



From Participation to Governance

This report discusses the role, nature and mechanisms of governance in inland fisheries. After reviewing the wider concepts of governance, participation and co-management in natural resource management, the report then focuses on small-scale fisheries and, in particular, on inland artisanal fisheries operating in developing countries.

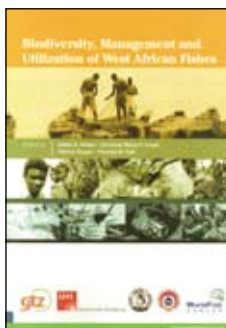
Drawing upon lessons from the literature outside the fisheries sector, the first part of the report reviews and discusses the definitions of governance and 'good' governance, and highlights some of the main issues related to these concepts, before focusing more specifically on issues related to these concepts in fisheries. The analysis reveals, in particular, the frequent confusion in fisheries literature between 'management' and 'governance' and argues that the two concepts are quite distinct.

Part II discusses governance mechanisms and reforms in greater detail. The report concentrates initially on cases of decentralization reforms in sectors other than fisheries and reviews some of the positive and negative consequences of those types of governance reforms. It then focuses more specifically on two governance mechanisms, participation and accountability. The report shows that while participatory processes can

play a key role in improving governance, these approaches will not benefit the end-users (and in particular the poor) unless efficient downward accountability mechanisms are put in place.

Part III of the report discusses governance reform in particular co-management, in fisheries and raises a series of questions about the implementation of this concept for the artisanal fisheries of developing countries. The analysis shows that the conceptualization of co-management as currently presented in the literature does not provide a particularly useful framework to analyze the reasons for success or failure of current decentralization programs in fisheries. The review demonstrates that by focusing exclusively on the level of participation as the key explanatory element of success (or failure) of these reforms, the current approach to co-management neglects some of the other crucial dimensions of governance and overlooks the real effect of these reforms on equity and poverty (alleviation).

Part IV draws upon the lessons derived from the three previous sections and develops a series of questions for future research. The section highlights the role that such research should play in the debate about governance in natural resource management, within the more general context of poverty alleviation in developing countries.



Biodiversity, Management and Utilization of West African Fishes

The papers in this volume were presented at the final project workshop held in July 2002 in Accra, Ghana under the auspices of the project Fish Biodiversity in the Coastal Zone: A Case Study on the Genetic Diversity, Conservation and Sustainable Use in Aquaculture and Fisheries of the black-chinned Tilapia (*Sarotherodon melanotheron*)

in West African Coastal Lagoons and Watercourses. The project was supported by the German Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) through the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and coordinated by the WorldFish Center.