



# IC12 Institutions for Adaptation: Are Dutch Institutions Capable of Adapting to Climate Change?

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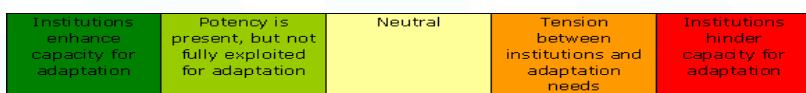
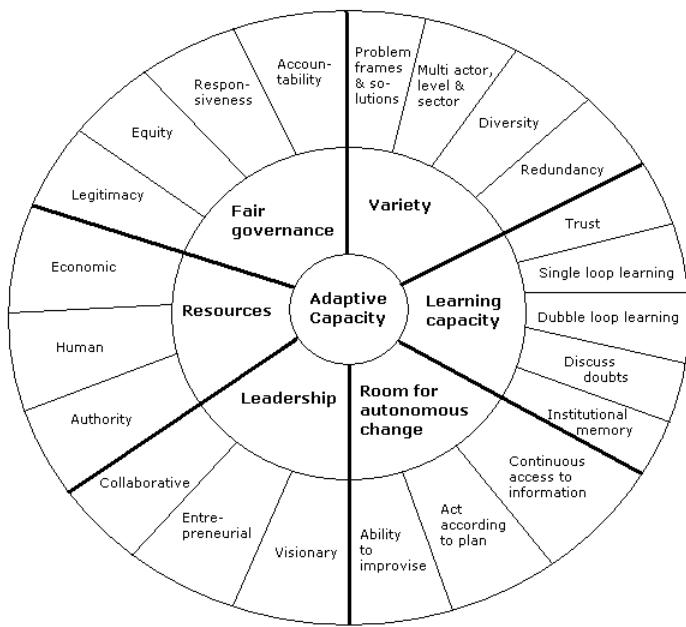
## Case Study on Individual Responsibility

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### Research

This poster aims to explain how the institutions regarding individual responsibility affect the adaptive capacity in different contexts. The paper uses a case study approach in which stakeholders are interviewed and the analysis is then structured along an 'Adaptive Capacity Wheel'. It concludes that the Adaptive Capacity Wheel provides a good qualitative indicator of how institutions (policy and legislation) in a specific problem area score in terms of adaptive capacity; that different localities have different context relevant challenges, and that the experiences in the Netherlands could be relevant for other countries seeking to shift some responsibility for climate adaptation to individuals.

### Adaptive Capacity Wheel and colour code



**The problem:** A key element of adaptation policy is shifting responsibility to individual citizens. This is also happening in the water sector especially with respect to groundwater management.

**The question:** What do the experiences and opinions of stakeholders about individual responsibility reveal about the strengths and weaknesses of the adaptive capacity of the institutions in different contexts?

**The case study:** Three case studies in Zaanstad, Wijdewormer and Delft were undertaken to study how local actors perceive the division of responsibilities between the state and themselves with respect to water management.

### Conclusions

#### The adaptive capacity wheel applied to Zaanadam



#### The adaptive capacity wheel applied to the Wijdewormer



#### The adaptive capacity wheel applied to Delft



The application of the adaptive capacity wheel shows where there is room for improvement in local policy processes. The research reveals that accountability and access to information are challenges for adaptive capacity that can be overcome when the law makes (a) clear distinction between incidental and structural impacts and allocates responsibilities for each; and (b) access to information on groundwater is easily available.

Furthermore, the research identifies context-specific challenges: a city requires a more top-down approach which could hamper variety and learning capacity, while a rural area requires a more group-centred approach which could suffer from a lack of steering and resources. Therefore, leadership should fit the contextual requirements.