Governance capacity for water

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Content

Water governance: challenges

At the one hand:

- From monocentric government to polycentric governance

- Institutional fragmentation: multilevel, multi-actor, multi-domain

- Lasting focus on predefined jurisdictional boundaries

At the other hand:

- Issues becoming interconnected and multifaceted

- Conditions becoming more intricate and demands more pressing

Administrative capacity

Typology of Lodge & Wegrich (2014):

- Analytical capacity

- Delivery capacity

- Regulatory capacity

- Coordination capacity

Strongly departing from the notion of single agencies dealing with their own jurisdictions

Water governance capacity

- Governance capacity of single agencies do not suffice in a context of water issues

- Governance capacity is both scarce and dispersed among many actors

- Complex issues require coherent action of multiple actors (in chains or networks)

The Dutch search for water governance capacity

- ***Strengthening*** WGC

  * To connect public institutions, synchronize their

  actions and bundle their capacities

- ***Broadening*** WGC

  * To mobilize and combine the capacities of

  public, private and societal actors

Strengthening WGC

Illustration: Dutch Delta Program:

National long-term policy program to deal with the consequences of climate change

- Auxiliary arrangement in-between existing institutional layers and domains
- Focus on long-term challenges and short-term ambitions
- Network facilitation, collaborative governance
- Joint and integrative agenda

Broadening WGC

Illustration: Multi-layered safety

- To enhance redundancy and to broaden flood

  management beyond protection

  - Self-reliance, risk reduction, preparedness
  - More inclusive definition of cost-effectiveness

Pilots to explore:

- What citizens can contribute

- What private actors (companies, developers) can do

- What other governmental actors can do (safety regions)

Lessons / challenges

1. To dare to rely upon the governance capacity of other actors (when distrust and turf protection is 'normal')
2. To be able to mobilize and utilize the governance capacity of other actors (by creating 'safe arrangements')
3. To be willing to share your governance capacity in order to realize common goals (how to overcome institutional barriers)

Connective capacity as crucial

When governance capacity is dispersed, and single organisations can not solve the probem, connecting their sources is crucial.

The capacity for joint actions can be build up from four resources (see also Foster-Fishman et al. 2001):

- Individual capacity: boundary spanners, awareness of dependency
- Relational capacity: trust, reciprocity, social capital
- Organizational capacity: facilitating arrangements, comptability
- Programmatic capacity: shared goals, common framework

How to proceed - conclusions

- Understand the dispersed, networked character of governance capacity

- Measure and indicate it from a (multilayered, cross-domain) perspective on networks and chains

- Develop indicators that measure *connective* capacity