

Possibilities and restrictions for transboundary climate adaptation governance in the Netherlands



Delta's in Times of Climate Change II, 25-09-2014

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Introduction

- **Knowledge for Climate:** Governance of adaptation
- Transboundary governance for climate adaptation
- Possibilities and restrictions for cross-border cooperation for climate adaptation governance



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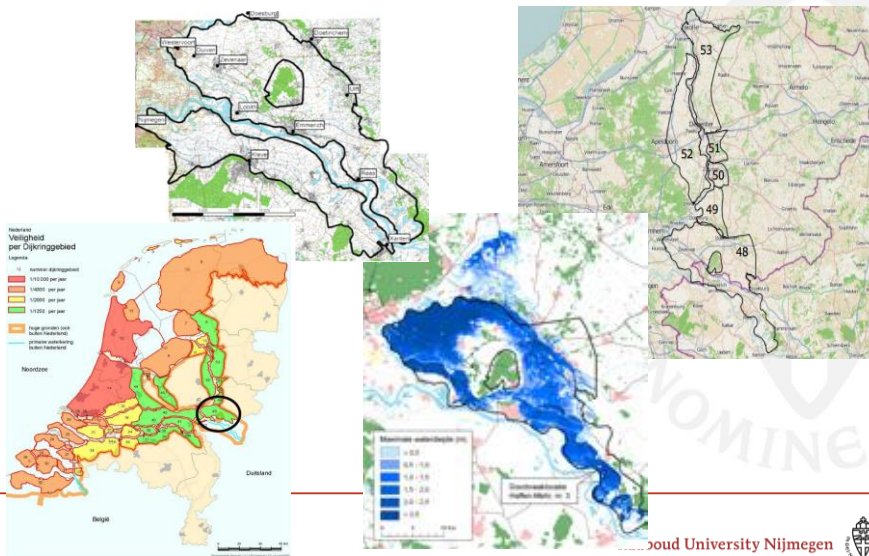


Climate change effects transcend borders and sectors

- The impact of climate change on river basins
- Adaptation to the effects of climate change:
'Adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities' (IPCC, 2007)
- Significant challenges for traditional governance modes:
 - Need for an integrated approach
 - Need for a transboundary perspective



Climate change effects transcend borders



Climate adaptation governance in the Netherlands

- Water accommodation story line (e.g. Room for the River)
- Climate-proof story line (National adaptation plan, ARK)
- Safe delta story line (Delta Programme)
- Key aspect climate adaptation: Delta Programme (national focus)
- Framing is predominantly restricted to water management;

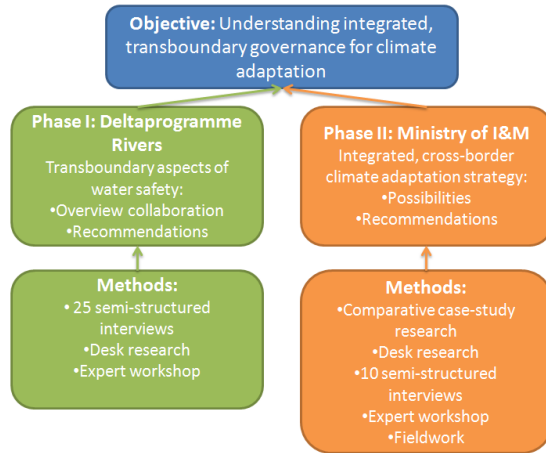


The European Climate Adaptation Strategy

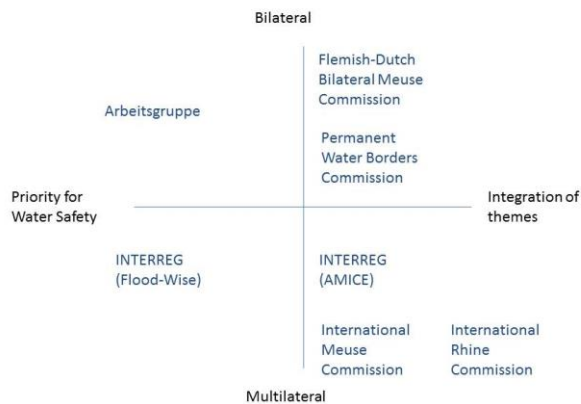
- April 2013: **EU Climate Adaptation Strategy**
- Preparing the EU for climate change
- 2017: Each state should adopt a national strategy:
 - A comprehensive, integrated strategy
 - Consider the importance of cross-border cooperation



Research background



Transboundary aspects of water safety



Transboundary aspects of water safety

- Rhine versus the Meuse river basin
- Plurality of collaboration forums → opportunities for the Delta Programme
- Dealing with aspects of water management at the most appropriate level
- A broadening, substantive scope of cross-border cooperation
- Role of EU legislation
- Exchange of experiences



Integrated and cross-border climate adaptation governance *(preliminary results)*

- Best practices of integrated and/or climate adaptation governance
- Promising border regions
- Expert workshop
- Comparative case-study research
 - Rijnstrangen
 - Transboundary dike ring 48
 - Smart Dike



Integrated and cross-border climate adaptation governance (Preliminary results)

'Moments' for climate adaptation governance	Learning lessons
Problem perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual understanding (facts and data) • Focus on solutions, strengths • Clarify the need for collaboration
Level and scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of multiple actors (bottom-up and top-down, public and private) • Strong and effective leadership • Knowledge actors
Multi-sector or sectoral governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Win-win situations, trade-offs • Intertwining multiple actors → broader support for integrated approach • Climate adaptation not primary objective, linking to other developments
Timing and sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely start of cross-border cooperation • Involvement of actors from the start • Combination of short and long term.
Mode and instrument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture of top-down and bottom-up modes • Zooming in and out, the system and the region (successful pilot projects on small scale and a common vision and goal)
Costs and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating gains for everyone (linking issues) • External funding
Implementation and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Societal and political support • Legal framework

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Take home message

- Integrated cross-border cooperation on climate adaptation governance is not for granted
- In recent years, several developments could be found on this issue at the EU governmental level
- Need for more cross-border and integrated climate adaptation governance



Thank you.

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