

## **Fisheries co-management—an institutional innovation? Lessons from South East Asia and Southern Africa**

### **ABSTRACT**

During the last decade the co-management concept has gained increasing acceptance as a potential way forward to improve fisheries management performance. It has, however, at the same time become increasingly evident that the co-management concept is not clearly defined and means very different things to different people. In this article, we attempt to document experience available from a recent study on fisheries co-management that has researched case studies of various implementations of co-management arrangements in coastal and freshwater fisheries in South East Asia and Southern Africa, and to present a more comprehensive understanding of co-management and to summarise the experiences with both the positive outcomes and the problems in actual implementation.

**Keyword:** Fisheries management; Co-management; Governance; Conflict resolution; South East Asia; Southern Africa