

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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| Date: | April 2011 | Entry Number: | 1112 |
| Case Study Name: | Journey to sustainable fisheries management: Organisational and Institutional limitations in fisheries co-management, the case of lakes Malombe and Chiuta in Malawi | | |
| Author: | Steve Donda | | |
| Document Type: | Scholarly paper | | |
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| Region: | Africa, south of the Sahara | | |
| Country: | Malawi | | |
| Ecosystem Type: | Lentic ecosystem | | |
| Social Characteristics: | | | |
| Scale of Study: | Local, community | | |
| Resource Type: | fisheries | | |
| Type of Initiative: | Research driven | | |
| Community Based Work: | Resource management, Other ...(planning, implementation) | | |

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| Keywords: | Traditional, Management, Co-management, User group, Institution, Organisation |
| Summary: | <p>Fisheries resource management in Malawi, has so far gone through three types of management systems which can effectively be defined, if not more. In the pre-colonial era, fisheries resource management was under the control of traditional leaders, which fall under the Community Based Natural Resource Management System. Thereafter, up to this day, most fishery resources in Malawi are entirely controlled by the government, under the Centralised Fishery Management System. Of late a number of Fisheries in Malawi, like those of lakes Malombe, Chiuta and Chilwa have adopted the Fisheries Co-management approach. Fisheries co-management in Malawi was introduced in 1993. Experiences so far gained indicate that sustainable fisheries resource co-management necessitates the acceptance and embeddedness of the user group representative bodies within the fishing communities. Resource user representation and transparency in decision making process are important in institutional development as these in turn impact on the legitimacy and compliancy of the developed institutions. An understanding of the local organisational set-up and its dynamics is vital for proper planning and implementation of the co-management approach. This paper gives experiences and lessons learnt from co-management arrangements in lakes Malombe and Chiuta.</p> |