



## Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh (ECOFISH—Bangladesh)

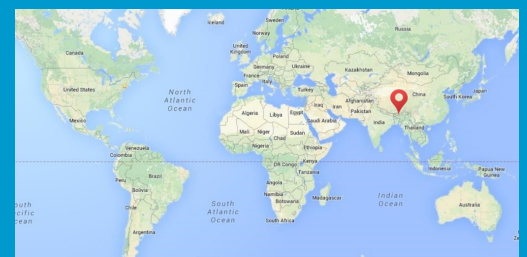
Project brief with accomplishments as of December 1, 2019–December 31, 2020

### 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 to establish 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

- 908** fishing households practicing better fisheries practices
- 34,676** people assisted to exit poverty through sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation, alternative income generating activities soft loans from Community Savings Groups (CSGs)
- 5,847** people improved food and nutrition security
- 158,095** hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management.



**Research country**  
Bangladesh

**Donor**  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**Project duration**  
2014 - 2019

**Budget**  
USD 13.5 million



### Policy contributions

- Allowable mesh size for hilsa gillnets recommendations now officialized by the Government of Bangladesh through a gazette notification ([read more](#))
- Operationalization of the Hilsa Conservation and Development Fund (HCDF) in Bangladesh ([read more](#))



### Outcome-Impact Case Reports

- The Fisherwomen Community Savings Groups (CSGs) in Bangladesh empower poor and marginalized women by providing visible economic and social benefits while conserving the biodiversity ([read more](#))
- Research and application of co-management strategies enhance the contribution to sustainable increase in hilsa production while providing socio-economic resilience of fishing communities in Bangladesh ([read more](#))



### Innovations developed

- Model resilient fishing village: an approach of livelihood transformation of fishery communities in Bangladesh ([read more](#))
- Community-based green mussel production system in Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh) ([read more](#))

### Capacity Development



Short-term trainees: 8,735 people (28% are women)

Topics are on:

- *Megafauna conservation*
- Compliance to the Jatka conservation and Brood Hilsa fishing ban
- Seaweed farming, green mussel farming, and crab fattening
- Production of safe and hygienic dry fish
- Hand-washing
- Biodiversity conservation and responsible fishing
- Catch assessment using smartphones and ODK Apps in Bangla
- Small pelagic dry fish production
- Alternative income generating activities (AIGA)
- CSG group operation and fund management
- Seaweed farming

### Partners

- Bangladesh Agricultural University - BAU Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute - BFRI
- Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University - CVASU
- 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

### Contact

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## Journal articles

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- Md Asaduzzaman, et al. (2020). Morpho-Genetic Divergence and Adaptation of Anadromous Hilsa shad (*Tenualosa ilisha*) Along Their Heterogenic Migratory Habitats. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 7: 554. Retrieved from DSpace: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4236>
- Mohammad Rahman, Wahab Abdul. Ali, M. M. Ali, M. L. Rahman, M. J. Wahab, M. A. (2020). Fish Diversity in the Andharmanik River Sanctuary in Bangladesh. *Croatian Journal of Fisheries*, 78(1): 21-32. Retrieved from DSpace: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4354>
- Khan, Md. A. Wahab, Md A. Haque, A. B. M. M. Nahiduzzaman, M. Phillips, M. J. (2020). Value chain impact of the increased hilsa shad (*Tenualosa ilisha*) harvest in Bangladesh. *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*, 1-14 online first 4 May. Retrieved from DSpace: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/4351>

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