

Governance of Climate Adaptation

Professor Katrien Termeer
Wageningen University, the Netherlands
katrien.termeer@wur.nl



Radboud University Nijmegen



Universiteit Utrecht

CARL VON OSSIETZKY
universität OLDENBURG

UEA
University of East Anglia

STOCKHOLM
UNIVERSITY



Center of Excellence "Governance of Climate Adaptation"

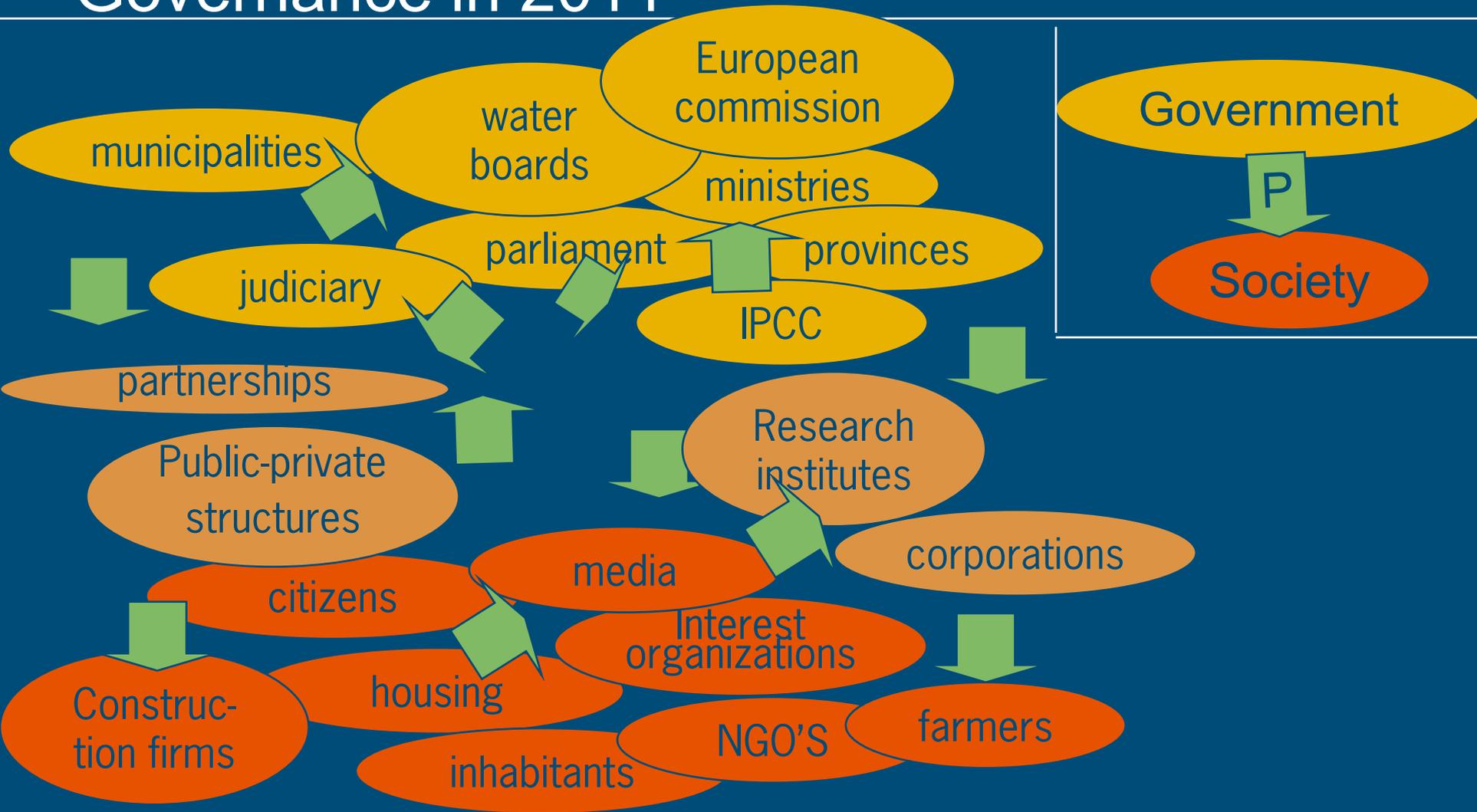


de Waterhouderij

zelfvoorzienend in water



Governance in 2011



Governance challenges

- How to develop and implement adaptation options?
- How to increase the adaptive capacity of society so that future climate changes can be confronted?

Characteristic complexities

- Inherent uncertainties, ambiguities, controversies
- Short term investment and long term effects
- Autonomous adaptation and planned change
- New policy domain, almost all policy fields involved
- Regional strategies in the context of global change

Governance research programmes

1. Programme Climate Changes Spatial Planning

- Institutions for climate adaptation (2008-2010)
- Identification of different climate frames

2. Knowledge for Climate Programme

- Governance of Climate Adaptation (2010-2014)

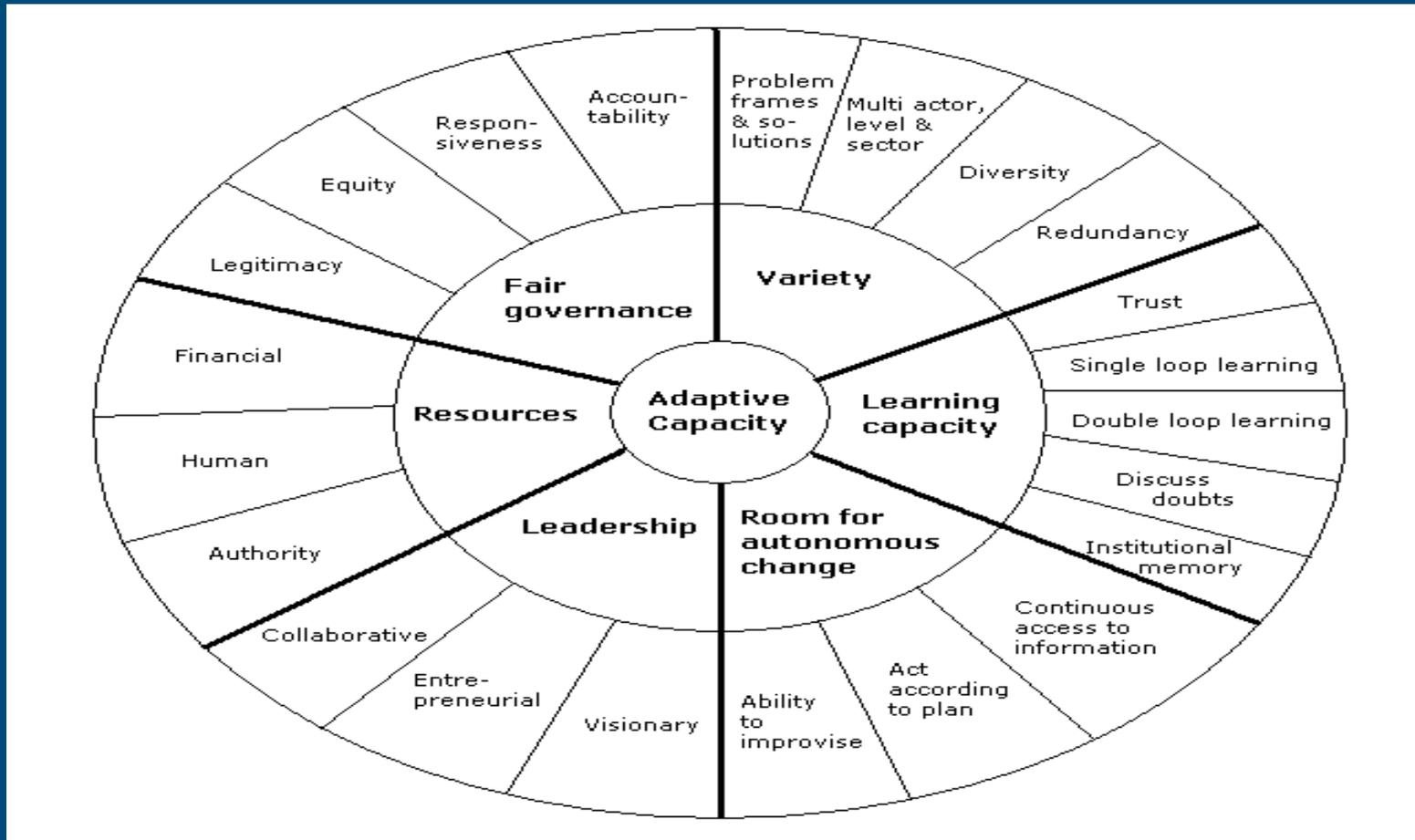
Project 1: Institutions for Adaptation

To what extent do our institutions allow and encourage society to adapt to complex and uncertain climate change impacts?

- Institutions are *formal and informal* systems of rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that give rise to social practices, assign roles to the participants, and guide interactions.
- Institutions product of times in which climate adaptation was no issue

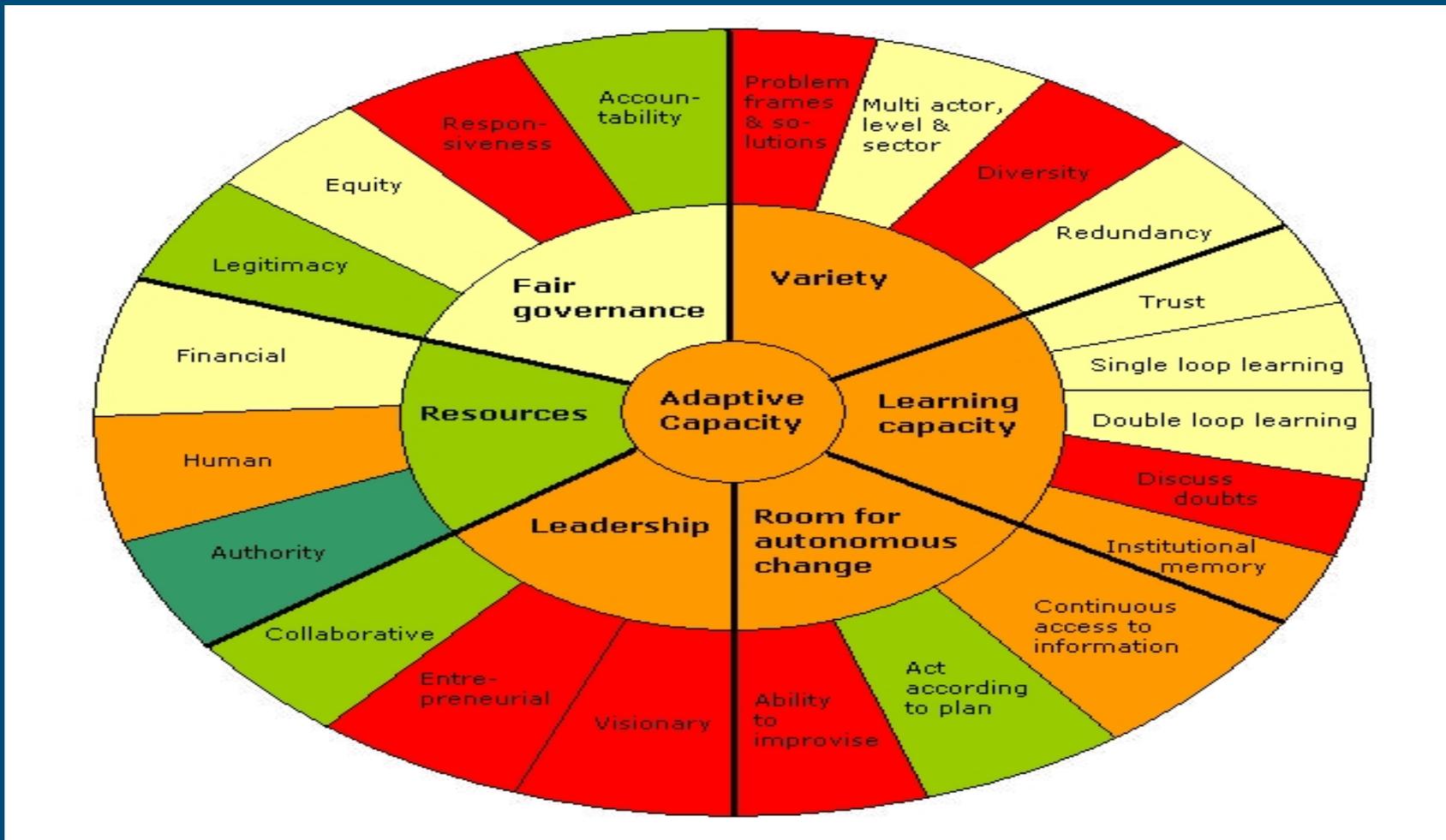
Adaptive Capacity wheel

Figure 1: The Adaptive Capacity Wheel (source: Gupta et al. 2010).



	Agriculture	Nature	Water	Spatial planning	Cross-sectoral
Relevant international policy documents	EU Common Agricultural Policy	Convention on Biological Diversity, Natura 2000	Water Framework Directive, Flood Risk Directive		United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, EU White Paper on Adaptation
Main Dutch policy documents	Agenda for a Living Countryside, Rural Areas Development Act, New Agrarian Insurances	National Ecological Network, Nature Protection Law, Flora and Fauna Law	National Agreement on Water, National Water Plan, Water Assessment, Policy Guideline for Major Rivers, Water Act	National Spatial Strategy, Spatial Planning Act, Strategic Environmental Assessment	National Adaptation Strategy, National Risk Strategy
In-depth case studies and sub-cases	Individual Responsibility in local management in the Wijde Wormer area (Nature management in the Wadden Sea area	Water safety in three strategies plans: Room for the River (riverine areas) , Flood Risk Approach (main rivers) , Second Delta Plan (coast) , Individual Responsibility for water storage in Delft (1b)and Zaandam	Climate-Proof Spatial Planning in the regions Zuidplas polder and Westergouwe	

Natura 2000/Birds and Habitats Directives



Conclusions

- The nature institutions are the weakest in adaptive capacity and the water safety institutions are the strongest
- Path dependency to continue the focus on 'hard' technical measures and building in vulnerable areas
- Adaptive capacity is under pressure
- Institutional arrangements are needed to accelerate these processes

General weaknesses

- Redundancy is given less priority than efficiency
- Because government remains the dominant actor, the room for autonomous change is still relatively low
- Where the Netherlands is still a high-trust society, climate change is a source of mistrust
- Many processes stagnate due to a lack of active involvement of formal leaders
- Long-term resources may be in short supply
- Equity implications have not been taken into account

General strengths

- Dutch policymakers are aware of the importance of variety, but they are constrained by available resources
- The skill to organize search processes that do not jump to conclusions is widely increasing
- Developments in all sectors are increasingly geared toward a search process for tailor-made solutions
- Experimentation with new ideas are stimulated, but create new problems as well
- Although fair governance increases complexity, it is passionately supported

Project 2: Identification of climate frames

- To identify different climate frames and to explain the role of frames for the target group of members of a decision unit who have the task to make decisions on climate change adaptation

Perceptual distance	Goal orientation and focus	
	Promotion orientation	Prevention orientation
Distal view (long-term, broad categories)	<p>Social progress frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as improving quality of life or harmony with nature</p>	<p>Morality/ethics frame</p> <p>Defines the issue in terms of right or wrong; respecting or crossing limits</p>
	<p>Middle way frame</p> <p>Puts the emphasis on finding a possible compromise position</p>	<p>Pandora's box frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as a call for precaution in face of possible impacts or catastrophe</p>
Proximal view (short-term, narrow categories)	<p>Economic development frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as investment that improves competitiveness</p>	<p>Scientific uncertainty frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as a matter of what is known versus unknown</p>
	<p>Conflict/strategy frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as a game among elites, a battle of personalities or groups</p>	<p>Public accountability frame</p> <p>Defines the issue as responsible use or abuse of science in decision-making</p>

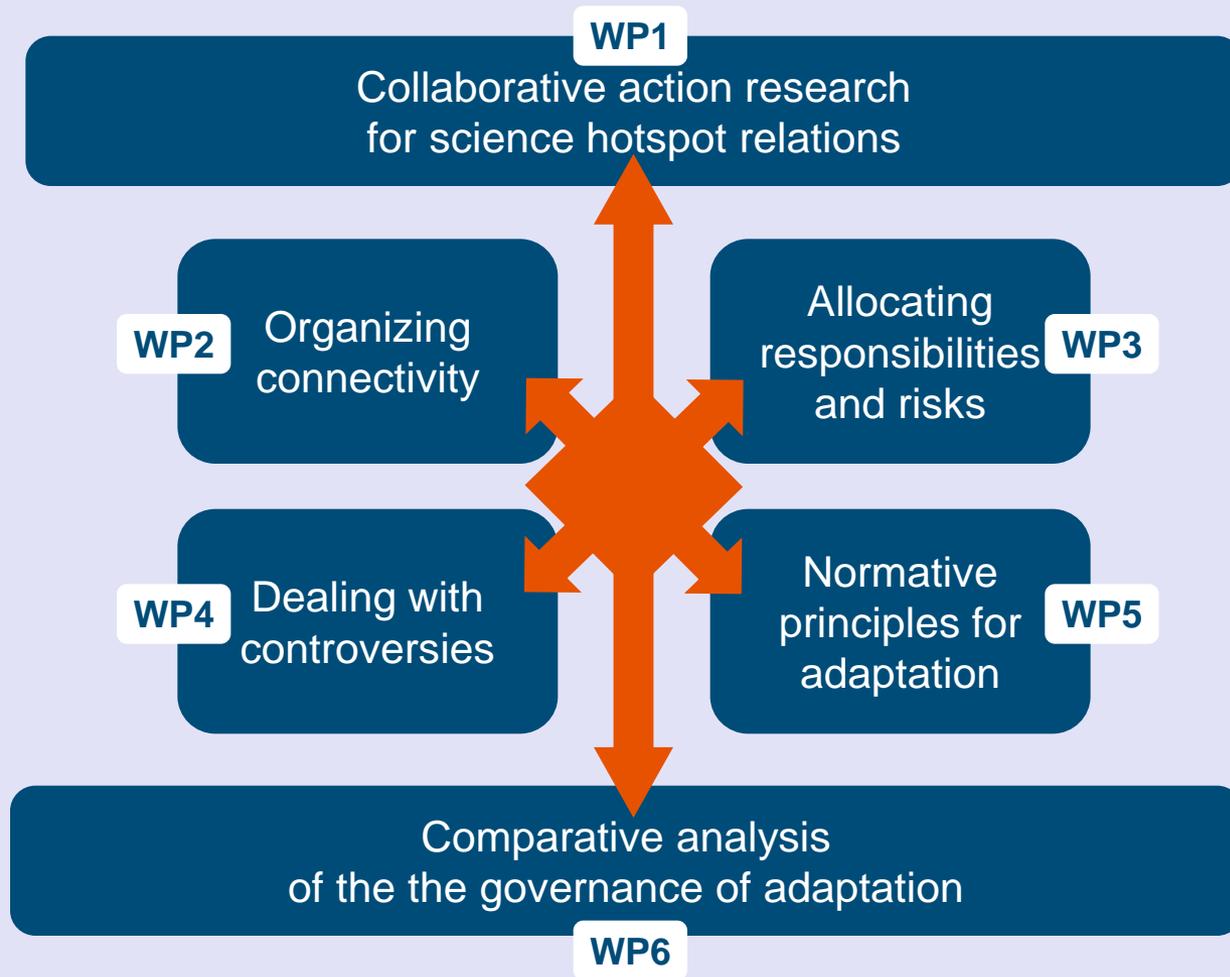
Project 3: Governance of Adaptation

- What kind of governance arrangements can be developed and tested that will contribute to
 - developing and implementing adaptation options; and
 - increasing the adaptive capacity of society so that future climate changes can be confronted?
- These arrangements should be effective, legitimate and resilient

Key research questions

- How can we organize *connectivity* within the existing fragmented structures through innovative experiments, leadership approaches and process designs?
- Which economic instruments and governance structures to *(re)allocate* risks and responsibilities between the public and the private are promising?
- What are the consequences of uncertainties, stakeholders' frames and contested *knowledge*, and which methods help to cope with them in policymaking?
- What are the challenges to *normative and legal principles* posed by climate?

Governance of adaptation to climate change



WP1

Collaborative action research

