

Collaborative Governance Arrangements to Deliver Spatially Coordinated Agri-Environmental Management

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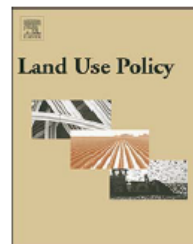


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Collaborative governance arrangements to deliver spatially coordinated agri-environmental management



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Relevance

- Agri-Environment subsidy Schemes (AES) are a key mechanism to support the delivery of a wide range of agri-environmental services on farmland, including biodiversity and landscape conservation
- Although positive impacts of AES have been identified, several studies point to the **serious need of improving the schemes' ecological effectiveness**
- The CAP 2014-2020 includes **the possibility for groups of farmers** to be end beneficiary of CAP payments (EU Regulation 1305/2013, Article 35)

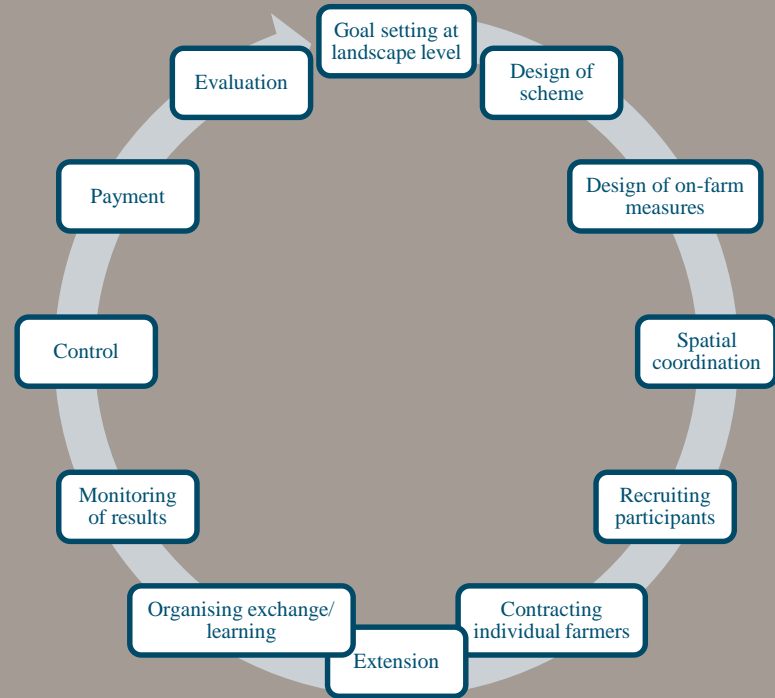
Improving ecological effectiveness of AES via collaborative governance

- Various ecosystem services are more connected to the landscape level than to the single farm level
- A landscape-scale approach requires cross-holding spatial coordination of measures on multiple individual farms
- Spatial coordination of measures on various farms in a landscape implies collaborative governance.
- Spatial coordination and collaboration can and do take place in various ways, with agri-environmental policy and institutional frameworks being different in different places
 - What can be learned from current examples?

- **Collaborative management** refers to the collaboration among land managers who are involved in actually carrying out management *activities on-the-ground*
- **Collaborative governance** refers to the involvement of governmental and non-governmental actors in the processes and structures of decision making and management at the *scheme level*
- **Adaptive governance** refers to learning from the impacts of strategies and adapting them on the basis of lessons learnt

Method

- **Five case studies** in NW of the EU or which two distinct periods could be identified
- Analysis of **division of governance tasks** among governmental actors, farmers' groups, and other actors, and how this evolved of time.
- Twelve tasks **including spatial coordination**.
- **Number of tasks** performed per actor as indicator for the degree of collaborative governance.



Case 1: Arguenon Water Basin (AWB)

- France, focus on water quality management



Case 2: Agrobeheercentrum (Eco2)

- Belgium, focus on maintenance of landscape elements



Case 3: Supplement to group applications (HR8)

- England, focus on management of upland commons



Case 4: Stiftung Rheinische Kulturlandschaft (SRK)

- Germany, focus on biodiversity on arable farms



Case 5: Water, Land and Dijken (WLD)

- Netherlands, focus on meadow birds



Allocation of tasks in governance of AES

	Government	Farmers' group	External party (NGO, consultant, ...)
Goal setting at landscape level			
Design of scheme			
Design of measures			
Spatial coordination			
Recruiting participants			
Contracting individual farmers			
Extension			
Organising exchange and learning			
Monitoring of results			
Control			
Payment			
Evaluation			

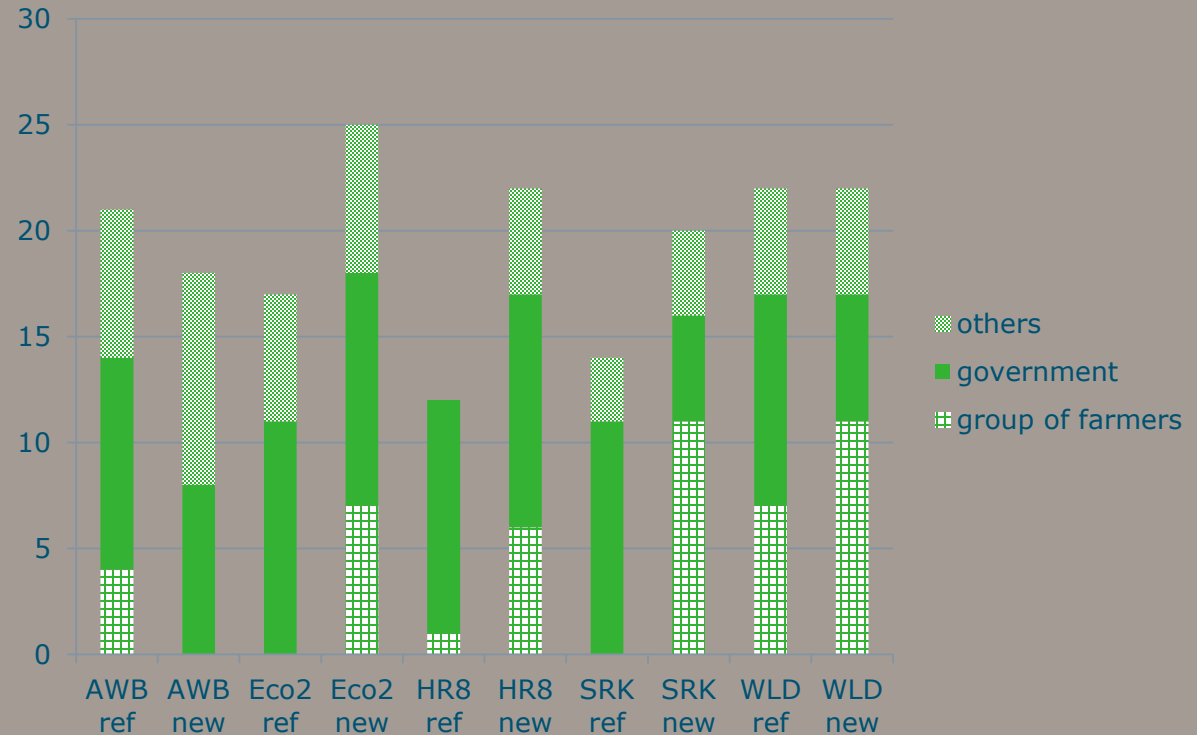
Tasks in governance of AES NL previous

	Government	Farmers' group	External party (NGO, consultant, ...)
Goal setting at landscape level			
Design of scheme			
Design of measures			
Spatial coordination			
Recruiting participants			
Contracting individual farmers			
Extension			
Organising exchange and learning			
Monitoring of results			
Control			
Payment			
Evaluation			

Tasks in governance of AES NL new

	Government	Farmers' group	External party (NGO, consultant, ...)
Goal setting at landscape level			
Design of scheme			
Design of measures			
Spatial coordination			
Recruiting participants			
Contracting individual farmers			
Extension			
Organising exchange and learning			
Monitoring of results			
Control			
Payment			
Evaluation			

Evolution of collaborative governance in the cases



Case studies	AWB France	Eco ² Belgium	HR8 England	SRK Germany	WLD Netherlands
Mechanisms for spatial coordination					
• Designated areas for applications	✓		✓		✓
• Inviting farmers to predefined sites and measures	✓	✓		✓	✓
• Joint management plans			✓		✓
• Limiting available management options			✓		
• Adjusting spatial planning of measures to target species.					✓
• Compulsory environmental management	✓				
Type of organisation performing spatial coordination					
• Government agency	✓				
• Farmer-based boundary organisation		✓	✓	✓	✓
Collaborative management					
• Individual execution of environmental management	✓		✓	✓	✓
• Farmer-to-farmer collaboration in environmental management		✓	✓		(✓)
Contracting					
• Individual contracts	✓	✓		✓	(✓*)
• Collective/ joint contracts			✓		✓

Results: evaluation, learning and adaptation

- Learning among farmers and in collaborative networks is not always organised.
- All changed schemes incorporated lessons and experiences from the previous situation.
- Some schemes were only evaluated w.r.t. ecological indicators, in other schemes also social aspects were considered.
- We could not establish whether the termination of the participation of a group of farmers in the governance of the AWB case was justified because only water quality was evaluated.

Conclusions (1)

- The diversity of governance arrangements in the cases studied suggest that spatial coordination as well as collaboration can be arranged in various ways. There is **no need to look for one-size-fits-all** or for copy-paste arrangements
- A landscape approach requires spatial coordination and stakeholder collaboration, which increases complexity and creates a need for **professionalism**

Conclusions (2)

- A **balanced and participatory strategy for learning**, monitoring and evaluation would be beneficial for adaptive AES in general and for landscape approaches in particular
- A landscape-approach to AES provision increases the need for stakeholder collaboration and consensus-seeking. **Transaction costs are a serious issue to consider** and need to be taken into account in the compensation payments made for AES service delivery

Proposition

The Dutch model for collective
AEM cannot be copied and
pasted to other EU member
states
(but they can still learn from it)

