

Interactive comment on “The seven rules for hydrologists and other researchers wanting to contribute to the water management practice” by E. Mostert and G. T. Raadgever

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This interesting paper is gradually getting into shape. However, there are still some major issues. I have listed below five issues that in my view are relevant, four of which (namely 1, 3, 4 and 5) require to be adequately addressed before publication in HESS. The issue raised about research funding (no. 2) may be beyond the scope of the paper.

1. The paper remains theoretical, general and - -dry- -. It is too shallow and unspecific on water-related issues in the science-policy interface to merit publication in HESS. I therefore recommend that the authors include water specific illustrations / cases / examples for most if not all of the 7 - -rules- - (the sections discussing rules 3, 5, 6, 7

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do not have specific water / hydrology examples/ cases; so only rules 1, 2 and 4 refer to water specific cases!). This would add tremendous value to the paper.

The following are some suggestions of sources of examples:

NGOs such as IRN (International Rivers Network; now International Rivers, see: www.internationalrivers.org/; and PSIRU (Public Services International Research Unit, www.psiru.org/) would have yielded some interesting cases, and also the water programmes conducted by IUCN and WWF.

Also organizations that defend specific sectoral interests such as the International Commission of Large Dams ICOLD (www.icold-cigb.net/) and the International Commission of Irrigation and Drainage ICID (www.icid.org/).

The World Commission on Dams WCD experiment is also a potential source of interesting cases (see www.dams.org/); as well as the debates concerning the (water-related) MDGs.

In this context, it should be noted that whereas the authors refer to their own experiences in the introduction (e.g. NeWater and ACER), these experiences are not referred to in specific cases. I find this disappointing.

This is an important observation, since if it is so important for us researchers to reflect on our own research practice (rule 1), let the authors lead by example!

Finally, the title of the paper should either contain the word hydrology or water (I would prefer the latter, e.g.: -Seven rules for researchers to increase their impact on the water policy process- -)

2. The role of research funding/finance is referred to throughout the paper; but the crucial role of budgets in setting research agendas/priorities is somehow lost. Who determines how much money will be available for what type of research. And what/where are the powers that can influence this? For example, more finance is available in developed countries for water related research than in developing countries, so it is plausible

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that the water research agenda is biased against the latter (but do we have proof of this?).

3. Section 3 on stakeholders. I find sentences such as - -In order to contribute to the policy process, it is important to know who the stakeholders are- - problematic. People having a stake in what??? These are statements too general to be of interest. Can the paper be more specific.

4. Box 2 should, I think, refer to the work by Beck, e.g. Beck, Ulrich (1992) Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity. London: Sage

5. Language editing p. 1: Abstract: - -most to the water management practice- - p 6, 9: Ridder et al. 2005 is not in the reference list p. 8: - -This requires a lot of self-reflection.- - I do not like - -a lot of- -. p. 11: - -Researchers facing both types of constraints...- - p.12 - -.. the chances that research is used...- -: this is odd: research is not used, research findings/results are used.

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