

## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

<b>Project Ref No</b>	20-015
<b>Project Title</b>	Economic incentives to conserve Hilsha fish ( <i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> ) in Bangladesh
<b>Country</b>	Bangladesh
<b>UK Organisation</b>	IIED
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS); Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Essam Yassin Mohammed
<b>Report date</b>	30 October 2013
<b>Report No.</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.iied.org/bangladesh-protecting-hilsha-overfishing">http://www.iied.org/bangladesh-protecting-hilsha-overfishing</a>

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

**Inception workshop:** The workshop was held on 25 May 2013 at the conference room of the Department of Fisheries (DoF) in Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The inception workshop was attended by 34 participants including representatives from the DoF, District Fisheries Officers (DFO), hilsha fishermen, National Fishermen Association, local and international NGOs, and Fisheries Scientists from Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and other academic institutions. Mr Uzzal Bikash Dutta, Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, and Mr Syed Arif Azad, Director General of the DoF were among the senior government officials who attended the inception workshop.

The workshop included technical sessions which outlined the methodological building blocks of the project and identified knowledge gaps with respect to hilsha fishery management and development.

**Project meetings:** The project team (hereafter referred to as *the team*) met two times during the past 6 months. Initial project meeting was held in May 2013. During the first meeting the team revisited the project plan and drew concrete, detailed and coherent workplan for Year 1 of the project period. Second project meeting was held in August. The August meeting mainly focused on methodology of data collection process for both socioeconomic and ecological components of the project. During the meeting, data collection methods, survey design and protocol were agreed. Five study sites namely: Chandpur, Laxmipur, Bhola, Patuakhali, and Cox's Bazaar were identified. The team visited Chandpur District which is one of the important study sites.

The team also had a structured engagement with key policy makers including: Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, and Mr Zahid Habib Manager of the Government Sponsored *Jatka* Conservation Project. The central objective of the structured engagement is to ensure the uptake of the research results by the key governmental institutions in Bangladesh and have a longer term impact.

**Data collection:** Data collection process for both socio-economic and ecological studies of the project has already commenced. 36 focus group discussions (FGD) with about 570 persons of different groups: fishers, middlemen, retailers, money lenders, labourers and women members of fisher households were held in Chandpur, Laxmipur, Bhola, and Patuakhali Districts. 12 Key Informant Interviews (KII) were also held. The findings from FGDs and KIIs are being analysed and will be used to design a questionnaire survey which will aim to assess the preferences of fishers for compensation packages, and estimating the opportunity cost (or lost revenue) due to

the ban period and zone.

The ecological and biological component of the project led by BAU has also started collecting data on physical, chemical and hydrological parameters of the study sites. 50 hilsa specimens of different size groups have also been collected for further laboratory analysis. The laboratory analysis will include histology of the gonads (to examine spawning seasonality), otolith analysis (to estimate the age of the specimens) and gut content.

**Publication:** a paper titled '*direct economic incentives for sustainable fisheries management: the case of hilsa conservation in Bangladesh*' has been drafted and reviewed. This paper is expected to be published on 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The same paper has been submitted to the international conference on Policy Mixes in Environmental and Conservation Policies, which is due to be held on 25 - 27 February 2014, in Leipziger KUBUS, Leipzig, Germany.

**Communication:**

- A project page has been created on the IIED's website which includes a Darwin Initiative logo.
- A press release was issued and circulated to journalists
- A blogpost on IIED's website
- A project flyer has been produced and distributed in Bangladesh and the UK. The project flyer is available on request.
- the project has received a good media coverage including:
  - 06 May 2013 [Financial Express, Bangladesh] "*UK dives in to save the hilsa*" <http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/index.php?ref=MjBfMDVfMDZfMTNfMV85MF8xNjg1NTU=>
  - 06 May 2013 [Times of India, India] "*UK dives in to save the hilsa*" [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-05/special-report/39041876\\_1\\_hilsa-bangladesh-fishing-restrictions](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-05/special-report/39041876_1_hilsa-bangladesh-fishing-restrictions)
  - 06 May 2013 [GreenEnvirons, Bangladesh] "*Hilsa dishes are at stake...!*" <http://greenenvirons.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/ome-of-mostdelicious-bengali-dishes-are.html>
  - 30 May 2013 [Daily Star, Bangladesh] "*Project launched to make efforts more effective*" <http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/project-launched-to-make-efforts-more-effective/>
  - 04 Jun 2013 [U-landsnyt, Denmark] "*Projekt i Bangladesh belønner folk for at skåne truede fisk*" <http://www.u-landsnyt.dk/nyhed/04-06-13/projekt-i-bangladesh-bel-nner-folk-sk-ne-truede-fi>
  - 07 Jun 2013 [Dhaka Courier, Bangladesh] "*The many sides of our Hilsa Compensation Scheme*" <http://www.dhakacourier.com.bd/?p=12010>

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

N/A

**Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

N/A

**Discussed with LTS:** no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

**3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £ NONE

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**