

# Governance of climate adaptation

a framework for developing legitimate, effective and resilient governance arrangements

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# Governance challenges for climate adaptation

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- Multi-actor context
  - governmental actors, business actors, civil society actors, citizens
- Multi-sectoral coordination
  - water management, nature areas, spatial planning, agriculture, infrastructure, ...
- Multi-level governance
  - international, national, regional, local
- Multi-scale issue
  - involves more than the governmental scale
  - knowledge scale: e.g. from global to regional scenario's
  - time scale: already on-going adaptation, short and medium term adaptation measures and long term adaptive capacity



# Governance challenges for climate adaptation

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- New policy domain
  - climate adaptation lacks a well institutionalized policy domain
  - basic governance dilemma's have to be (re)addressed
  - jurisdictions and budget allocations
- Fragmentation
  - current organizations, rules and practices were not made for climate adaptation
- Governing a knowledge-intensive issue
  - Based on complex models with associated uncertainties
  - Wide variety of perspectives or frames, leading to controversies
- Normative principles
  - Challenges accepted normative principles (e.g. public interest, polluter pays, non-shift, ...)



# Normative principles for climate adaptation

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- Legitimate
  - ensuring transparency, accountability, fairness and equity
- Effective
  - adapting effectively and efficiently
  - right mix of instruments, strategies and processes
- Resilient
  - enabling autonomous adaptation
  - building long term adaptive capacity



# Key concepts for governance arrangements

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- Organizing connectivity
  - bringing actors, issues, sectors and scale levels together to realize creative climate adaptation options
  - tailoring responses to the problems at hand, within the fragmented governance structures
- (Re)allocating responsibilities and risks
  - changing the existing governance structures by changing the allocation of responsibilities and risks
  - creating new systems of economic incentives
- Dealing with controversies
  - coping with uncertainties: robust and/or adaptable measures
  - act without ignoring the variety of problem frames
  - co-production of legitimate knowledge



# How to research governance climate adaptation?

- everything is linked to everything
- dealing with the complexity of the context
- how to produce “actionable” knowledge

=> collaborative action research?

