

DRAFT BOOK

**WATER POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL
PERSPECTIVE: A RESEARCH
COMPANION TO THE ROLE OF
POLICY ENTREPRENEURS IN WATER
TRANSITIONS**

**Report of the NeWater project -
New Approaches to Adaptive Water Management under Uncertainty**

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Policy summary

This draft book contains analyses of water policy changes in 15 countries and 2 international for a. The cases are analyzed through a common framework derived from the policy sciences. All case studies are based on literature review and interviews and have been undertaken by experienced researchers. The key question asked in this book is whether water policy change can be managed by individuals or organizations that we refer to as policy entrepreneurs. On the basis of a comparison of all case studies, the following conclusions are derived:

1. Water transitions are often the result of a lengthy process of incremental changes within a policy subsystem, which results in the adoption of new policies in the end.
2. New policy ideas (paradigms, discourses or ways of knowing) do not replace the 'old' ones, rather they are placed alongside or integrated with them, hence most transitions are partial
3. Policy entrepreneurs can be found anywhere, but what they have in common is (1) a good reputation within their respective communities, (2) good networking skills, and (3) perseverance
4. Top down strategies of imposing new policies run a higher risk of an implementation gap than bottom-up strategies aimed at attracting supporters to and the upscaling of newly developed policy ideas and practices
5. In cases where transitions start at a relatively small scale, gradually attract supporters and grow the pattern of policy change is characterized by a series of incremental changes within the policy subsystem in one direction, the risk of an implementation gap is lower than in cases of top-down imposed transitions.
6. Successful policy entrepreneurs are able to balance advocacy and brokerage strategies
7. Successful policy entrepreneurs try to build networks across different ways of knowing water (different meanings)
8. Successful policy entrepreneurs use narratives to frame issue strategically, and by that to attract supporters and justify change
9. Successful policy entrepreneurs anticipate windows of opportunity by developing and testing attractive policy alternatives and demonstrating their feasibility
10. Successful policy entrepreneurs employ strategies of venue manipulation, venue shopping and/or create new venues to be able to insert new ideas into decision making processes
11. Policy entrepreneurs try to institutionalize new ideas (discourses, images or ways of knowing), and by that create barriers to future change
12. After new policies have been adopted, those who have an interest in maintaining the status quo have ample opportunities to delay or frustrate policy implementation
13. Successful policy entrepreneurs know the institutional system they are working in well, and know how to use that system

WATER POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: A RESEARCH COMPANION
TO THE ROLE OF POLICY ENTREPRENEURS IN WATER TRANSITIONS

Edited by

Dave Huitema and Sander Meijerink

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