



Interessen  
Im Fluss



# WaterCoG evaluation

Reflections on pilot processes  
in the United Kingdom

Summary of results

Natalie Foster

May 2019

## Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank the research participants for sharing their knowledge and experiences in water governance, and their organisations for enabling their participation.

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## Summary

The WaterCoG project brings together partners from Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and the UK to determine the benefits of a co-governance approach to water management. This report presents a summary of the evaluation of the UK pilots in the Wharfe and CamEO river catchments. The actions to improve water co-governance which emerged from the evaluation fall broadly into four categories: facilitation; stakes and stakeholding; knowing and learning; and policies and institutions.

### Identifying facilitation needs and providing facilitation

In the context of facilitation, this evaluation reveals new insights into (and raises questions about) who could and/or should host a catchment partnership from the perspectives of those involved. These insights demonstrate the importance of inclusivity and impartiality when identifying facilitation needs and providing facilitation. But, furthermore, they also serve as a reminder for catchment partnerships to not take as given—nor take for granted—the current facilitation process, but rather to review it regularly to ensure that it continues to be relevant to the needs and expectations of partnership members.

- **Recommendation:** To (re-)explore with catchment partnership members the feasibility and desirability of the catchment host; and hence, to make explicit how any potential or perceived conflicts of interest will be resolved.
- **Recommendation:** To re-conceptualise the catchment plan as a *process* rather than an outcome; and in doing so, to facilitate and enable the development of shared understandings, shared goals and shared responsibilities, leading to concerted actions to improve the situation.

### Identifying stakeholders and building stakeholding through joint responsibility

The catchment partnerships have been generally successful in engaging many people and organisations in their activities and projects. The key issue, therefore, is not necessarily to engage increasingly more people and organisations, but rather to ensure that the right people are involved in the right way at the right time.

- **Recommendation:** To consider working together with other types of voluntary partnerships and statutory bodies to ensure that human and other resources are used more efficiently and effectively across the catchment area.
- **Recommendation:** To conduct (and regularly review) a stakeholder analysis ensure that there is a better balance between social, economic and environmental interests in decision-making within the catchment partnership.

### Co-producing knowledge in action and jointly identifying what constitutes improvement

The interviews in the Wharfe and CamEO catchments demonstrate that the participatory process for co-producing knowledge in action and jointly identifying what constitutes an improvement has been valued by the partnership members. But, there are also opportunities for improvement, particularly in terms of developing systemic awareness, i.e. an awareness of the catchment situation as a whole.

- **Recommendation:** To engage in, and provide opportunities for, developing skills in systems thinking, social learning and collaborative actions amongst partnership members.

### Developing conducive policies and institutions

In the Wharfe and CamEO catchments, the experiences of the interviewees expose the extent to which current policy and institutional frameworks constrain (rather than enable) progress to deliver actions-to-improve, particularly in relation to accessing funding.

- **Recommendation:** To work with UK Government to develop place-based policies and plans which meet the needs, interests and expectations of stakeholders across all governance scales and levels.
- **Recommendation:** To engage in dialogue with UK Government and CaBA National Support Group to review access to funding or other types of resources.

## Introduction

The Interreg VB NSR WaterCoG project wants to provide evidence about if and how co-governance approaches, and in particular as implemented in our pilots, contribute to the aims defined in the project proposal:

1. Increase the understanding of ecosystem services
2. Develop new solutions for achieving management targets for water related ecosystem services (as defined by EU directives)
3. Improve the integration of different EU directives
4. Provide additional social, economic and environmental benefits not currently being realised under existing governance frameworks
5. Provide a framework for extending the best practice developed in the project to areas outside of the immediate pilot areas.

For this, WaterCoG evaluates its activities in two parts:

- First, the project's result indicators aim to quantify how the pilots' impact on improving the ecosystem status, the stakeholders' commitment and on increasing the available resources for water management.
- Second, all partners would like to reflect in more depth on the processes to better learn how to improve their participatory and co-governance processes, and in which context to best benefit from them.

As the coordinator of WP6 (Evidence and Evaluation), the OOWV has contracted Interessen Im Fluss to coordinate and implement this reflection, including local support as required, and a synthesis of the results. Together with the partners, part 2 of the evaluation was developed, and implemented in country-wise processes, adapted to the needs of the local partners. Thus, the author was involved as a 'local researcher' to contribute the UK perspective to the evaluation, implement part 2 of the evaluation in the UK, and support the synthesis process.

The overall guiding questions of the evaluation are **“What needs to change to make co-governance better work?”** and **“What are the strengths and limitations to co-governance, shown in the different pilots?”**

In this document, the results of the two pilots in United Kingdom are presented.



under the EU Nitrates Directive (see <https://environment-agency.cloud.esri.uk.com/farmers/>).

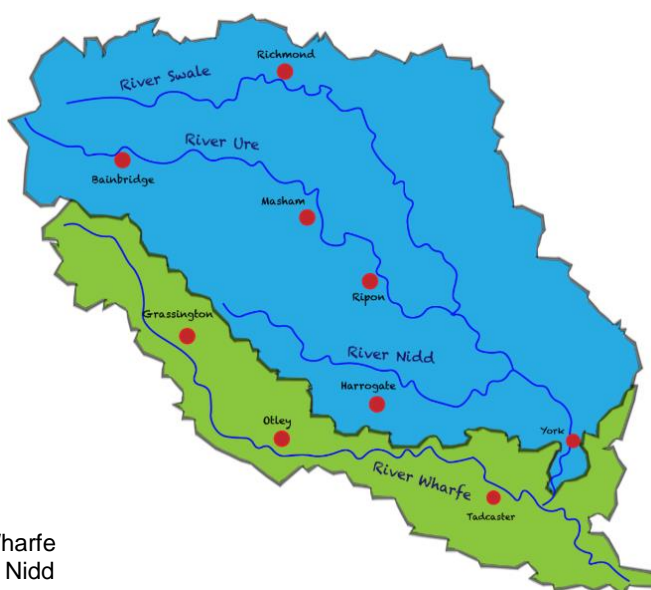
The CamEO Catchment Partnership was formed in 2011 during the pilot stage of the catchment-based approach. It is currently co-hosted by The Rivers Trust and Anglian Water. The Rivers Trust is a registered charity, originally founded as the 'Association of Rivers Trusts' in 2001. It is the umbrella body for more than 60 Rivers Trusts across the UK and Ireland. Anglian Water is a water company, regulated under the Water Industry Act 1991. The co-hosts provide support for a Water Stewardship Business Board (comprised of businesses in the agricultural supply chain) and four sub-catchment partnerships, which are self-driven and organised by their members: Wissey, Little Ouse and Thet, Lark, and Cam. The partnership members have co-developed a CamEO Catchment Partnership Action Plan, which sets out their vision, terms of reference, objectives and a delivery plan. Their recent projects have generally focused on working with agriculture (especially on water sensitive farming), community engagement and river restoration, e.g. reprofiling, removal of excessive vegetation and invasive non-native species, and litter picking. For further information, see <http://www.cameopartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/V5-CamEO-Catchment-Partnership-Plan-18-19.pdf>.

### Wharfe and Lower Ouse catchment pilot

The Wharfe and Lower Ouse catchment is part of the Humber river basin district in England, UK. It covers an area of 743 km<sup>2</sup> and incorporates the River Wharfe, lower part of the River Ouse and their tributaries. The catchment is almost entirely rural and relatively sparsely populated. The upper area of the catchment lies within the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which is known for its outstanding landscape, diversity of wildlife and rich cultural heritage. Farming and tourism are the main employers and activities in the area, but rural villages are also popular with commuters from nearby cities of Leeds and Manchester ([Environment Agency, 2014b](#)).

Most of the water bodies (rivers, reservoirs, canals and groundwater) in the catchment fail to meet the standards required by the Water Framework Directive, particularly on ecological criteria. The main reason for failure (29%) is physical modification of water bodies for flood defence, navigation, power generation, and water abstraction. There are also water quality issues from high sedimentation and pollution from wastewater discharges and agricultural runoff, and (in some areas) invasive non-native species ([DVRN, 2019](#)). Recently, the wider area has experienced extensive flooding, most notably on Boxing Day in 2015, when 3,355 properties around Leeds were flooded, including 672 businesses ([Yorkshire Evening Post, 2017](#)).

The catchment partnership (known as the Dales to Vales River Network) covers the Wharfe and Lower Ouse catchment, and the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse catchment. It was formed in 2013 as part of the wider adoption of the catchment-based approach. It is currently hosted by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, which is a registered charity founded in 2004. The interactive River Wharfe Catchment Management Plan provides data and information about the catchment as well as past, current and proposed projects. Much of their recent work has targeted natural flood management, including building bunds, leaky dams, and planting trees to 'slow the flow' of the rivers. For further information, see <http://dvrn.co.uk/upper-wharfe-catchment/>.



**Right** Dales to Vales River Network showing the Wharfe and Lower Ouse catchment (green) and Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse catchment (blue) (YDRT, 2019)



## Data and methods

The evaluation was based on a concept developed by the WaterCoG partners in collaboration with the local researchers. The concept allows for comparing the findings within and between the pilot projects in order to identify ways to improve water co-governance. The evaluation process in the different countries was adapted to the needs and interests of the WaterCoG partners. The local researchers had the option to combine interviews, workshops, and information provided by WaterCoG partners. For further information about the evaluation concept, see '*Part 2 of WaterCoG Evaluation: reflection on pilot processes. Outline of process and issues. December 2018*'.

The evaluation method in the UK comprised a series of semi-structures interviews with 16 stakeholders in the Wharfe and Cambridge Ely Ouse (CameEO) pilot projects (Table 1). The stakeholders were identified by the pilot project leaders, and chosen specifically on the basis that: (1) as a group, they represent a diverse range of perspectives concerning water governance; and (2) as individuals, they have the local knowledge and experiences to be able to inform the evaluation process. The number of interviews and the selection of stakeholders was thus strategic to achieving the evaluation objectives. An information sheet and consent form were provided to make explicit both the purpose of the study and the expectations of the participants. During the interviews, the participants were given the opportunity to talk freely about their own role and the role of their organization in the study context, and the events that they perceived to be important (see Appendices 1–3).

**Table 1.** Participants in the UK evaluation

Area	Stakeholder group	Organisation
Wharfe	Government organisations	Environment Agency
		Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
	Private organisations	Yorkshire Water
		Swarthghyll Farm
		Mott MacDonald
Not-for-profit organisations	Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust	
Community Groups	Addingham Environment Group	
CamEO	Government organisations	Environment Agency (2 stakeholders)
	Private organisations	Anglian Water (2 stakeholders)
		Cranswick
	Not-for-profit organisations	The Rivers Trust
		River Lark Catchment Partnership
Community Groups	National Farmers Union	
		Little Ouse Catchment Partnership

The evaluation method does not guarantee authenticity, but rather serves to decrease the incidence of incorrect data, or the incorrect interpretation of data. It ensures that the issue of water governance is explored through a variety of lenses, which allows multiple facets of the situation to be revealed and understood (Baxter and Jack, 2008); and the converging lines of evidence (data triangulation) add strength to the findings (Yin, 2009). However, it should still be borne in mind that the findings represent only the view of those involved in the evaluation process, as interpreted by the local researcher.



## Results and discussion

The local researchers and project partners collaboratively identified three themes which they perceived to be important to understanding and improving water co-governance:

- The role of knowledge and tools in water co-governance processes
- The connection of governance levels in water co-governance processes
- Water co-governance process design and implementation

This section presents the key insights and lessons learnt from the UK pilot projects in relation to these themes.

### The role of knowledge and tools in water co-governance processes

Traditionally, research, policy and practice are conceptualised as domains that are separate and disconnected (van Bommel et al., 2016). Research is conceptualised as a ‘place of knowledge production’ in which value-free facts are produced; policy is conceptualised as a ‘place of knowledge use’, in which the facts are used to inform policy-making; and practice is conceptualised as a ‘place of knowledge adoption’. In this linear model, knowledge is disseminated from science to society, and communication is seen as the means to bridge the gap between these domains (Gibbons et al., 1994, Bulkeley and Mol, 2003). However, it has been challenged by numerous studies which assert that complex situations require scientists to ‘look beyond the facts’ to include others’ interests, thoughts, observations and data, and therefore, to include policy-makers and practitioners in the production and use of knowledge in action (van Bommel et al., 2016). In this context, and based on their own experiences from other projects, the WaterCog project partners assume that knowledge is more relevant to decision-making if it is interactively discussed, made in practice, and developed in a collaborative manner. This section reflects on the experiences of those involved in water co-governance processes in relation to co-producing knowledge in action, and jointly identifying what constitutes an improvement.

Both the Wharfe and CamEO catchment partnerships have catchment plans that have been collaboratively developed by the partnership members (see pages 6 and 7). From these plans, as well as the interviews with partnership members for this evaluation, it is clear that the catchment partnerships have used—and relied heavily upon—scientific and technical data and information (e.g. GIS, water quality analysis, biodiversity monitoring) to inform the joint identification of actions to improve the water environment in their respective catchments. In the Wharfe catchment, some of the interviewees stated that they had found the presentation of the GIS data and information useful, particularly in terms of enabling them to ‘see’ their place (role and responsibilities) in the catchment, and how their activities and projects can affect their environment. The key point here is that the participatory process used by the catchment partnerships to co-produce knowledge in action has enabled them to bring together different types knowledge and experiences (e.g. academics and farmers), and in doing so, to jointly identify improvements that are more meaningful to those involved or affected by the situation.

However, when considering whose knowledge and experiences have been taken into account in decision-making, some of the interviewees perceived that the situation is generally dominated by environment interests. In this context, one of the interviewees observed that *“the catchment partnership needs a better balance between social, economic and environmental pillars [...] we aren’t just managing it for the birds and the bees – there are benefits for homes and economic growth too”*. The interviews also revealed some areas where perceived misunderstandings are leading to (potential) conflicts between catchment partnership members, e.g. about who is responsible for over-abstraction of water, or about the value of ducks on the village pond. From a local researcher perspective, these misunderstandings demonstrate a lack of systemic awareness to some extent about catchment management, i.e. about the situation in the catchment as a whole from multiple perspectives.

## Connected governance levels in water co-governance processes

A central assumption of the WaterCoG project is that the successful implementation of EU Directives requires all relevant governance levels to be connected with each other. Furthermore, that to connect the top-level (national bodies) and the bottom-level (local actors) in a governance system, the middle-level (regional bodies) needs to be responsible for the implementation of measures. This section reflects on the experiences of those involved in water co-governance processes in relation to connecting with other governance levels.

In the UK, the catchment-based approach has an increasing emphasis on engaging local people and organisations in understanding, valuing, caring for, and enjoying their environment (Foster et al., 2018). In the Wharfe and CamEO catchment partnerships, significant investment has been made in engaging many people and organisations across all sectors in the catchment partnership activities and projects, including central Government bodies, local authorities, NGOs, private companies, and individuals. In this sense, the responsibility for implementing measures to improve the water environment is shared across all members in the catchment partnerships. In practice, however, the responsibility to deliver activities sits with the person or organisation leading a project, which is most often a charitable organisation.

In the Wharfe and CamEO catchments, all interviewees recognised benefits from working together with others in their catchment partnership at a personal and/or organisational level. But, at the same time, they also observed that progress to deliver measures is impeded by policies and institutions (e.g. laws, norms, rules) that are not conducive to partnership working. They perceived that the top- and bottom-levels are not aligned in practice. Catchment partnership members are expected to work together to plan and deliver projects with multiple benefits at catchment scale, whereas UK Government bodies remain siloed in their own organisational practices. Consequently, national policies cannot be reconciled at catchment level (there must be trade-offs) and funding criteria (which specify the types of organisation that can apply for funding, as well as the types of activities and project that can be funded) often do not allow for multi-organisation bids or for multi-benefit projects. In most cases, funding cannot be granted directly to the catchment partnerships because they have no formal status; and thus, it is granted to the lead organisation for a specific project, which is perceived by those involved to result in a power-over rather than power-sharing situation. As such, one of the catchment partnerships has registered as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) solely to obtain access to funding. But in doing so, it was recognised by the catchment partnership host that future activities and projects may be constrained by the obligation to set out and adhere to strict charitable aims. In addition, there were also concerns that some projects fail against funding criteria because cost-benefit analysis does not always take into account multiple benefits.

In addition, the top-level siloes have resulted in many (different types of) voluntary partnerships (e.g. Catchment Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships) and statutory bodies (e.g. Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, Local Authorities, National Parks Authorities). Many people and organisations, particularly those operating at regional level, are members of multiple partnerships and/or committees. For example, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is a member of the seven catchment partnerships which lie wholly or partly within the national park boundary, as well as a member of other types of partnerships too, which each have their own meetings. Some of the interviewees stated that the situation has reached an unsustainable level in terms of the number of meetings that they are invited to attend; and thus, they are now having to be more strategic about where to invest time and resources. Thus, looking forward, it will be necessary for catchment partnerships to work together with other types of partnerships to ensure that human and other resources are used more efficiently and effectively.

## Process design and implementation

Research suggests that effective responses to complex environmental issues, such as catchment management, seem to require co-learning for systemic governance transformations. However, this process generally remains poorly understood (van Bommel et al., 2016). Thus, the WaterCoG project

seeks to better understand water co-governance process design and implementation, and particularly, the difference between the intended objective(s) of the process and its performance in practice, as well as the strengths and weaknesses in process facilitation. This section reflects on the experiences of those involved water co-governance processes in the Wharfe and CamEO catchments.

Whilst each of the catchment partnerships has its own specific catchment plan, they operate under the same policy framework set out by the UK Government (Defra, 2013). At the outset, the catchment-based approach was intended by the UK Government to *contribute* to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive through 'more action' by the Environment Agency and other stakeholders at catchment scale (Defra, 2011). In this context, it can be conceptualised from a UK Government perspective as 'a process to deliver improvements in water quality, by mobilising local players in 100+ catchment partnerships across England, in order to meet the Water Framework Directive requirements to achieve 'good' status for all water bodies within agreed timescales'.

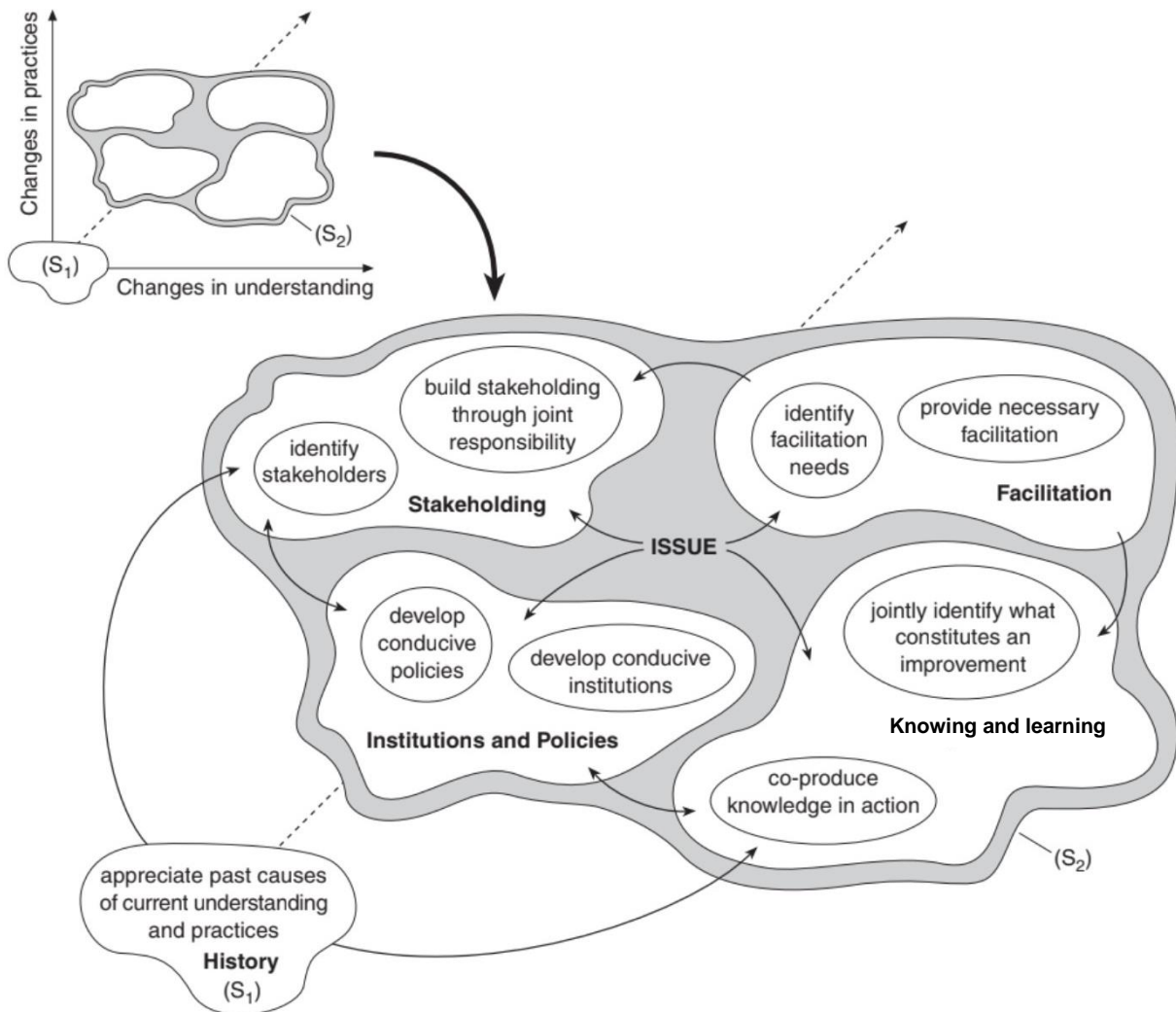
But, evidence from past and current research suggests that the situation is gradually evolving such that implementation of the Water Framework Directive is now only a part of the catchment-based approach, rather than vice versa (Foster et al., 2019). Thus, there is a noticeable difference between the intended objective of the process by UK Government and its performance in practice, i.e. the catchment partnerships are going above and beyond (in excess of) expectations and demands. For example, in the River Irwell catchment (north-west England), partnership members reported that they are leading or participating in multiple projects, almost all of which have objectives which fall within the broader remit of catchment management in general (e.g. natural flood risk management, farming, fisheries, habitat restoration, invasive non-native species, cultural heritage, green spaces, anti-social behaviour), rather than 'improving water quality' per se (Foster et al., 2018). The difference in performance is also apparent in both the Wharfe catchment and the CamEO catchment in this evaluation of the WaterCoG project, as evidenced in the catchment plans and the projects delivered by the partnership members. As noted by Foster et al. (2018), this situation reflects the diverse interests and aims of the various people and organisations involved in the catchment partnerships, as well as the legacy of past decisions and actions across all scales and levels which influence and affect the current situation. It is also consistent with the ability of the catchment partnerships to meet the needs and expectations of the partnership members that keeps them 'around the table'.

In the evaluation interviews for the WaterCoG project, many interviewees talked about the role of the catchment partnership host. As noted in the CamEO Catchment Partnership Action Plan 2018-19, the primary role of a catchment partnership host is to *facilitate* and enable the development of an inclusive, cross-sector partnership operating at catchment scale, in order to deliver the vision and objectives set out in the catchment plan (CamEO, 2018). Some of the interviewees raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest between the objectives of the catchment host organisation and the catchment partnership. Some interviewees perceived that a water company is not desirable as a catchment host because they can only support (and fund) activities and projects that fall with the remit set out by the water regulator (OFWAT) rather than the broader range of objectives of the catchment partnership. Another interviewee also questioned the desirability of a Rivers Trust to host the catchment partnership, mainly due to their explicit focus on specific environmental interest above others. Nonetheless, the same interviewees also recognised and valued the significant capacity and capability of these organisations to host the catchment partnerships. In the context of feasibility and desirability of a person/organisation to host a catchment partnership, there was consensus amongst the interviewees that the ability of the host person and/or organisation to represent the needs and interests of all catchment partnership members (rather than just their personal and/or organisational needs and interests) was more important than the type of person or organisation *per se*.

## Recommendations and next steps

The following recommendations emerge from the evaluation of the WaterCoG pilots in the UK. They are based on judgements made by the local researcher throughout the evaluation process, which have been informed by interviews with stakeholders in the Wharfe and CamEO catchments.

In making these recommendations, it is helpful to be guided by the framework shown below, which sets out (and draws attention to) four key areas to consider when organising analysis and action in situations of complexity, connectedness, controversy, multiple perspectives and uncertainty, such as water catchments.



**Above** A framework for Social Learning for the Integrated Management and Sustainable Use of Water at Catchment Scale (adapted from Ison et al., 2004)

### Identifying facilitation needs and providing facilitation

In the context of facilitation, this evaluation reveals new insights into (and raises questions about) who could and/or should host a catchment partnership from the perspectives of those involved. These insights demonstrate the importance of inclusivity and impartiality when identifying facilitation needs and providing facilitation. But, furthermore, they also serve as a reminder for catchment partnerships to not

take as given—nor take for granted—the current facilitation process, but rather to review it regularly to ensure that it continues to be relevant to the needs and expectations of partnership members.

- **Recommendation:** To (re-)explore with catchment partnership members the feasibility and desirability of the catchment host; and in doing so, to make explicit how any potential or perceived conflicts of interest will be resolved.
- **Recommendation:** To re-conceptualise the catchment plan as a *process* rather than an outcome; and in doing so, to facilitate and enable the development of shared understandings, shared goals and shared responsibilities, leading to concerted actions to improve the situation.

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The catchment partnerships have been generally successful in engaging many people and organisations in their activities and projects. The key issue, therefore, is not necessarily to engage increasingly more people and organisations, but rather to ensure that the right people are involved in the right way at the right time.

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### Co-producing knowledge in action and jointly identifying what constitutes improvement

The interviews in the Wharfe and CamEO catchments demonstrate that the participatory process for co-producing knowledge in action and jointly identifying what constitutes an improvement has been valued by the partnership members. But, there are also opportunities for improvement, particularly in terms of developing systemic awareness, i.e. an awareness of the catchment situation as a whole.

- **Recommendation:** To engage in, and provide opportunities for, developing skills in systems thinking, social learning and collaborative actions amongst partnership members.

### Developing conducive policies and institutions

In the Wharfe and CamEO catchments, the experiences of the interviewees expose the extent to which current policy and institutional frameworks constrain (rather than enable) progress to deliver actions-to-improve, particularly in relation to accessing funding.

- **Recommendation:** To work with UK Government to develop place-based policies and plans which meet the needs, interests and expectations of stakeholders across all governance scales and levels.
- **Recommendation:** To engage in dialogue with UK Government and CaBA National Support Group to review access to funding or other types of resources.

As a next step, we invite the WaterCoG partners and others in the UK and elsewhere to reflect on the findings and recommendations in this report in their own situations, and to work together with others to implement improvements ('doing things better') and transformations ('doing better things') in their own situations accordingly.

## Appendix 1: Information sheet

**Research project title:** Water Co-Governance for Sustainable Ecosystems (WaterCoG)

**Researchers:** Ilke Borowski-Maaser  
Morten Graversgaard  
Madeleine Prutzer  
Natalie Foster

**Please read this information carefully before deciding whether to participate in this research project. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form.**

### 1. What is the research about?

Working with a range of partners and stakeholders from Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and the UK, WaterCoG aims to understand the extent to which effective stakeholder and community participation in water management (co-governance) can deliver more sustainable and long-term approaches to managing North Sea Region (NSR) ecosystems by improving the implementation of key environmental objectives such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

This research forms a part of the evaluation phase of the WaterCoG project. It is being conducted by local researchers on behalf of the WaterCoG project (<https://northsearegion.eu/watercog>).

WaterCoG is co-funded by the INTERREG North Sea Region Programme 2014 - 2020.

### 2. Why have I been asked to participate?

Research participants will be stakeholders in water governance, e.g. Government bodies, advisors, consultants, NGOs, general public. Participants have been asked to take part because they have been identified as a stakeholder, that is, they have a stake or interest in water governance.

### 3. What will happen if I participate?

Via interviews, participants will be asked about activities/projects that they are involved in. We are interested in finding out about what assumptions, perspectives and values are informing water governance, why and how people do or don't make decisions and take actions, either individually or with others, and how people develop knowledge and best practice related to water governance. Participation is voluntary and consent to participate is an agreement to participate in the research project, and for the data obtained as a result of participation to be used for the purpose of the research project.

### 4. Are there any benefits in taking part?

Participation in the research project presents an opportunity to disseminate your own knowledge and experiences of water governance. It is hoped that the research will also lead to concerted actions to improve future water governance in the UK and elsewhere.

### 5. Are there any risks involved?

There is minimal risk involved in taking part in the research. The research complies with the Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act.

### 6. Will participation be confidential?

Some interviews may involve more than one participant, and therefore, participant anonymity and confidentiality cannot be maintained in these circumstances. However, we will anonymize all contributions in project reports and publications.

### 7. What happens if I change my mind?

Participants may withdraw consent at any time without their legal rights being affected. If participants decide to withdraw, they may also request that their data is withdrawn from the project at any time until 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### 8. What happens if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, please contact Barry Bendall, WaterCoG Project Lead ( [email] or [telephone] ).

### 9. Where can I get more information about this research project?

For further information, please contact Dr. Natalie Foster ( [email] or [telephone] ).



## Appendix 2: Consent form

Research project title: Water Co-Governance for Sustainable Ecosystems (WaterCoG)

Researchers: Ilke Borowski-Maaser  
Morten Graversgaard  
Madeleine Prutzer  
Natalie Foster

Please initial the box if you agree with the statement:

I have read and understood the Information Sheet and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research project.

I consent to participate in the research project and for the data obtained as a result of my participation to be used for research purposes, including publication, in an anonymised format.

I understand my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw consent at any time without my legal rights being affected. I understand that if I decide to withdraw, I can request that my data is withdrawn from the project at any time until 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Participant name (print name):

Participant signature:

Researcher name (print name):

Researcher signature:

Date:



## Appendix 3: Interview questions

Short overview of WaterCog

Explain reason(s) for the interview

Explain interview format and confidentiality agreement (sign the consent form)

Opportunity for questions on any of the above, then:

### Background and context

1. What area(s) of the Wharfe/CamEO catchment do you live and/or work in?  
*Easy icebreaker, and gives us a better understanding about what they do and why*
2. How would you define the term 'water co-governance'?  
*Important because it puts all the other answers into context!*
3. In this context, what are the main activities or projects that you are involved in?  
*It would help us if you could provide a short overview of each activity or project, including your role*

### Sources of motivation

4. **Purpose:** What do you hope to achieve by undertaking these activities or projects, i.e. what is the immediate objective?
5. **Beneficiary or client:** Who or what are the beneficiaries of the activities or projects that you are involved in?
6. **Measure of success:** What are the measure of success (or improvement) for the activities and projects?

### Sources of control

7. **Decision-maker:** In relation to your activities or projects, who makes the key decisions about what needs to be done?
8. **Resources:** What components of these activities or projects are controlled by the key decision-maker(s)?
9. **Environment:** What conditions have enabled or constrained the activities or projects; and how have these conditions (challenges) affected your choice of who you work with or how you go about your activities or projects?

### Sources of expertise

10. **Expertise:** How have you developed the knowledge and skills needed to undertake these activities or projects?
11. **Expert (or designer):** Whose knowledge, ideas and perspectives have been taken into account when designing 'improvements' to be implemented through these activities or projects?
12. **Guarantor:** What is/ought to be providing guarantor attributes of success for the activities or projects (e.g. technical support, consensus amongst professional experts, stakeholder involvement etc.) and hence what is/might be false guarantor attributes of success (e.g. technical fixes, managerialism, tokenism, etc.)?

### Source of legitimacy

13. **Witnesses:** Who is/ought to be representing the interest of those affected by but not involved with the activities or projects, including those stakeholders who cannot speak for themselves (e.g. future generations and non-human entities)?
14. **Emancipation:** To what degree—and in what way—are the interests of the affected free from the effects of the activities or projects?
15. **Worldview:** What is the worldview underlying the creation or maintenance of the activities or projects, i.e. what visions (long-term aims) or underlying meanings of 'improvement' are considered, and how are they reconciled?

### Closing remarks

16. Is there anything else that you would like to add that is not covered already?

Thank interviewee

Reiterate confidentiality agreement

(Interview questions based on a technique developed by Ulrich, 2000)

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