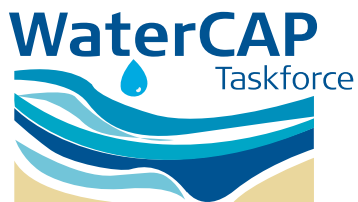


WaterCAP

Taskforce



Final Report

March 2015



Inhoud

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Preface

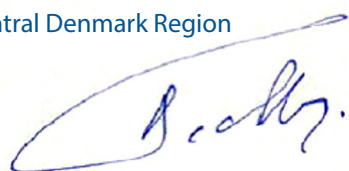
The regions around the North Sea are facing water challenges as a result of climate change and the intense exploitation of our ecosystems. Many assets are at risk of being lost and therefore societies and communities located around the North Sea are endeavouring to secure and improve the resilience of these assets. These societies and communities face very similar challenges, and consequently learning from projects that have been successfully implemented and completed in the North Sea regions can be very useful for solving local problems.

The North Sea Region Programme has co-sponsored a large number of full-scale projects around the North Sea throughout the programme IVB period (2007-2014). These projects contain a great deal of useful knowledge waiting to be exploited. A large number of institutions and organizations involved in the WaterCAP Taskforce have visited Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK in an effort to learn from the know-how that has been gained from water governance and climate change adaptation.

'We believe that to travel is to learn, and to learn is to live.'

I hope that you enjoy reading about what was learned during these visits and the good examples and new methods that are recorded herein are instructive. The report has been written with input of a series of interviews, which makes it more lively reading.

Hans Fredborg
Vice director
Central Denmark Region

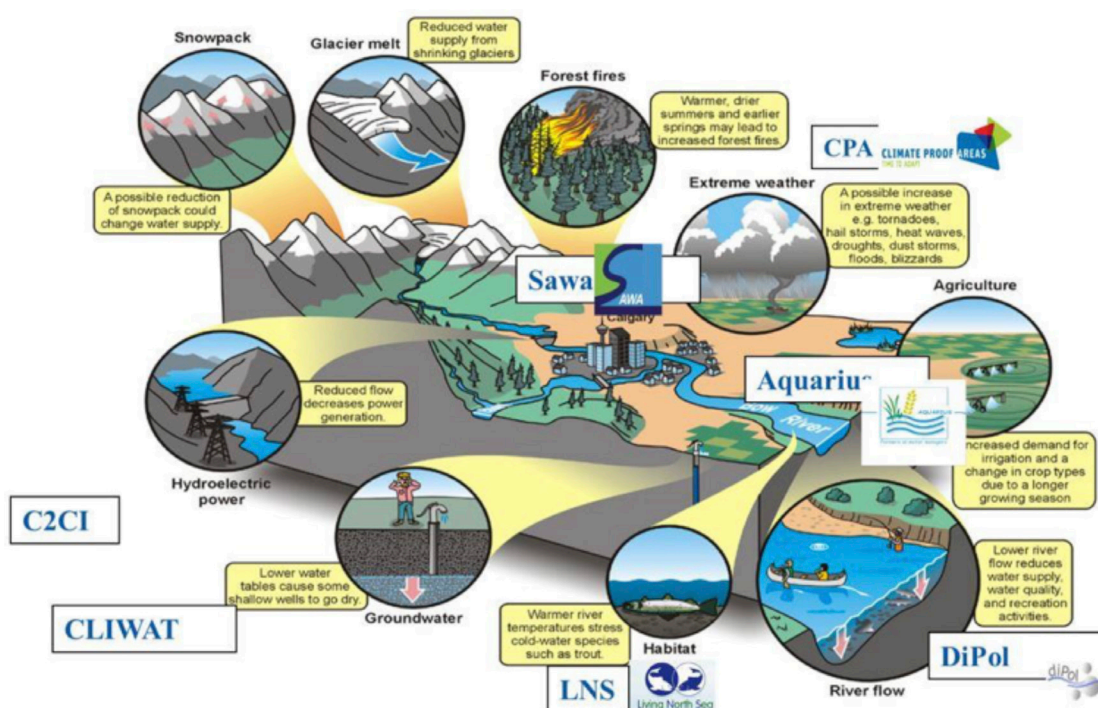
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Fredborg', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

WaterCap Taskforce: an introduction

WaterCap Taskforce (WCT) is a project that ran in the period 2013-2015 building further on the information and lessons learned in previous Interreg and climate projects. In WCT six partners in the North Sea Region worked together: Region Midtjylland (lead partner; Denmark), Seges (former Knowledge Centre for Agriculture; Denmark), Provincie Drenthe (Netherlands), Deltares (Netherlands), The Rivers Trust (UK) and OOWV (Waterboard; Germany).

WCT is a direct successor of the WaterCap project in 2011-2013, a cluster project about water management giving advice to several EU institutions in Brussels about co creation in water orientated climate issues. In the WaterCap cluster project the good practices of six former Interreg projects from the North Sea Region programme were brought together: Aquarius, CLIWAT, CPA, C2C Islands, DiPol, SAWA (see picture) and the Baltic Sea Region project BaltCICA. Link tot the WaterCap report: www.watercap.eu/NR/rdonlyres/47B39E94-8FCB-4F0F-AEE7-84B2ECD757E9/0/Report_WaterCAP.pdf

All the projects involved have been working on water and climate change issues.

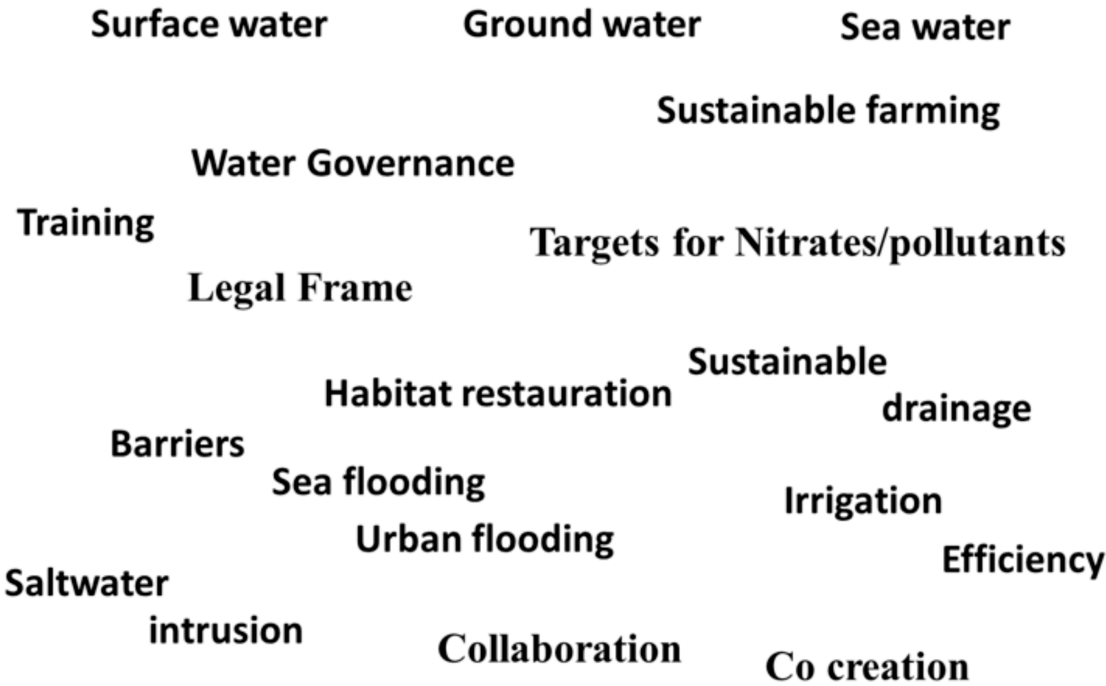


Back ground - Integrated knowledge

Source: Powerpoint Presentation Rolf Johnsen Norfolk October 2014 (source EEA)

The aim of WaterCap Taskforce was to spread and share relevant knowledge and experience on climate change and water management in the North Sea Region (NSR) with organizations in the involved countries and regions, with as goal of helping implementing solutions and inspiring new strategic programmes to be worked out in the near future, anticipating on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Information was gained from the NSR projects, involved organizations and relevant information from the former Living North Sea project and TIDE project. All the information has been gathered and studied by using the method of DPSIR, describing the driving forces (D), pressures on the environment (P) the state of actual conditions (S), the impact of measures (I) and response to that by taking actions (R). With the use of the DPSIR method information of previous Interreg projects has been brought together, reported in the publication 'WaterCAP Taskforce - Analytical framework for the identification of stakeholders and regions' (F. Ahlhorn & S. Bucker, 2014).



An overview of the explored themes in a new climate
 Source: Powerpoint Presentation Rolf Johnsen Norfolk October 2014

What made WCT special were the mobile, interactive meetings bringing together regional stakeholders and advisers from the different countries. In these Mobile Transnational Task Force Meetings (MTTF) the partners discussed with local stakeholders specific topics in the area, sharing experiences and helping each other finding sustainable solutions for water management and climate change. Input came from the earlier projects, experience of stakeholders and knowledge from technical advisors.



Rolf Johnsen (Project Manager WaterCap TF, Senior Consultant Central Denmark Region)

'In Watercap Taskforce we succeeded in bringing targeted information to the stakeholders in the regions challenging them to share and apply solutions for climate change and water management.'

The MTTF process

While facing climate change and looking for sustainable solutions partners discussed a broad range of problems and solutions with a large number of stakeholders. Talking about, sometimes unpopular, investments for the short term, looking for multifunctional solutions supporting more than one aim and working towards real involvement of the local public. Looking for a new way of discussing themes!

During the WaterCap Taskforce (WCT) project several Mobile Transnational Task Force (MTTF) meetings were organized by the partners. During these meetings partners and stakeholders shared knowledge and experiences per theme and discussed implementation strategies. Bringing together specialists, local stakeholders and interested organizations from different countries and regions. Preferably in the region itself.

While preparing these themed MTTF meetings good examples from previous projects were gathered and possible stakeholders were identified. Stakeholders with something to offer or with a need for information. The DPSIR (Driving forces, Pressures, State, Impact, Response) method has been applied as a desk study to get an overview of the information from previous Interreg projects before the MTTF meetings started.

Discussing outcomes of the desk study it became clear that participants of the different countries needed some time to really understand each other. Furthermore, it became clear to the partners that specific communication tools could be applied to facilitate a lively discussion between WCT partners and their regional stakeholders while sharing knowledge and experience. Tools concerning the MTTF initiative itself and the use of decision making model Canvas.



Frank Ahlhorn (Manager of Kueste and Raum, consultant for OOWV)

'International co creation is about language as well. While literally speaking with and listening to each other subjects will become more clear and progress can be made.'

A good example of how a MTTF can work practically is the bus tour undertaken by members of Danish municipalities to several projects on climate adaptation at various locations; harbours, with dikes and sluices in Germany (Hamburg, Weser and Ems) and the Netherlands (Delfzijl, Waterboards). While on the road – so in the bus itself – adaptation possibilities and strategies were discussed amongst the participants. Talking and sharing with local organizations and experts on climate adaptation and multi-layer urban development right there on the spot while driving from one good practice to the next! In between discussions participants started preparing implementation strategies for their own region.



Travelling and learning

In total ten MTTF meetings were held on seven themes during 2013-2015, initiated by one or two of the six partners of WCT. Sometimes these meetings took place as part of a broader symposium e.g. a field excursion as part of the symposium. Bringing in several extra stakeholders with a demand for knowledge of experience to offer to other organizations.

MTTF initiator	Theme	Date
SEGES Irene Wiborg	Water Governance	April 2014 UK October 2014 DK
OOWV Christine Aue	Nitrates	March 2014 Germany October 2014 DK
The Rivers Trust Alistair Maltby	Water Catchment Approach	October 2014 UK
Region Midtjylland Rolf Johnsen	Sea flooding	May 2014 Netherlands
Provincie Drenthe Rinke van Veen	Irrigation efficiency	June 2014 Netherlands January 2015 DK
Provincie Drenthe Rinke van Veen SEGES	Sustainable farming	January 2015 DK
OOWV Silke Buecker	Saltwater intrusion	To be planned

Some facts about the MTTF meetings held during the WCT project (2013-2015)

Looking for a tool to facilitate discussions between stakeholders, project partner Deltares brought in the Canvas model. This model was used on several occasions preparing a MTTF meeting with regional partners or while discussing the implementation of certain measures during MTTF meetings. For example the MTTF meetings in Norfolk UK (April 2014) and Oldenburg Germany (March 2014).

Working with Canvas helps keep the focus on the right measurements

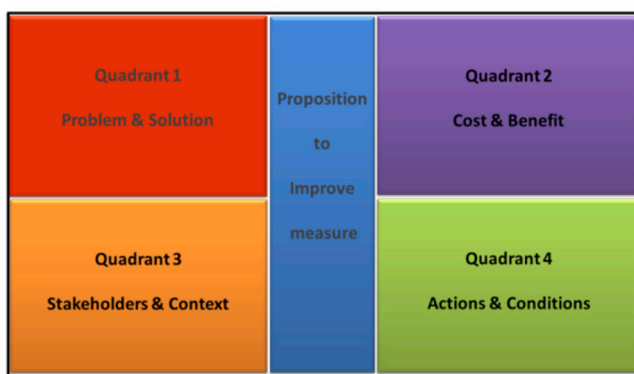
In WaterCap Taskforce (WCT) participants have worked with the framework model Canvas. Deltares, one of the partners, had the leading role in applying the Canvas model in WCT and facilitating the participants of MTTF meetings using this framework. Deltares is an independent institute, based in the Netherlands, doing research in and giving advice on water, subsurface and infrastructure.

Based on the business model canvas used in commercial enterprises (www.businessmodelgeneration.com), this model is being modified towards an easy-to-use tool for governance arrangements dealing with climate adaptation and water management. The model was used in several MTTF meetings (workshops) as well as in regional sessions preparing these MTTF meetings.



The Canvas model was improved during the WCT-project towards a suitable framework which could be used in the several MTTF-meetings.

This framework model was helpful for participants working in co-creation with the implementation of adaptation measures and finding new combinations and funding opportunities. It facilitates a thorough discussion between stakeholders about the implementation feasibility of proposed measures. The implementation of Canvas consists of five Building blocks to be discussed: Problems & Solutions; Costs & Benefits; Stakeholders & Context; Actions & Conditions; Proposition (see Diagram).



Implementation Canvas

In general there are two different ways of using this framework. First way is to quickly scan possible measures, comparing the pros and cons. This can be done by one stakeholder. The second way in which it can be used is in a multi-stakeholder setting, facilitating the dialogue with regard to a combination of measures. It is advisable not to discuss multiple measures in one round with several stakeholders when using Canvas, as this leads to very complex discussions.



Rutger van der Brugge (Senior Researcher Deltares, the Netherlands)

'Canvas is most suitable when used as a practical tool for co creation, above all when specific measures are to be taken with support of a broad field of different stakeholders.'

In the near future, for instance in Interreg V, this framework may be helpful in discussing the implementation of adaptation strategies as well as specific adaptation measures. Added value is that stakeholders get a quick overview of the critical factors in terms of the implementation of adaptation measures.

Evaluation:

Lessons learned from MTTFs

WaterCap Taskforce worked for sustainable matchmaking between stakeholders

The MTTF approach in WCT was something new and it worked! In a relatively short period of time in about ten meetings, the partners succeeded in discussing thoroughly with a large amount of stakeholders, both national and regional. By using this holistic, creative approach in the meetings, questions and answers could be brought together on a quit practical level bringing in experience and knowledge of specialists and local stakeholders. A focus on specific themes per MTTF worked well, getting the right balance between governance and implementation. All partners made their contribution to these MTTF meetings.

The MTTF meetings were most of the time combined with or were a specific part of regular regional meetings in the hosting country. This approach helped local stakeholders and specialists involved in the MTTF meeting being in an ambiance where match making about implementation strategies could happen. Good examples are the sharing of experiences with groundwater management and applying irrigation technics during the Exloo meeting (The Netherlands): management with and by farmers in Drenthe and stakeholders discussing several no regret measures for groundwater protection in the case of Lower Saxony. Another example of communicating between stakeholders were the MTTF meetings in Norfolk. In these meetings WCT partners discussed possibilities of river restoration with local stakeholders on the spot. The exchange of technical knowledge and experiences from technicians with key role players improved the quality of solutions discussed. Giving the participants the opportunity to bring home a lot of executable information.



solutions by

Interesting was that local stakeholders (e.g. representatives of Danish municipalities), following a bus tour thorough the north of Holland and Germany, could target issues and bring practical solutions back home after the meeting. This led towards a strong ownership of the solutions to be found in their own region.

Another interesting lesson learned was how to go from general regulations towards a more bottom-up approach where the third sector (local volunteers) were involved in finding win-win solutions. Clear example of bottom-up stakeholder involved project planning is the Water Catchment based approach in the UK (Rivers Trust) which appears to be quite instructive for the other partners. In this case a 'third party', as an intermediary between national and local level, could come to executable measures for improving water quality and ecological restoration while implementing the Water Framework Directive.

Another good example of finding new ways to work on climate change challenges is the method of 'trigger planning' in co creation with processes in Denmark, giving space to creative investment within a communal vision for the long term.



Irene Wiborg (Project Manager Seges, Denmark)

'You won't get a sustainable solution without local engagement. These innovative solutions need time and trust to be applied'.

On a practical level there are also lessons learned.

The informal, non-binding character of the MTTF meetings worked for anticipating on other meetings and demands & offers of information available at that moment. To help exchange the variety of results of the MTTF meetings, uniform factsheets were edited, bringing together the general results per theme (see Appendix). To share the outcome between WCT partners and with the stakeholders.

As in previous Interreg projects, it became clear that working together as different countries it takes some time to find the appropriate way of communication. Also when organizations work together for quite a while, it takes time to really understand each other and speak a mutual language. The MTTF meetings based on exchanging experiences in the field, worked hard to overcome 'linguistic' confusion.

The WCT used the results of the previous Interreg projects. With such wide scale information, it was necessary to come to an overview of results and stakeholders before the MTTF meetings started. Using methods as DPSIR and Canvas. It took some time at the start of WCT to figure out with each other how to apply these methods in the meetings.

These practical problems were overcome by working on the information during the preparation of the meetings, improving it on the job! It is advisable to make agreements about applying these methods somewhat earlier in the process. For example using Canvas as a method for discussing possible implementation strategies or measurements and not for other purposes.

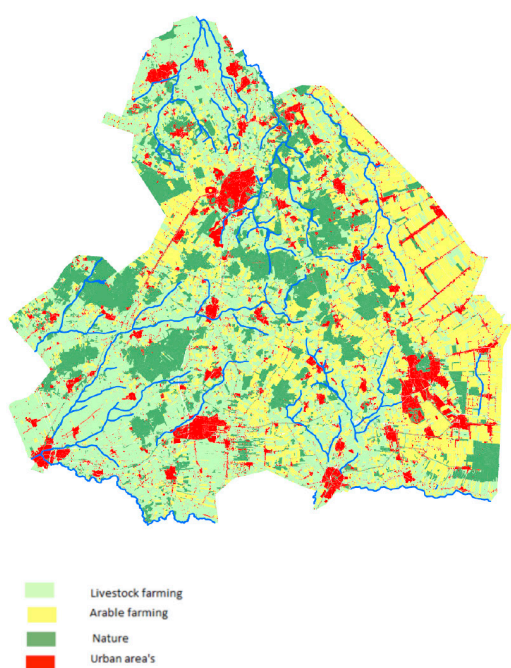
To complement information on webpages and in reports it is advisable to organize a 'knowledge broker': a team of specialists to be found and consulted when WCT is finished. These specialists could function as a collective memory of good practices and look for matches between offer and demand of knowledge and experiences.

It is still a challenge to find practical solutions for problems and challenges concerning climate adaptation and water management. For that, experiences with working at the crucial 'intermediate' level between top-down legislation and bottom-up planning processes should be continued. Facing processes such as the Danish national government, giving space for regions to find specific solutions, dealing with issues as trust (or the lack thereof) and space to other participants working on climate adaptation in development of cities, harbors and rural areas.

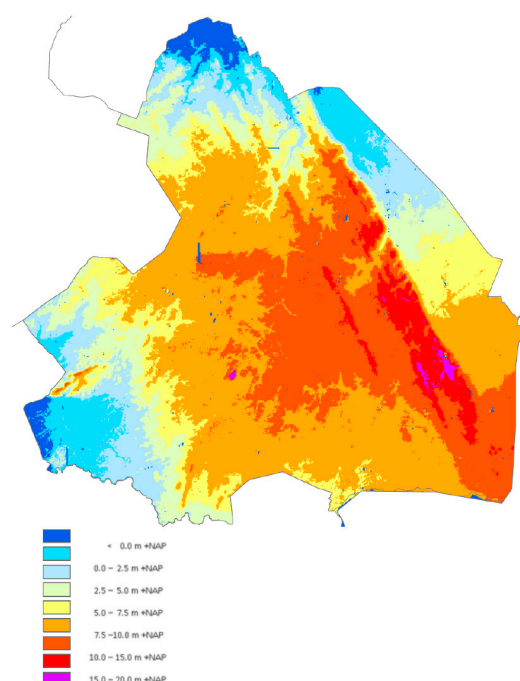
One specific challenge is co creation with local stakeholders, such as citizens, on specific themes. Good practices on 'third party' involvement in implementing the Water Framework Directive (water catchment approach) and trigger planning in processes of co-creation (while adapting to climate change) could be applied in the near future in combination with exchanging experiences between the partners facing similar challenges in the North Sea Region.

Farmers have a key role in the improvement of water management!

The province of Drenthe (situated in the north-eastern part of the Netherlands) is well known for its nature. A lot of people in the Netherlands love to visit this area in their free time. The natural areas are situated on higher (mainly forest and moorland) and lower grounds (stream valleys). The high moorlands and streams are unique in Western Europe and also vulnerable due to groundwater shortage, farming in the surrounding fields and the effects of climate change on water supplies.



Province Drenthe: Land use



Province Drenthe: altitude compared to sea level

These are important reasons for the provincial government, water boards, nature and farmer organisations to work together towards a sustainable planning and maintenance of this area. There is a focus on increasing the amount of groundwater by keeping more water in nature areas, raising water levels in streams and making some management changes in forestry. This is done in combination with cooperating with farmers on efficient water and nutrient use and sustainable soil management. In regional programmes, such as 'Delta Programme Freshwater for higher sandy soils', measures have been worked out by farmers, nature and drink-water conservation organisations.

In WaterCap TF the Province of Drenthe and the Waterboard Hunze & Aa's aimed to share their approach to groundwater protection and sustainable farm management with partners in regions with similar problems, such as Lower Saxony and Denmark. This involved not only policy makers but technical advisers and farmers with a lot of experience in this field. By sharing, e.g. at the MTTF meeting in Exloo, Drenthe (June 2014), a lot became clear as a result of WaterCap TF. 'We have to move on in our regional approach with stakeholders, working at several different measures per region. Farmers are important stakeholders!,' stated one of the participants of the meeting.



Rinke van Veen (Senior Policy Maker for the Province of Drenthe)

'It's clear that a specific approach per region works! This approach is essential for maintaining the quantity and quality of our groundwater and in preparing for climate change adaptation.'

Over the past years a lot of measures have been taken on a regional level. They have been shared, discussed and made possible within the context of Interreg projects such as Ten, Aquarius and WaterCap Taskforce. Some examples from innovative measures taken in the region are:



Water management with 'Farmers Weirs'



Water conservation with weirs on remote control

Facing future challenges, such as climate change, and considering agricultural development and the differences between regions, it is necessary to continue this regional approach towards ground water protection and sustainable agriculture. The Province of Drenthe and the Waterboard Hunze & Aa's are preparing a programme for creating a climate proof catchment area in the Drentse Aa. In this programme first steps will be to gain and share knowledge of the water system and the impact of using groundwater. The next step will be to find the appropriate measures and system-related regulations to adapt the effect of climate change.

A challenge, also for the Interreg VB Programme, is to continue sharing knowledge, to learn from these and other regional approaches and to keep on inspiring each other. Therefore it's important to keep the existing network together.

There are several opportunities for sharing knowledge on innovative agriculture with positive effects on water management. Farmers have a potential key role in several measures regarding water quality and quantity, and making the most effective and efficient use of water through agricultural innovation (e.g. closing nutrient and water cycles and reusing of nutrients).

'As we have seen in WaterCap TF and previous Interreg programmes such as Aquarius, farmers can learn a lot from each other by taking the most sustainable and practical measures possible', states Rinke van Veen. Not just within the own region or country but also in other areas in the North Sea region. We must continue organizing meetings and field excursions for farmers and with regional/ local governments to stimulate this sharing of experiences.



Sprinkling with sensor technology



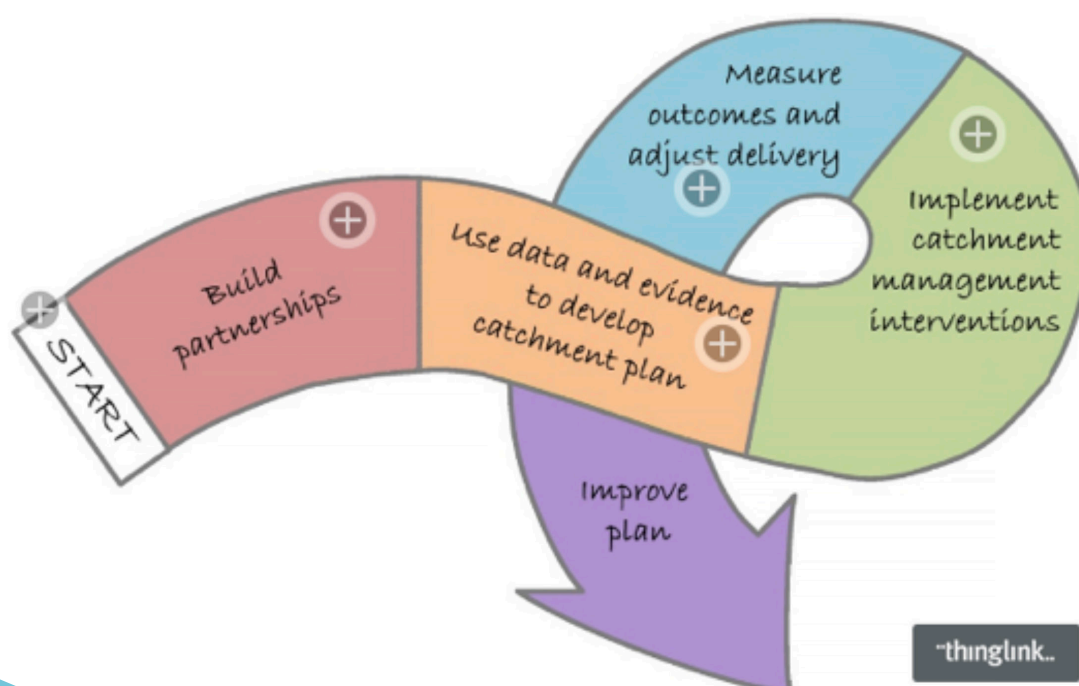
Sustainable soil management by farmers

Water catchment management with local 'third parties' in the UK

In the UK, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the government department responsible for implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In recognition of lessons learnt during the first WFD planning cycle, DEFRA recently launched a new policy framework called the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA). CaBA aims to develop a more holistic approach to water management that places local stakeholders at the heart of the WFD planning and decision-making process. Critical to CaBA is establishing partnerships at a river catchment scale. These partnerships are facilitated by a third party 'host' to act as an intermediary between different stakeholders within the catchment in order to develop a common understanding of the environmental issues, social and political drivers and a consensus based approach to delivering action. Though not a requirement, this is generally leading to the development of a 'catchment plan' detailing a number of targeted measures required to improve the condition of the water environment.

The steps involved in the catchment based approach can be summarized in the following text and figure:

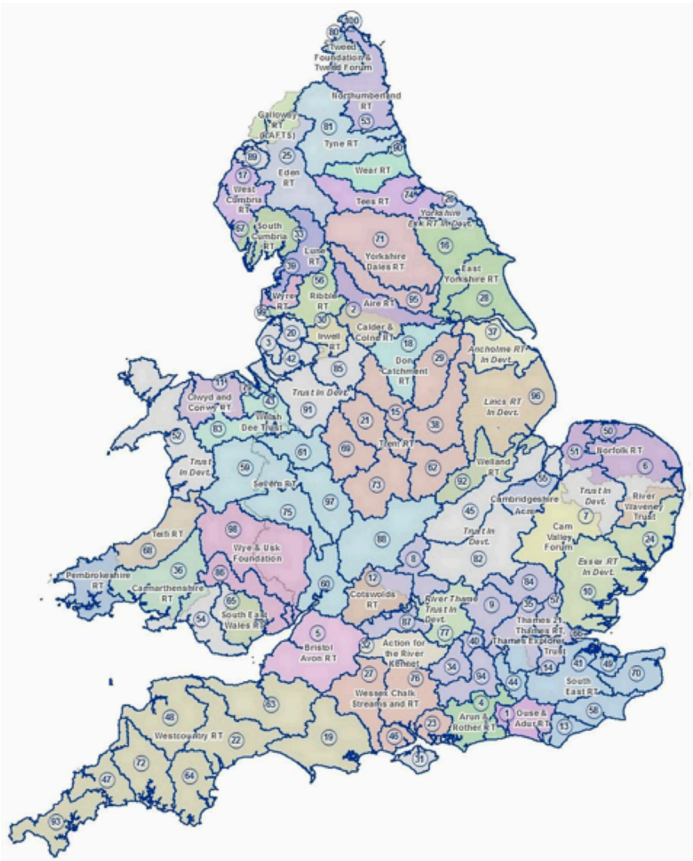
1. Engage catchment stakeholders and building effective partnerships.
2. Using data and evidence to inform stakeholder-led catchment planning.
3. Delivery of targeted and integrated catchment management interventions.
4. Monitoring and modelling approaches for measuring improvements.



Local rivers trusts are playing a central hosting role in many of the 100+ Catchment Partnerships that have been established. In addition, The Rivers Trust (which is the umbrella body for the rivers trust movement) is playing a central supporting role to all of the catchment partnerships through the provision of data, tools and best practice/knowledge exchange forums etc. The Rivers Trust and individual rivers trusts are “bottom-up” charitable organizations operating at a catchment scale. These organizations are focused on delivering catchment management through the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach that values the role of people in developing and delivering solutions. As such rivers trusts are an ideal fit with the CaBA and play a crucial role for the overall implementation of WFD in England.



Alistair Maltby (Director North the Rivers Trust, UK)
‘We need a consensus driven way of Water Governance finding practical solutions for water related issues’



Map of rivers trusts in England and Wales overlaid by catchment boundaries (blue lines) under DEFRA's Catchment Based Approach.

During several MTTF meetings in the UK and Denmark, WaterCAP Taskforce participants had the opportunity to share experiences of different approaches to water management governance in the NSR. To learn about implementation of CaBA in England from key stakeholders including the Environment Agency (UK competent Authority for WFD), water companies and catchment partnerships, find out more about the work of rivers trusts and their role (along with other third sector organisations) in implementing the WFD. And to use the Canvas tool in order to explore the opportunities for transferring approaches to other parts of the NSR.



Partners looking at a recent river restoration by Norfolk Rivers Trust (River Nar SSSI). The project has restored a previously straightened and widened channel by creating a sinuous channel with improved flood plain connectivity and flow variability for the benefit of natural river processes and a range of flora and fauna.

‘The day was very successful and helped us all to appreciate the common challenges we are facing while ensuring a greater level of stakeholder participation in water management in the NSR, but also to learn from each other about what is being done and what might work well in the future’, stated one of the participants from Denmark.



Partners on a tractor tour of working estate to learn about the requirements to balance environmental and economic activities.



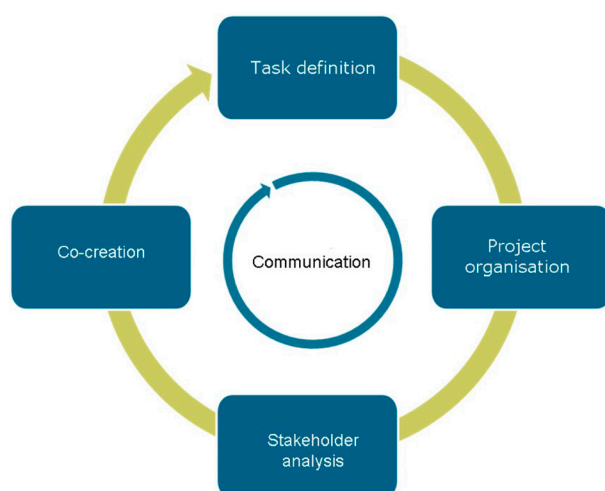
Trigger planning and co creation while higher sea levels and river tides

In WCT several cases were discussed about city and harbor development in areas facing possible effects of climate change such as high sea levels and more rainfall. For example the harbor town of Delfzijl (the Netherlands) and the river Weser near the city of Bremen (Germany). Situations quite similar to harbor towns in Denmark such as Horsens where sea protection and city development are challenging municipalities and local stakeholders.

Questions that arose while discussing these cases are amongst others: How do we make co creation work on climate adaptation in a public context? Should we do something different in managing our coast resilience in Denmark? Can we trigger a development at a low cost?

Looking for answers, participants are developing new ways of decision processes while setting up programmes on city planning and harbor development. A process that is more than before focused on co creation between municipalities, enterprises and civilians using triggers for stakeholders to participate. Not only necessary for finding multifunctional, sustainable solutions but also for making progress with limited long term funding.

By finding out suitable approaches, existing knowledge and experiences with planning and programming were being taken into account. For example knowledge about co-creation. Lessons learned are that it is vital to start each co-creation process with a definition of the task. The project is then organized and an analysis is prepared of potential stakeholders for the project, after which the co-creation process and concept solution can begin. Then, repeating the circle several times during the project, communicating on ongoing bases with the stakeholders.



Process for co-creation
(Report Seawater on Land – a guide to the co-creation process, MIDT, Nov. 2014)

expecting

The co-creation can happen while different players jointly develop a plan or product. Just as with other forms of stakeholder involvement, methods such as brainstorming and public meetings are being applied. Methods to be applied in the several common stages of a plan process: vision and project creation; project planning and concretization; implementation and realization.



Lessons learned were that a co-creation process requires more than that. For instance: Creating space for action for all of the (potential) participants, because co-creation requires engagement and contribution from everyone. And of course a project manager who has the skills to be open, who listens to and respects the stakeholders. Dealing with criticism and opposition rather than suppressing it. The WCT report 'Seawater on Land' about the co-creation process in Denmark can be found following the link: www.rm.dk/files/Regional%20udvikling/Klimatilpasning/Havvand%20p%C3%A5%20land/Cocreation.pdf

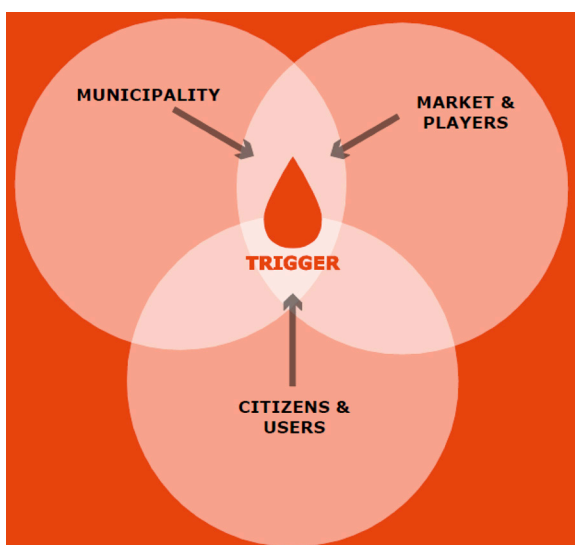


Rolf Johnsen (Project Manager WaterCap TF, Senior Consultant Central Denmark Region)

'We are at the beginning of a new approach to climate adaptation, pulling local stakeholders / society towards a more holistic way of finding solutions.'

What has 'Trigger planning' to add to this approach of co-creation?

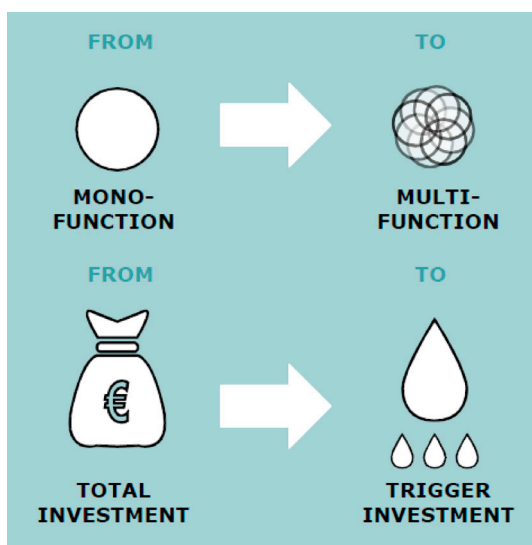
Trigger planning is an approach that helps people to work more strategically, with a targeted and holistic approach with long-term tasks, such as coastal protection. It is a structured method in which activities are validated and decided on ongoing bases, among significant players. The municipality can open up the development process earlier in the process to stakeholders, which ensures a shorter investment horizon for the municipality and more space for multifunctional solutions.



Trigger Planning
(Trigger Planning, Method and guidance,
MIDT, Nov. 2014)

The method could be used while facing possible investments over a long period of time dealing with multifunctional challenges without the guaranty of a budget for the total long term development. This is often the case in community development responding to (future) effects of climate change on water levels and management. This is not only the task of the municipality and it needs investments of more stakeholders than the government alone. The trigger takes shape in the intersection between the authority (e.g. the municipality) and the market and its players and other stakeholders.

A trigger could be a small scale initiative which doesn't solve all the problems, but creates a bridge to more possible developments in the near future. A potential trigger for example is the realization of a new appealing restaurant in an old harbor which is at the start of redeveloping the site. Of course this initiative should fit in the long term communal vision and strategy of the parties involved in this area. A trigger like this could happen within a process led by the local authority, with a strategic focus on possible solutions. But at the same time, it is a process where any co-player participating with development means and co-financing, is also able to realize potentials during the process.



Role of municipality in Trigger planning
(Trigger Planning, Method and guidance,
MIDT, Nov. 2014)

Good example of working with this trigger planning method in co creation is: 'The climate city' project in the town of Middelfart, Denmark where the climate-proofing task is looked at from a monocultural and a multicultural viewpoint respectively. The WCT report on Trigger planning can be found following this link: www.rm.dk/files/Regional%20udvikling/Klimatilpasning/Havvand%20p%C3%A5%20land/Trigger%20Planning.pdf



Trigger Planning
(Method and guidance, MIDT, Nov. 2014)

European solutions

Key messages

In general (source: interviews with project partners):

- The interactive and practical MTTF approach of discussing good practices with policy makers, local stakeholders and technicians works and should be continued.
- Third parties as an intermediate between national and local level have an added value in finding executable measures while implementing the WFD.
- Methods from city planning such as co-creation and trigger planning could be applied more often while finding solutions for climate change and water management.
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries of the NSR region facing similar challenges should be continued.

Per theme (source: factsheets WCT)

Water Catchment Management:

- When drafting new policies, keep in mind that participatory partnerships play a crucial role in water management.
- Support and facilitate (at least as start-up) cooperation between stakeholders at a local level.
- Make room for bottom-up solutions as a way to develop and implement innovations.
- Take the EU guidelines 'the common implementation strategy for the water framework directive' seriously.

Climate adaptation and co creation:

- Encourage new projects to include climate adaptation.
- Always encourage climate adaptation projects to include not only protection but other aspects too.
- Be flexible and be ready to hand over power to stakeholders.

Management of dikes and sluices in the North Sea:

- Dikes and sluices protect communities and maintain the area's societal value.
- They are manmade structures that effect the aquatic and terrestrial habitats.
- Joint protection and common standards can ease administration.

Groundwater protection, nitrate leaching and farm management:

- Policy should acknowledge and support 'Farmers as protector of drinking water' more. Besides food production, farmers deliver drinking water friendly agriculture at fair prices to preserve drinking water.
- Improve and support the development and innovation of methods to measure nitrate leaching from arable land.

Irrigation and increasing water yield:

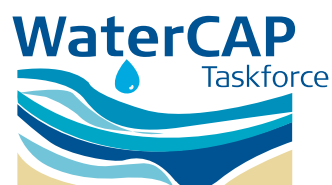
- Support and facilitate innovation and documentation of new irrigation technology.
- Ensure technical knowledge to policy makers about the impact of irrigation with groundwater on rivers.
- Support and facilitate information exchange of knowledge about irrigation technology between EU countries.

Support and facilitate innovation on water system based legislation.



**The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme**

*Investing in the future by working together
for a sustainable and competitive region*



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