

SUSTAINABLE MARINE, COASTAL, AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS AND FISHERIES

USAID promotes marine, coastal, and fisheries management in support of biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods, and food security goals.

The sustainable management of marine, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems and fisheries is critical to biodiversity conservation and development goals such as improved livelihoods and food security. Conservation of marine, coastal, freshwater ecosystems and sustainable fisheries management also increase the resilience of people and ecosystems to climate impacts and promote U.S. national security objectives, such as countering illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

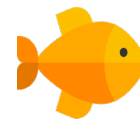
USAID...



invested over
\$73 million
in FY22 to conserve
marine biodiversity and
promote sustainable
fisheries in priority
biodiversity areas



supports over
25 countries
and operating units in
marine conservation
and sustainable fisheries
management



invests approximately
\$23 million
on programming to
counter IUU fishing

USAID marine and fisheries activities span bilateral, regional, and global programs, across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Pacific. The majority of USAID's activities support governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector in strengthening the capacities, constituencies, and information needed to implement science-based, collaborative fisheries management.

This work includes addressing the underlying drivers of unsustainable behavior by shifting incentives and responding to the heavy dependence on natural resources in countries where USAID invests. Our programs also support improved fisheries policies and regulations that prioritize sustainability, enhanced and equitable enforcement of regulatory frameworks, empowerment of women and other marginalized groups engaged in the sector, loan guarantees to catalyze investments in legal and sustainable fisheries, and comprehensive seafood traceability.





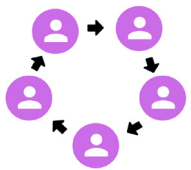
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

USAID employs several strategic approaches to strengthen marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries management:

Promoting Decentralized Co-management

USAID implements strategies that share management rights and responsibilities between governments and small-scale fishers, referred to as co-management.



For example, USAID/Malawi's fisheries program supports Beach Village Committees and fishery extension officers around Lake Malawi in developing and implementing local fisheries management plans.

Building Constituencies

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Strengthening Policy Frameworks

USAID supports policies, laws, and precedents that enable effective management, supportive regulatory environments, and the political will to enact changes.



USAID/Ghana's fisheries program facilitated the adoption of a policy that empowers fishing communities and organizations to have greater agency and responsibility in fisheries management.

Improving Science and Information Capacities

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Building Organizational Capacity

USAID strengthens the capacity of civil society, resource user groups, and the public sector.



USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia is working to strengthen the capacity of leading multinational organizations to provide stronger science and policy leadership within Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Increasing Traceability and Transparency

USAID expands traceability and transparency in seafood supply chains to counter IUU fishing. Traceability is the ability to track the movement of seafood from its source to its end use. This practice can help expose illegal practices and create transparent supply chains that support marine sustainability and human rights.



USAID/Tanzania, in partnership with the Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability, is piloting the use of traceability to increase seafood value for artisanal fishers.

Promoting Conservation Enterprises and Creating Alternative Livelihoods

USAID promotes conservation enterprises, businesses that generate economic and social benefits while helping to meet conservation outcomes.



USAID/Indonesia's fisheries program supported the development of a Fair Trade certified fishery that provides market incentives for achieving ecological and social sustainability goals.

Please see the two-pager, 'USAID Efforts to Counter IUU Fishing' for more on this topic.