
Bachelor thesis: Co-Management of small-scale fisheries

The concept of co-management of natural resources has received a great deal of attention through the work of Elinor Ostrom (1990). Co-management is the involvement of users of natural resources in the management of those resources. However, the implementation of co-management structures has not always been successful, especially in small-scale fisheries (Béné et al. 2009). At Lake Victoria, for example, co-management was introduced in the three riparian countries in the early 2000s, but in the 2010s fisheries management began to be re-centralised (Mudilar 2021). Despite this, Lake Victoria fishers continue to express a strong preference to be involved in the management of Lake Victoria fisheries (Mpomwenda et al. 2022).

The aim of this bachelor's thesis is to conduct a comprehensive and systematic review of the literature in order to gain insight into the different ways in which the challenges associated with co-management of small-scale fisheries are being addressed in different parts of the world. The review may focus on a particular challenge, such as implementation within the local governance structure, financing of resource management, or ineffectiveness of enforcement (e.g. through corruption). It will examine the differences in the structure of small-scale fisheries, the nature of the challenges they face and the outcomes of their attempts to address these challenges. Before the student begins the thesis, the supervisor helps the student to narrow down the topic to a specific research question in order to create a good basis for the literature review. This also includes discussing how the research question can be answered with the literature overview.

Literature:

- Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the commons: The evolution of institutions for collective action*. Cambridge university press.
- Béné, C., Belal, E., Baba, M. O., Ovie, S., Raji, A., Malasha, I., Njaya, F., Na Andi, M. Russell, A. and Neiland, A. (2009). Power struggle, dispute and alliance over local resources: analyzing 'democratic' decentralization of natural resources through the lenses of Africa inland fisheries. *World Development*, 37(12), 1935-1950.
- Mudliar, P. (2021). Polycentric to monocentric governance: Power dynamics in Lake Victoria's fisheries. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 31(4), 302-315.
- Mpomwenda, V., Kristófersson, D. M., Taabu-Munyaho, A., Tómasson, T., and Péturs-son, J. G. (2022). Fisheries management on Lake Victoria at a crossroads: Assessing

fishers' perceptions on future management options in Uganda. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, 29(2), 196-211.

Requirements:

- Interest in environmental economics or institutional economics, prior knowledge and courses in these fields are useful.
- Prior knowledge of the method of a systematic literature review is helpful
- Independent and diligent worker

Examiner: Prof. Dr. Astrid Dannenberg

Advisor: Philipp Händel

More information, literature, and further guidance are available upon request from Philipp Händel, Tel.: +49 561 804-7948, philipp.haendel@uni-kassel.de

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