

Seminar on Capacity Building on Climate Adaptation

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Adaptation Governance - Local Authorities Bridging the Gap Between Top-Down and Bottom-Up Signals

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Introduction: The world is local

- ❖ All action on climate change whether it is adaptation or mitigation will happen locally – in some sort of context
- ❖ Local authorities are key in this work
- ❖ Varying resources
- ❖ Varying impacts/challenges/opportunities

I am here because:

- ❖ I have (together with colleagues) done quite a bit of research of governance of climate change adaptation
- ❖ The findings we have done could be applicable also for you
- ❖ NOT here to tell you how to adapt to climate change
- ❖ BUT to say something about what affects decisions about CCA – process view

I am going to talk about:

- ❖ Main research findings
- ❖ Global challenges solved locally
- ❖ Institutional capacity
- ❖ Knowledge top-down and bottom-up
- ❖ Incentive structures
- ❖ Governance challenges
- ❖ Where to go from here?

Main findings

- ❖ Size matters
- ❖ Individuals matter
- ❖ Scientists matter
- ❖ Incentives matter

- ❖ Governance structure matter
- ❖ Experience matters

Global challenges solved locally

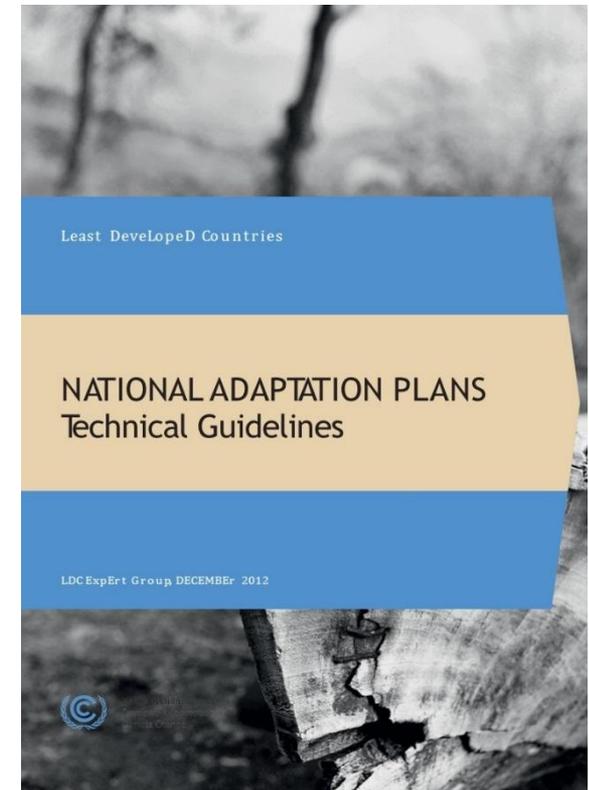
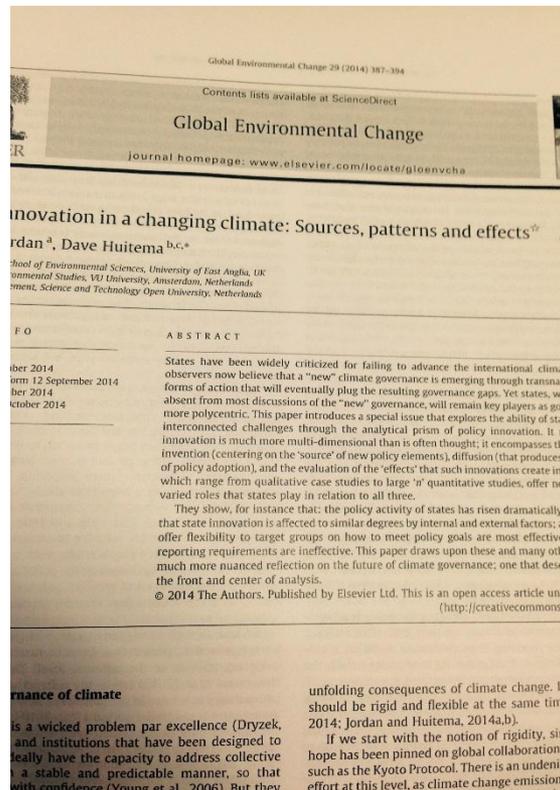
- ❖ Context specific responses
- ❖ How vulnerable are you?
- ❖ Integration – Mainstreaming
- ❖ Linking local solutions to more overarching challenges

Institutional capacity

- ❖ We are not “empty boxes” waiting to adapt to CCA
- ❖ We already have a set of resources, a knowledge level, systems and protocols – these will necessarily shape CCA responses

What is knowledge?

- ❖ Local knowledge
- ❖ Scientific knowledge
- ❖ Expert knowledge



Why would anyone restore this house once the flood is over?



Source: Heggelund/SCANPIX

...but they will, and they do – so are they fools?

Incentive structures

- ❖ Incentives → response
- ❖ Who has access when incentive structures change?
- ❖ Who has a strong motivation to try and affect the process?
- ❖ Redistribution of costs and benefits

Governance challenges

- ❖ If everybody has the right to compensation and today's stakeholders do not have to carry the cost of today's decisions, why would they volunteer to do so?
- ❖ Information asymmetry between local and national level
- ❖ Uncertainties – justification of costs
- ❖ How can the national government encourage high efforts in municipalities?

Now what?

- ❖ If we cannot do anything about existing systems and structures, how can we get out of the potential misery?
- ❖ Tools at the hands of the national government – how to use them?
- ❖ Who has access?