



### Project

### 2.3 Climate change adaptation: the role of leadership

#### Research description

One of the factors relevant to instigating and realizing practices of climate change adaptation is leadership. This project aims to better understand the role of leadership in climate change adaptation, and to develop recommendations on leadership strategies for addressing specific adaptation challenges.

#### Case studies

The project consists of case studies of climate adaptation:

- in the dry rural areas in the Netherlands: the 'Deltaplan Hoge Zandgronden'
- along the main rivers in the Netherlands: the project 'Waalweelde'
- in coastal areas in the UK: the Manhood peninsula partnership
- in rural areas in Germany: KLIMZUG- northern Hessen.

Part of the research is carried out in cooperation with stakeholders, such as the province of Northern Brabant in the case study on the dry rural areas in the Netherlands.

#### Research question

What kind of leadership do we need for climate change adaptation?

#### Conclusion

Parties involved in realizing adaptation projects should not rely on hierarchical leadership only. Leadership which is aimed at creating conditions for innovation (enabling leadership), connecting parties (connective leadership), developing new ideas and practices (adaptive leadership), and connecting newly developed adaptation concepts to formal policies, is equally important to successful climate change adaptation.

#### Practical use

Based on an assessment of leadership functions in adaptation projects the need for strengthening specific leadership functions may be recognized.

As an example, in the case study on the dry rural areas, a water board has fulfilled important enabling and connective functions so far. In the next phase of the project, the province of northern Brabant should demonstrate leadership in connecting the agenda of climate change adaptation in the dry rural areas to spatial planning.

#### More information

For more information about this project please contact

Dr. Sander Meijerink  
Institute for Management Research  
Radboud University Nijmegen  
S.Meijerink@fm.ru.nl



#### Papers:

S. Meijerink, S. Stiller (2013); What kind of leadership do we need for climate adaptation, a framework for analyzing leadership objectives, functions and tasks in climate change adaptation. *Environment and Planning C* (in press).

P. Scholten, C. Keskitalo, S. Meijerink (2013); Bottom-up initiatives towards climate change adaptation in cases in the Netherlands and the UK: a complexity leadership perspective. *Environment and Planning C* (in review).