

Prospectus

EAFM High-level Consultation for Leaders, Executives, and Decision-makers (LEAD-EAFM)

9–10 June 2026, Satun Province, Thailand

Background

The BOBLME II project addresses urgent challenges in transboundary fisheries and marine sustainability in seven countries – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It is implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) and executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

Under the BOBLME Phase II Project, Thailand has strengthened its commitment to sustainable fisheries through the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). This approach promotes integrated management that balances ecological sustainability, socio-economic wellbeing, and effective governance.

Thailand's efforts have included capacity building, stakeholder collaboration, and conservation-focused fisheries practices at both regional and national levels. Two pilot Fishery Management Units (FMUs), namely Koh Panyee (Phang Nga Province) and Rawai (Satun Province), were selected as pilot sites to develop the EAFM plans. In 2024–2025, the EAFM plan were developed and implemented in the pilot sites. These efforts demonstrate Thailand's steady progress under the BOBLME II framework and its commitment to resilient fisheries.

However, effective and lasting EAFM implementation requires strong policy support and informed leadership. For this reason, the EAFM high-level consultation for leaders, executives and decision makers (LEAD-EAFM) for the Thailand site will be convened on 9 June 2026 in Satun Province, Thailand. This one-day consultation provides senior decision-makers with a clearer understanding of EAFM, Thailand's site-level progress, and the importance of strengthening policy alignment, planning, and institutional support. By engaging leaders, the consultation helps bridge field implementation with strategic governance, ensuring that lessons from the pilot FMUs can be sustained, scaled up, and integrated into broader fisheries management efforts.

Objectives

1. To empower leaders, executives, and decision-makers to appreciate and endorse the EAFM approach, strengthening capacity for sustainable fisheries planning and implementation.
2. To introduce the LEAD EAFM Toolkit to the EAFM core teams of Thailand's pilot sites.

Expected Outcomes

1. Broader awareness of EAFM among senior leaders and decision-makers
2. Stronger policy alignment and institutional support for EAFM implementation
3. Greater leadership commitment to sustainable fisheries management
4. Strengthened cross-sector collaboration for ecosystem-based fisheries management
5. Enhanced capacity of EAFM core teams to use the LEAD-EAFM Toolkit

The Participants

The participants will be high-ranking leaders and decision-makers from local government agencies who play key roles in integrating EAFM into national policies and plans, promoting cross-sector coordination, and enabling the scaling up and long-term sustainability of pilot site achievements. The total number of participants is 23, as follows:

- 14 Leaders and decision-makers from local fisheries offices in Phang Nga, Phuket, and Satun Province
- 2 EAFM trainers from Koh Panyee and Rawai, pilot sites
- 1 Resource person from Chumphon Marine Fisheries Research and Development Center
- 1 Project Steering Committee of BOBLME II project (PSC-DOF)
- 5 SEAFDEC/TD staff

Agenda

Tuesday, 9 June 2026	
Time	Agenda
08:45–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:30	Agenda 1: Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome Remarks by Provincial Officer of Satun and SG of SEAFDEC- Opening Remarks by DG of DOF- Introduction of the Consultation and participants
09:30–10:00	Agenda 2: Overview of EAFM: What and why of EAFM
10:00–10:30	<i>Coffee break and group photo</i>
10:30–11:00	Agenda 3: Key principle of EAFM
11:00–11:30	Agenda 4: EAFM Planning process
11:30–12:15	Agenda 5: Review the EAFM plan of the pilot sites in Thailand (Panyee and Rawai communities) and recommendation for future action for EAFM implementation in the pilot site
12:15–12:30	Agenda 6: Conclusion of the Consultation and Closing ceremony
12:30–13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30–15:30	SEAFDEC and EAFM trainers discussion on the way forward for the pilot sites
17.30–19:30	Welcome dinner
Wednesday, 10 June 2026	
09:00–12:00	SEAFDEC staff visit at Rawai community, Khon Khlan Sub-district, Satun Province <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The community mangrove conservation area- Fishing community and fish landing site- Crab bank learning center- The Tale of the Backyard Kitchen Model
12:00–13:30	Lunch with community
15:00–17:00	SEAFDEC staff leave Satun Province for SEAFDEC/TD