

Title: **Co-Management in Capture Fisheries Is the Effective Way of Establishing Property Rights of the Poor Fisher in Bangladesh**

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Abstract: The study is a modest attempt of assessing community-based management of inland fisheries resources in Bangladesh to establishing access right to the poor fishing communities. Co-management initiatives undertaken by different institutes have established effective networking among Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The initiatives also provided fisheries management knowledge and created access to finance. Since the country is endowed with enormous inland open water fisheries, development of local institutions is a prime task. However, establishment of access to waterbodies is not easy as government policies favored powerful elites and local politicians. Diverse types of waterbodies and related policies hindered successful fisheries management. Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) approaches proved to establish friendly local institution which, can access to resources, finance, skills and income. The present study employed management information from a range of different CBFM projects covered more than 300 waterbodies in different geographic location from 1996 to 2008. This paper focuses on the lessons, case studies and challenges of CBFM initiatives. The sustainable resources management, which is part and parcel of the CBFM approach, has led to document environmental degradation, in comparison to current indiscriminating over exploitation practices. This paper describes distributional pattern of benefit depends on the strength and appropriateness of the institutions, attitudes and social capital created for all categories of stakeholders within the co-management approach. The paper concluded with the appropriateness of different factors effecting co-management initiatives in the open water fisheries management in Bangladesh.

Key words: Local Institution Building, Networking, Fisheries Management, Bangladesh