



## MYFish Phase II: Improving research and development of Myanmar's inland and coastal fisheries

### Project brief

July 2018 to June 2019

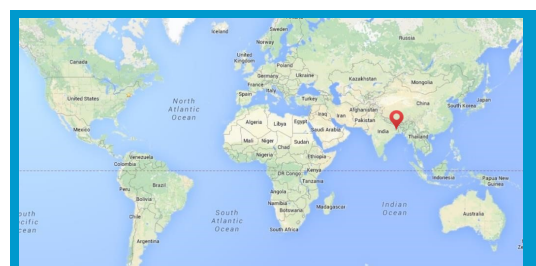
### Project Summary

The MYFISH2 project builds on a previous ACIAR funded project MYFISH 1 and is successfully promoting a move towards more equitable benefit sharing from leasable fisheries in Myanmar.

The project has three main Objectives:

1. Characterize existing fishery management practices and assess their performance on fish production and benefit distribution in key fish-production areas
2. Field test and adapt improved fisheries management approaches for different access arrangements in key fish-production areas of AD
3. Strengthen R&D capacities of government, partners and fisheries organizations to improve the management of fisheries and associated natural resources, and providing guidance for governance and policy development

Since colonial times some of the inland capture fisheries have been managed to derive income for the state via leasing to the highest bidder. In many cases, this system left fisherfolk to do most of the work while receiving a limited share of the benefits which would typically accrue to the lease holder. New legislation now contemplates the concept of Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) and co-management options whereby fisher communities bid for the lease and manage the fishery with a management plan in coordination with the local State/Region Department of Fisheries authorities. To date, the project has characterized 10 representative fisheries in the Ayeyarwady Delta and has put in place monitoring protocols for fisheries' biological and socio-economic aspects. Work with the Fisheries Research Development Network (FRDN) members (universities, the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Department of Fisheries) has sponsored five studies to date, contributing to the biological and socio-economic aspects of importance to both fisher communities and the sustainable use of the resources.



**Research country**  
Myanmar

**Donor**  
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

**Project duration**  
2017 – 2020

**Budget**  
USD 2.0 million

#### Partners

- Fisheries Research Development Network (FRDN)
- Myanmar Fisheries Federation
- Department of Fisheries Myanmar
- Network Activity Group (NAG)

Work with local universities under the FRDN and local NGOs under the MFP has involved capacity building for local research workers and Department of Fisheries staff responsible for data collection and reporting in relation to leasable fisheries. This has involved the fisher community from a representative range of leasable fisheries in the Ayeyarwady Delta through participatory monitoring of fish yields. Fisher communities have worked closely with the project to carry out biological and sociological monitoring of leasable fisheries and their associated benefits to the communities that depend on them.

A reduction in the use of electro-fishing, explosives and potassium cyanide is having a positive impact on fish biodiversity. Baseline data collected under the FRDN research forms the basis for continuous monitoring and evaluation with the participation of fisherfolk.

The concept of fisheries co-management is in its infancy in that there is little assistance with the management process. New Region/State fisheries laws designed to replace the archaic national fisheries laws [dating back to 1991] now allow community based fisheries management (CBFM), however there are questions about the equitable distribution of benefits. On this regards, the project research activities provide valuable insights on how the selected case study on leasable fisheries sites are managed and how the benefits are distributed.

## Contribution to Outcomes



**328 People** trained of which **23 %** are women



### 1 Policy contribution

Decentralized Fisheries Law and regulations to establish and legalize community fishery associations in Myanmar ([Read more](#))



### 1 Outcome Impact Case Report

Governing Myanmar's Inland Fisheries: towards a more sustainable fish production and inclusive benefit-sharing among fish-dependent communities ([Read more](#))

## References

Akester. M. Improving fishery management in support of better governance of Myanmar's inland and delta fisheries Annual Report July 2018 - June 2019

Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/3960>

## Acknowledgements

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