

The Adaptation Challenge Or: How to nail a pudding on the wall

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Contents

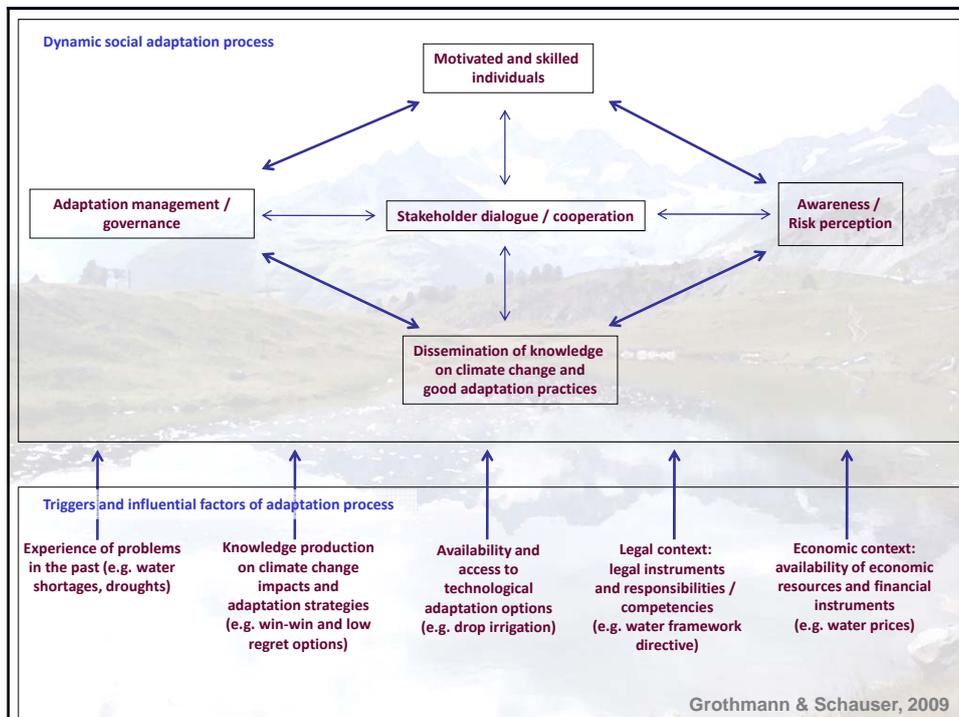
1. Challenges of adaptation research
2. Governance challenges of adaptation
3. Solutions



Challenges of adaptation research Or: What's the Pudding?



- Multi-disciplinarity
- Transdisciplinarity
- Dearth of theories
- Multiple levels (local, regional, national to global)
- Cross-sectoral issue
- Dealing with enormous uncertainties
- Context-sensitivity



Adaptation as a governance challenge Or: What is ‚governance‘?

Def.: All processes of rule making and rule implementation in societies.

1. Governance \neq classical political processes of law making
2. Governance \neq management and control
3. Governance \neq policy advice (because of changed roles of actors and knowledge)
4. Governance \neq participation (different forms of cooperation among actors)

Governance challenge I



- **Adaptation and mitigation belong together.**
 - Adaptation is only manageable if global mean temperature increase does not exceed 3-4° C
 - Adaptation is not an excuse strategy for failure in effective mitigation.
 - Adaptation under the conditions of mitigation



Governance challenge II

- **Adaptation and mitigation differ in nature.**
 - In their timing
 - In the scale
 - In the disciplinary framing
 - In the actors and sectors affected
 - In the necessary governance processes



Governance challenge III

- **Adaptation has to effectively deal with:**
 - **Uncertainty:** especially local and short term
 - **Complexity:** climate change only one driver, affects most regions, sectors, levels of decision making in different ways
 - **Equity issues:** disparities in climate change impacts between different regions, sectors, population groups and species
 - Need to identify multiple-benefits, no-regret and low-regret adaptation options (e.g. by multi-criteria-analysis)
 - Need to learn, be flexible, realise adaptation quickly when more information is available etc.



Governance challenge IV



- **Governance of adaptation can build on existing structures.**
 - Disaster management systems exist in international, national and many local contexts (flood control, water management, extreme weather event management etc.)
 - Spatial planning
 - Flood protection
 - Water management
 - Health prevention

Governance challenge V



- **Governance of adaptation is new.**
 - Adaptation implies an extremely multi-faceted governance challenge.
 - Governance systems are also vulnerable to climate impacts (e.g. political-administrative structures could become inoperational).
 - Need for thorough and (nationally) coordinated assessments of vulnerabilities and specific context factors and barriers for adaptation

Governance challenge VI



- **Governance of adaptation needs an open, long-term oriented and participatory learning approach.**
 - Creating awareness and urgency for a long-term problem
 - Coordinated communication strategies
 - Avoiding technocratic fixes
 - Avoiding thematic fixes (such as the „flooding fix“)
 - Adaptation mainstreaming versus specialised institutions
 - Effective stakeholder involvement
 - Creating learning approaches

Solutions Or: Which nails? (Examples from Klimzug projects)



- Roadmapping processes
- Adaptation council
- Climate adaptation envoy („Klimaschutzbeauftragter“)
- Climate proofing of regions (as part of spatial planning processes)
- Online participation processes
- Cross-border river basin management and flood plain management

Thank you!
Or: Enjoy the pudding!



Guiding principles of adaptation

- | |
|--|
| 1. Cooperate with all relevant stakeholders |
| 2. Ensure commitment and leadership |
| 3. Build awareness and knowledge |
| 4. Deal with uncertainties |
| 5. Explore and prioritise potential climate change impacts |
| 6. Explore a wide spectrum of adaptation options |
| 7. Prioritise adaptation options |
| 8. Focus on win-win, low regret and urgent options |
| 9. Avoid maladaptation |
| 10. Mainstream adaptation within existing structures and processes |
| 11. Realize adaptation at the most effective level |
| 12. Monitor and evaluate systematically |



Source: [http://air-climate.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACC TP 2010 6 quid princ cc adapt](http://air-climate.eionet.europa.eu/reports/ETCACC_TP_2010_6_guid Princ cc adapt)