



# Collaborative Management for Water Resources Management



## Background

Collaborative management and Cooperative management are terms used for arrangements where different sets of people arrange to manage a natural (water) resources together. In short, both terms can be shortened to Co-management. Co-management is a form of partnership between the governments, communities and other stakeholders. All parties together manage a resource, such as water resource.

## When is Collaborative management used?

Useful when each party needs the support of the other to achieve the outcomes all need. It is useful where:

- Customary law and government law both apply to the same water resource or other natural resources including fisheries and wildlife.
- Issues transcend land tenures, for instance in a private and public landholdings in a river catchment (watershed or river basin).
- One person's or party's actions can influence the welfare of others, or other species, beyond the boundaries of their own land. For instance, where one party's taking of water, or pollution of water affects the amount or quality of water left for those downstream.

## Why and how has Collaborative management developed?

Collaborative management has been developed in different circumstance to:

- Solve intense conflicts, for instance in water allocation or water pollution impacts on fish.
- Share water access equitably, for example customary irrigation schemes supported by governments
- Solve conflicting rights and responsibilities, for example where two parties have rights or responsibilities in water resource. Many water resources are jointly managed between indigenous people, whose customary title has been recognised under legislation, and water authorities.
- Achieve effective, long-term public engagement

## Co-management in Water Resources Opportunities: Opportunities includes:

- **Integrated catchment management** - holistic management of land and water resources over entire catchment, or a focus on particular issues within them, for example water quality.
- **Ground water management** - engage all relevant parties to manage surface land uses, urban development, polluting practices to avoid pollution of the ground water and manage extraction of ground water.
- **Manage water supplies** - engage landowners and industry with government to ensure purity of water sources, quantity, infrastructure for drinking water and irrigation.
- **Manage land uses** - engage all relevant parties to avoid contamination of water supplies, contamination of water catchments and related water sources such as marines resources.
- **Manage rivers**

Co-management works well where the parties need to resolve potentially conflicting rights and responsibilities towards a natural (water) resources, and they have a commitment to work together. in other circumstances, other forms of public participation and community engagement may be more suitable.



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