

## ORCHESTRATING WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT: PRACTICES AND METAPRACTICES

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An interdisciplinary approach to managing rainwater requires capacity building, because we are all on a learning curve. But more than this, it requires orchestration: astute coordination and influencing across many issues as they play out in complicated networks of stakeholders. This is the micropolitics in which all of us involved in changing water cycle management live our working lives.

We can coordinate and influence more and less skillfully. This paper is about ways in which our skill at orchestrating can differ. Its job is to flag places at which it makes sense to reflect on our own practice, considering whether to develop our skills further.

We shape organizations' and networks' responses to water cycle management using skills at two levels:

- (i) specific practices that can be helpful (e.g. socio-ecological systems analysis, principled negotiation, and management system design); and
- (ii) metapractices for bringing these to bear appropriately, and for crossing them in novel ways to produce fresh approaches to new situations.

We will explore the breadth of the practices that are relevant, across technical, managerial and political terrains. And we will explore ways to draw on our repertoires to keep change processes moving forward – gut feel, practice experiments, kinds of reflection, and the like.

Managing rainwater in relation to urban ecology, urban design, organizational capacities and community development is highly challenging. Skills in juggling all of these at once are mostly learnt on the job and articulated informally. We can do better if we make them explicit.