

Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) in numbers

Bangladesh

September 2026

The OCPP programme provided tailored support in Bangladesh to help manage the marine environment more sustainably. This included strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy and management tools, and creating educational resources for coastal communities.

Seeking long-term change to Bangladesh's marine environment

The overarching intended impact for OCPP was to deliver activities which supported partner countries to effectively manage human activities that put pressure on the marine environment and ensure that all of their citizens can benefit from its long-term sustainable use.

The OCPP identified the following areas in which the programme could deliver change in the way these issues were addressed in Bangladesh through the generation and use of scientific knowledge to better inform policymaking and action:

- **Marine knowledge and capacity:** providing expertise towards sustainable marine ecosystem science and better marine environment monitoring.
- **Policies and guidelines:** supporting the creation of evidence-informed policies, frameworks and plans for sustainable marine ecosystem management, governance and budgeting.
- **Education and awareness:** piloting models and approaches towards community engagement and raising awareness on marine-related topics.
- **Networks and partnerships:** supporting cross-learning and innovation through networks and partnerships.

The programme supported a number of stakeholders to achieve these objectives. These included:

- Government departments and agencies responsible for:
 - Fisheries
 - Marine environment
 - Science and education
 - Community development
 - Planning and budgeting
- Science and higher education institutions focused on fragile marine ecosystems
- International partners and development organisations contributing technical or strategic support

OCPP in Bangladesh demonstrated consideration of **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)** in 2025 through the completion of a GESI thematic analysis and in delivery of their work concerning black soldier fly farming training and the implementation of the Aquaculture Network.

The programme also delivered training for women participating in aquaculture which helped to enhance their household incomes and their role in financial decision-making.

Funding for OCPP was provided through the overarching Blue Planet Fund (BPF) by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). OCPP was delivered by three British government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

More information on OCPP can be found at:

[DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP Documents](#)

The data shown covers OCPP activities between 2023–2026 only.



Key achievements in delivery

Progress towards outcomes

The programme developed the Bangladesh Aquaculture Policy. The policy updated the 1990 framework, aligning with current sustainability and governance needs.

Furthermore, progress has been made in the monitoring of disease burden in prawns with in-country (university) stakeholders carrying out routine sampling and analysis for the first time following OCPP training and provision of lab equipment.

Marine knowledge and capacity

The programme worked to strengthen the capacity and capability of Bangladeshi stakeholders in marine science, management and governance. Of those surveyed, 100% of participants reported increased knowledge and capacity.



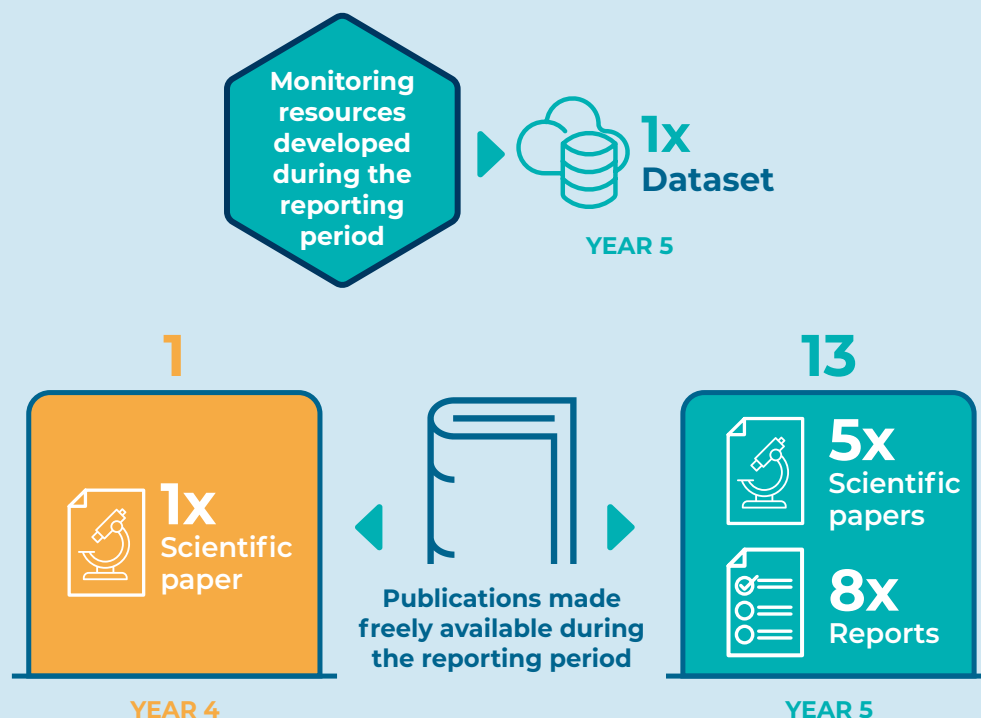
Polices and guidelines

In Bangladesh, the programme proposed or developed policy and regulatory recommendations. 100% of the products developed were reported to have included a consultation process.



Education and awareness

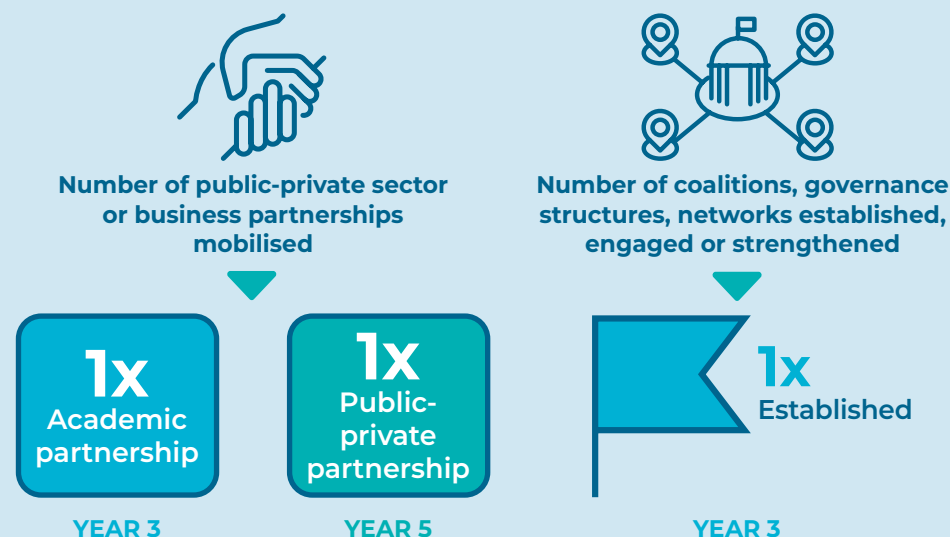
The OCPP took steps to enhance education, awareness and the exchange of scientific, technical knowledge and data in Bangladesh on a variety of topics concerning the marine environment.



Networks and partnerships

The OCPP worked with the Government of Bangladesh to develop and support active ocean-science related knowledge networks and partnerships – either as UK-partner country or in-country coalitions.

- A framework for collaboration agreement was signed during the reporting period with the Department of Fisheries.
- The OCPP supported the establishment of the Marine Litter Working Group in November 2023, and the mobilisation of the Microplastic Lab Network.



CASE STUDY

A scientific paper was published in July 2025 discussing the isolation and genome sequence of *Vibrio fluvialis* BD001 from shrimp in Bangladesh.

The paper can be accessed here: <https://doi.org/10.1128/mra.00535-25>

CASE STUDY

Officials from Bangladesh attended '[The Regional Capacity Building Programme on Marine Pollution Responses in the South Asian Seas Region](#)' which was held in November 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)¹ and the OCPP co-hosted the event and sought to strengthen regional cooperation and preparedness to address critical issues surrounding marine pollution.