



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# THE USAID OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

## PROJECT LEGACY AND IMPACTS

The USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) was created to strengthen regional cooperation to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; promote sustainable fisheries; and conserve marine biodiversity in the Asia-Pacific region.

### OVERVIEW

The Asia-Pacific region's marine ecosystems provide food and income to over 200 million people. However, unsustainable fishing practices threaten the region's biodiversity, food security, and livelihoods. USAID Oceans was a five-year collaboration among the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center; the Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security; and a wide range of public and private sector partners at regional, national, and local levels that was active from May 2015 through May 2020. The Partnership aimed to improve fisheries management through integrated electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) systems that curb IUU fishing and seafood fraud and improve human welfare and gender equity. These systems ensure fisheries resources are sustainable, legally caught, and properly labeled, allowing consumers to knowingly purchase legal seafood products, and rewarding sustainable business practices.

### BENEFITS TO THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

USAID Oceans' work to improve natural resource management aligns with the USAID's vision for a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific region. eCDT systems supported by USAID Oceans are still active and collect data that allow fisheries managers and government regulators to make informed management and trade decisions, enforcement actions, and border and port inspections. As a result, management bodies are better equipped to set harvest control rules that ensure food security for the millions of people that depend on the industry. Robust eCDT systems backed by an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) also increase transparency and make it easier for countries to comply with existing and future regulations on seafood traceability. In turn, public and private actors in the seafood industry can access domestic and international markets and meet rising demand from consumers to know the origin of their seafood, including whether it was legally and sustainably caught and handled before it reached their plate. Finally, a well-managed, fully traceable, equitable, and transparent seafood supply chain combats transnational crime by reducing incentives to bringing illegally sourced fish into supply chains and to market.



## LEGACY AND IMPACT

Since USAID Oceans began in May 2015, the program has achieved national, regional, and international impact in designing and implementing eCDT technologies; strengthening human and institutional capacity to conserve marine biodiversity through sustainable fisheries management plans; and enhancing public-private partnerships to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud. USAID Oceans key accomplishments as of May 2020 include:

- Supporting the development of 7 innovative eCDT technologies and eCDT systems that have **tracked more than 4 million pounds of legal and sustainable seafood products within the seafood supply chain**, representing a value of approximately US\$20 million.
- Developing and implementing sustainable fisheries management plans to support eCDT implementation, including the first known sub-regional sustainable fisheries management plan. These plans **protect marine habitats totaling an area over 1.5 times the size of the United States** (> 100 million hectares), help countries manage transboundary fish stocks, and protect seascapes from illegal fishing practices.
- Supporting the development of **5 legal instruments to promote gender equity and women's empowerment** in fisheries management. These instruments make it easier for women to register as fishers, incorporate gender considerations in existing fisheries policies, and build capacities of partner organizations to implement organizational gender policies.
- **Leveraging over US\$4 million by engaging with public and private sector partners**, including U.S.-based seafood suppliers such as Anova Food, LLC. and Bumble Bee Seafood.
- **Training over 1,800 women and men** from governmental and non-governmental stakeholder groups throughout Southeast Asia to use strategic tools in support of project objectives.

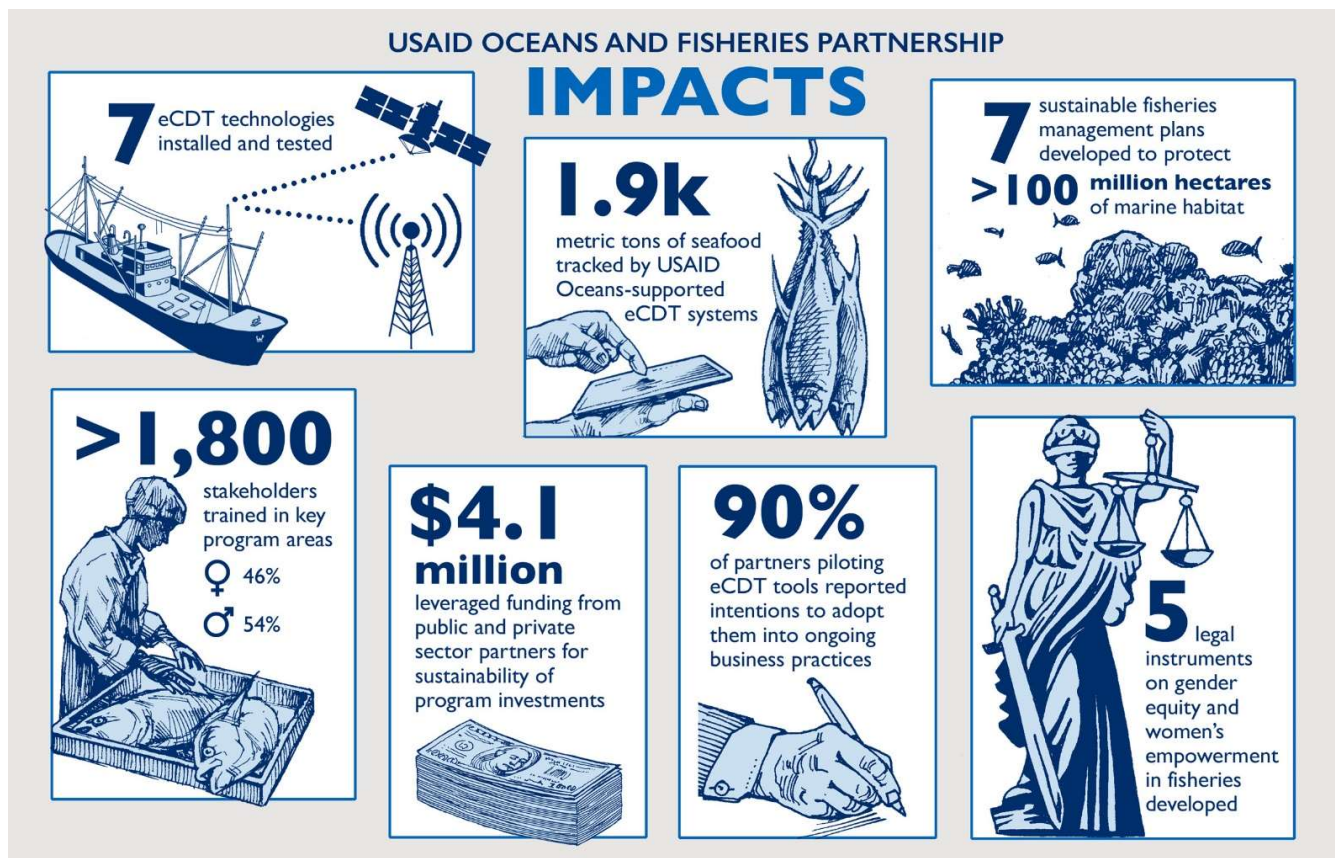


Illustration by D. Bason for USAID Oceans