



Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh (ECOFISH—Bangladesh)

Project brief

October 2018 to December 2019

Project Summary

ECOFISH supported coastal fishing communities and other fisheries value chain stakeholders to improve the resilience of the Meghna River ecosystem and communities reliant on coastal fisheries. The primary pathway is through the establishment of adaptive co-management in hilsa shad (*Tenualosa ilisha*) sanctuaries supported by advancement in fisheries science and promoting alternative income-generating activities, biodiversity conservation, and development of policies and incentives for fisheries conservation.

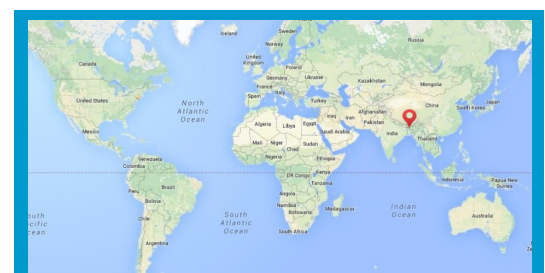
Contribution to Outcomes



4,275 households adopted management practices¹

20,966 people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty²

121,158 Hectares pond area under improved management³



Research country
Bangladesh

Donor
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Project duration
2014 – 2019

Budget
USD 13.5 million

Partners

- Bangladesh Agricultural University - BAU Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Fisheries Research



Innovations developed

- ✓ Boneless Hilsa products (Hilsa soup, Hilsa noodles and Hilsa minced cubes) developed ([Read more](#))
- ✓ Community Fish Guards (CFGs) enhanced compliance in coastal biodiversity conservation ([Read more](#))
- ✓ Smartphone-based Citizen Science Approach for Improved Fish Catch Monitoring ([Read more](#))
- ✓ Gangetic Hilsa ecotypes/races and its return to natal river for spawning discovered by genetic analysis ([Read more](#))

2,599 people trained of which 43% are women



Topics

- ✓ Community Fish Guard
- ✓ Fisheries Management, Co-management
- ✓ Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) Symposium
- ✓ Marine Coastal Seaweed and Green Mussel Cultivation
- ✓ Safe Dried Fish Production: Processing, Storage and Marketing
- ✓ Appropriate Mesh-size
- ✓ Leadership Development
- ✓ BLS Facilitation



Outcome Impact Case Reports

- ✓ Hilsa Production and Fishers' Income Increased due to co-management strategies aimed to enhance the socio-economic resilience of fishing communities ([Read more](#))
- ✓ Community Savings Schemes Financially Empower Coastal Fisher Women in Bangladesh ([Read more](#))
- ✓ The declaration of Marine Protected Area (MPA) to generate more sustainable fishing and livelihoods while protecting the marine biodiversity ([Read more](#))

Institute - BFRl

- Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University - CVASU

Partners (continued)

- Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust - COAST Trust
- Community Development Centre - CODEC
- Hathay Bunano Proshikan Society - HBPS
- International Development Enterprises
- International Institute for Environment and Development - IIED
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN
- Jagannath University – JNU
- Patuakhali Science and Technology University - PSTU
- Sylhet Agricultural University - SAU Bangladesh
- The University of Rhode Island - URI
- Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS



Publications

Asaduzzaman, M., Wahab, M.A., Rahman, M.J. *et al.*
Fine-scale population structure and ecotypes of anadromous Hilsa shad (*Tenualosa ilisha*) across complex aquatic ecosystems revealed by NextRAD genotyping.
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Population Genomics of an Anadromous Hilsa Shad *Tenualosa ilisha* Species across Its Diverse Migratory Habitats: Discrimination by Fine-Scale Local Adaptation.
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Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2019, 16, 4814.
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References

- ¹Eco-Fish project report Oct 2018 – Dec 2019, pages 16, 17: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4026>
²Eco-Fish project report Oct 2018 – Dec 2019, pages 14, 15: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4026>
³Eco-Fish project report Oct 2018 – Dec 2019, pages 13, 15, 21: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4026>

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 USAID in the framework of ECOFISH.

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April 2020