



Brochure: 2013-31

## An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in Misamis Occidental, Philippines



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**WorldFish**

## Project background

WorldFish, with funding support from the European Commission (EC), is undertaking a project with sites in Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Tanzania. Titled *Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in Small-scale Tropical Marine Fisheries*, the project commenced in December 2011 and is set to finish by December 2014.

The project has adopted an EAF framework with the aim of improving small-scale fisheries (SSF) management in the four countries – a significant step to help reduce poverty. The three sequential objectives that frame the project are to:

- i) Assess existing institutional arrangements and understand how an EAF can contribute to more effective integrated SSF management;
- ii) Identify and pilot EAF strategies and actions that are appropriate for developing countries;
- iii) Strengthen the capacity of target groups to collaborate and work within the EAF.

In the Philippines component of the project, the site covers eight coastal municipalities in the Province of Misamis Occidental, Mindanao. All eight municipalities belong to one group known as the Iligan Bay Alliance of Misamis Occidental (IBAMO). IBAMO enables a collaborative approach toward EAF, displaying a unified commitment to the objectives and expected outputs of the EC/WorldFish project. IBAMO took shape initially during an earlier project, the Iligan Bay Coastal Resource Management project, implemented in 2010 by the Philippine-Australia Community Assistance Project (PACAP) and involving the municipalities of Panaon, Jimenez, Sinacaban and Tudela. From 2011 to 2013, the USAID-funded project “From Reef to Ridge: An Ecosystem Based Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Development in the Philippines” was implemented by WorldFish in partnership with international and regional organizations such as ICRAF and SEARCA, national government agencies and six coastal local government units in Misamis Occidental. The project spearheaded the re-establishment and expansion of the IBAMO which aims to provide the governance framework for inter-LGU collaboration and strengthening of coastal resources management initiatives. Building on the above initiatives and in addition of the original four LGUs the municipalities of Plaridel, Lopez Jaena and Aloran,



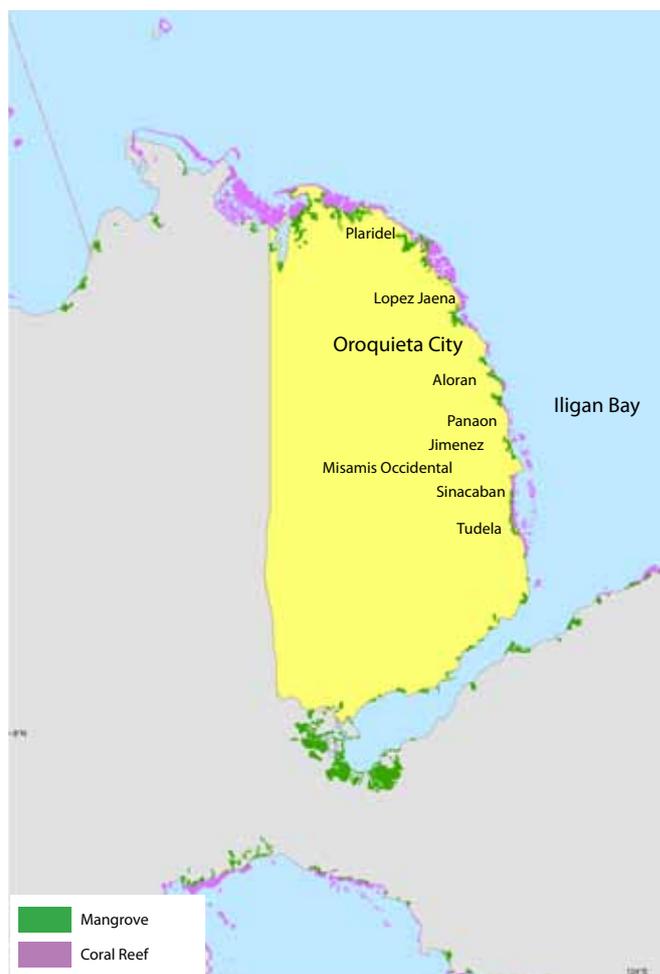
and Oroquieta City have joined the Alliance and are now supported under the EAF project.

The Alliance is committed to the restoration and preservation of the Iligan Bay, and seeks to create opportunities that foster the wellbeing of the environment while attaining a better quality of life for the people who depend on fisheries for their livelihood. As well the Alliance will strengthen coastal resource management activities and provide continuity beyond the life of the project, maintaining a non-political perspective.

## Anticipated outputs

The project intends to achieve the following outputs during its three-year lifespan:

- Increased commitment to implementing EAF in small-scale fisheries management in focal countries, achieved through better understanding of its potential contributions to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability;
- Better integration of EAF and existing institutional arrangements in focal sites;
- Enhanced understanding of the roles of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the effective implementation of EAF in a developing-country context;
- Active participation of final beneficiaries, including women, in participatory research and collaborative implementation of EAF strategies in focal sites;
- Capacity development of target groups achieved through collaborative research and implementation of EAF strategies in project sites;
- Production and dissemination of practical guidelines for EAF action programs and policy recommendations for long-term planning.





A small-scale fish trap locally known as a “bobo”

## Our activities

The project team has adopted the participatory diagnosis and adaptive management (PDAM) framework (see Fig. 1) to analyze or implement management of small-scale fisheries, in keeping with any of the major governance approaches including EAFM (Andrew et al., 2007).

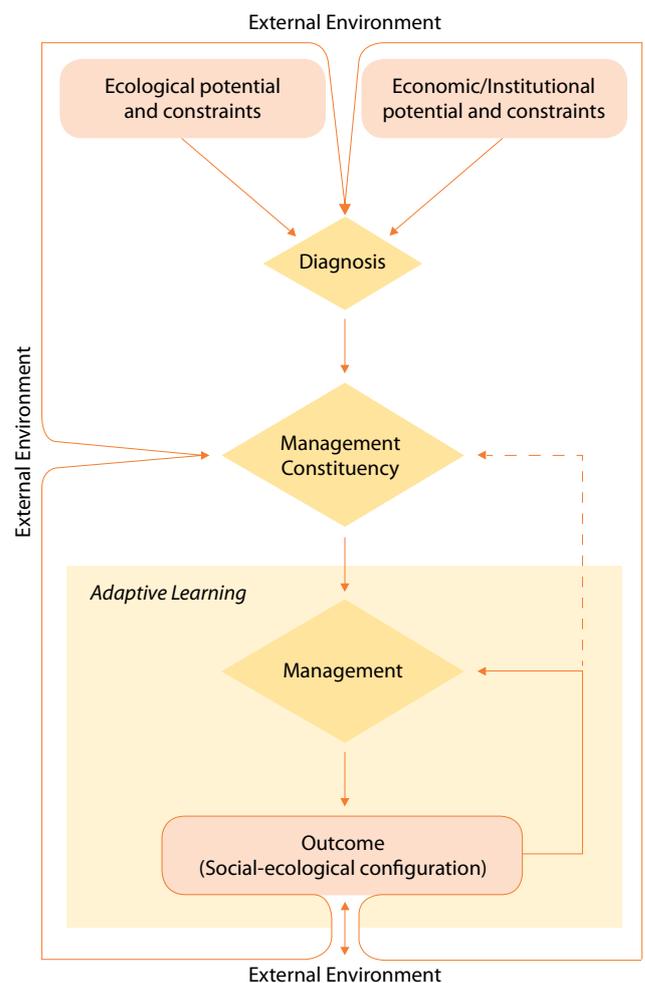
**Phase 1: Participatory diagnosis and identification of suitable EAF strategies:** involves identification and prioritization of management options for EAF in focal sites.

**Phase 2: Collaborative pilot implementation of EAF strategies in the focal sites:** involves pilot implementation of tailored strategies in focal sites, with the explicit aim of capacity development of stakeholders or EAF.

## Implementing agencies

WorldFish, one of 15 centers within the CGIAR, is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization that works in partnership with a wide range of government and non-government agencies at regional, national and local levels in the developing world, and with advanced research institutions worldwide. The declared mission of WorldFish is: *To reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture.* It advocates research-in-development to make small-scale fisheries more resilient and productive, and supports the adoption of sustainable small-scale aquaculture that benefits the poor.

SEARCA is one of the 19 centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). It was established to: (a) provide nationals of SEAMEO member-countries with high quality graduate education and training in agriculture and rural development; (b) promote, undertake and coordinate research programs related to the needs and problems of the Southeast Asian region; and (c) disseminate findings of agricultural research and experimentation to a variety of stakeholders.



**Figure 1.** Participatory diagnosis and adaptive management (PDAM) framework (Andrew et al. 2007).



## *Harnessing research that makes a difference*

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