FishAdapt:
Strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods in Myanmar

HIGHLIGHTS

Target Area: Ayeyarwady Region, Yangon Region, Rakhine State, Central Dry Zone
Donor: Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Contribution: USD 6 000 000
Project Code: GCP /MYA/020/LDF
Government Counterpart(s): Department of Fisheries (DoF) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)
Beneficiaries: 90 000 people with at least 30% women
Implementation period: 4 years (April 2017 to March 2021)

BACKGROUND

The fisheries and aquaculture sector in Myanmar is critically important to the country’s food and nutrition security and economy. Climate change is forecast to have a significant impact on the sector. For capture fisheries (marine and inland) these impacts include changes in sea surface temperature, higher inland water temperature, changes in ocean currents, changes in the frequency of El-Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events, sea level rise and changing levels of rain and water availability. The aquaculture sector is also exposed to hazards such as salt-water intrusion, flooding of ponds, shortages in water supply, invasive species and ad hoc development planning altering local ecosystem dynamics and undermining their resilience, integrity and functionality. The fisheries sector and dependent livelihoods are also under stress from a range of other factors such as Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfishing and pollution. Myanmar is vulnerable to extreme climate events, which have caused significant loss of life, damage to infrastructure and also impacted fishers and fish farmers’ livelihoods.
OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to assist government to enable inland and coastal fishery and aquaculture stakeholders to adapt to climate change by understanding and reducing vulnerabilities, piloting new practices and technologies, and sharing information.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project focuses on key areas including strengthening of national, regional, and local regulatory frameworks and adaptive capacities, fisheries co-management measures, integrated mangrove fisheries and aquaculture, inland fisheries and small-scale aquaculture, and critical issues related to land and resource tenure.

The project addresses three main barriers to climate change adaptation, including:

- Lack of climate resilient sector policies, and limited integration of fisheries specific climate responses into national policies
- Lack of capacity and resources within the sector to support communities in planning and responding to climate related stressors and fisheries and aquaculture adaptation to climate change impacts.
- Limited knowledge sharing and communication within the sector and with fisheries and aquaculture dependent communities, limited coordination and lack of real-time/working level understanding of climate change and its impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and their livelihoods.

These results will be achieved through four project components:

- Component 1: Strengthen the National, Regional/ State and Township level regulatory and policy frameworks to facilitate the adaptive capacities of the fisheries and aqua-culture sector
- Component 2: Enhanced critical adaptation practices demonstrated by fishers and fishing communities in vulnerable coastal and inland water regions of Myanmar
- Component 3: Develop and apply adaptation models to strengthen the resilience of Myanmar’s aquaculture sector to the impacts of climate change.
- Component 4. Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, training and scaling up adaptation practices, lessons learned development and dissemination.

The project supports achievement of

Central Dry Zone

Rakhine State

Ayeyarwady Region

Yangon Region

General Location of project sites (Map - FAO)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Important achievements of the project (as of September 2018) are summarized below:

- Regional inception workshops in Yangon Region, Ayeyarwady Region, and Rakhine State. The regional inception workshops have contributed to awareness raising among government staff and stakeholders and led to better understanding of the increasing importance of integrating CCA actions into the sector.
- Disaster risk management systems analysis for fisheries and aquaculture across the 3 project regions/states were conducted and will inform DRM activities under project components 2 and 3.
- The project also supported the national multi-stakeholder consultation process on the preparation of the Agriculture Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (AAPDRR) of MOALI to promote integration of fisheries and aquaculture sector concerns.
- The project carried out a rigorous multi-step and multi-consultation process to update the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and Aquaculture (EAA) modules and toolkit with more country-specific examples and stronger CCA linkages.