

Strengthening Integrated Water Resource Management through institutional analysis (WaRM-In)

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on IWRM*

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The WaRM-In project in brief

■ **Funding and Duration**

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

01. November 2010 – 30. April 2012

■ **Overall aims:**

Assist researchers/practitioners in analysing institutional contexts of IWRM

Facilitate the embedding of IWRM projects within existing socio-political contexts, rather than alongside or in conflict with them

■ **Key outputs:**

Analytical framework for assessing institutional/political contexts of IWRM

Operative methodology for using the framework ('handbook')

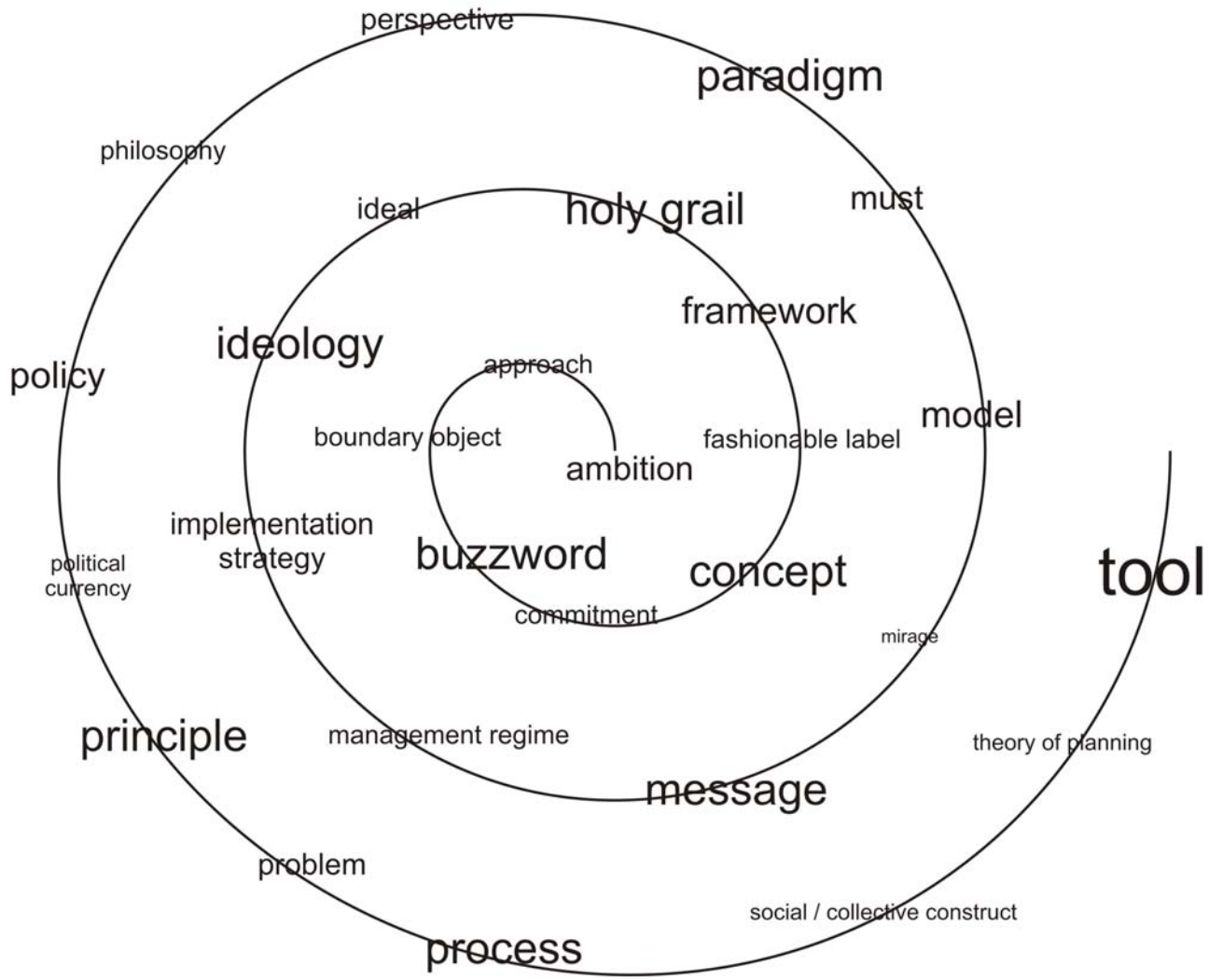
Recommendations for research programme managers

■ **Project structure:**

Task A: Developing & Transitional countries

Task B: European countries (WFD)

IWRM is ...



The WaRM-In methodology

1. Review institutional challenges of IWRM

Literature review (database of 500 titles), identifying key institutional and political challenges of IWRM in a) D&T countries and b) EU countries

Validated with expert interviews

>>> criticisms of current practices inform WaRM-In analytical framework

2. Review frameworks and tools of institutional analysis

Database of ca. 35 frameworks of institutional analysis

- Drawn from 30+ organizations, 35+ journals, 25+ databases, 15+ research projects

>>> inspiration and building blocks for WaRM-In analytical framework

3. Develop, test and refine analytical framework and operative methodology

Draft versions, expert workshops & commentaries, feasibility tests with IWRM projects

4. Compare and disseminate the results

Handbooks (D&T / EU); recommendations to programme managers; publications

Lessons from literature review of IWRM:

- Avoid standard ‘one-size fits-all’ approach
- Develop problem-oriented, context-specific approach
- Accept the political nature of water management and the institutional challenges
- Adapt IWRM projects to local contexts and existing practices
- Provide IWRM managers with practical support on the ground
- Address full range of relevant formal and informal institutions
- Address full range of actors involved in and affected by decisions in water resource management (“getting out of the water box”)

Proposed structure of analytical framework

Stage 1: 'Water storylines'

Researching: problems and solutions from stakeholders' perspectives

Assessing: what is at stake and who the stakeholders are
key problems/ solutions, contests & consensus, actors/ networks

Stage 2: 'Politics of water'

Researching: forms and domains of water politics

Assessing: political domains to which storylines (problems & solutions) can be attributed

Stage 3: 'Feasibility'

Researching: existing institutional arrangements

Assessing: feasibility of solutions in relation to political-institutional context – esp. re problems of fit, interplay & scale

Stage 4: 'Ways forward'

Researching: institutional & policy reforms

Assessing: potential for problem-oriented institutional reform

Stage 1: Water storylines

- AIM: To learn from the actors themselves what is 'at stake' in water resource use and management
- No preconceptions – inductive research
- Through interviews identify: emblematic issues, how actors think about water (problems & solutions); water conflicts; coalitions of actors; contextual factors

>>> Relevant literature: e.g. Hajer 2003/ 2006; Fischer 2003

Stage 1: Water storylines

- “Storylines”:
 - “‘interpret’ events and courses of action in concrete social contexts” (Fischer 2003, 102)
 - shorthand for beliefs because they “symbolically condense the facts and values basic to a belief system” (Fischer 2003, 102)

- Storylines help identify:
 - Key problems & solutions
 - Ways of thinking about water resources
 - The storytellers themselves...
 - How they position other actors; how they position themselves
 - Coalitions of actors

Stage 2: Politics of water

- Stage 2 builds on analysis of storylines
 - AIM: To identify...
 - political (spatial) domains to which storylines (problems & solutions) can be attributed
 - resonance/ dissonance with storylines
 - NOT just about formal institutions & processes...
 - Rather, *forms* of 'water politics' (Mollinga 2008): contestation of practices & power and the (spatial) domains in which they occur
- >>> Relevant literature: e.g. water politics (Mollinga 2008), forms of power (Zeitoun & Allan 2008), spatial politics (Lebel *et al.* 2005)

Stage 2: Politics of water

Where are storylines (problems and solutions) located?

Five (spatial) domains of water politics (Mollinga 2008):

1. The “**everyday politics of water resource management**”: contestation of day-to-day water use and management
2. The “**politics of water policy in the context of sovereign states**”: contestation of policy-making processes at the nation-state or sub-national level
3. The “**inter-state hydropolitics**”: water conflicts and negotiations between states e.g. over water allocation and distribution
4. The “**global politics of water**”: the institutions, policies and regulations which have emerged since the 1990s
5. The “**linkages between or across these domains**”: “how policy issues and water contestations travel across different domains”

Stage 3: Feasibility

- *Stage 3* builds on analysis of storylines & politics of water
 - AIM: To assess feasibility of solutions in relation to existing institutional arrangements in relevant political domain(s)

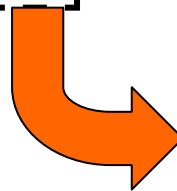
 - Investigating formal/ informal institutions, structures, rules, procedures, capacities
 - Esp. revealing problems of (spatial) fit, (sectoral) interplay and scale
- >>> Relevant literature: e.g. Young 1999, Ostrom 2007, PIASES (Extended IAD), Moss 2003

Stage 3: Feasibility: Example of WFD in Germany

Substitute with
'Existing conditions'

A. Components

1. Problem-solving approach
2. Policy mechanisms
3. Political-administrative structures
4. Market structures
5. Organised actors
6. Rules of procedure and forms of interaction



Substitute with
'Solution'

B. Key features of water management institutions in Germany

e.g. Problem-solving approach:

- Precautionary principle
- Polluter-pays principle
- Emission limit values
- Best available techniques
- Stringent regulation (e.g. on abstractions/discharges)
- Territorial principle (problem-solving within administrative territory)

(Moss 2003)

Assessment of institutional fit (example)

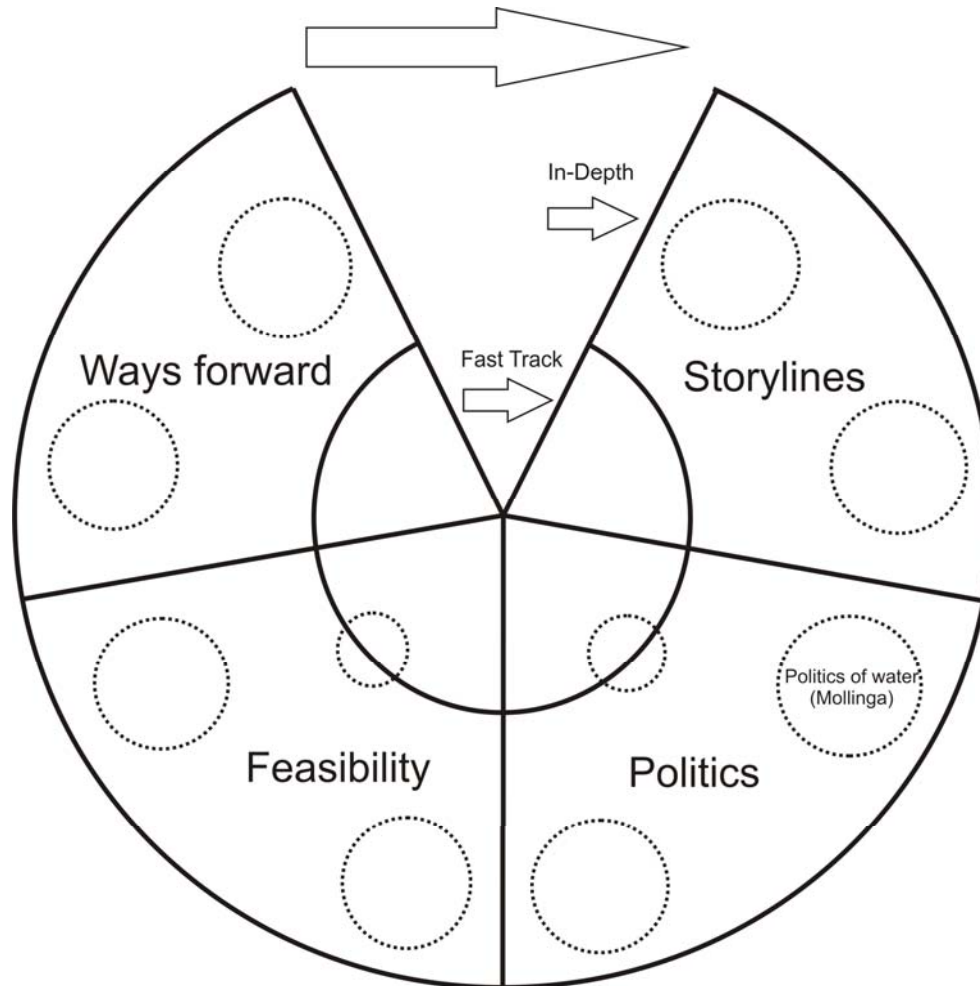
Substitute with 'Requirements of solution'

Component of an institutional configuration	Key features of water management institutions in Germany	Fit / Misfit	Requirements of the WFD
1. Problem-solving approach	Precautionary principle	✓	Precautionary principle (Preamble no.11 & 44)
	Polluter-pays principle	✓	Polluter-pays principle (Preamble no. 38)
	Emission limit values	?	Combined approach for point and diffuse sources (Art.10)
	Best available techniques (BAT)	?	BAT principle qualified by cost factor
	Stringent regulation	?	Mix of regulatory, economic and participatory mechanisms
	Territorial principle	✗	River basin as core spatial unit (Art.3)

Stage 4: Ways forward

- *Stage 4* builds on feasibility assessment
- AIM: To assess potential for problem-oriented institutional reform
- Guiding questions (adapted from Mollinga 2008):
 - What will be the benefits of institutional and policy reform and how will these benefits be distributed? What will be the costs and who will bear them?
 - Who will be the bearers of institutional transformation? Who will constitute the coalition of interest groups to push forward and implement the change?
 - Around which storylines/ issues can such efforts be organised most productively?
 - How can these coalitions be supported?
 - What can realistically be done to adapt the enabling and constraining conditions for this institutional transformation?
 - How can knowledge producers and processors such as academics, consultants, and reflective practitioners play a more active role in this process?

Next steps: refining the two-speed, modular approach



Thank you very much
for your attention!



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