The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project - current status

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This talk will cover

- **What has been done in the project to-date**
- **The budget**
- **Challenges**
- **Some proposed ‘refinements’**

April 2009: Project becomes operational

May 2009: Project staff arrive

Component 1: Strategic Action Plan

1.1 Finalize TDA

- Review of the existing TDA Document

- Received technical advice on vulnerable cetacean species, transboundary issues, and socio-economic issues associated with cetaceans (Indian Ocean Cetacean Symposium).

1.2 Establish BOB management arrangements

1.3 Devise a sustainable financing mechanism

1.4 SAP formulation and adoption

- Development of training materials on TDA/SAP development.

Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use

2.1 Promote community-based management

- All BOBLME countries received training on best Practices to Improve Livelihoods of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture households (APFIC)

2.2 Improve policy harmonization

- Development of training materials on socio-economics monitoring and livelihoods diversification

Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use

2.3 Devise regional fishery assessments and management plans (3)

- All countries received training on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture. (APFIC)

- Six countries participated in two stock assessment workshops that will lay the foundations for the future work on Indian mackerel and hilsa (FAO/APFIC).

- status reports on sharks for Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka
- draft NPOA-sharks for Maldives
- road maps for the drafting and finalization of their NPoA
- a preliminary draft Regional POA-sharks for the western BOB (BOBP-IGO)

Component 2: Coastal/Marine Natural Resources Management and Sustainable Use

2.4 Collaborative critical habitat management

- **Five BOBLME countries collated baseline information on fishing communities, fisheries resources, and important marine habitats in the Andaman Sea to underpin future Project work (SEAFDEC in collaboration with the BOBLME Project).**

Component 3: Improved Understanding and Predictability of the BOBLME Environment

3.1 Improved understanding of large-scale processes and dynamics affecting the BOBLME

- Contacts have been made with IOC, Advisory Services and Satellite Oceanography Group (ASG), National Tsunami Early Warning System (NTEWS), Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS) personnel through the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

3.2 Promote use of MPAs to conserve regional fish stocks

- SEAFDEC/BOBLME meeting on the Andaman Sea sub-region

3.3 Improved regional cooperation with regional and global assessment and monitoring programmes

- IOGOOS, GPA, UNEP, MFF, COBSEA, SACEP, IW LEARN...

Component 4: Maintenance of Ecosystem Health and Management of Pollution

4.1 Establishment of an effective ecosystem indicator framework

4.2 Develop a regional approach to identifying and managing important coastal pollution issues

Contacts made with the major agencies working in this area:

- **Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network**
- **Global Environment and Technology Foundation**
- **Global Programme of Action**

Component 5: Project Management

5.1 Establishment of the RCU

- RCU team in place
- Inception workshop

5.2 Monitoring and evaluation system

- Draft M&E framework developed

5.3 Project information and dissemination system

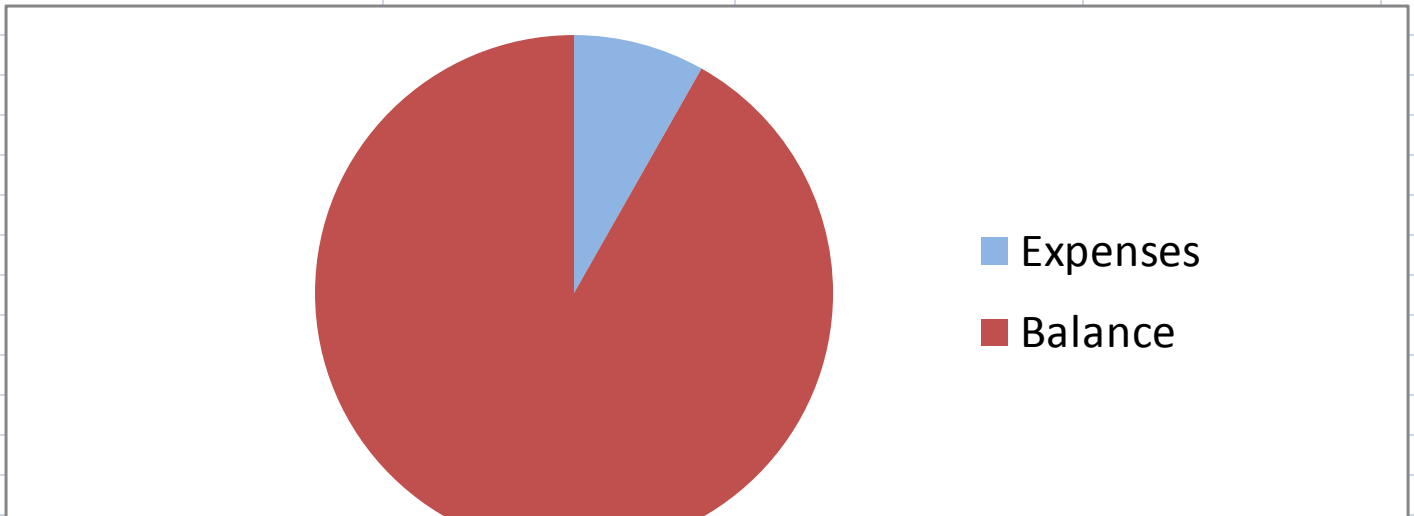
- BOBLME Project website available and undergoing development

National Project participants:

	NC	PSC-F	PSC-E
Bangladesh	✓	✓	x
India	x	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓
Maldives	✓	x	x
Myanmar	✓	✓	x
Sri Lanka	✓	✓	x
Thailand	✓	✓	✓

Project Budget 1 Apr – 30 Sep 2009 (co-financing not included)

		Budgets	Expenses	Balance
5011	Salaries	$431,800.00	$171,798.35	$260,001.65
5013	Consultants	$1,017,316.00	$2,412.27	$1,014,903.73
5014	Contracts & studies	$471,684.00	$0.00	$471,684.00
5021	Travel	$176,607.00	$27,171.72	$149,435.28
5023	Training	$223,241.00	$2,494.05	$220,746.95
5024	Equipment - Expen	$12,000.00	$213.03	$11,786.97
5025	Equipment - non ex	$29,675.00	$9,462.13	$20,212.87
5027	Technical Support S	$11,400.00	$0.00	$11,400.00
5028	General Operating	$223,353.00	$1,082.24	$222,270.76
5029	Support costs	$48,580.00	$2,741.80	$45,838.20
		$2,645,656.00	**$217,375.59**	**$2,428,280.41**
			8.2%	



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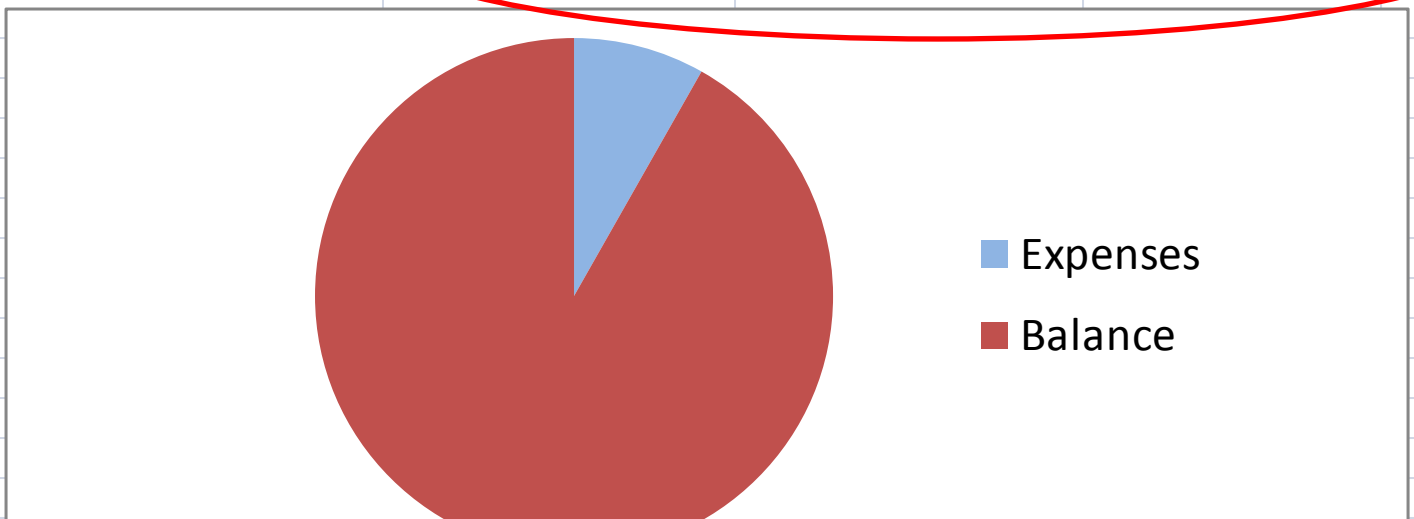

Challenges (1) – proposed work load

- 486 Workshops
- 77 Studies
- 129 international consultant months
- 259 National consultant months
- Data collection, short courses, training
- Communications
- Monitoring and evaluation

Challenges - the need for partners

UNEP, UNDP, FAO, IUCN, ICRI, GPA, IOC, *GOOS*, MFF, IOSEA, SEAFDEC, Worldfish, BOBP-IGO, SASP- SACEP, EASP-COBSEA, NACA, ICSF, IOTC, AECEN, IW Learn

Challenges (2) – proposed multi-tasking

The Monitoring and Information Specialist has 3 roles:

- **Monitoring and evaluation – design and monitor**
- **Communications**
- **IT support**

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Proposal – revise the M & I specialist role:

- ***To contract (i) M&E design and monitoring (ii) a regional assistant***
- ***To contract computer support services***
- ***To expand the communications role***

Challenges (3) - communications

Enhancing communications

Communications is currently one of the roles of the M&I Specialist - but it is a full-time role, there is a need to:

- **Get the Project messages to stakeholders, governments,**

  global audience (with other LME's) - films, articles, posters, caps-bags-t shirts..

- **Building support for the Project**
- **Promoting the Ministers promoting the Project**
- **Promoting the National Coordinators**
- **Promoting the results of the Project in each country**
- **Exciting the next generation**

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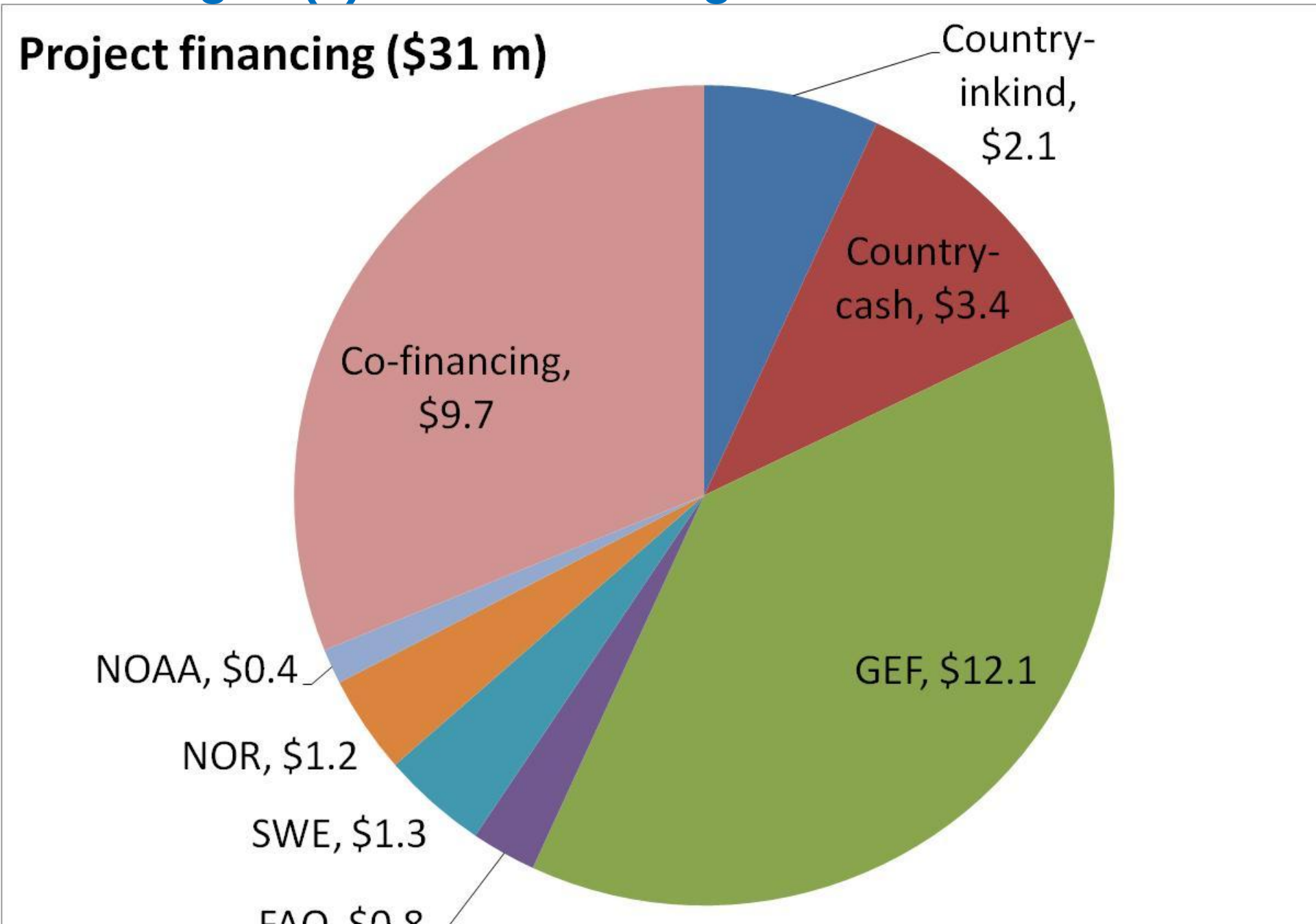
Proposal to enhance communications:

To develop a TOR and for dedicated Communications services within the current budget for review by the PSC

Challenges (4) – Co-financing $9.7 m



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ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC.....

Challenges (4) - monitoring co-financing

- **All activities undertaken in each country under the auspices of the Project need to be valued and reported**

Four Workshops – up to September 2009: at least $40,000 in kind from the BOBLME Countries

Project “refinements” relating to topical issues:

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- **Strengthening the science - management interface**
- **Addressing climate change**

Project “refinements” relating to topical issues:

- **Strengthening the science - management interface**

Improving the way technical advice is delivered and received (quality, format, process)

Project “refinements” relating to topical issues:

- **Addressing climate change**

Climate change is a GEF focus, Threats are “here and now”

- **Identify how global predictions might manifest in the BOB**
- **Identify which areas in the BOB are at risk**
- **Identify which habitats are barriers to climate change generated events**
- **Take steps to increase resilience of communities and ecosystems - development of tools to assist countries respond to extreme events**

Does this Inception workshop support:

- Strengthening the science - management interface
- Addressing climate change

A proposal for work in these areas (within the current objectives and budget) could be developed by the RCU and NCs (and NSAPs) to presented to the PSC

BAY OF BENGAL LME