

WaterTrust

Using participatory monitoring to build legitimacy and trust in watermanagement

Informational Governance



In this project the main research question is: Can the implementation of strategic water management be facilitated by increasing trust and legitimacy through participatory monitoring techniques?

Background

Climate change

Adaptation to climate change is a subject receiving growing attention of policy makers and scientists. Increasingly, adaptation is not only defined as adaptation to changing physical conditions due to the effects of climate change, but also as adaptation to changing socio-political conditions. Limits to adaptation are no longer seen as solely defined by biological, economic or technological parameters, but also depend on the organization of society, its values and knowledge and the quality of relationships between individuals and institutions.

Adaptive capacity

Water management is characterized by high uncertainty on: (1) the effects of climate change; (2) the effectiveness of adaption measures and (3) the economic, political, and societal circumstances. This means that effective climate change adaption will need to be reflexive, constantly adjusting to new circumstances and actively seeking new information on what is working and what is not. Flexibility of policies and reflexivity on the effects of these policies are key aspects of the adaptive capacity of institutional arrangements in water governance. This is seen as an important challenge for climate change adaption.

Participatory monitoring

Participatory Monitoring is a process through which different stakeholders are actively involved in the design and implementation of monitoring schemes and the interpretation and use of the monitoring results.

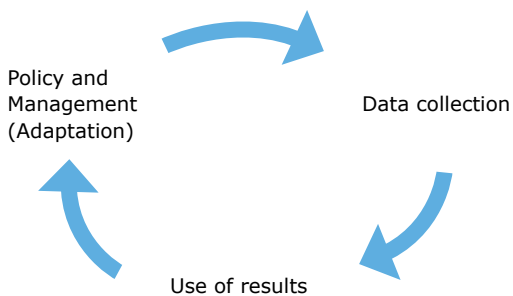
More information

Monitoring plays an import role in climate change research and policy and is a core element of adaptive management. Monitoring can be defined as: *'the systematic measurement of variables and processes over time'* (Spellerberg, 2005). Monitoring processes are often (but not necessarily) approached together with evaluation as for management to be truly adaptive, the monitoring of the results must also be interpreted and weighted. That is, the outcome of previous management must be evaluated.

Highlights project

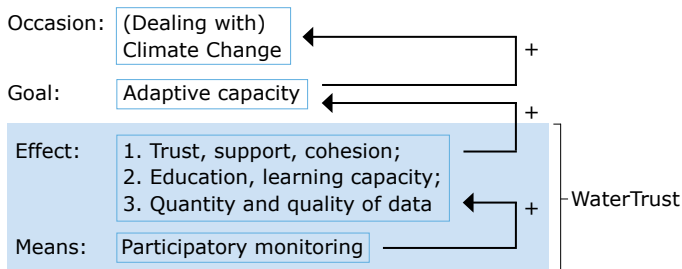
- Four topical case-studies.
- (International) network of both scientific and practical partners.
- European Innovation Partnership.
- Community of Practice.
- Practical and scientific articles.

Often the monitoring and evaluation of (climate change) policies is done by experts. However, more recently a focus on collaboration in monitoring and evaluation has emerged. Collaborative or participatory monitoring and evaluation is characterized by including important external stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation process. Stakeholders can be involved in different stages of the monitoring process, amongst which: (1) monitoring design; (2) collection of data; (3) use of results. Each of these stages can be more or less participatory. In this project, we have adopted a broad definition of participatory monitoring, including monitoring practices that include local stakeholders in one or more stages of the monitoring cycle.



With the project we focus on three main categories of (expected) effects of participatory monitoring:

- 1 Trust / support / cohesion
- 2 Education, learning capacity
- 3 Quantity and quality of data



Main Research Question

The main research question of the project is: *Can the implementation of strategic water management be facilitated by increasing trust and legitimacy through participatory monitoring techniques?*

Main target group(s)

Both policymakers and practitioners in the field of strategic water management, such as waterboards, Provinces, Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, farmers, nature conservation agencies and citizens.



Participative monitoring in the field.

Main output / deliverables

The main goal of the project is to gain and develop new knowledge and insights on the limits and possibilities of enhancing adaptive capacity in watermanagement through participatory monitoring.

This knowledge and insights are gathered both through theoretical analysis and practical analysis of topical case-studies. In the project, we use a learning based case study methodology based on four case studies, amongst which the cases of Flexpeil/Loosdrechtse Plassen, Landbouw op Peil and Langsdammen Nijmegen. The first case study is exploratory, the second and third focus on the development of methodology and useful technology and the fourth focuses on the validation of prior results.

Knowledge and insights will be divulgated through:

- Scientific papers
- Practical manual for PM
- Articles in professional magazines
- Community of practices
- (International) networks, such as European Innovation Partnership
- (International) symposia



Measuring and monitoring at Landbouw op Peil.

Contact

Alterra Wageningen UR
P.O. Box 47
6700 AA Wageningen
www.wageningenUR.nl

Bas Breman
T +31 (0)317 48 16 36
E bas.breman@wur.nl

Arjen Buijs
T +31 (0)317 48 16 61
E arjen.buijs@wur.nl

Wiebren Kuindersma
T +31 (0)317 48 49 74
E wiebren.kuindersma@wur.nl

