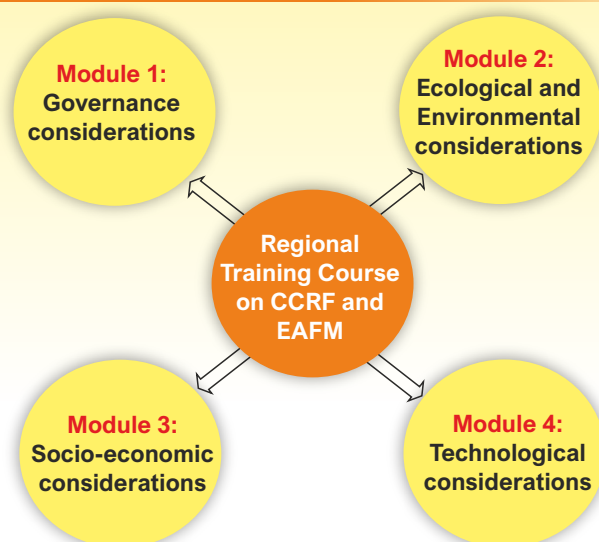
- To enhance understanding of the implication of responsible fisheries to secure livelihoods and fishery resources;
- To develop practical skills of fisheries practitioners to articulate implications of responsible fisheries in their settings; and
- To enhance understanding of multidimensional issues and find effective solutions to address them by following and expanded ecosystem approach.

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

In addition, the Course provides an international exposure to fisheries practitioners and hands-on experience in analyzing complex fisheries problems. The Training Course is also instrumental in building rapport among the fisheries practitioners of the member-countries and encouraging them to exchange ideas and experiences regarding fisheries management.

Course Outline

The Regional Training Course comprises four modules as shown below:



Module 1: Governance considerations

- State of Fisheries in BOB region
- Ecological state on Bay of Bengal
- Introduction to CCRF & VGSSF
- Fisheries Management: Principles & Practices
- Overview of EAFM
- Fostering co-management in fisheries
- Understanding IUU fishing
- Implementing MCS for combatting IUU fishing
- Area-based fisheries management measures
- Integrating Marine Spatial Planning in fisheries management
- Global and regional organisations and fisheries governance
- International fisheries treaties & conventions

- International treaties & conventions related to biodiversity and environment
- Reporting and compliance requirements under international fisheries governance framework

Module 2: Ecological and Environmental considerations

- Information needs in fisheries & methods of data collection
- Introduction to fish stock assessment
- Monitoring and assessing coastal and marine biodiversity for fisheries sustainability
- Sources of marine pollution
- Managing fishery related pollution
- Impact and adaptation of fisheries to climate change

Module 3: Socio-economic considerations

- Economic foundation of fisheries
- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods in small-scale fisheries
- Advancing towards gender equality in fisheries
- Safety-at-sea as integral part of management
- Facilitating delivery of insurance services to fishers
- Improving access to finance to fisheries
- Aquaculture as an option to reduce pressure on capture fisheries

Module 4: Technological considerations

- Harvest technologies
- Post-harvest technologies and approaches for reducing post-harvest losses
- Role of digital technologies in improving fisheries data collection, traceability and supply chain
- Emerging role of remote sensing in fisheries and environmental monitoring

Training Methodology

The delivery mechanism will include lectures, group discussion, personal and group assignments, plenary sessions, field visits and personal evaluation.

Lectures will be systematically followed by Q & A and discussion sessions. In the concluding stages of the Training Course, the participants will prepare fisheries management/EAFM plans with facilitation from resource persons.

Study tours

Study tour to fish landing centres will be organized to allow the participants to observe fishing activities and to engage in interactive sessions with different stakeholders. Study tour will also include visits to reputed fisheries and other institutions to see the latest developments in fisheries and environmental sciences.

The participants will need to prepare a report based on the study tours.

Practical exercises

Practical exercises include case-studies, formulation of model work/action plans in in-country and across country teams, personal report writing and quiz and terminal evaluation. Teams will be given specific time to formulate work plans on one aspect of the CCRF/EAFM and then present their findings in the plenary.

Language and communication

The Regional Training Course will be conducted in English. The course material shall include copies of the CCRF (and its concise version), EAFM handbook, lecture presentations and other reading materials.



Information for Participants

Who can participate?

Junior and middle-level officers of the Ministries/Departments of Fisheries and concerned agencies. Preferably below 40 years of age.

Participation is through nomination only.

Process of nomination

The concerned Ministry/Department in each member-country may identify and nominate four (04) participants and forward their nominations to BOBP-IGO with copies of their résumé and passport on or before **31 October 2024**.

- Working knowledge in English (reading, writing and conversing);
- Candidates with marine fisheries background are preferred though not limiting (as the Training Course is focused on marine fisheries).

Requirements from nominated candidates

Nominated candidates should provide the following to the BOBP-IGO:

- A Letter of Motivation and learning expectations;
- A Personal History (CV) containing work experience, educational background, hobbies and other skills and a recent digital image; and
- Participants should be physically fit to undertake field visits.

Participants are encouraged to bring laptops.

Insurance: All participants are advised to ensure that they are fully covered by travel and medical insurance before joining the course at their own cost. The BOBP-IGO shall not be responsible for covering any cost or any unforeseen incidence during the training course.

Sponsorship

The BOBP-IGO will provide full sponsorship for their participation. This will include air/train ticket (economy class, shortest route) from the place of duty to Chennai and back; in-country travels in India during the training course; lodging (on twin-shared basis); meals limited to breakfast and working lunch; and course material. Besides, a lump sum allowance of US \$ three hundred and fifty only (US \$ 350 only) will be given to each participant for their visa fee and sundry expenses (not included above).

Certification

The nominees who complete all the requirements as per the course outline will be issued a 'Certificate of participation' at the end of the regional training course.



For any further information, please contact:

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