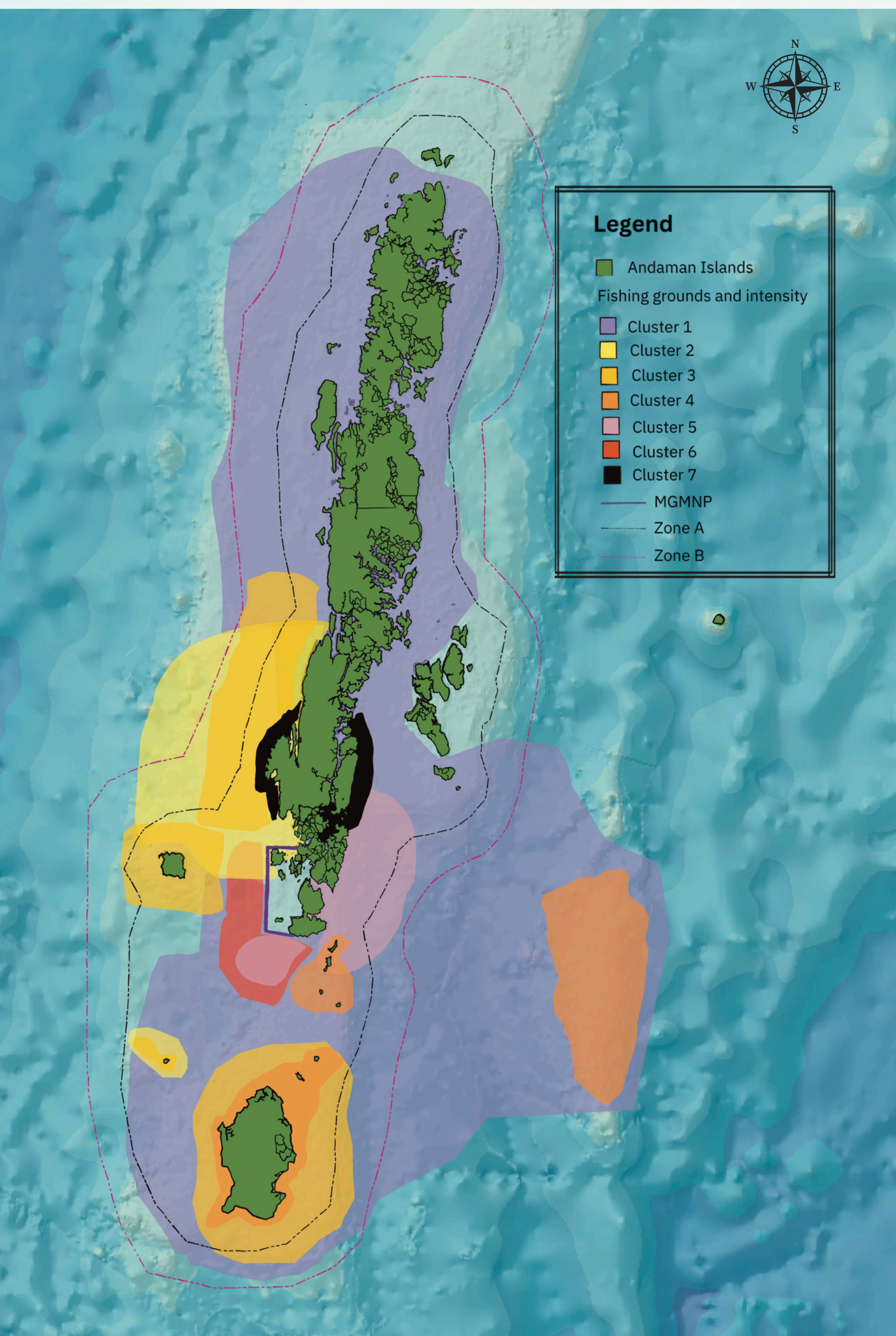


# MAPPING FOR RIGHTS

ANI has ambitious plans to develop its maritime sector including fisheries, tourism and mariculture. Competing demands for accessing and using marine spaces can lead to conflicts over access and use. Spatial planning is essential for balancing conservation, livelihoods, and sustainable resource use outcomes, especially for the marginalised SSF. Mapping how various interest groups use or intend to use marine spaces is therefore critical to undertaking spatial planning, addressing conflicts over resource use, and ensuring fisher communities can safeguard their rights over fishing grounds. In a first-of-its-kind effort, ANET and Dakshin Foundation, along with the fisher communities of various fishing villages of South Andaman Islands, engaged in mapping various fishing grounds they use.

## CO-CREATING MAPS

1. The mapping exercise was conducted as a part of the various consultation meetings held across seven clusters of fishing villages. Fishing grounds were mapped onto an outline map of the Andaman Islands with depth gradients outlined for reference.
2. Varying levels of information on fishing gears, frequency of visits, etc. were mapped. We used ArcGIS 10.8.2 to digitise all the fishing grounds and integrate multiple layers to create a composite representation. These maps were taken back to the respective fisher communities for validation and further analysis and discussions.



Cluster 1 - Junglighat	
Cluster 2 - Wandoor	
Cluster 3 - Chidiyatapu	
Cluster 4 - Chunnabatta	
Cluster 5 - Collinpur	
Cluster 6 - Shoal Bay	
Cluster 7 - Mithakhadi	

Motorised boat	Bottom trawler
Mechanised boat	Bottom-set gillnet
Gill net	Multi-day fishing trip
Ring net	Single-day fishing trip
Hook and line	

- Zone A- 0- 6 nautical miles, engines < 30 hp only, motorised and non-motorised boats with hook and line, longlines, gillnets, fish traps are allowed to fish in this area.
- Zone B - 6 -12 nautical miles, engine ≥ 30 hp, mechanised and motorised boats with pelagic trawlers, ringnets, hook and line, longlines, and gillnets are allowed to fish in this area.

## OUR FINDINGS:

1. Our map demonstrates how access to shallow coastal waters is critical for fisher communities to sustain their livelihoods. With plans for developing tourism and mariculture in the region, these maps help identify key areas to be set aside for use by fishers.
2. Fishers from Junglighat use the entire coastal waters of the Andaman Islands and their fishing grounds overlap significantly with those of other clusters. Their fishing involved the use of multiple types of gears and crafts.
3. Fishers in clusters like Mithakhadi and Shoal Bay used non-motorised boats and their narrow fishing grounds were restricted to near-shore areas and creeks. However, these fishing grounds were also used by fishers from other clusters, making them extremely vulnerable to overfishing.
4. The map identifies marine spaces that are heavily used and fish stocks that are under stress and can be earmarked for better management.
5. It helps identify the most vulnerable fisher communities and can be used by fishers of these clusters to claim exclusive tenurial rights.



Scan the QR code to access our outreach materials!