

How knowledge becomes action in coastal climate governance

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How can evidence, information, and diverse knowledge systems be better connected to policy and practice to strengthen climate adaptation in coastal communities?

Why this research matters

Recognition is growing: scientific knowledge alone is insufficient to drive climate action. In this research, understanding of local climate governance, information use, and evolving science-policy interfaces are integrated to identify practical steps to improve evidence-informed decision-making and support more inclusive, relevant, and effective climate adaptation.

Research approaches

Phase 1 (2024-2026) focused on understanding factors affecting evidence use in local climate governance.

Phase 2 (2027-2030) will translate insights into practical advice, comparative evidence, and knowledge resources to strengthen local climate adaptation policies.

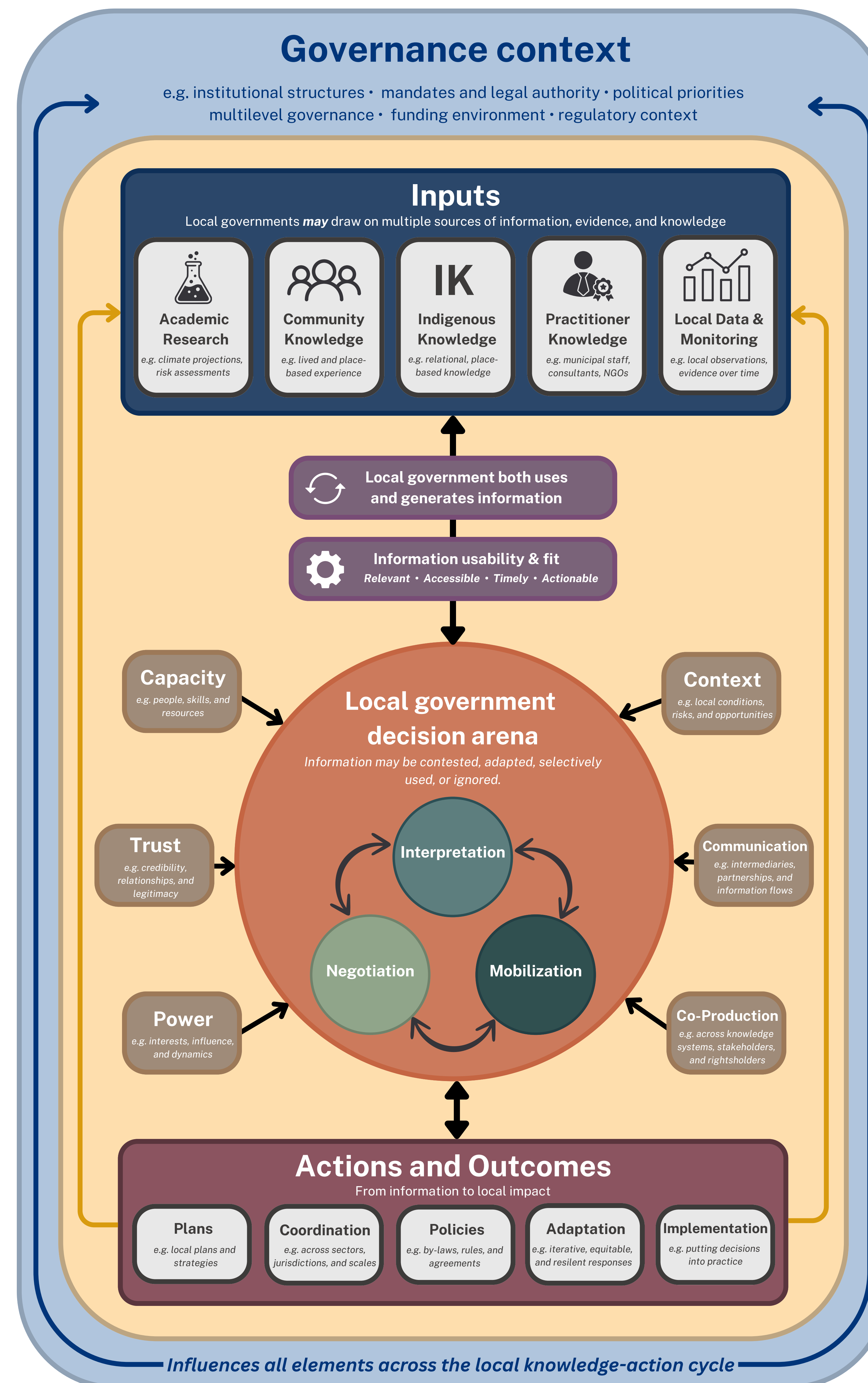
Methods

1. Co-production workshop with municipal, NGO, and practitioner partners to design research questions and identify priority issues.
2. Systematic mapping following CEE guidelines and ROSES reporting standards.
3. Mixed methods case studies of decision-making in coastal municipalities.

Outputs to date

1. Systematic literature mapping using a rigorous international search and analysis protocol.
2. Document analysis to create an evidence transparency measurement framework for environmental assessment reports.
3. Conference presentations
4. Conceptual paper

Framework of Knowledge to Action in Local Coastal Climate Change Policy Making



Impact

This research will help municipalities improve evidence-informed climate decision processes. Methods to mitigate barriers to evidence use and practices to translate research into actionable advice will be outcomes.

Timeline

Systematic literature map guided by the research question: “What literature exists on the processes through which local governments engage with evidence in coastal climate change policy?”

Phase 1: Map protocol created
Phase 2: Map completed



Case studies aim to understand evidence use in municipal coastal climate decision-making and offer recommendations.

Phase 1: Case in Lunenburg (NS)
Phase 2: Cases in other municipalities. e.g., in Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Northern Canada



New edition book will cover how evidence and diverse knowledge systems can be effectively mobilized for local climate action, based on research and practice globally.

Phase 1: Book concept developed
Phase 2: Book completed

