



Environmental
Defense India
Foundation



Special Session on
**Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) &
Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)**

Launch of
**ICAR-CMFRI BOBP EDIF Centre for
Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management [C-EAFM]**

(Secretariat for the National Network of EAF Practitioners & Fisheries OECMs)

04 Nov 2025 | 1430 – 1730 hours

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research institute (CMFRI), Kochi



On the Sidelines of

Under the aegis of



MECOS 4

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

4 - 6 November 2025, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi



Rationale for the Special Session

Globally, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) has emerged as an important tool for ensuring ecological, social and economic benefits through effective governance. As a part of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project phase II (BOBLME II) funded by the GEF and NORAD and implemented by the FAO, the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) is executing EAFM in eight (08) Fishery Management Units (FMUs) in its member countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The insight from the process of executing EAFM in the region underscores the importance of widening the scale of EAFM through inclusive participation of stakeholders like resource users, government departments, research and academic institutions, and non-government organisations. Increased participation by establishing community-based co-management has the capacity to address multiple objectives on a broader scale, such as addressing unsustainable fishing practices, reducing pollution and adapting to climate change. EAFM is a process that demands involvement and coordinated action between the prioritised stakeholders who have a stake in the future of fisheries.

One of the ways to address this complex process is to establish a Centre for EAFM (C-EAFM) with the objectives of analysing and sharing the experiences and knowledge of experts and practitioners of EAFM, enabling planning and co-implementation, serving as a forum for cooperation between the stakeholders, and evaluating the performance of EAF. C-EAFM will enable adopting a strategic, multi-step process for research, training, planning and implementation and serve as a model for replication by the countries in the region as well.

The Centre will also strive to document the biodiversity outcome from specific traditional fisheries management measures and contribute to expand the extent of OECCMs (Other effective area-based conservation measures) in India and thus contribute to achieving the updated targets under the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAP) as part of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The biodiversity outcome from EAF initiatives will be assessed using appropriate tools in the Fishery Management Units (FMUs), where EAFM is implemented, to qualify them as potential fisheries OECCMs.

BOBP-EDIF Centre for EAFM established in ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi will drive a scalable institutional ecosystem that accelerates adoption of EAF across India by planning and implementing, building capacity, facilitating knowledge exchange, and aligning with global best practices.

The objectives of the Centre shall be to (i) Mobilise the infrastructure and expertise of the three institutions; (ii) Plan and implement EAF in the selected FMUs; (iii) Build human capacity for EAF; (iv) Establish a National Practitioners Network; and (v) Integrate with national and global frameworks.

To discuss about strengthening and expanding the scale of EAFM implementation in India as well as establishing a Centre for EAFM, the BOBP-IGO, ICAR-CMFRI and Environmental Defense India Foundation (EDIF) have jointly organized a Special Session on the sidelines of MECOS 4 to be held in ICAR-CMFRI on 4 November 2025.

The potential role of the C-EAF to be part of a regional mechanism for sustaining the outcome of the BOBLME Phase II project will also be explored.



Objectives

The objectives of the Special Session are to:

- Share the experience of implementing EAFM in different FMUs in the region;
- Explore the potential of scaling-up EAFM implementation with multiple objectives and applications; and
- Discuss the role of the Centre for EAFM in strengthening EAFM in India and the region.

Outcomes

The expected outcomes are:

- Document grassroots-level challenges and opportunities in implementing management plans for the respective FMUs;
- Identify solutions for scaling-up EAFM implementation; and
- Map the functions of C-EAFM for professionalization in the process of implementing EAFM.

Participants

The participants of the Special Session are:

- Representatives from EAFM implementing partners of BOBLME project
- Other EAFM practitioners
- Delegates of MECOS 4 representing research and academic institutions, government and non-government organisations
- Experts from BOBP-IGO, CMFRI & EDF.



Provisional Agenda

Date: 04.11.2025

Time: 1430 - 1730 hrs

Time	Activity	Responsibility
1430-1500	OPENING SESSION	
1430-1435	Welcome Address	Dr. Muktha Menon <i>Senior Scientist, ICAR-CMFRI</i>
1435-1445	Opening & Context setting	Dr. Grinson George <i>Director, ICAR-CMFRI</i>
1445-1600	PANEL DISCUSSION Status & Opportunities for Mainstreaming EAFM in BOB Region Facilitator: Dr. E. Vivekanandan, BOBP-IGO	
1445-1520	Regional Initiatives under BOBLME Project ● India ● Sri Lanka ● Bangladesh ● Maldives	Annamalai University; ICAR-CMFRI NARA; Univ. of Jafna BFRI, Dhaka MMRI, Male'
1520-1540	Initiatives in India: Opportunities for taking forward	Dr. Muktha Menon <i>Senior Scientist, ICAR-CMFRI</i> Dr. Naveen Namboodri <i>Dakshin Foundation</i> Dr. S. Velvizhi <i>MSSRF, Chennai</i>

Time	Activity	Responsibility
1540-1550	EAFMs as Potential OECMs: Concepts and Opportunities	Ms. Maeve Nightingale <i>IUCN Asia-Pacific, Bangkok</i>
1550-1610	TEA BREAK	
1610-1730	PLENARY SESSION Facilitator: Dr. Cherdsak Virapat , <i>Ex-DG, NACA & Ex-DG, CIRDAP</i>	
1610-1630	Re-positioning EAFM in the Region: (a) Initiatives from BOBP-IGO (b) Initiatives from SEAFDEC (<i>Video Message</i>)	Dr. P. Krishnan <i>Director, BOBP-IGO</i> Dr. Sampan Panjarat <i>Secretary General, SEAFDEC, Bangkok</i>
1630-1700	Driving the Transition: Perspectives and Plans from Key Partners (a) ICAR- CMFRI (b) EDIF / EDF (c) IUCN	Dr. Grinson George <i>Director, CMFRI</i> Dr. Hisham Mundol <i>Chief Adviser, EDF-India & Director, EDIF</i> Dr. Kate Bonzon <i>Vice President (Fisheries), EDF, USA</i> Dr. Maeve Nightingale <i>IUCN Asia-Pacific, Bangkok</i>
1700-1705	Release of Chennai Resolution on Network of EAFM & Co-management Practitioners	Guests & Partners
1705-1710	Launch of the BOBP EDIF Centre for EAFM	Guests & Partners
1710-1725	Guest of Honour Address Chief Guest Address	Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan <i>Former Director, ICAR-CMFRI</i> Dr. J.K. Jena <i>DDG (Fisheries), New Delhi</i>
1725-1730	Vote of Thanks	Mr. D. Vijai <i>Sr. Manager, Climate Resilient Fisheries, EDIF</i>

EAFM Network Partners



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Inter-Governmental Organisation

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