

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **Project Purpose**

The new FMSP strategy aims to improve livelihood outcomes for poor people dependant upon fisheries resources. To achieve this, the strategy must clearly identify the needs of target beneficiaries.

Information on fisheries resources in Bangladesh and S.E. Asia is fragmented and has not taken account of poor people and their livelihoods. Research has been supply-led, resulting in limited uptake and gains for the non-poor. Often decisions are based on national level priorities overlooking the needs of local people, especially the poor, and thus posing a severe threat to local livelihood assets including fisheries.

The project's purpose was to characterise the poor, identify their dependence upon aquatic resources, the nature and status of those resources, and their vulnerabilities in relation to loss or mismanagement. Poor people, other aquatic resource users, and representatives of concerned organisations prioritised constraints and identified possible research priorities. Inland fishery environments were classified and some critical areas and researchable problems were identified. The number of poor people who could benefit from potential development and research initiatives were identified.