

The discourse on environmental governance is shifting away from viewing 'ecological systems' and 'social systems' as distinct, either/or concepts. At the same time, there are different and contested ways of interpreting new terms such as social-ecological and social-biophysical systems. The re-conceptualization of water catchments as coupled social-ecological or social-biophysical systems does show promise, but also places new demands on efforts to understand the relationship between research, policy and practice. In particular, it questions reliance on historical, linear models of knowledge, or technology, transfer and stationarity rather than models associated with learning and adaptation.



A metaphor for a mutually influencing, structurally coupled, social-biophysical system. The bubble constitutes the human social system; in the image on the right, the arrows represent processes and institutions invented by humans that mediate the relationship, over time, of a social and biophysical system. (Source: Ison 2010)

CADWAGO Statement

CADWAGO stands for "climate change adaptation and water governance: reconciling food security, renewable energy and the provision of multiple ecosystem services". The project aims to improve water governance by developing a more robust knowledge base and enhancing capacity to adapt to climate change. CADWAGO is led by SEI and brings together 10 partners from Europe, Australasia and North America with extensive experience in climate change adaptation and water governance issues, and will extend the global knowledge base by sharing methods and findings. CADWAGO builds on lessons from ongoing case research to create a forum and dialogue between researchers and stakeholders at different scales. Lessons from the cases will be synthesized and used to adapt European decision-making that has a global impact.

CADWAGO partners

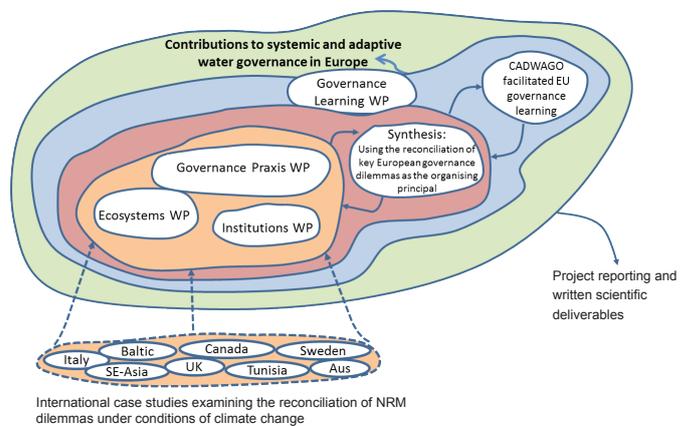


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Cadwago research process

The figure below depicts the CADWAGO research process. Here, 3 work packages apply their theoretical lens (the orange core) to a set of case studies to reflect on water dilemmas manifest in a diverse set of transnational contexts. These lenses enable a cross-case narrative describing the orchestration of a diverse set of governance performances (red region). Dialectic between the cross case narratives and champions (reconcilers) of European water dilemmas is facilitated by CADWAGO's governance learning WP (blue region). The emergent governance learning will enable conceptual, institutional and practice innovations to support systemic and adaptive water governance in Europe (green region).



CADWAGO cases

- Gender aspects in Natural Resource Management institutions responsible for pilot projects in co-management of coastal and marine areas (Sweden)
- Water resource management in palm oil production (South East Asia)
- Adaptive water governance in the Niagara River and Great Lakes as transboundary resource (Canada)
- Adaptation to climate change in Italian agricultural systems (Italy)
- Sustainable integrated catchment management in the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia)
- Response Capacity in Extreme Flooding Events: The South East Queensland Floods (Australia)
- Improving coastal governance through enhanced decision-making frameworks (Australia)
- Social learning systems for catchment managing and implementing the Water Framework Directive (UK)
- Sustainable phosphorous management and reuse in the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic Sea Region)