

GOVERNANCE OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: MASTERING CHALLENGES OF A NEW POLICY DOMAIN

BERND SIEBENHUENER*

UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG.

Starting out from these characteristics, the paper thus develops a framework for effective governance approaches for adaptation. First, the paper identifies three criteria to be avoided when devising adaptation policies namely the technocratic fix building pursuing an expert-driven command-and-control approach, thematic fixes such as the exclusive focus on flooding problems, and the attempt to develop a new and isolated policy field. Second, the paper will develop a conceptual framework for governance of adaptation drawing on systems theory, organizational theory, and political science concepts. It concludes that governance of adaptation requires an open, long-term oriented and participatory learning approach.

In its final and applied part, the paper presents a set of case studies of respective solution strategies fulfilling the requirements of this approach. These include road mapping processes, adaptation councils, a system of climate adaptation envoys, climate proofing of regions (as part of spatial planning processes), online participation processes and cross-border river basin management concepts.