

Collaborative governance of a peri-urban enclave: how a farm became nature and citizen oriented

Judith Westerink, 14 September 2015





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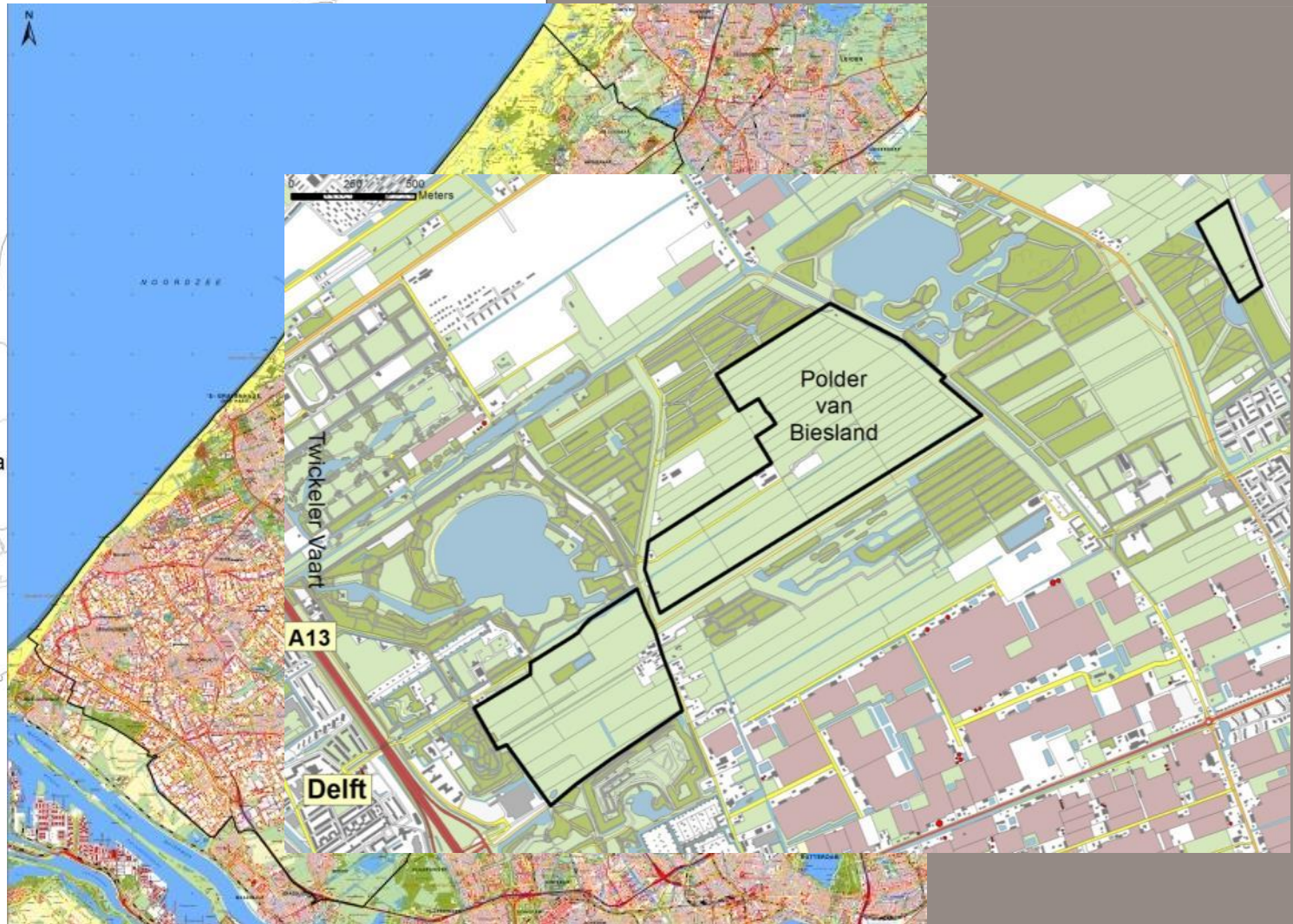
Biesland case in The Netherlands



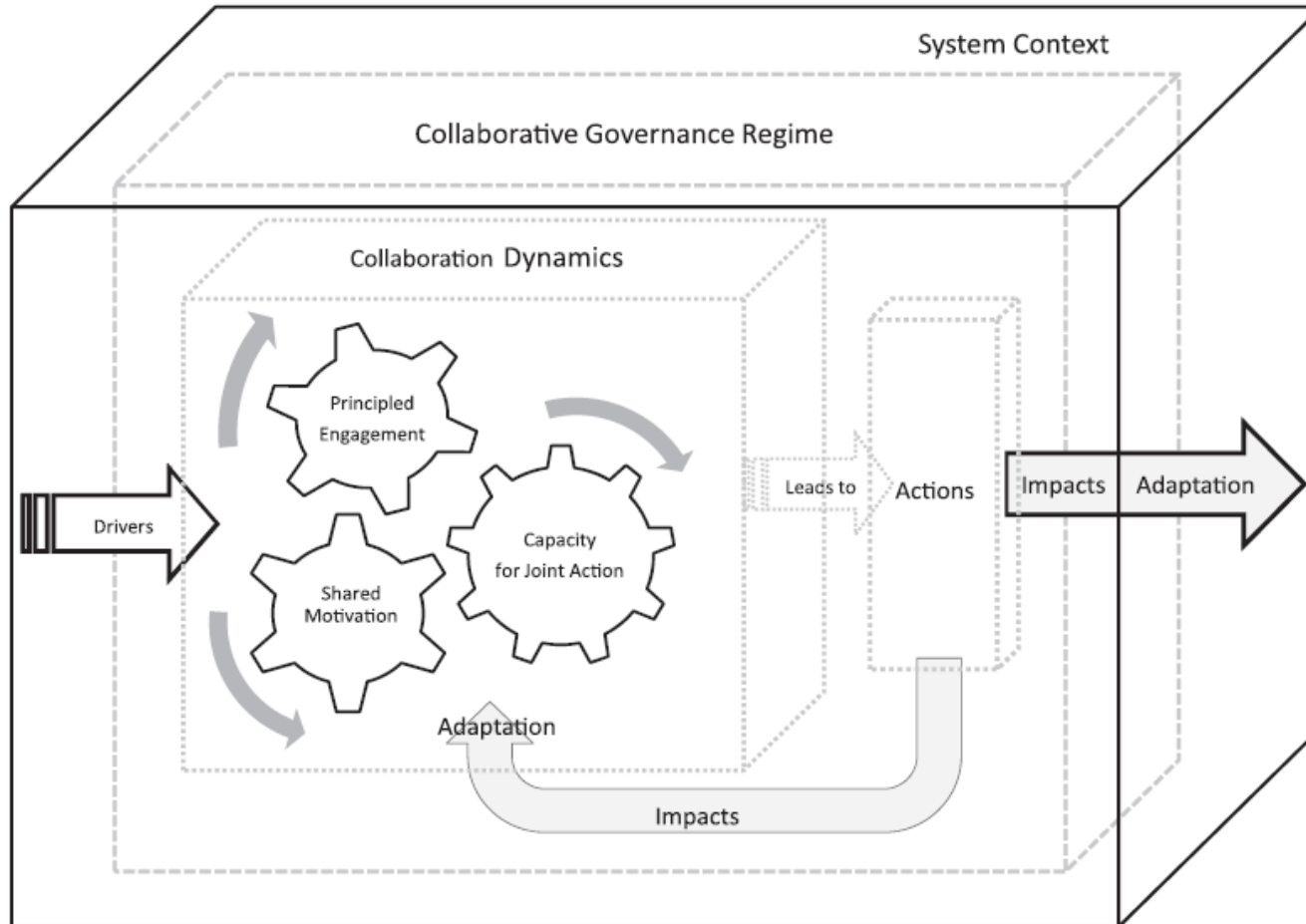
Surrounded by cities



... and urban parks



Integrative framework for collaborative governance



Source: EMERSON, K., NABATCHI, T. & BALOGH, S. 2012. An integrative framework for collaborative governance. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 22, 1-29.

Drivers

- Urbanization: plans for housing and urban forest
- Initiating leadership of farmer and researcher

→ Shared theory of action: Farming for Nature

This is a farming system designed for delivering ecosystem services including food



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Collaboration dynamics (1)

■ Principled engagement:

- Ecosystem services expected from Farming for Nature: attractive landscape, clean water, more biodiversity
- Range of stakeholders engaged in collaboration: farmers, citizens, researchers, local / regional / national governments
- Rules of the game: local voices count



Collaboration dynamics (2)

- Shared motivation:
 - Joint struggles and accomplishments
- Capacity for joint action:
 - Tailor-made local payment scheme



Collaborative actions

- Layout of 10% landscape elements
- Raised water level in spring
- No-input of manure from outside farm, limited purchase of feed in exchange for manure.

- → a nature-oriented farming system





Impacts and adaptation

- Still farmland: not converted to park or houses
- Citizen engagement:
 - Visitors, volunteers, care-farmers
- Diversification:
 - Sales of meat, solar energy, events
- Adaptation: no-input rule



What happened after action?

- From deliberation to monitoring and learning
 - Less involvement local governments
 - Research funding stopped after 5 years
- What does this mean for principled engagement and shared motivation?
- What if new adaptations are needed?

Conclusion

- Farming for nature, as a theory of action, works



Recommendation for actors in collaborative governance

- *Do not focus on action only: take part in learning to retain capacity to adapt*

Thank you for your attention and feedback!



Further reading

- BUIZER, I. M. 2008. Worlds apart: interactions between local initiatives and established policy. PhD thesis, Wageningen University.
- BUIZER, I. M., WESTERINK, J. & ARTS, B. forthcoming. Landscape Governance as Policy Integration 'from below': a case of displaced and contained political conflict in the Netherlands. *Environment & Planning C: Government & Policy*.
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- OPDAM, P. F. M., WESTERINK, J., VOS, C. C. & VRIES, E. A. D. 2015. The role and evolution of boundary concepts in transdisciplinary landscape planning. *Planning Theory and Practice*, online first.
- WESTERINK, J., MELMAN, T. C. P. & SCHRIJVER, R. A. M. 2014. Scale and self-governance in agri-environment schemes: experiences with two alternative approaches in the Netherlands. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, online first.
- WESTERINK, J., STORTELDER, et al. 2013. Boeren voor Natuur; Hoe werkt het en wat levert het op? Wageningen: Alterra Wageningen UR. Alterra-rapport 2472.