

Editorial

This journal issue is defined by a case study of the social factors behind institutions related to the integrated water resource management (IWRM) and adaptive management (AM) approaches in the uMngeni catchment, South Africa.

In *Investigating the Perceptions of Water Managers on IWRM and Adaptive Management in the uMngeni Catchment*, the authors give valuable insights into water managers' perceptions and understanding of integrating water-use sectors and water users in decision making, as well as the institutional challenges and factors hindering the implementation of the approaches. The case study explores the perceptions and reflections of water managers on the necessary transitions to realize integrated water resource management and adaptive management, on what it entails to integrate and coordinate among institutions and water-users, and on institutional capacity, overlapping functions and insufficient accountability. Factors like lack of political will and poor decentralization of the water management are among others emphasized as important issues in this regard.

The findings are relevant for any improvement of water resource management and the governmental institutions behind. For scholars outside the specific case study the research may inspire a novel method working with integrated and adaptive management approaches and factors hindering or facilitating implementation. Thus, how water resources can be investigated from a management perspective, with the inclusion of water managers' perceptions and understanding. For others it will provide an insight into the South African water resource management context, hereunder exemplify which approaches and challenges exists.

Bente Kjærgård & Rikke Lybæk
Editors