

Understanding local water conflict and cooperation – evidence from Zambia

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Abstract

The advent of climate change has in recent years led to public and academic debate on the prospects for future conflicts over scarce natural resources. Much of this debate has focused on the potential for large-scale “water wars”, and much of it has focused on the future. While this is clearly important, there are also significant lessons to learn from the multitude of local water conflicts that are already now taking place across the South. The presentation will discuss the findings from collaborative research on local water conflict and cooperation in Zambia within the recently completed “Competing for Water” programme. The presentation will focus on the nature and character of such conflicts in the Southern African setting, and its implications for pro-poor water access and governance frameworks.