

American Water Resources Association
2009 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE
November 9-12, 2009
Seattle, WA

Monday, Nov. 9

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

SESSION 1: Panel – Middle East North Africa Region: Water Governance Benchmarking in the MENA Region

Panel Participants

Mark Svendsen, Project Director

Introduction and Overview of the Project and its Approach to Assessing Water Governance

Paris Edwards, Aaron Wolf (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR)
Analyzing the Legal and Policy Framework of Water Governance

Brent Steel

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Neo-institutionalism and Actor-Centered Institutional Approaches to Water Governance

Case Study Papers:

**Erika Wolters (Egypt), Kristin Chatfield (Jordan), Sarah Kopp (Morocco), Kirsten Winters (Oman),
Andres Vaughan (Turkey)** (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR)

Bridget Brown

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Brent Steel

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

A Comparative Analysis

Successful management of water resources requires a strong foundation of appropriate national water policies. Additionally, the national government must possess the capacity to implement those policies. Freshwater resources are scarce worldwide and becoming more so as a result of climate change, rapid population growth, and industrialization. In the MENA region, this is especially important due to low surface water supplies, aridity, and high variability in precipitation. National governments there, along with international donors and NGOs, are currently seeking to determine the most effective water policies, laws and organizational structures to ensure adequate water and effective management for future generations in the region. International Resources Group (IRG) and its partners, Oregon State University (OSU) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), are currently implementing a USAID-funded Regional Water Governance Benchmarking Project, targeting five Middle Eastern countries. The project aims to develop a system for measuring and benchmarking capacity for and quality of water governance in these five countries which can be applied across the MENA region. The five nations selected as case studies are Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Turkey. This special session describes the approach employed by the project, presents a pair of policy models for considering and assessing national water governance, and illustrates the application of the models with examples from the five MENA countries. The panel will present a brief overview of each nation's water policy system, a discussion of water supply and use, and major political, social, and economic factors affecting supplies. Discussion will follow.