



## Carrots and Sticks: incentives to conserve hilsa fish—Darwin

Project brief

March 2018 to September 2019

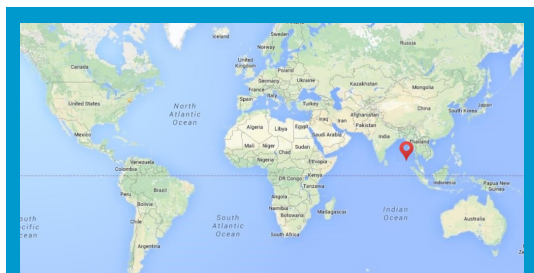
### Project Summary

The project aims to achieve a cost-effective and scientifically-researched ‘incentive-based’ sustainable *hilsa* management scheme to reduce threats to biodiversity and contribute to poverty alleviation by maintaining a food source and continued employment for small-scale fishers.

The research work conducted during the project has provided sufficient evidence to design an incentive-based sustainable *hilsa* management scheme, which was then presented to the government. Lessons learnt from Bangladesh have assisted with this design showing the increasing importance of freshwater *hilsa* landings after sanctuaries and biannual closed seasons were put in place.

The concept of a compensation scheme for *hilsa* fishers, supported by potential mechanisms for financing, was presented to the Director General and Director of Research and Development of the Department of Fisheries, and it was well received. The research results and recommendations generated from project activities have built the basis for advancement on fiscal reforms for more sustainable fisheries management.

Some of the direct stakeholders to benefit from the project include small-scale fishers and their families as well as offshore fishing vessel boat crews. Evidence from Bangladesh has shown a positive impact from improved fisheries management and associated benefits to poor small-scale fisher households.



**Research country**  
Myanmar

**Donor**  
United Kingdom government (Darwin Initiative) via the International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED)

**Project duration**  
2017 – 2021

**Budget**  
GBP 0.237 million

**Partners**

- Department of Fisheries (DoF) Myanmar
- Yangon University
- Network Activities Group (NAG)
- Scotland Rural College (SRUC)
- Charles Sturt University

## Contribution to Outcomes



**68 People trained of which 19% women**

### Highlights:

- Multi-Stakeholder Information and Communication (MuSIC) held in Penang in February 2019 ([Read more](#))
- Regional hilsa knowledge sharing workshop (Bangladesh–Myanmar): Lessons for incentive-based hilsa management ([Read more](#))



### 1 Outcome Impact Case Report

Fiscal reform: Design of an incentive-based system of hilsa fisheries management in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Delta for more sustainable and inclusive fisheries ([Read more](#))



### 1 Policy contribution

Proposition of fiscal reforms to allow more sustainable and inclusive hilsa fisheries management in Myanmar ([Read more](#))

## References

M.Akester. Carrots and sticks: incentives to conserve hilsa fish in Myanmar Annual Report April 2018 to March 2019 (<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/3956>)

M.Akester. Carrots and sticks: incentives to conserve hilsa fish in Myanmar. Half Year Report April 2019 to September 2019 (<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/3957>)

## Acknowledgements

This work was undertaken as part of the [CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems \(FISH\)](#) led by [WorldFish](#). The program is supported by contributors to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#). Funding support for this work was provided by United Kingdom government's Darwin Initiative under the Carrots and sticks: incentives to conserve hilsa fish in Myanmar project led by the International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED) .

## Contact

Project Leader: Mike Akester <[M.Akester@cgiar.org](mailto:M.Akester@cgiar.org)>

Led by



In partnership



This publication is copyrighted by WorldFish. It is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

April 2020