

Agriculture in Africa – an effective route out of poverty?  
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Nature, wealth and power: Natural resources,  
growth and poverty reduction

THE CASE OF FISHERIES

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# Outline

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2. Objective
3. Contribution of fisheries to global development
4. Fisheries and poverty
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6. Key issues and trends
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# 1. IDDRA Ltd

- 1) Small, independent research organisation;
- 2) Offices in Portsmouth and Montpellier;
- 3) Focus on policy, economics and fisheries management;
- 4) Working in Africa and Asia for various international agencies and some domestic clients;
- 5) Advisory role, capacity-building and evaluation (action research)



## 2. Objective

To provide an overview of world fisheries and the factors which affect the contribution of this sector to development



# 3. Contribution of fisheries to global development

Production	126 million tonnes fish (US \$125 billion)
Employment	150 million (fishers and others)
Food	60% people in DC's – fish provides 30% animal protein
Trade	Fish products (US \$80 billion); Access fees, services (US \$ millions)
Fishing nations	China, Peru, Indonesia, Chile, India



# 4. Fisheries and poverty

## Accepted truth

'...fisheries is a source of income for over 100 million people, about 80% are poor' (World Bank, 1992); fisheries synonymous with poverty in LDCs;

## Reality:

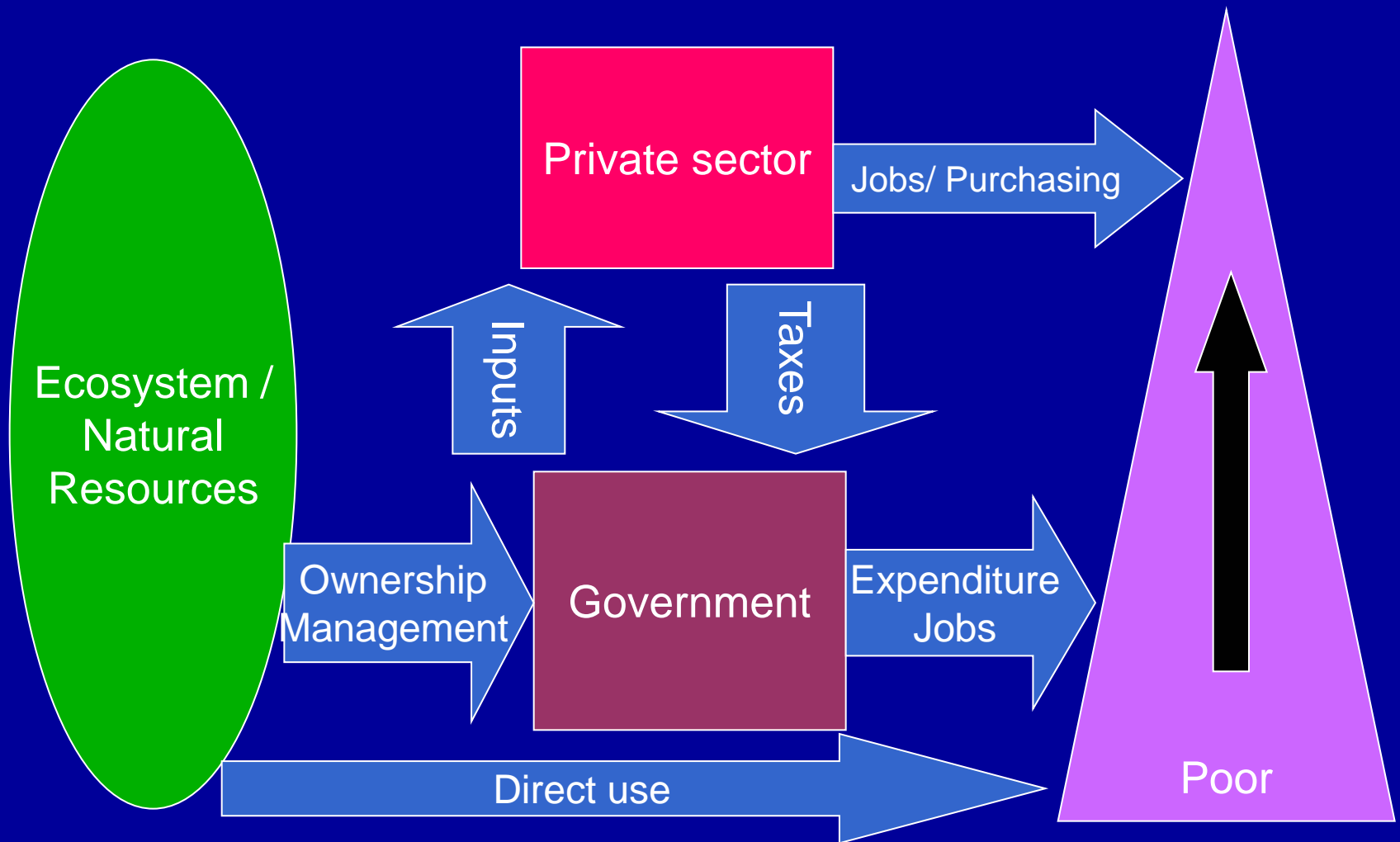
Many fisheries are capable of generating large amounts of wealth which can be used in different ways; some actors tend to have more access to this wealth than others;

## Question:

Can fisheries make a greater contribution to development and poverty reduction?



# 5. Pro-poor growth from natural resources? (Steele, 2004)



## 6. Key issues and trends

1. Fisheries resources are difficult to manage (over 50% overexploitation);
2. Open and free access conditions prevail in many fisheries; (IUU, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing);
3. In weak economies, fisheries and other CPR are a source of livelihoods and safety-net for poor;
4. Low level of government attention is common (fisheries undervalued);
5. Low investment in new management systems is common (low capacity for change and adaptation);
6. In weak States, good opportunities for rent-seeking and 'privatisation';
7. 'Mining' of fisheries, lost opportunity for investment of renewable natural capital in development;



# 7. Responses and actions

## 1. Fisheries can be managed successfully!

Action: FAO/WB Project - International lesson-learning and best practice – output disseminated (Cunningham and Bostock, 2004)

## 2. Ownership and property rights need to be in place (appropriate institutions and legal framework);

Action: DFID Project on Management of Common Pool Resources, Lesson-learning (Neiland, 2005) – output disseminated

## 3. Poverty problems in fisheries often have non-fisheries causes which must be dealt with; (economic growth and diversification)

Action: DFID/FAO Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (Neiland and Bene, 2004) (SFLP, 2005) Research and capacity-building in poverty analysis and policy development;

**4. Greater awareness, understanding and political support for fisheries must be established;**

Action: Fisheries as part of the NEPAD Process 2005 (Cunningham et al., 2004; Neiland et al. 2005);

**5. Investment is needed to underpin changes in fisheries management approaches (to increase capacity; reform structures and processes; and cover transition costs);**

Action: Planning and consensus-building for the development of the new Uganda Fisheries Authority (UFA) (Neiland, 2005);

**6. Fisheries governance (relations between actors) must be addressed**

Action: In Mauritania and Senegal, capacity-building and institutional development in both the public and private sectors has increased effective participation in the fisheries management process at national and international levels (Cunningham / Catanzano, pers comm.)

**7. Greater information flows and advocacy concerning new approaches to fisheries management and development to relevant actors and decision-makers within the policy process;**

Action: DFID Project on Fisheries and Pro-Poor Growth, dissemination of key-sheet to policy-makers (Cunningham and Neiland, 2005)

- References

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- Cunningham, A.E. and Neiland, A.E. (2005) The Role of Fisheries in Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation. Towards a Wealth-Based Approach for Fisheries Management. Policy Brief and Key Sheet ([www.onefish.org](http://www.onefish.org))
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