Governance challenges often arise when the spatial scale of phenomena exceeds the jurisdictional control of the decision-making bodies responsible for responding to their effects. These challenges are prevalent in water governance regimes, where the protean nature of the hydrological cycle prevents any clear-cut scale of governance from being identified. These issues of ecological-institutional mismatches of scale are further exacerbated by myriad different social factors, themselves operating at multiple scales, that militate against their ready adoption. The degree and extent to which attempts to reconcile these challenges have occurred through processes of rescaling are heavily influenced by the power dynamics that unfold at the nexus between nature-society relations. This points to the importance of examining processes of rescaling water governance regimes through the conceptual framework provided by political ecology and social-ecological systems (SES).

This paper seeks to explore how these issues have evolved within the watershed of the Angat River, Philippines. It does so primarily by focusing on the processes of political decentralization that have swept the country over the past two decades. This phenomenon has numerous implications for the way in which water governance regimes operate, which, in turn, has very real effects on ecosystem services, levels of stakeholder participation, and issues of access and distribution. One approach proposed to engage with these challenges has been the creation of the Pampanga River Basin Committee (PRBC), which has been organized at the scale of the Pampanga River Basin. An additional scale of water governance has been proposed for the Angat River (a sub-basin of the Pampanga River) in the form of the Angat River Management Board (ARMB). Both of these approaches (river basin and watershed-based, respectively) contain three elements of rescaling: scaling down, scaling up, and scaling out. Understanding the implications of the interplay between these three scalar elements within the context of the Angat River Watershed (ARW) is essential for designing, implementing, and sustaining a water governance regime that meets the needs of people and planet.

**Keywords:** water governance, rescaling, Philippines, political ecology, social-ecological systems (SES)