

Interactive comment on “Measuring perspectives on future flood management on the Rhine: application and discussion of Q methodology” by G. T. Raadgever et al.

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As authors, we would like to thank all referees for the large number of constructive comments that we received. The comments provided a basis for making some major revisions to the manuscript. We are currently working on these revisions, and will submit a revised manuscript within the coming 1 or 2 months. Below we explain the general changes we will make to the manuscript. Our response to each individual referee shows how we dealt with more specific comments.

The main comment that all referees made, was that we should more clearly explain what the main aim of the manuscript is. The referees did not consider the introduction and analysis of Q methodology, as a means to measure perspectives, as a suitable

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topic for the audience of HESS. Therefore, we decided to formulate the main aim as ‘to identify stakeholder perspectives on future flood management in the Rhine basin’. An overview of stakeholder perspectives on future flood management could not be found in literature yet. Therefore, the article provides new insights, which may be useful for everybody involved in flood management, in particular in the Rhine basin. Secondary aims of the manuscript are now to explain 1) how perspectives can be measured (using Q methodology), and 2) how perspectives can be used in natural resources management. Insights concerning these secondary aims may be of interest to both researchers and policymakers who are confronted with complex natural resources management issues and consider identifying stakeholder perspectives.

The shift in the main aim of the manuscript requires rewriting the title, abstract, introduction and conclusions. Furthermore, it requires major changes to the structure of the article. Directly after the introduction, a section that introduces flood management in the Lower Rhine basin (originally Appendix A) will be added. This section will be followed by a section about the application of Q methodology. The methodology section will shortly introduce Q methodology, and explain how the method was used in the case study. The detailed description of the steps to take in a Q methodological study, as well as the discussion of the practical possibilities and limitations of Q methodology, will be moved to the Appendices. The section about knowledge elicitation methods will be summarized and incorporated in the Q methodology section. The results and analysis section will stay largely the same, but the table with all statement scores of the shared perspectives (originally Appendix B) will become part of the main text. A section about the use of perspectives in natural resources management will be added between the analysis and conclusions section.

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