



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No:	20-015
Project Title	Economic incentives to conserve Hilsa fish (<i>Tenualosa ilisha</i>) in Bangladesh
Country(ies)	Bangladesh
Lead Organisation	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Collaborator(s)	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)
Project Leader	Essam Yassin Mohammed
Report date and number	April 2014 – September 2014; HYR2
Project website	http://www.iied.org/bangladesh-protecting-hilsa-overfishing

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

1- Socioeconomic and institutional assessment of hilsa fishery:

- **Activities 1.5** (Assessment of the opportunity cost of participating in the payment scheme); **1.6** (estimation of the transaction and administrative cost the scheme); and **1.7** (assessment of the preference of the public for payment formats) – significant progress has ~~ve~~ been made despite delays in Year 1 due to unprecedented political turmoil in the pre-election period. A large-scale household survey has been carried out (?) (798 households) which included questions on household socioeconomic characteristics, fishing activities, hilsa fisheries status and trend; fishers' perceptions about the compensation scheme; coping strategy during fishing ban; opportunity cost of payment scheme and choice experiment. In addition, four FGDs (??) (147 households) have been conducted with the fishers community in Chandpur, Laxmipur, Patuakhali and Bhola districts. **Activity 1.8** – data has been collected through FGDs and KILs with local traders, wholesalers, retailers, shop keepers in the hilsa fishing areas in Chandpur, Laxmipur and Patuakhali Districts. A report on 'potential impacts of payment types on local economy' has been produced and is under review.
- **Activities 2.1 – 2.4:** a thorough study to assess institutional and legal capacity needs of the compensation scheme was conducted edion. A report has been produced sd which provides an assessment of the existing legal and institutional frameworks; critically analyses gaps; and provides a set of recommendations.
- Study on design of equitable benefit sharing mechanism (**Activity 3.1**) is underway. The first draft of the study is expected to be completed in January 2014 5 (?); and presented to relevant stakeholders (**Activity 3.2**) and agreed (**Activity 3.3**) by March 2015 (?)4.
- A study on the principles of trust funds (**Activity 4.1**) has been completed. This study draws lessons from international experience and is expected to inform the drafting of a 'hilsa conservation trust fund' (**Activity 4.2**). The draft is expected to be completed by February 2015 and will be presented to relevant stakeholders (**Activity 4.3**) and is expected to be agreed/ratified (**Activity 4.4**) by the government.-

- **Output 5.** Please see items 4 and 5 below.

2- Physical, chemical, and Biological assessment of hilsa fishery:

- A scientifically rigorous study on physical and hydrological assessment of hilsa fishery (**Activity 1.2**), chemical and biological assessment of hilsa fishery (**Activity 1.3**), and assessment of spawning and reproductive seasonality of hilsa (**Activity 1.4**) has been conducted. A detailed coarse-grain case study report titled “Ecology and biology of hilsa fish (*Tenualosa ilisha*) in the Lower Meghna Region: Biophysical assessment, gut content analysis and spawning seasonality” has been produced. The file of the report is prohibitively too large to share as attachment via email, therefore, a [link to drop box](#) is provided instead.
- The BAU team is continuing **the** “correction data” collection process to fill some missing observations and compensate for **the** few identified data irregularities. Once the dataset is complete, the coarse-grain report will be refined and the three individual reports corresponding to Activities 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 will be finalised and published as working papers and then submitted to peer-reviewed academic journals.

3- Publications (hard copies can be provided upon request)

- Bladon, A., Short, K., Mohammed, E.Y., and Milner-Gulland, E.J. 2014. Payments for ecosystem services in developing world fisheries. *Fish and Fisheries*. DOI: 10.1111/faf.12095 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/faf.12095/pdf>
- Bladon, A., Mohammed, E.Y., and Milner-Gulland, E.J. 2014. A Review of Conservation Trust Funds for Sustainable Marine Resources Management: Conditions for Success. IIED Working Paper. IIED, London. <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/16574IIED.pdf?>
- Haldar, G.C., and Ali, M.L. 2014. Transaction and administrative cost for the compensation scheme for hilsa management in Bangladesh. IIED Working Paper, IIED, London, UK <http://pubs.iied.org/15522IIED.html>
- Islam, M., Mohammed, E.Y. and Ali, L. 2014. Economic incentives for hilsa shad fish management: legal and institutional framework analysis. IIED Working Paper, IIED, London, UK <http://pubs.iied.org/15523IIED.html>

4- Conferences attended:

- The 16th Annual BIOECON Conference on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability, 21-23 September 2014, Kings College, Cambridge, United Kingdom. *Assessing preferences for compensation packages using the choice experiment method: The case of hilsa management in Bangladesh*
<http://www.slideshare.net/IIEDslides/assessment-of-preferences-hilsa-bioecon2014>

5- Blogs and press-releases

- Environmental Funds: sustainable finance for conservation
<http://www.iied.org/environmental-funds-sustainable-finance-for-conservation>

2a. 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.

Prof Abdul Wahab, the lead investigator from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), has just been appointed (starting October 2014) to lead a USAID funded WorldFish Centre's mega-project called ECOFISH. He has handed over project management role to Prof Zoarder Faruque Ahmed from BAU. Wahab has kindly agreed to continue providing Scientific Technical Advisory role. Zoarder is a well-established and respected scientist and he has been leading the biological and chemical component of the project; therefore, a smooth transition is expected.

2b. 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: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

None

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**