

Are Dutch Institutions able to promote the Adaptive Capacity of Society

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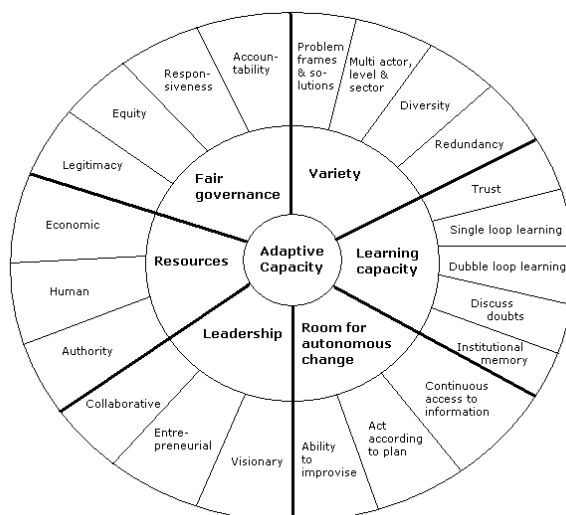
Research questions

- How can the adaptive capacity of institutions be assessed?
- What can we say about the ability of Dutch institutions to promote the Adaptive Capacity of Society?

Method

- Development of Adaptive Capacity Wheel
- Application to:
 - Four sectors (agriculture, nature, spatial policy, water)
 - 23 policy documents out of 93 inventoried
 - Four case studies (individual responsibility; national safety; building in low lying areas; ecosystem protection)
- Assessment

Adaptive capacity wheel



Scores in colors and numbers

Enhances adaptive capacity for adaptation	Potential exists, not (yet fully) applied to adaptation	Neutral (positive nor negative effect expected)	Gap that needs to be filled to counteract negative effect on adaptive capacity	Institutional structure obstructs adaptive capacity for adaptation
2	1	0	-1	-2

- Colour is a way to communicate: is attention needed?
- Not absolute, but transparent measurement; scores are aggregated but there is no weighting

Method Assessed

Advantages

- Comprehensive diagnostic tool
- Compresses information;
- Communicative;
- Applicable to policy documents and case studies;
- Potentially expandable to include indicators for each criteria.

Disadvantages

- Certain terms unfamiliar or loaded;
- Not additive;
- Incorporates some interesting paradoxes;
- Not objective but transparent
- Interpretation is critical
- Difficult to make

Content Analysis: 1

Approach

- 93 instruments in 4 sectors selected and studied to understand scope and trends

Conclusions

- Shift from sectoral to integrated;
- From not a priority through to no regrets to priority;
- From technological to post-modern;
- From top-down, through decentralization to a new balance;
- From adaptation to adaptive capacity

Content Analysis -2

Approach

- Selection of 23 instruments for further study based on specific criteria
- Application of Adaptive Capacity Wheel

Application to FCCC



Content Analysis – 3 (EU & National)

EU level

WFD



Floods Dir.



White Paper on Adap.



Natura



CAP



National level

Adaptation Strategy Safety Strategy



Content Analysis – 4

Agriculture

Agenda for a Living Countryside Law: Land Use in Rural Areas New Agrarian Insurances



Nature

NEN



National Protection Law



Flora and Fauna Law



Content Analysis - 5

Spatial Planning

National Spatial Strategy



Spatial Planning Act



Str. Env. Assess.



Water

National Ag. on Water



Major Rivers Guideline



Water test



Nat. Water Plan

Water Act

Content Analysis: Conclusions

- Int. and EU instruments score well;
- Water sector scores well, except Water Test;
- Agriculture scores well on the left side of the Wheel;
- SP scores well on Variety and Leadership;
- Nature sector scores poorly

Content Analysis - Conclusions

- Some sectors score better because they have a more enabling character; others score badly because they are more rigid;
- The paradigms and behaviour patterns are consistent in each sector; extrapolating results to the remaining 5 sectors is thus not possible

Case Studies

	1. Individual Responsibility	2. Water safety	3. Climate-proof SP for flood prone areas	4. Protection of ecosystems
Scale	Local	National	Regional and local	National
Sectors	Water, urban, ag., SP	Water, nature, ag. SP	Water, SP	Nature, water, SP
Innovative	Yes	Partly	Yes	Partly
Location	Delft, Zaandam, Wjde Wormer	National	Zuidplaspolder Westergouwe	Wadden Sea
Important	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Case Studies - 1

Individual responsibility



Adaptive Capacity in Zaandam



Adaptive Capacity in Delft



Adaptive Capacity in De Wijde Wormer

Water Safety



ACW applied to the Room for the River project



ACW applied to the Flood Risk approach



ACW applied to the Second Delta Plan

Case Studies - conclusions

- CS 2 and 3 score well;
- CS 4 (Wadden Sea) scores poorly;
- CS 1 (individual responsibility) neutral;
- Dilemmas on variety – how much variety?
- Dilemmas in framing and communication: Should the paternal state take responsibility or individuals;
- Learning limited to paths chosen; (how to build, not where to build);
- Leadership ?
- Equity issues not yet clear

Integrated results

- Long history of adaptation in water
- Five trends in the four sectors
 - Shift from sectoral to integrated; non- priority to priority; technological to post-modern; top-down to a new balance; adaptation to adaptive capacity
- Comparative analysis
 - Different paradigms in each sector
 - Water strongest, nature weakest
 - All score relatively poorly on redundancy, resources may be a problem, equity?
 - Technological lock-in and path dependency limits learning

Recommendations

- ACW – enhances dialogue and learning; comparative analysis; international benchmarking
- Adaptive capacity – too incremental; needs acceleration; too cost-effective, not enough emphasis on redundancy; lack of leadership; learning needs to be structured; involvement of citizens needs to be structured
- Need for the shadow of hierarchy