

Evaluating Collaborative Approaches to Governance for Water Allocation

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UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

Our Partners

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Conservation Ontario
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



Ontario Water Allocation

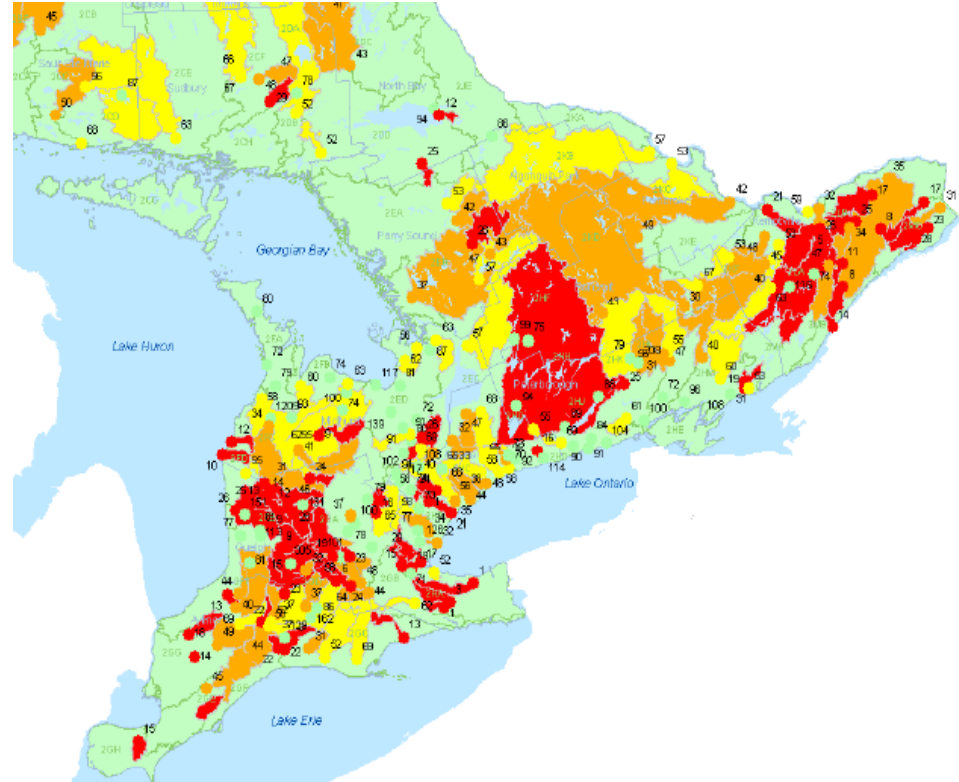
- The *Ontario Water Resources Act* is the legal authority for water allocation in Ontario.
- A Permit to Take Water is required for water withdraws of 50, 000 l/day or more.
- Ontario Low Water Response ensures provincial preparedness to coordinate and support local response to drought.



Level 3 has never been declared



Confirmed Levels

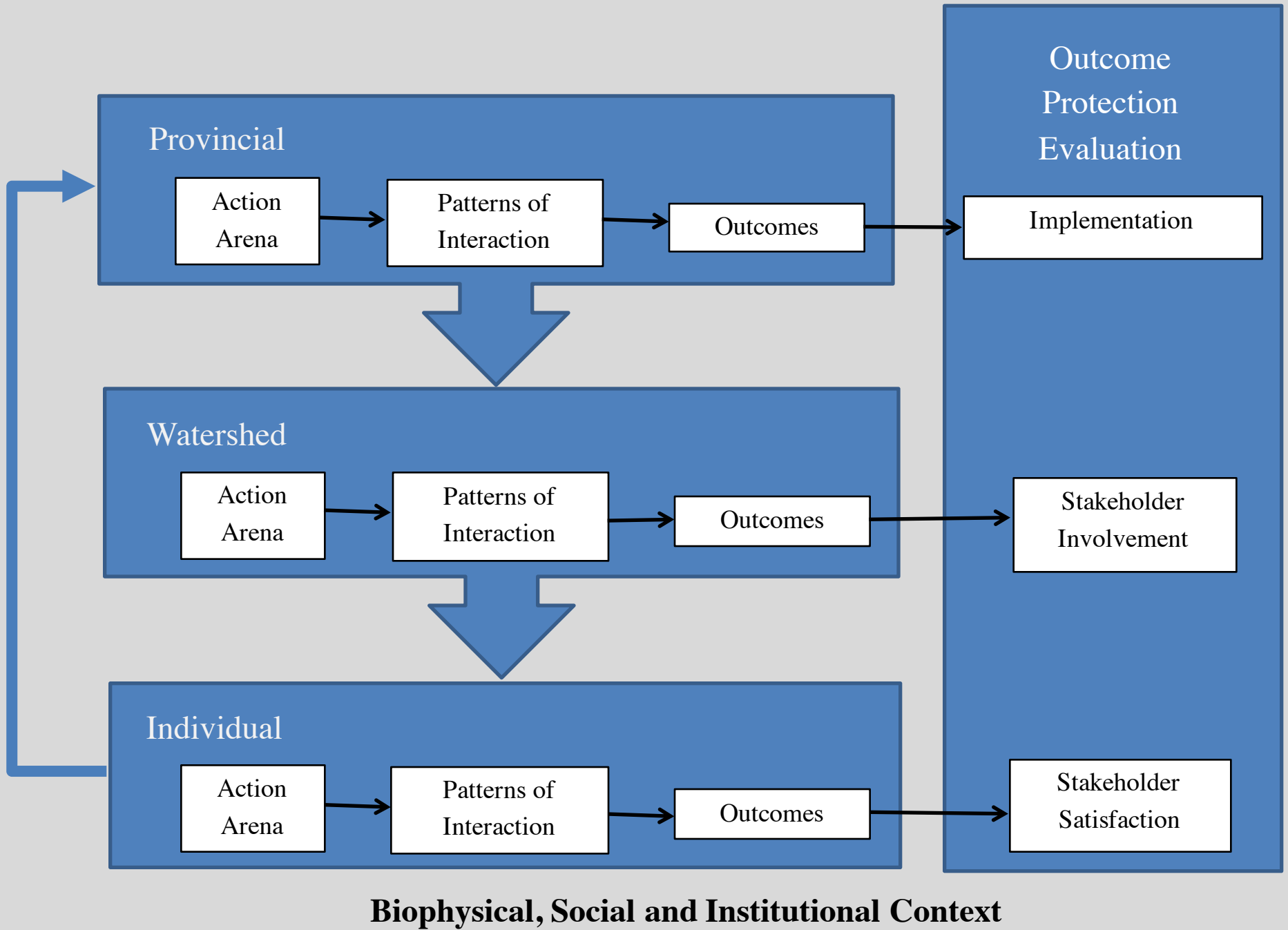


Indicators for stream flow

Incorporating Collaborative Outcomes

PROJECT ONE

- **Audience:** collaborative governance and natural resource scholars, government.
- **Outputs:** journal article, CWRA presentation, master's thesis.
- **Context:** The outcomes from collaborative groups formed by government are not always included in final government decisions.



Provincial

Action
Arena

Patterns of
Interaction

Outcomes

Outcome
Protection
Evaluation

Implementation

Watershed

Action
Arena

Patterns of
Interaction

Outcomes

Stakeholder
Involvement

Individual

Action
Arena

Patterns of
Interaction

Outcomes

Stakeholder
Satisfaction

Biophysical, Social and Institutional Context

Key Outcomes for Decision-Makers

- Increased communication and better relationships between government and water users was a key outcome from collaboration.
- Define how outcomes from collaborative groups will be used.
- Ensure that actors are able to complete the assigned tasks.



Comparing Drought Processes

PROJECT TWO

- **Context:** Uncertainty regarding evaluation of drought plans.
- **Audience:** partners, Ontario government agencies, drought researchers.
- **Outputs:** report guided by partner ideas and feedback, 2015 Drought Outlook Presentation

Category	Evaluative Questions
Purpose and Scope	<p>What is the objective of the plan?</p> <p>What types of drought are considered?</p> <p>What is the scale of decision-making?</p> <p>Is the focus mitigation of or response to drought?</p>
Membership	<p>Who is included in decision-making?</p> <p>How are members determined?</p> <p>Is government part of local or regional decision-making?</p>
Decision Making	<p>How are drought conditions determined?</p> <p>Who makes decisions for determining drought severity?</p> <p>What happens during an emergency?</p> <p>Who is responsible for implementation?</p>
Role of Government	<p>What is the role of governments in drought management?</p> <p>Are they conveners, leaders, funders, or participants?</p>
Authority and Accountability	<p>Who is in charge of the drought management system?</p> <p>How are actions for drought management enforced?</p>
Evaluation	<p>How often are drought plans reviewed?</p> <p>What outcomes are measured on-the-ground to reflect the progress or success of the plan?</p>

Key Messages for Decision Makers

- Include provincial representation or support at local levels for collaboration.
- Impacts from drought are not measured by the government; opportunities exist for local groups to document impacts.

