

Knowledge, policy and governance in managing water

Dr Rachael McDonnell, Owen Horwood, Goranij Nonejuie
Oxford Centre for Water Research

New drivers in water governance, policy and management

An integrated (IWRM) approach to water management including the human dimension alongside natural and engineering sciences

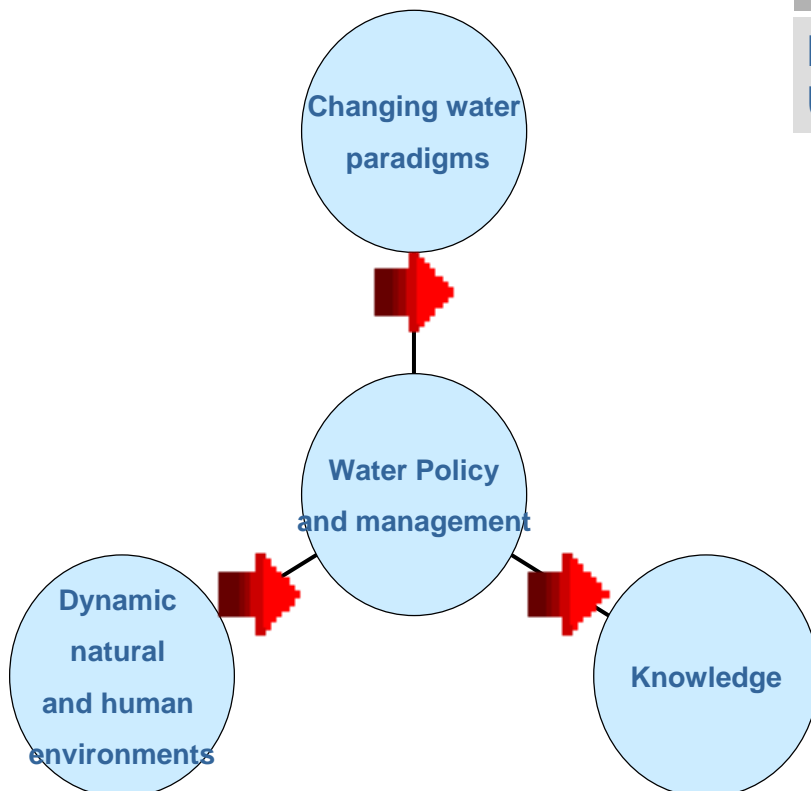
De-centralized water governance

Moves towards more evidence-based policy development

Need for public-participation

Adaptive management concepts

Knowledge and dynamics in policy development



Key questions to be addressed

- What knowledge is needed today to meet new political, legislative, scientific and economic drivers?
- Do we need different data to be collected and by whom?
- How do the new structures/actors affect the management and use of information?
- How does knowledge, information and data empower or marginalize different stakeholders/actors?
- What are the impacts on the quality and effectiveness of new policies?

Research findings so far from the UK, Thailand and South Africa

Data and information are not readily available for many of the new fields needed for IWRM policy

Knowledge is still not readily transferable with various political, institutional, economic and conceptual barriers in place

Knowledge transfers are unequal and inefficient between parties

Many new data collectors today exist away from traditional government organizations

The use of information derived by academics by policy makers is often limited

Actors without access to knowledge have less power in policy negotiations

Find out more...

McDonnell (2008) Challenges for Integrated Water Resources Management: How Do We Provide the Knowledge to Support Truly Integrated Thinking? *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, March 2008

Contact: Rachael McDonnell rachael.mcdonnell@ouce.ox.ac.uk