Sustainable management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) Programme

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Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem

Area
- Total maritime area: 6.2 million km^2
- Total area of EEZs: 4.3 million km^2
- Combined length of coastline: 14 000 km

Environment
- 8% of the world's mangroves
- 12% of world's coral reefs
- Some of the largest estuaries in the world

Fisheries
- Number of fishers: 3.7 million
- Number of fishing boats: 415 000
- Annual fisheries production: 6 million tonnes
- Value of fisheries production: USD 4 billion
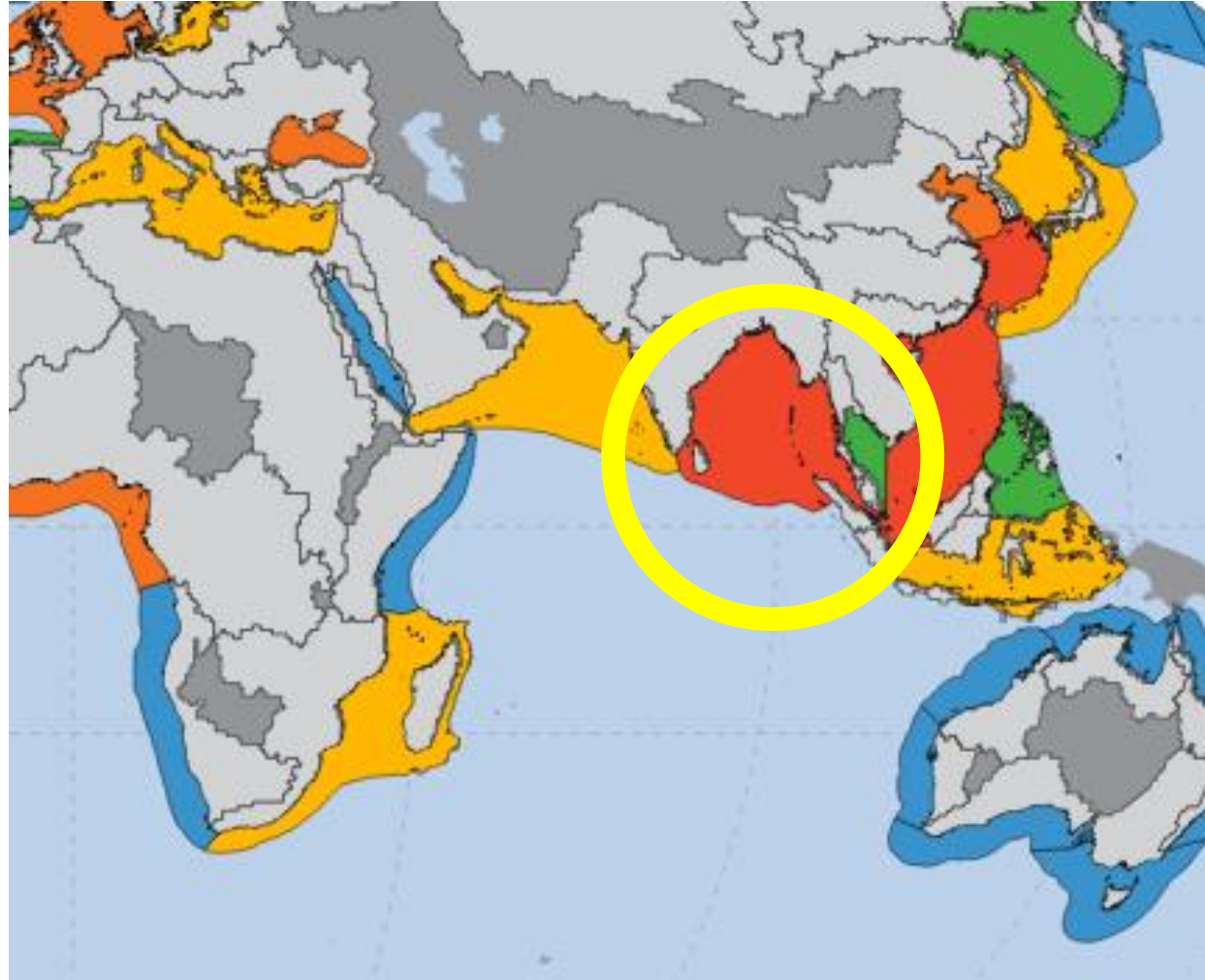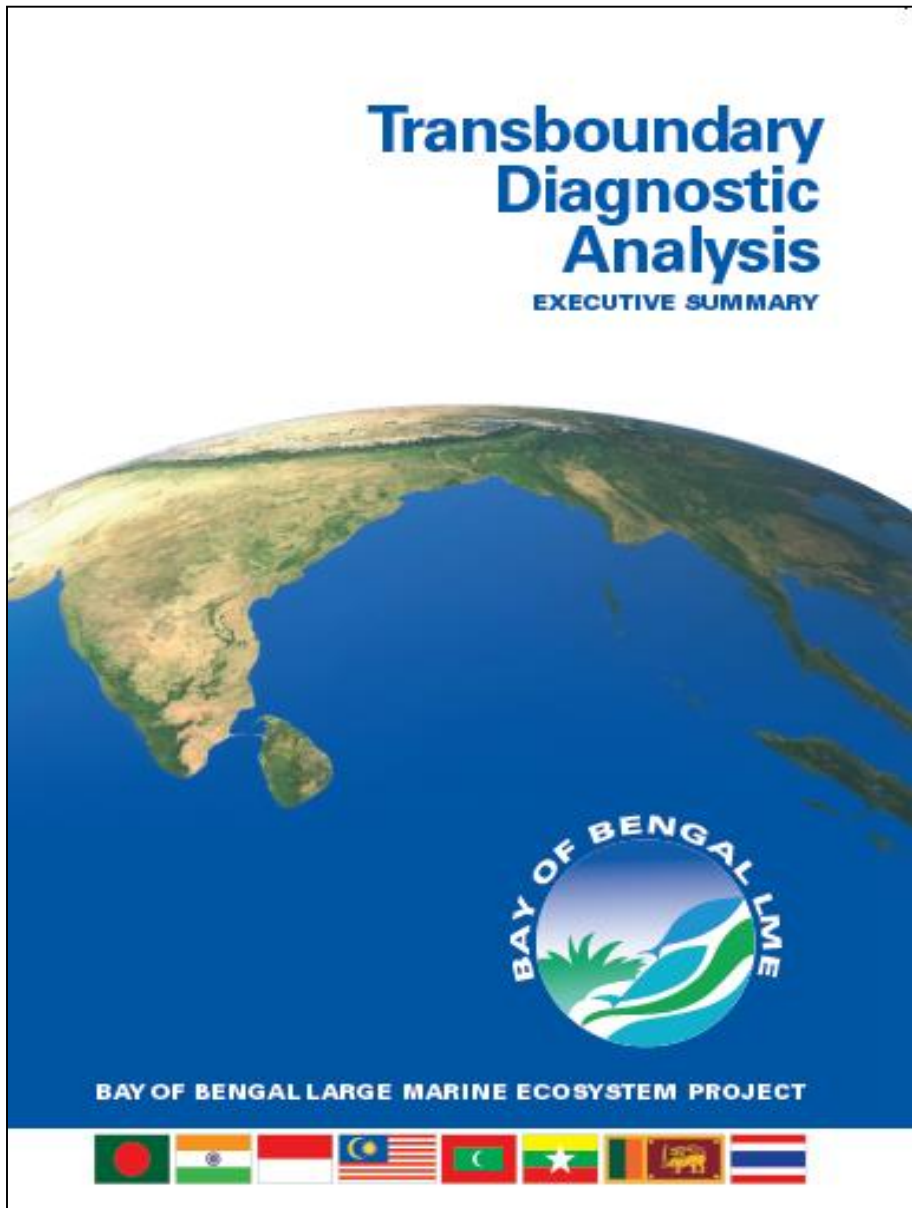
People
- Total population of countries: 2 000 million
- Population of coastal zone: 185 million

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem

Major threats:

- Over-exploitation of fish stocks

- Habitat degradation

- Pollution

https://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME-2012-TDA_Executive_summary.pdf

https://www.boblme.org/documentRepository/BOBLME%20SAP-Final.pdf

Overall SAP Vision: *"A healthy ecosystem and sustainable use of marine living resources for the benefit of the people and countries of the Bay of Bengal LME"*

1 Theme: Marine living resources	2 Theme: Critical habitats	3 Theme: Water quality	4 Theme: Social and economic considerations
ECOSYSTEM QUALITY OBJECTIVE Fisheries and other living marine resources have been restored and are managed sustainably	**ECOSYSTEM QUALITY OBJECTIVE** Degraded, vulnerable and critical habitats are restored, conserved and maintained	**ECOSYSTEM QUALITY OBJECTIVE** Coastal and marine pollution and water quality are controlled to meet agreed standards for human and ecosystem health	**ECOSYSTEM QUALITY OBJECTIVE** Social and economic constraints are addressed, leading to increased resilience and empowerment of coastal people
OBJECTIVES 1. Restore fishery resources that have declined 2. Restore and maintain species composition 3. Reduce the proportion of juvenile fish caught and/or retained 4. Restore biodiversity status level of 1980 by 2020	**OBJECTIVES** 1. Protect, manage and restore mangrove habitats to increase mangrove coverage and improve biodiversity 2. Restore, protect and sustainably manage existing coral reef ecosystems, habitats and associated biodiversity, and prevent pollution and destructive activities 3. Protect and manage seagrass habitats and associated biodiversity (maintain and increase extent and biodiversity)	**OBJECTIVES** 1. Reduce or minimize the discharge of untreated sewage and waste water into river, coastal and marine waters 2. Reduce and minimize solid waste and marine litter 3. Reduce and control nutrient loading into coastal waters	**OBJECTIVES** 1. Reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, climate variability and climate change, and increase climate resilience 2. Improve the living and working conditions of coastal fishing communities 3. Empower coastal people to participate in and benefit from sustainable development practices

BOBLME 2 Programme Components

Component 1

Sustainable management of fisheries

Component 2

Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and protection 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 coordination, monitoring and assessment

Component 1

Sustainable management of fisheries

Outcome 1.1: The ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) institutionalized at national level for targeted transboundary stocks

Outcome 1.2: Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catch in the BOBLME reduced

Component 2

Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and protection of biodiversity

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

Outcome 2.2: National MMAs established/strengthened through improved management effectiveness at national level

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

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; promotion of cleaner fishing ports and addressing abandoned fishing gears at 8 hotspots applying integrated coastal management approaches

Outcome 3.2: Demonstration investments in eco-waste infrastructure solutions: Mandalay City, Myanmar (ADB)

Component 4

Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME

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

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

Component 5

Regional mechanism for coordination, monitoring and assessment

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

Outcome 5.2: Program implementation based on adaptive results-based management

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