

MS Thesis
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
College of Science
George Mason University

Candidate: Farnoush Hashempour Aloucheh

Defense Date and Time: November 23, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

Defense Location: Zoom (Contact ESP Program Coordinator Keanah Turner kturme2@gmu.edu for details)

Title: The Impact of Sanctions on Environmental Governance in Iran

Thesis Director: Dr. Younsung Kim

Committee: Dr. Chris Kennedy and Dr. Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers

ABSTRACT

Iran has a unique position regarding plant diversity and genetic reserves with 13 UNESCO recognized biosphere reserves. However, Iran has shown rapid deterioration of environmental quality, including water shortage, diminishing groundwater and wetlands, forests degradation, desertification, and air pollution. Effective environmental governance can address environmental problems, and sanctions are one of the factors affecting environmental governance. This research investigates the relationship between sanctions and environmental governance in Iran through a systematic review and using the integrative governance framework. The findings indicate that sanctions adversely affect Iran's environment, and the effects were more tangible in air pollution and water issues. Also, sanctions negatively affected Iran's environment by decreasing the country's revenue, limiting access to technologies, restricting international funding supports, and highlighting the need for self-sufficiency. The study contributes to an in-depth understanding of the role of sanctions for international environmental governance.