

“WE ARE EXHAUSTED”: NAVIGATING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION FOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE TROPICS

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Collaborative water management (CWM) is central to sustainable transitions in the allocation, distribution, and use of water. Water managers, a specific group of natural resource managers involved in decision-making around water resources, can play a decisive role in shaping the outcomes of CWM due to their unique position at the intersection of governmental and civilian arenas. Collaborative process can be time and resource demanding, within this context water managers experience participation fatigue a significant but poorly understood barrier to CWG. This research seeks to advance the theorization of collaborative water management in the tropics and contribute a novel conceptualization of participatory fatigue by developing a better understanding on how water managers experience and navigate interagency coordination for water management in the context of the Tempisque-Bebedero (TBW) watershed in Guanacaste, Costa Rica. As it becomes increasingly clear that many water-related challenges may be decided by the ability of water managers to respond to public demands for civilian inclusion in the governing process, this research has the potential to support the design of more just and robust water management networks.

PRESENTER BIO: Oswaldo Medina-Ramírez is a PhD candidate in Anthropology specializing in governance and public policy. He is an interdisciplinary researcher/practitioner who has worked for governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the Americas. He is part of the Inducing Resilience for Water-Subsidized Systems project, an effort to strengthen connections between the social and natural sciences.