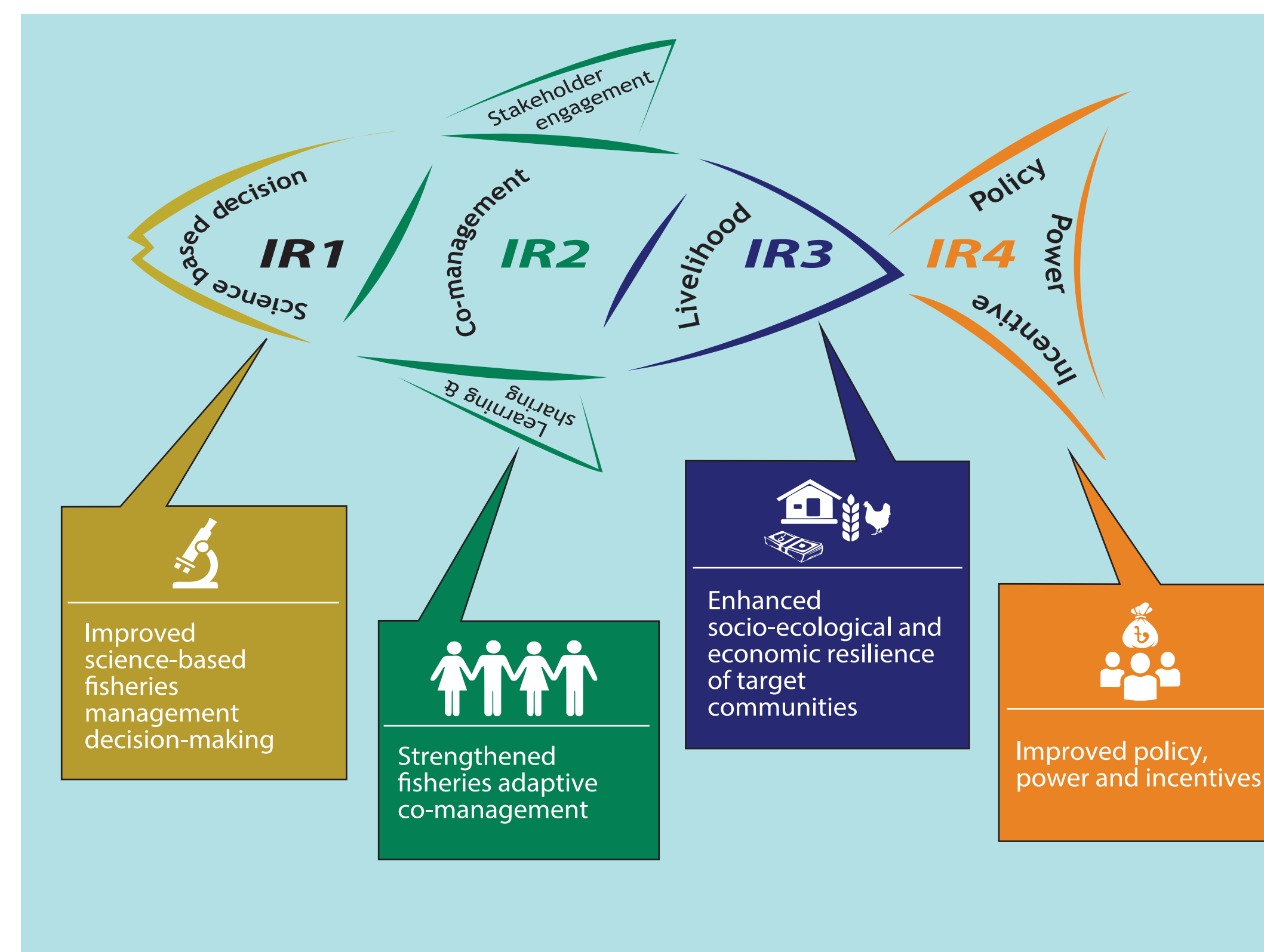
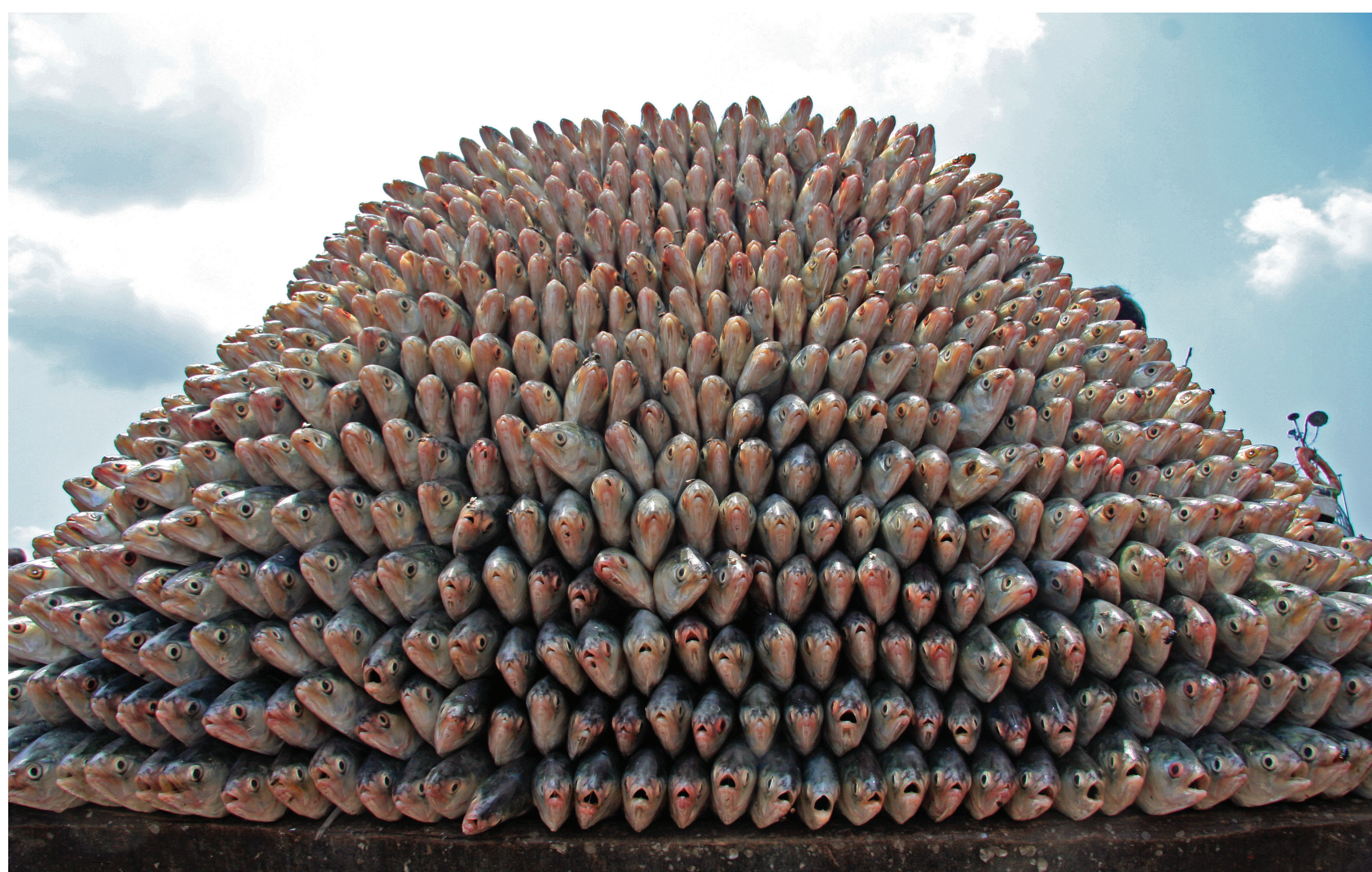


Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh (ECOFISH-BD)



Overview

Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh (ECOFISH-BD):

- Five-year initiative (2015-2019)
- Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) & the Gov. of Bangladesh (in kind)
- Implemented by WorldFish & the Department of Fisheries (DoF)
- Consists of 4 components (Intermediate Results, IRs, Fig. Left)
- Supports coastal fishing communities and other key stakeholders

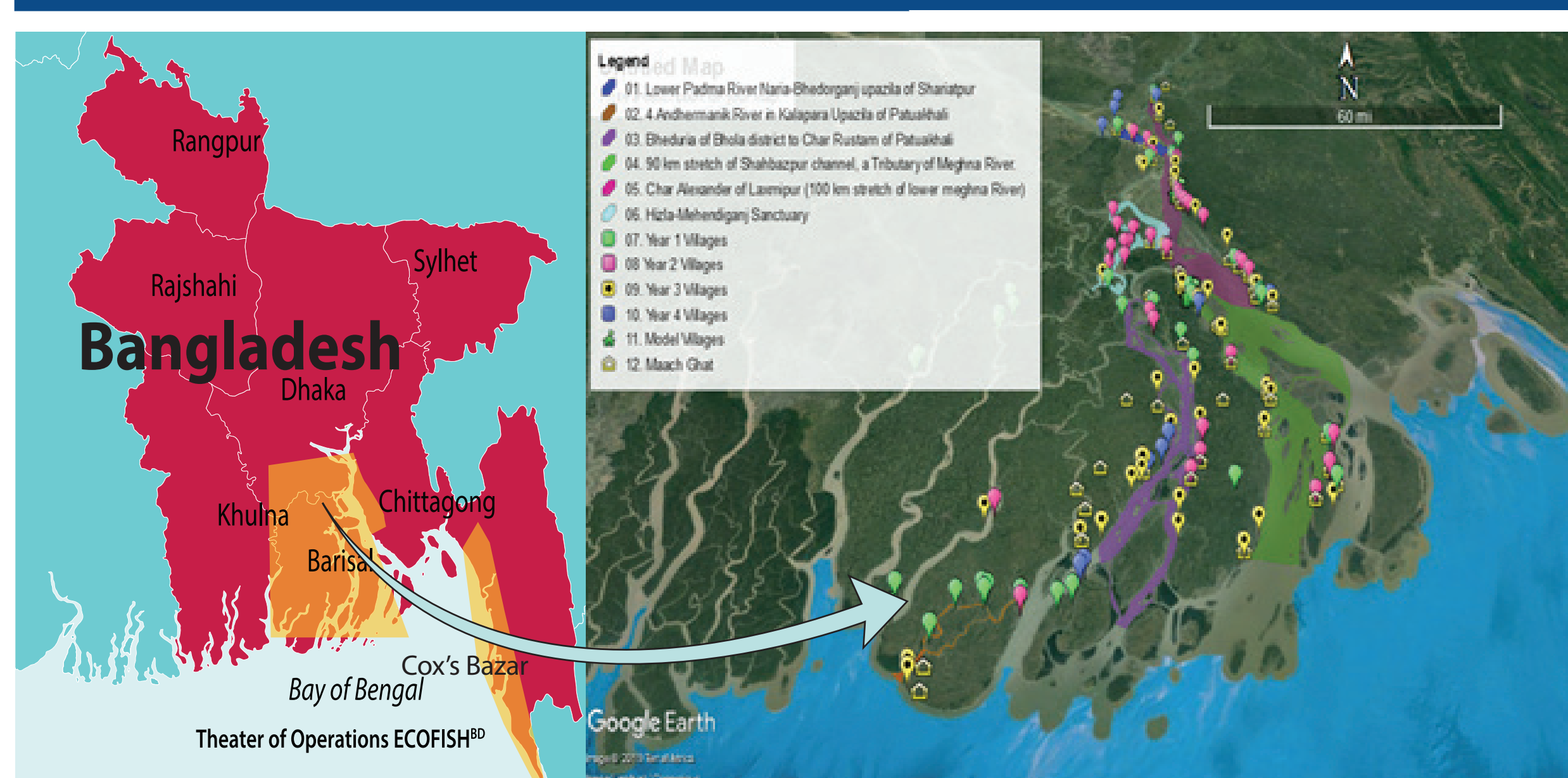
Goal

Improved resilience of the Meghna River ecosystem and communities reliant on coastal fisheries

Approach

ECOFISH-BD supports the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and local communities to establish collaborative management ("co-management") and focuses on reducing overfishing, and improving community empowerment and livelihood diversification

Theater of Operation (ToO)



Focus areas:

- Science-based co-management in hilsa shad (*Tenualosa ilisha*) sanctuaries to enhance hilsa & other coastal fisheries
- Improve resilience of the Meghna River ecosystem
- Improve resilience of the fishing households
- Improve women savings, access to technologies & livelihoods supports



Outputs

IR1: Science Outputs

- Estimated MSY 0.526 million tons
- 22-day peak spawning season of hilsa in October recommended
- Allowable mesh sizes 6.5 - 7.0 cm to catch hilsa recommended
- Citizen Science approach introduced
- Fish biodiversity assessed
- Hilsa sub-population/races identified
- Pollution of major rivers assessed & reported to GoB

IR2: Riverine Co-management

- 575 HCGs formed involving 19,534 fishers (30% women)
- 63 HGGs
- 148 women CSGs
- 92 FMCs
- Introduced Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
- Gender inclusive fisheries management plan implemented
- Upazila & District level co-management committee formation in progress
- 400 Trained Hilsa Guards (CFGs) engaged

IR3: Livelihood & skill Improvements

Livelihood improvements

- Supported 19,500 fishing HHs @BDT 10K-30K (in kind)
- Formed 148 Fishers women community savings groups (CSGs) & saved USD 97K
- Established 2 model resilient fishing villages
- AIGA training provided to 12,900 HHs (59% women)
- ToT on EAFM provided to 31 champions

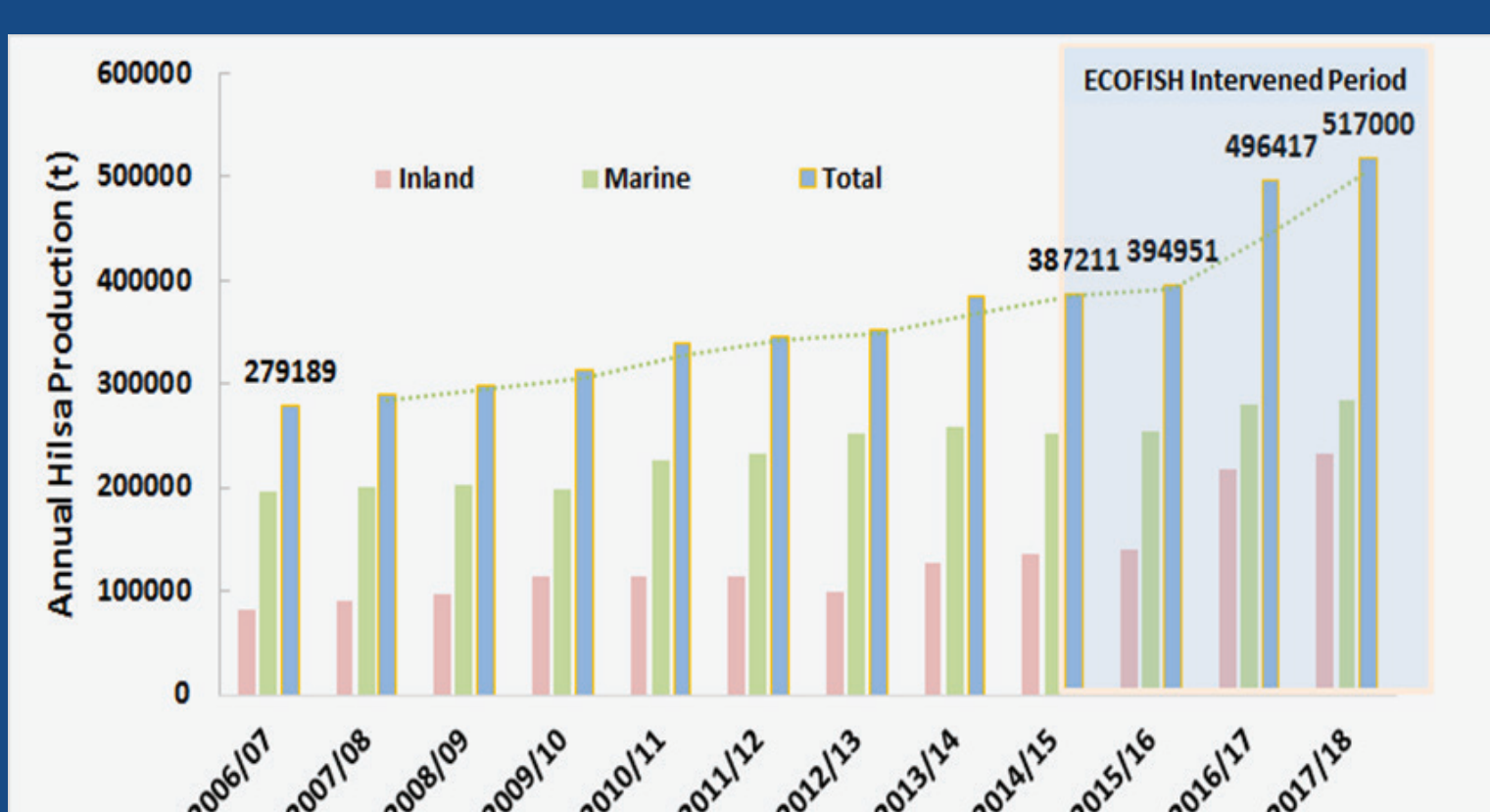
IR4: Policy Supports

Policy support to government

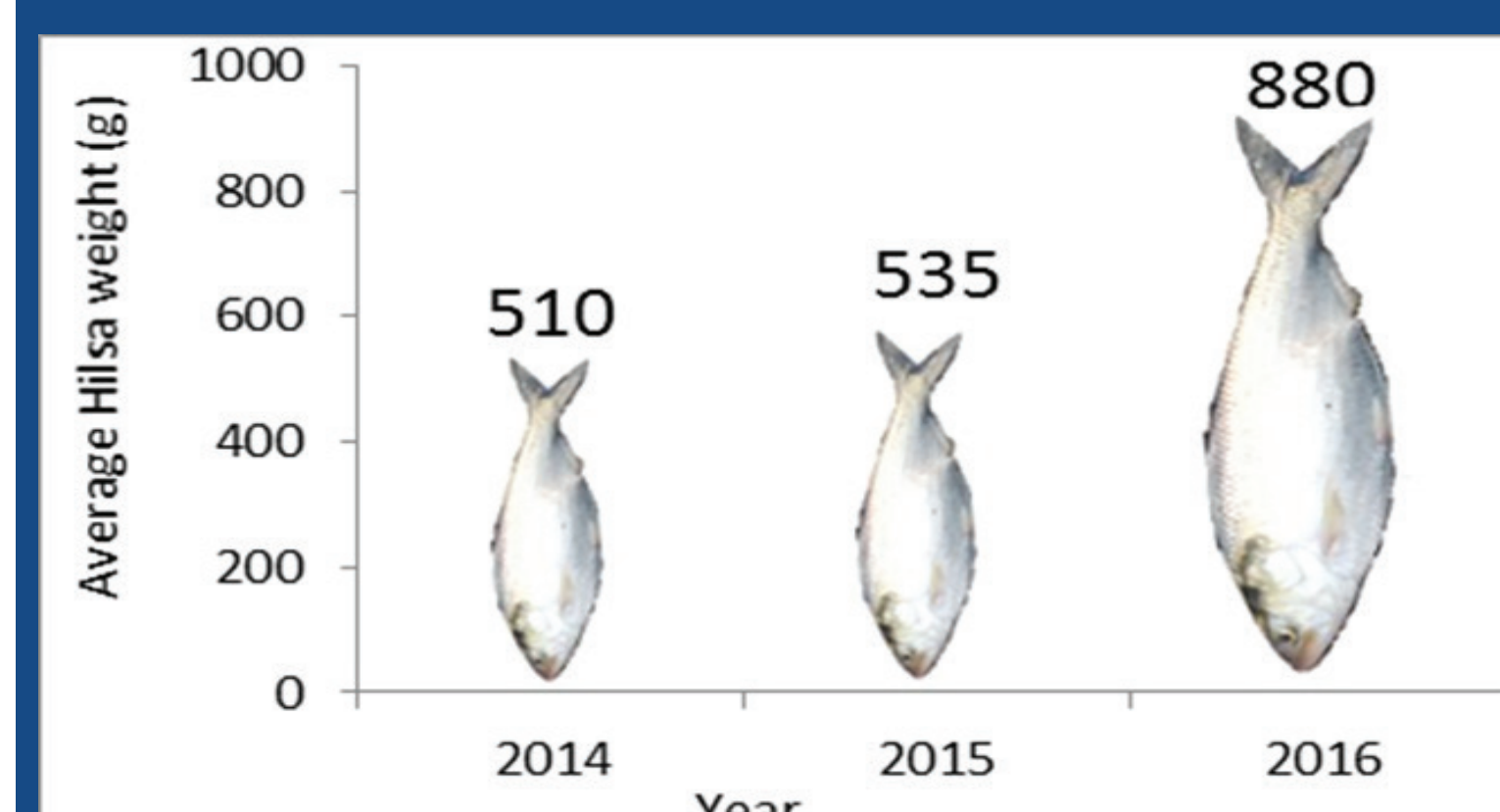
- Hilsa Fisheries Management Action Plan (HFMAP) revised & updated
- Hilsa Conservation & Development Fund (HCDF) formed with BDT 3.5 crore
- Introduced Nijhum Dweep Marine Protected Area (MPA) for 3,188 sq.km to support SDG 14

Conclusions

Hilsa catch increased



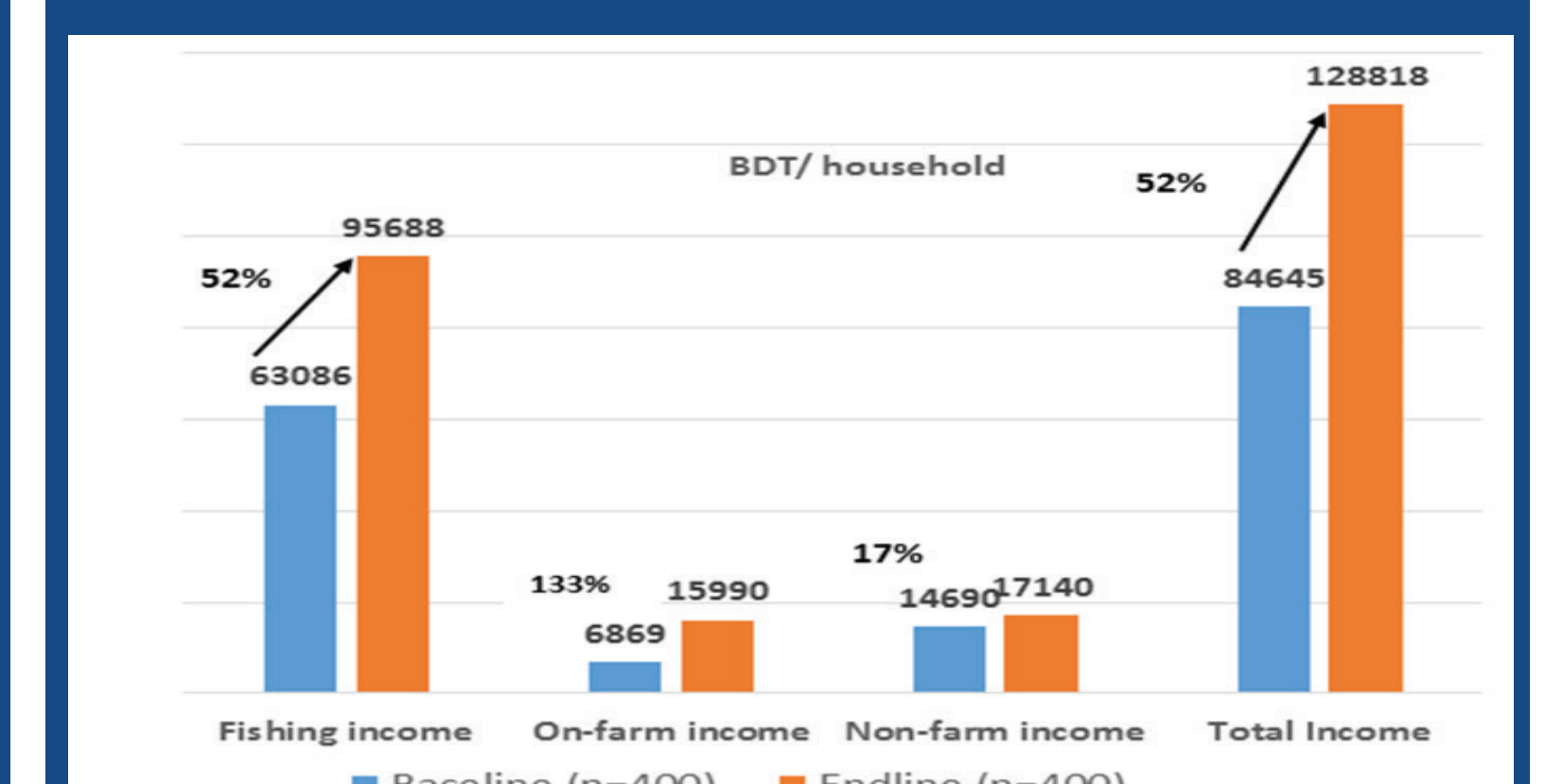
Average size of hilsa improved



Abundance & size of catfishes improved



Fishers' household income increased



ECOFISH- working together to increase biodiversity & fish production

Acknowledgement

• Generous financial support provided by USAID • CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems (FISH) • Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock

