



Provisional Prospectus

Meeting on the Preparation of the 2026 Work Plan for the Implementation of the BOBLME II Project at the Department of Fisheries, Thailand 12 May 2026, 13:30–16:30 hrs.

Introduction

The Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) identified three critical transboundary concerns, namely overexploitation of marine living resources, degradation of critical habitats, and pollution and declining water quality. In response, BOBLME member countries jointly developed a regional program framework to address these priorities through the project entitled “*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 designed to address key systemic barriers that hinder effective ecosystem-based management. These include institutional, legal, and administrative constraints such as incomplete regional policy cycles and weak linkages between national and regional frameworks, as well as limited integration between science and policy. In addition, socio-economic challenges will be addressed by enhancing stakeholder awareness, strengthening capacity, promoting gender equity and participation, and introducing the valuation of ecosystem services to support improved governance. The project also seeks to strengthen the integration of climate change considerations into planning and management in order to enhance the resilience of fisheries, critical habitats, and coastal livelihoods.

The overall objective of the project is to support the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region. This will contribute to reducing environmental stress and improving ecosystem health for the benefit of coastal states and communities.

To achieve this objective, the project is structured around five interlinked components aligned with the SAP priorities, together with a focus on strengthening regional coordination and monitoring. These components include Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Restoration and Conservation of Critical Marine Habitats and Biodiversity, Management of Coastal and Marine Pollution to Improve Ecosystem Health, Improved Livelihoods and Enhanced Resilience in the BOBLME Region, and Regional Mechanisms for Planning, Coordination, and Monitoring.

The BOBLME II Project is implemented through five interlinked components aligned with the SAP themes:

1. Sustainable Management of Fisheries
2. Restoration and Conservation of Critical Marine Habitats and Biodiversity
3. Management of Coastal and Marine Pollution to Improve Ecosystem Health
4. Improved Livelihoods and Enhanced Resilience of the BOBLME
5. Regional Mechanism for Planning, Coordination, and Monitoring of the BOBLME

The project will be implemented through a collaborative partnership among three executing agencies, namely the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). The International Union for Conservation of Nature will also serve as the Project Coordinating Unit, ensuring overall coordination and coherence of implementation.

SEAFDEC will lead the implementation of activities in Southeast Asia under Components 1, 3, and 5 during the period 2024 to 2028, while activities under Component 3 will be completed by 2026. Implementation will focus on participating countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, in close collaboration with relevant national agencies and stakeholders.

Project progress, including annual achievements and proposed work plans, will be reported to the Regional Project Steering Committee for guidance and endorsement. In this context, the third Regional Project Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to be held from 19 to 22 May 2026 in Negombo, Sri Lanka, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature serving as the Regional Coordination Unit.

To ensure effective preparation for this meeting, the SEAFDEC/TD, in collaboration with the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, will convene the Meeting on the Preparation of the 2026 Work Plan for the Implementation of the BOBLME II Project on 12 May 2026, from 13:30 to 16:30 hrs., at the Department of Fisheries, to review and consolidate the achievements for 2025, finalize the work plan for the period July 2026 to June 2027, and incorporate recommendations from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand to further strengthen overall project implementation; the outcomes of this preparatory meeting, including the summary of achievements and the finalized work plan, will be submitted to the Regional Project Steering Committee for consideration and endorsement.

OBJECTIVES

1. To report the 2025 progress of the implementation of the BOBLME II
2. To discuss and finalize the work plan of the implementation of the BOBLME II in 2026

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Final work plan of the implementation of the BOBLME II in 2026 (July 2026–June 2027) to be endorsed during the 3rd Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) Meeting for the BOBLME II project that will be organized on 19–22 May 2026 at Negombo, Sri Lanka.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Fisheries officers relevant to the BOBLME II project including National Coordinator, Member of the Project Steering Committee, and other representatives from offices involved in the BOBLME II Project.
2. SEAFDEC representatives including activity leaders in each activity and relevant staff.

DATE AND VENUE

On 12 May 2026 at the Kuladam Meeting Room, 7th floor, Chulabhorn Building, Department of Fisheries, Thailand. The meeting room will be confirmed later.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Time	Details
13:30-13:45	Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting <i>By Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert, Director-General, Department of Fisheries</i>
13:45-14:00	Agenda 2: Introduction to the BOBLME II Project and Objectives of the Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Department of Fisheries (TBC)</i> - <i>By Mr. Adirake Markphol from IUCN</i> - <i>By Ms. Suwanee Sayan from SEAFDEC/TD</i>
14:00-14:30	Agenda 3: Progress Report on the Implementation of the BOBLME II Project (January 2025 – June 2026) <i>By Ms. Suwanee Sayan from SEAFDEC/TD</i>
14:30-16:00	Agenda 4: Proposed Work Plan for 2026 (July 2026 – June 2027) <p>Component 1: Sustainable Management of Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outcome 1.1: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Institutionalized at the National Level, Including Targeted Transboundary Fish Stocks <i>(Presenter: Ms. Rattana Tiaye, SEAFDEC/TD)</i> Phuket/Satun Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center, DoF ● Outcome 1.2: Reduction of IUU Fishing in the BOBLME Region <i>(Presenter: Ms. Yanida Suthipol, SEAFDEC/TD)</i> Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division, DoF <p>Component 3: Management of Coastal and Marine Pollution to Improve Ecosystem Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outcome 3.1.1: Dissemination of Improved Waste Management Practices in Fishing Harbours <i>(Presenter: Mr. Thaweesak Thimkrub, SEAFDEC/TD)</i> Fish Inspection and Quality Control Division, DoF ● Outcome 3.1.2: Promotion of Fishing Gear Marking and Development and Dissemination of Regional Guidelines <i>(Presenter: Mr. Nakaret Yasook, SEAFDEC/TD)</i> Phuket Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center, DoF
16:00-16:30	Agenda 5: Discussion and Finalization of the Work Plan for 2026 (July 2026 – June 2027)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Department of Fisheries:

Ms. Panida Chalee, National Coordinator of BOBLME II project for Thailand (nidacha@yahoo.com)

SEAFDEC/TD:

Ms. Suwanee Sayan, Senior Project Planning and Management Officer (suwanee@seafdec.org)