

MARINE TENURE MATTERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

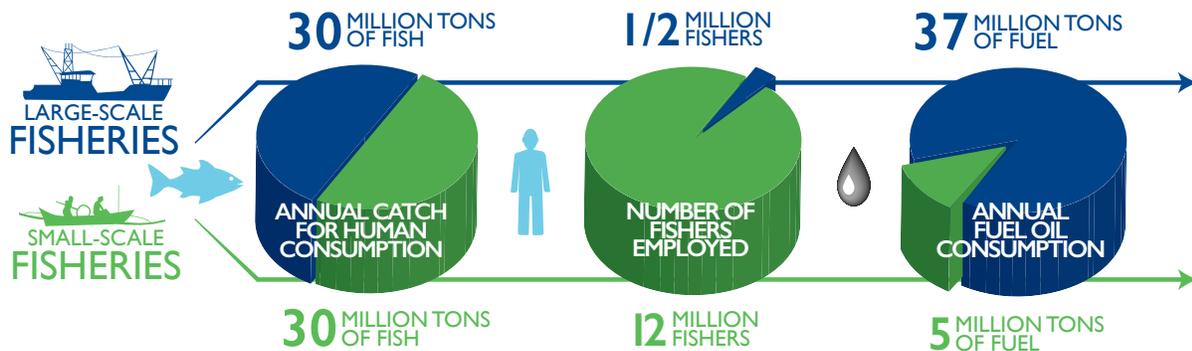
PHOTO: USAID

MARINE TENURE AND SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Fish remains among the most traded food commodities worldwide, worth almost US\$130 billion in 2012.* Marine tenure is the set of rights and responsibilities in coastal and marine environments that define who is allowed to use resources, in what way, for how long, under what conditions, and how those rights can be transferred. Formal recognition of marine tenure provides communities with the necessary security to invest in and manage their fishery resources for the long-term.

WHY SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Largely invisible in development programming, the multiple contributions of small-scale fisheries include economic, social, cultural, food security, poverty alleviation, and interactions with other rural development activities.** Both large-scale and small-scale fisheries are estimated to catch about the same amount of fish for human consumption annually. However, small-scale fisheries employ many more people, use less fuel, and receive fewer subsidies.† Total marine capture fisheries catch has been declining since 1990.††



The Challenge: Millions of small-scale fishers lack clear and secure rights to these resources, leaving them with fewer incentives to invest and conserve the biodiversity upon which natural productivity depends, leading to environmental degradation and decreased productivity and profits.

Securing long-term rights and clarifying responsibilities between government and local communities under co-management arrangements are essential to ensuring that donor investments last beyond the life of an intervention. There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach, but USAID’s decades of experience provides insights and strategies, which can be applied toward marine tenure.



LEARNING THROUGH COMPARATIVE EXPERIENCES

Around the globe, USAID's Tenure and Global Climate Change (TGCC) Program consolidated experiences to secure marine tenure for small-scale fisheries and coastal zone management, and supported USAID missions and the global donor community by promoting best practice integration into their development programming to achieve food security, coastal resilience, poverty alleviation, biodiversity, and climate change objectives. This was carried out in the following countries:

GLOBALLY

A global sourcebook brought together USAID and the broader state of knowledge and experiences on marine tenure and small-scale fisheries to develop a global analysis on tenure dimensions of mangrove governance.

BANGLADESH

USAID undertook an analysis of the nationally important hilsa fishery (a migratory species between rivers and ocean) tenure regime to inform USAID programming.

CENTRAL AMERICA

USAID reviewed overlapping coastal tenure regimes in mangrove management among Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama.

TANZANIA

USAID developed an analysis of coastal mangrove management challenges.

INDONESIA

USAID supported new fishery programs and local partners on integration of marine tenure in program design; as well as an analysis of mangrove governance.

PHILIPPINES

USAID's experience and relevance of marine tenure is part of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

TGCC SUPPORTED MARINE TENURE THROUGH:

USAID Missions:

Marine tenure assessments have assisted missions in planning their country development cooperation strategies and in designing or amending existing programs on small-scale fisheries.

USAID Implementing Partners:

USAID compiled experiences from two decades of USAID-supported interventions to share lessons with current implementing partners, and worked with existing partners to ensure their theories of change integrate tenure considerations.

International Partners:

USAID has shared lessons with the global donor community and host countries, contributing to the global agenda on securing the rights of small-scale fishers.

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