

Bottom-up initiatives towards climate adaptation in cases in the Netherlands and the UK: a complexity leadership perspective



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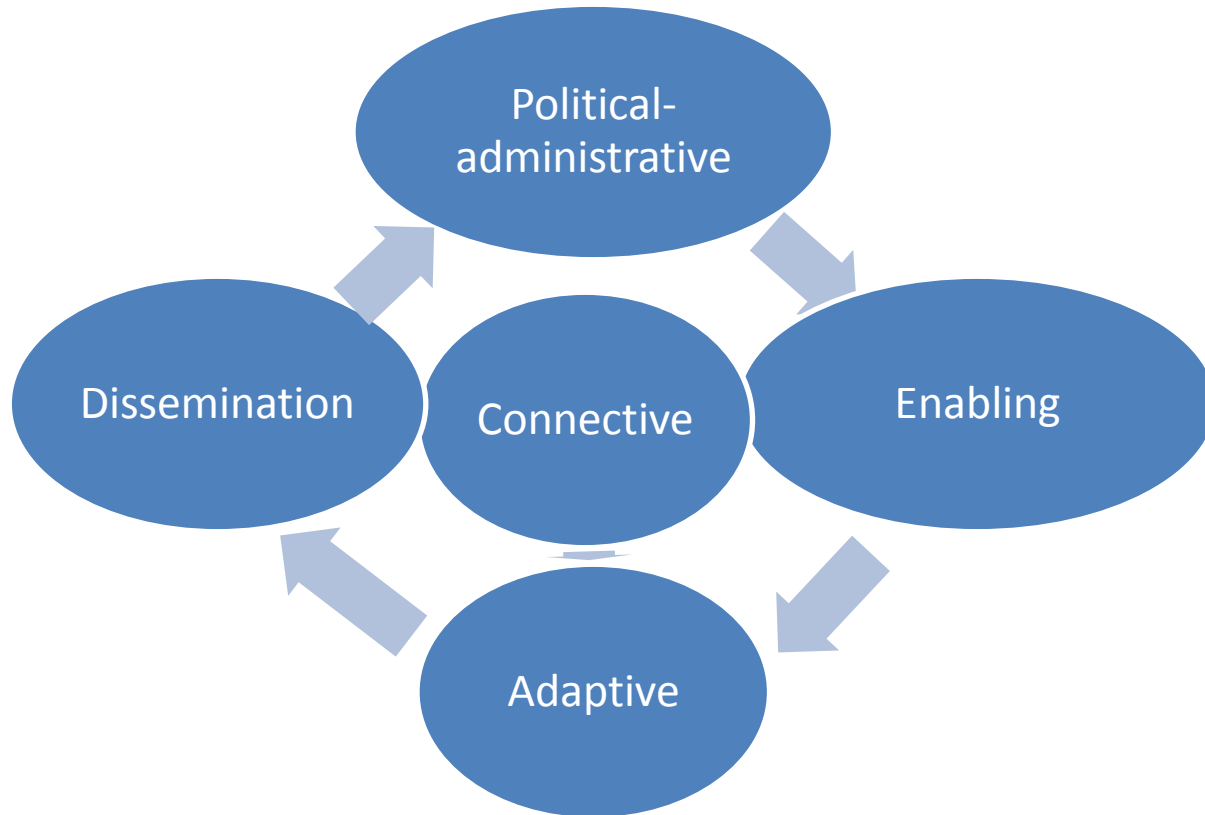
Research interest

- Bottom-up initiatives towards climate adaptation
- What is the role of leadership in realizing climate adaptation?
 - Which parties took the initiative
 - Which parties played an enabling or disabling role?
- Domain of flood risk management

Theoretical framework

- Adaptation practices take shape within multi-level governance networks
- These networks conceived of as Complex Adaptive Systems
- Role of leadership in enhancing adaptability of such systems
- Complexity Leadership Theory (Uhl-Bien et al. 2007)

Leadership functions within governance networks (Meijerink and Stiller 2011)



Cases and methodology

- Two case studies:
 - WaalWeelde initiative (The Netherlands)
 - Manhood Peninsula Partnership (The UK)
- Qualitative case studies, document analysis and 17 interviews with key actors involved
- Case histories
- Coding based on model of leadership functions

Case history WaalWeelde

- After high waters in the Rhine of 1993 and 1995 the Dutch government launched the Room for the Rivers Program
- For the river Waal proposal for lowering of groynes
- Public and private parties in the region discontent with proposed measures
- They joined forces, developed joint vision documents, policy alternatives, such as dike relocations and flood plain restoration
- Private parties want to cooperate if they are compensated by new development opportunities elsewhere
- WaalWeelde initiative adopted by the Province of Gelderland, and now by the national Delta Program.

Leadership in WaalWeelde

- Key roles for a university professor and a private entrepreneur who vested much time and energy in building the innovation network (enabling leadership)
- Key governmental actors played a disabling role at first instance
- New practices of public-private cooperation, vision documents and policy alternatives were developed within the adaptive network (adaptive leadership)
- Key role for provincial delegate in integrating the WaalWeelde initiative into provincial policies and in linking the initiative to the Delta Program (dissemination function)

Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) (UK)

- Two local initiators contacted the district and county council... Connective and disseminating roles
- Two workshops with focus on adaptation
- Impact on planning for area?
 - Active as local group on integrated coastal zone management within larger Environment Agency scheme
 - Local awareness raising

Conclusions

- Enabling function: non-positional leaders as initiators (citizens, professor)
- Political-administrative function: initially disabling – large impact of different institutional traditions
- Adaptive function: new institutional developments – but limited in role
- Connective function: Largely differing depending on institutional framework
 - WaalWeelde fit within the Dutch focus on water security
 - MPP limited by limited interaction within and to higher level organisations
- Disseminating function: initiators and broader positional leaders (administration)