Exploring the Influences of Institutions on Water Governance and Management: A First Nation Case Study

Abstract
Water is vital for the lives of First Nations people, but many First Nations’ communities are persistently dealing with unsafe drinking water. Over the years studies have repeatedly conveyed the deplorable drinking water conditions of First Nations. These conditions undermine the economic, social, and cultural health of these communities. Despite the ongoing attempts by various actors to change these conditions; water related concerns remain a major issue for First Nations across Canada. The intent of this research is to explore water institutions and how they are influencing water governance and management in a First Nations context. Oneida Nation of the Thames (hereafter referred to as Oneida) is used as a case study for this research because of the current drinking water concerns and the institutions commonly used in governing and managing water resources in First Nations throughout Ontario.
The Management and Transition Framework (MTF) and one of its components, Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework, have been used for the research to explore processes, institutions, and actors related to water governance reforms including the adoption of the IWRM paradigm, and to increase understanding of the strengths and weaknesses related to different institutional contexts and levels in Laotian water management. However, water resources management is still pretty much centralist by nature and does not properly and truly enhance participation of local level government in the management processes in Lao PDR. Exploring interaction between international, national and local norms the aim is to lay a foundation for a rights based framework responding to two concerns: 1) gendered water needs, uses and norms and. 2) gendered perceptions of women as decision makers and right holders. It combines empirical research of water uses and management on the ground with the study of laws and policies developed at international and national level in four African countries. A key question is whether and under what conditions decentralized water governance systems facilitates the inclusion and protection of women's water rights. This chapter explores the evolution of transboundary water governance along the Canada-US border. We examine two key examples in two eras of water management across the Canada-US border, separated by more than a century. First, we examine more. First, we examine the Boundary Waters Treaty (a bi-national agreement between the federal governments of Canada and the United States), as an emblematic example of the dominant concerns that underpinned (colonial settler) water governance at the turn of the twentieth century, creating the framework in which nation-state governance mechanisms were dominant. This exploratory workshop will include scholars working on water issues across the full