



FACT SHEET

ECOFISH II

Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh II

Background

Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh II (ECOFISH II) is a 5-year project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Jointly implemented by WorldFish and the Department of Fisheries (DOF), ECOFISH II is built upon the previous work of the original ECOFISH (2014–2019) project regarding hilsa shad production in the Meghna River ecosystem. ECOFISH II is reducing the impacts on the natural resources and fishing communities along the Teknaf–Cox’s Bazar peninsula from the influx of over a million Rohingya refugees. It is also reducing the impact of the Naf River fishing ban on host communities in Teknaf. ECOFISH II is scaling up lessons learned from the previous project while expanding interventions for improving the livelihoods of fishing communities and enhancing biodiversity conservation in the artisanal fisheries of the Bay of Bengal. The ongoing conservation activities in the lower Meghna sanctuaries and the improved management of the Nijhum Dwip Marine Protected Area (MPA) remain integral parts of the project.

Goal and objectives

The overarching goal of ECOFISH II is improved social and ecological resilience of coastal fisheries to secure equitable food, nutrition and income benefits for fisheries communities.

The specific objectives are the following intermediate results (IRs):

- **IR1:** Improved management and governance of natural resources that form the foundation of fisheries
- **IR2:** Improved equity and resilience of the food, nutrition and livelihood benefits from fisheries

The IRs consist of four components or sub-IRs:

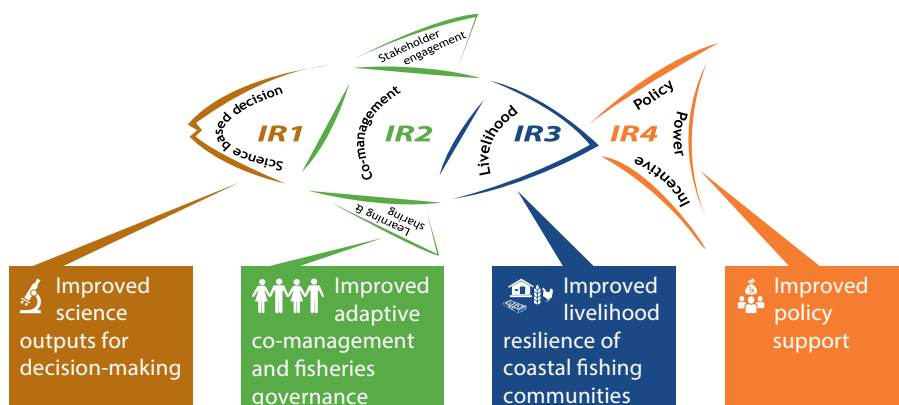


Figure 1. IRs and sub-IRs.



Project name

Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh II, ECOFISH II

Donor

United States Agency for International Development

CGIAR Research Program

CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems

Project duration

December 2019 – November 2024

Partners

Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU), Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Science University (CVASU), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Shushilan

Approach

Along with the DOF and other partners, ECOFISH II's comprehensive activities are improving livelihood resilience among fishers, conserving biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem resilience in the Zone of Resilience (ZOR) and the Meghna River Ecosystem (MRE). Livelihood support is focusing on artisanal fishing communities in both regions, and community savings groups for empowering fisherwomen are being strengthened to improve the resilience of fishing households. Environmentally friendly seaweed and green mussel farming are receiving priority as alternative income generating activities for diversifying livelihoods among fishers. Adaptive co-management, through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), and conservation of megafauna are being implemented to conserve biodiversity and improve the ecosystem (Figure 2).

Expected outputs

- Livelihoods of artisanal fishing communities in ZOR and MRE improved.
- Fisherwomen economically empowered.
- Ecosystem health improved in the Teknaf–Cox's Bazar coasts and the Nijhum Dwip MPA.
- New MPA in the Teknaf-St. Martin's Island delineated.
- Biodiversity of fish, crustaceans and megafauna in the Naf estuary and Teknaf–Cox's Bazar artisanal waters assessed.
- Spawning season of major commercial marine fishes identified.
- Adaptive co-management introduced and institutionalized.
- Digitized fish catch monitoring introduced.
- Marine seaweed, green mussel and crab farming practiced and market linkages established.
- Fisherwomen led safe dry fish production from pelagic small fish enhanced.

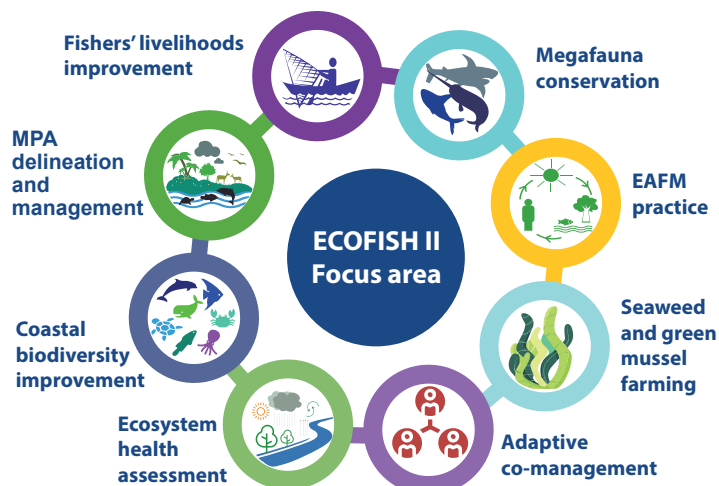


Figure 2. ECOFISH II focus areas.

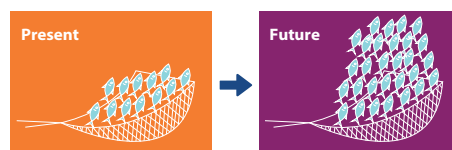


Figure 3. Fish catch expected to be increased.

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Contact

Md. Abdul Wahab, PhD
Team Leader, ECOFISH II

WorldFish Bangladesh
House 2/B, Road 4, Block B
Banani-1213, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Phone: +88-02-8813250
E-mail: A.Wahab@cgiar.org

Citation

This publication should be cited as: WorldFish. 2020. ECOFISH II. Enhanced Coastal Fisheries in Bangladesh II. Penang, Malaysia: WorldFish. FactSheet: 2020-20.

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