

Training Course Curriculum

Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM)

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (BOBLME II)

Duration: 21–25 September 2026

Training Venue: Penang, Malaysia

Background:

The need to apply an ecosystem approach to capture fisheries management is now globally accepted and has been endorsed in several international fora. This approach represents a move away from fisheries management systems that focus only on the sustainable harvest of target species, towards systems and decision-making processes that balance environmental well-being with human and social well-being, within improved governance frameworks.

The Essential EAFM course component provides trainees with skills that will help them to develop a management plan to better manage fisheries. This component will equip trainees to:

- manage fisheries more holistically,
- reduce user group conflicts,
- help unlock financial resources,
- work cooperatively with other stakeholders, and
- better resolve fisheries issues and challenges.

Participants will learn about EAFM concepts and with an EAFM plan template to develop a draft plan for their fishery. They will understand the principles of co-management, adaptive management and how to foster cross-sector coordination and will also practice the crucial skills of effective communication, facilitation and conflict management.

Initially the course component explains why EAFM is necessary and what exactly EAFM is. It then explains how EAFM can work: by developing an EAFM plan, implementing the plan and monitoring, evaluating and adapting the plan.

Training methodology:

The course is designed to be highly participatory. To complement input from the trainers, participants will work in pairs, in groups and individually on specifically designed exercises. The exercises are designed to consolidate learning. The trainers will try, as far as possible, to work with real, local examples and will therefore rely on active participation from participants.

Learning and feedback:

Daily monitoring and reviews ensure that feedback from participants is integrated into course design. Pre-and post course assessment, as well as a quiz, will enable the trainers to assess progress.

Overall component objective:

Participants will understand the concept and need for an Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and acquire skills and knowledge to develop, implement and monitor an “EAFM plan” to better manage capture fisheries.

This is a five-day course component:

Day 1: To understand what EAFM is and why we should use it.

Day 2: To understand what moving towards EAFM entails.

Day 3: To work through the EAFM planning process.

Day 4: To work through implementing EAFM plans.

Day 5: To present and receive feedback on group EAFM plans.

Eligible Trainees:

Approximately 26 participants expected for this intensive training course:

- Department of Fisheries Malaysia (Headquarters) (6 people)
- Fisheries officers from Perak (10 people)
- Fisheries officers from Kedah (10 people)

It is expected that participants will be able to apply and extend the knowledge and skills gained from this course to their fisheries management work.

Training Program

Date	Time	Activities
21 Sept. 2026 (Mon.)	08:45–09:00	Registration
	09:00–09:45	- Opening Ceremony - Group Photo - Coffee break
	09:45–10:30	Ice breaking activity
	10:30–10:50	Course assessment (20 min) - Participants complete pre-course assessment individually
	10:50–12:00	Course overview and threats & issues in current fisheries management
	12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13:30–14:30	Fisheries management and the ecosystem approach
	14:30–15:15	What and Why of EAFM
	15:15–15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
	15:30–16:30	Principle of EAFM and How much EAFM are you already doing?
	16:30–17:00	<i>Wrap up day one: homework & daily monitoring</i>
22 Sept. 2026 (Tue.)	08:30–09:30	Moving towards EAFM
	09:30–09:50	EAFM plans: the link between policy and action
	09:50–10:20	EAFM process overview
	10:20–10:35	<i>Coffee break</i>
	10:35–12:00	Startup A: Preparing the ground
	12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13:30–14:30	Startup B: Engaging stakeholders
	14:30–15:30	Step 1: Define & scope the Fishery Management Unit (FMU)

Date	Time	Activities
23 Sept. 2026 (Wed.)	15:30–15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
	15:45–16:30	Step 1 (cont.): Define & scope the Fishery Management Unit (FMU)
	16:30–17:00	<i>Wrap up day two: homework & daily monitoring</i>
	08:30–10:15	Step 2: Identify & prioritize issues & goals - Identify FMU-specific issues - Discuss how to prioritize issues through risk assessment - Develop goals for EAFM plan
	10:15–10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
	10:30–12:00	Reality check I - Identify the constraints and opportunities in meeting your FMU goals; - Use facilitation skills with co-management partners in focus group discussions (FGDs); - Understand the need for conflict management in EAFM management and practice a range of conflict management techniques.
	12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13:30–15:30	Step 3.1-3.2: Develop the EAFM plan - Develop operational objectives; - Develop indicators and benchmarks related to the agreed objectives; - Discuss pre-selected EAFM indicators as examples.
	15:30–15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
	15:45–16:30	Step 3.3-3.5: Develop the EAFM plan - Agree management actions and how stakeholders will comply with these; - Include financing mechanisms in the plan; bring it all together – finalize the EAFM plan.
	16:30–17:00	<i>Wrap up day three: homework & daily monitoring</i>
24 Sept. 2026 (Thu.)	08:30–09:30	Step 3.3-3.5 (cont.): Develop the EAFM plan
	09:30–09:45	Step 4: Implement the plan–Formalize, communicate and engage
	09:30–10:15	Reality check II
	10:15–10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
	10:30–11:30	Step 5: Monitor, evaluate and adapt - Monitor performance of management actions to meet objectives and goals; - Understand what has to be monitored, when, how and by whom; - Evaluate the monitoring information and report on performance; - Adapt the plan
	11:30–12:00	EAFM Quiz
	12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13:30–16:30	Participant work: refining EAFM plans & preparing presentations
	16:30–17:00	<i>Wrap up day four: homework & daily monitoring and presentation preparation</i>
25 Sept. 2026 (Fri.)	08:30–10:00	Participant presentations on EAFM key elements to illustrate learning Feedback on presentations
	10:00–10:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
	10:15–12:00	Participant presentations on EAFM key elements to illustrate learning Feedback on presentations (cont.)
	12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13:30–14:30	Course evaluation and post-course assessment individually
	14:30–15:15	Closing ceremony
	15:15–15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>

Contact Person

For further information, please contact:

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