

Rodrigo Vidaurre, Hans Bressers, Jenny Tröltzsch, Ulf Stein

Other Authors:

Gül Ozerol (University of Twente, NL)

Alison Browne (University of Manchester, UK)

Carina Furusho, Maria-Helena Ramos (IRSTEA)

Isabelle LaJeneusse (University of Tours, FR)



BENEFIT OF GOVERNANCE
IN DROUGHT ADAPTATION

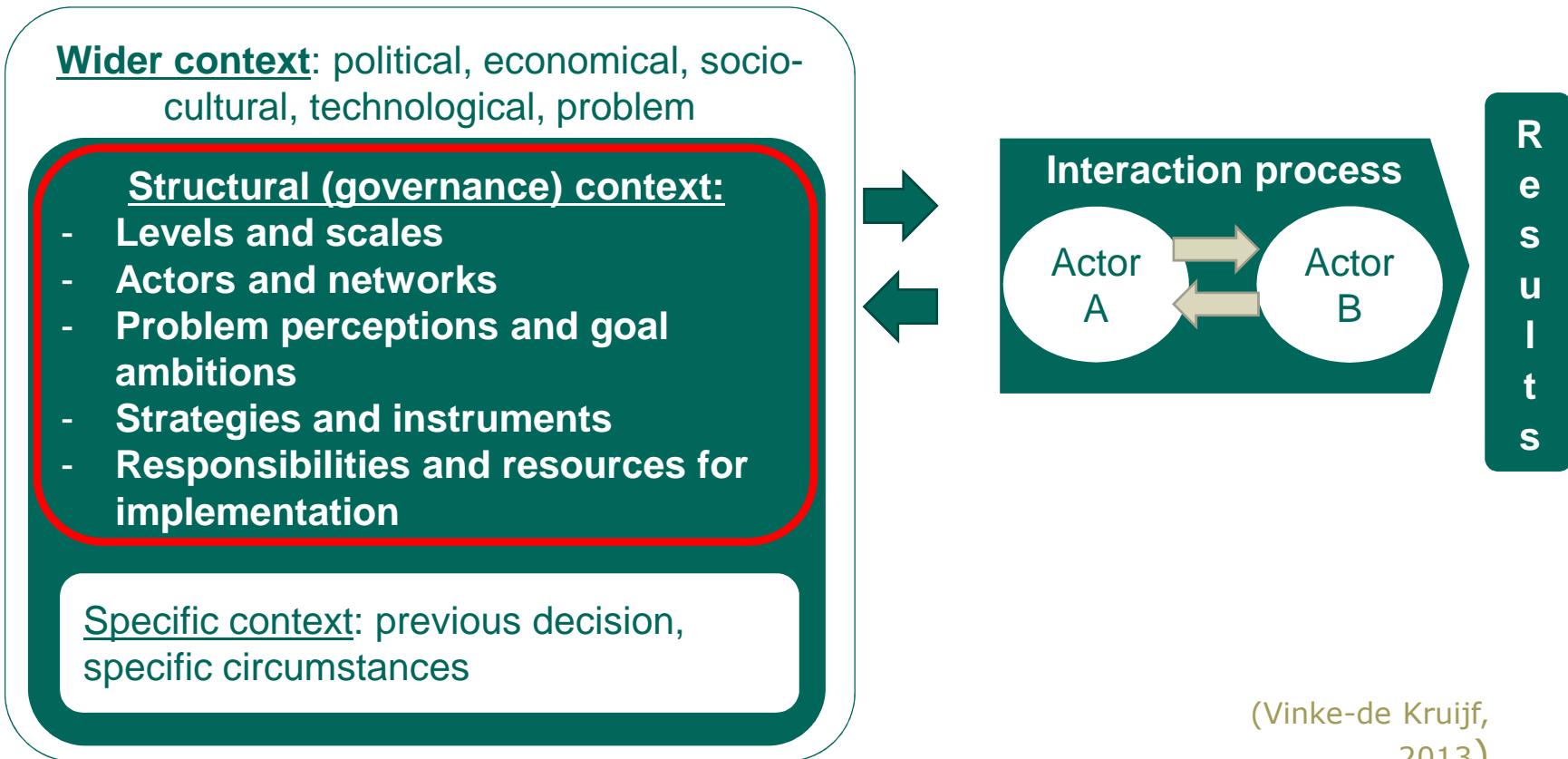


Regional Governance and Management for Drought Adaptation in North-West Europe – Insights from the DROP Project

Berlin, 07.10.2014

The DROP approach to Governance

Governance: the structural context that enables/restricts adaptation actions and interactions

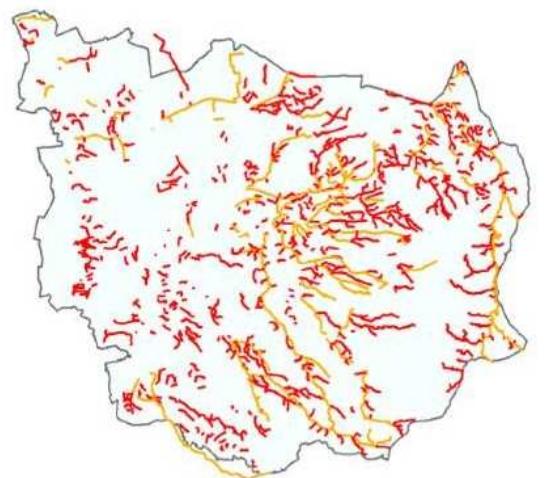


(Vinke-de Kruijf,
2013)

The DROP approach to Governance

Governance dimension	Quality criteria of the governance regime			
	Extent	Coherence	Flexibility	Intensity
Levels and scales	How many levels are involved and dealing with an issue?	Do these levels work together and do they trust other between levels?	Is it possible to move up and down levels (upscaling and downscaling) given the issue at stake?	Is there a strong impact from a certain level to change behaviour?
Actors and networks	Are all relevant stakeholders involved? Who are excluded?	What is the strength of interactions between stakeholders?	Is it practised that the lead shifts from one actor to another?	Is there a strong impact from an actor or actor coalition on water management?
Problem perspectives / goal ambitions	To what extent are the various problem perspectives taken care off?	To what extent do the various goals support each other, or Are they in competition?	Are there opportunities to reassess goals?	How different are the goal ambitions from the status quo?
Strategies and instruments	What types of instruments are included in the policy strategy?	To what extent is the resulting incentive system based on synergy?	Are there opportunities to combine or make use of different types of instruments?	What is the implied behavioural deviation from current practice?
Responsibilities and resources	Are responsibilities clearly assigned and sufficiently facilitated with resources?	To what extent do the assigned responsibilities create competence struggles or cooperation within or across institutions?	What is the flexibility within the assigned responsibility to apply resources in order to do the right thing in an accountable and transparent way?	Is the amount of applied resources sufficient for the intended change?

Three (out of six) regions



Twente region (NL)



Flanders (BE)

Eifel-Rur (DE)

Coherence

Twente

The fragmentation – coherence paradox:

- Very high coherence in multi-stakeholder committees, often even across levels
- Seems to fit in existing administrative culture of consensus orientation
- Necessary and relatively successful adaptation to deal with rather incoherent and even fragmented rest of governance context

Flanders

Need for more integral vision on droughts between different departments:

- Integration of objectives missed at higher level (prioritisation) and local level (lack of coherence in attitudes regarding e.g. water retention basins).
- Responsibilities are fragmented and discussions not strongly connected, but instruments don't show overlaps / conflicts

Eifel-Rur

- Overall positive, due to Waterboard structure: in charge of nearly all issues, users also members.
- Good evaluation of participatory. appr.
But: system at standstill on contentious issues, voluntary / consensus appr. seen as exhausted.
- *Problem:* Long-term (2027) deadline for results.
- Old water rights: no incentives to reduce water use.

Flexibility

Twente

Positive by pooling resources, but:

- Strong local land use planning creates lengthy procedures, even for obvious improvements
- “Neo-corporatist” collaboration structures always run the risk of getting less open to new groups (e.g. new farmer group)
- Non-voluntary preventive strategies outside scope

Flanders

- Many actors involved in process (formal/informal) – but kind of involvement could be increased
- Scenarios in planning and instruments used: in-built flexibility.
- Some synergies (e.g. for droughts and floods, droughts and WQ) not being taken into account.

Eifel-Rur

- Positive evolution. *But*: Large-scale framework quite fixed: water rights and NRW water law.
- Overall framework more reactive than proactive, primary objectives cannot be touched. Legal obligations mean no short-term possibility of incorporating additional risks (e.g. droughts).
- Very significant flexibility at smaller scale (local impl.).

GAT matrix : Twente

Dimensions	Criteria			
	Extent	Coherence	Flexibility	Intensity
Levels and scales	+	0/+	+	-
Actors and networks	+	++=	+	0/+
Problem perspectives and goal ambitions	+	0/+	0	0/+
Strategies and instruments	+	0	0/+	0
Responsibilities and resources	+	=/+	+	0
	Colours red : negative; orange : Neutral, green : positive			

Lessons from comparing... Twente vs. Flanders

- Twente: consensual political culture (“polder model”), currently only legitimacy for voluntary approaches > > Best strategy: building partnerships. Waterboard using SH consultations to build common understanding
- Flanders: first focus is on strong scientific case, second step convince stakeholders and politicians, in line with civil servants’ reliance on political buy-in.

» » ***Both Tw waterboard and Flanders Env. Authority are repeating proven success stories (in river restoration and flood risk management, resp.).***

» » ***“Lock-in” not problem in itself, but could fail to harness potential of additional, supporting appr.***

Lessons from comparing... Twente vs. Flanders vs. Eifel-Rur

- *Flanders*: shift towards vegetable crops which require stable water supply, farmers using additional water sources for water security, market development.
- *Eifel*: same shift observed (but several years behind), farmers tapping groundwater for water security.
- *Twente*: farmers associations do not see security of water supply as responsibility of water board, risk of crop failure when changing towards vegetable crops should be carried by farmer.

What to do next?

Twente

From farm level approaches to full area level approach: role of collectives, creating long term outlook and vision for each area, further capacity building in consensual project management)

Generally higher water level with adjustment possibilities by farmers?

Alternatives for voluntary approaches in preventive action: “steering on minimal flow requirements”

Flanders

Develop a central vision: need for coherent approach w/ strategic obj., strong liaising with other sectors required (agri + others)

Add more “soft” approaches: networking with further actors, direct work with farmers in showcases

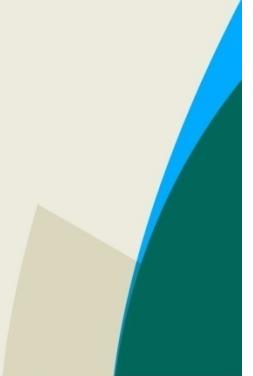
Awareness raising: drought not seen as an issue, resilience through focus on water scarcity?

Eifel-Rur

Explore demand management: no incentives, water users keep surplus rights for poss. future expansion, no incentives for recycling.

Temporal restrictions of rights underdeveloped: No contingency plans / use prioritization scheme.

Use of synergies: Possible to link water quality advisory services (WFD) and water quantity?



www.dropproject.eu

Email: info@dropproject.eu

Twitter: [@the_DROPPproject](https://twitter.com/@the_DROPPproject)

Slideshare: [user/TheDROPPproject](https://www.slideshare.net/user/TheDROPPproject)

Rodrigo Vidaurre, Ecologic Institute

Email: rodrigo.vidaurre@ecologic.eu