

Comments on Lake Chilika Brief

Many of the suggestions made at the time of the August 2003 version of this brief have been incorporated and the overall structure is now more balanced. However, it is still overly long with, for example, too much scientific details about the lake's flora and fauna.

The lake suffers from a range of problems including diminished inflows from the ocean, sediment inflows from both the Mahanadi delta and the western catchments, and reductions in fish catches. Arbitrary changes in traditional rights have led to violent clashes with police and national attention has been focused on the lake. The Chilika Development Authority was formed to manage these problems and has been very successful in doing so taking a coordination role rather than any executive authority. The reasons for the success are spelt out along with the objectives of the SAP that were not achieved. Overall, this story is explained very well in the brief.

The proposed fisheries legislation described at the end of the brief suggests that in the future the CDA will play a more active role in enforcing the legislation.

The last section contains some valuable lessons drawn from the success of the CDA in both coordinating other authorities activities and in raising State, federal and international funding. There isn't an obvious profitable industry dependent on the lake's resources that can be taxed to finance the restoration and management of the lake. Consequently, the CDA is dependent on external funds from State, federal and international sources and works hard to secure these funds. These lessons are well linked into the experiences described in the preceding sections.

Apart from reducing the description of the species present in the lake, this brief is thorough and presents this case study well. Some editorial work will be needed to make it easily readable.