

Project meeting “Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond”, 30th January 2016, Ho Chi Minh City

This report is based on powerpoint sheets (Wim and Chris) and meeting minutes (Hoang).

Participants:

1. Shahnoor Hasan
2. Vo Thi Minh Hoang
3. Wil Thissen
4. Leon Hermans
5. Gerardo van Halsema
6. Andrew Wyatt
7. Wim Douven
8. Chris Seijger

Agenda 09:00-13:00

- Introduction by Wim
- Feedback field trips + implication for case studies
- PhDs + postdoc research activities (incl. case studies)
- Vacant position actor coalitions TU Delft
- New insights for application of hourglass framework
- Uptake activities
- Reporting (progress + midterm)
- Planning 2016
- Other important topics?



Feedback field trips + implications for case studies



Farmer shows shrimp fries, freshly harvested from the river, to be put into his shrimp pond. Location: inside polder 30, south of Khulna in the southwest of Bangladesh



Shrimp farmer excited about high profits in shrimp farming. We held interviews and visits along a fresh-salt transect in Tra Vinh province.

Chris gave a short feed-back on the fieldtrip after which implications for the case studies were discussed:

- Mekong delta: innovations for **Hoang** such as shrimp-mangrove systems in Ca Mau province and a change from high dike system to living with floods in An Giang-Dong Thap region (e.g. one flood a year, relying on aquaculture). Participatory planning tools for **Shahnoor** such as design charrettes by Bosch+Slabbers in Ho Chi Minh City.
- Bangladesh delta: projectwide case studies might be what to do in the coastal polder area and how to manage the big rivers. **Shahnoor** focuses on participatory scenarios in probably 2 hotspots of BDP (choosing between coastal polders, hoar, big rivers, ...)
- Dutch delta: Haringvliet case as projectwide case (work of **Myrthe** on actor coalitions, **Shahnoor** on role of DENVIS). Hoang may focus on Afsluitdijk or room for the river.
- Cross-case comparison: three cases that illustrate key issues for delta development for which a strategic delta planning process may offer an opportunity for change:
 - Netherlands: open up sluices in the coastal region
 - Bangladesh: polders in the coastal area and how to manage rivers?
 - Vietnam: sustainable shrimp-mangrove system and providing room for the river.
- Info by Andrew Wyatt on sustainable shrimp projects

Vacant position actor coalitions TU Delft

- Myrthe has almost finished her case study on actor coalitions in the Haringvliet case. She will finish her research by writing a conference paper.
- Vacancy for a postdoc position, first round of selection through interviews on March 11th at TU Delft

Applying the hourglass

- The longer time frame (20-30 years in a delta)
- On to which issue for delta development?
- Multi-level perspective
- Work of PhDs fit into hourglass
- MOTA for raising awareness of implementation gaps with farmers, policy makers (national-regional-local), donors, ...
- Criteria to 'measure' implementation

- Most of the points were generally endorsed by all the participants such as: the longer time frame of delta developments (looking 20-30 years back), a focus on delta development issues and seeking linkages between national-regional-local level as ideas of a plan have to boil down into a local region (and vice versa if local ideas are compatible with ideas of a delta plan).
- MOTA should be adapted to strategic delta planning context, for instance to raise awareness of implementation gaps with farmers, donors, policy-makers at national-regional-local level. Which position do these groups have towards a plan or strategy? Also use it to focus on triggers related to plan implementation, thus use it to signal that learning is needed for plan implementation.
- Be careful to define criteria to 'measure' implementation. Rather look at traces of implementation in the Hourglass. Be clear on what we consider to be implementation phase and trace how innovative solutions, actor coalitions, tools have 'survived' over time, whether they influenced the plan and are part of an implementation phase. Hence not predefine criteria up front. Different tools are applicable to different phases, hence the tracing could best be done by looking at a specific issue and tracing how innovative ideas and actor coalitions change over time.

Ideas for research uptake

- Due to the NWO UDW conference our ideas for research uptake matured.
- The table below is copied from the project poster, showing what we offer to different target groups. As a whole we are targeting the delta planning community, which consists of different groups

Delta planners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on strategic delta planning and management (planning and implementation, negotiating consent, planning tools, innovative solutions, actor coalitions) • Opportunities to participate in events to share and exchange experiences
Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better insight in how strategic planning can act as an opportunity for change towards more sustainable livelihoods
Research institutes, private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better insights in how innovative ideas (e.g. building with nature, tidal river management) can be incorporated in delta planning and implemented • Better insights in role of participatory planning tools and approaches, and guidance how to apply in different planning phases and contexts
Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies on strategic delta planning for enriching water and development training and education, incl. MSc curricula
Scientific community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on pros and cons of strategic delta planning in scientific debate • Delta planning theories, tested analytical frameworks and case studies • Experience in methods for science-policy interfacing

4 main ideas for research uptake

- Link to BDP and MDP planning processes
- Test and adapt tools to strategic delta planning (incl. MOTA)
 - Training workshop Bangladesh september 2016
 - Development MOTA
- Recommendations (e.g. in brochure) strategic delta planning (supported by 2 workshops)
- Education material

Output	Education and training material	Brochure with recommendations for Strategic Delta Planning
Why	Strategic delta planning is a new planning approach, and students should be trained in it (delta planners of tomorrow!!)	Strategic delta planning is new and challenging, experiences should be shared between deltas and documented in an easy-to-read brochure
Target group	Universities in Bangladesh, Vietnam and other interested deltas	Delta planners, ministries interested or involved in strategic delta planning processes, NGOS (a.o. IUCN, WWF), donors
How	2017: Explore needs for SDP (lecture material), review with partners (BUET, WACC, others) existing environmental planning curricula to identify opportunities 2018: prepare materials	Workshop in Bangladesh 2016 (with BDP conference September), workshop in 2017 Vietnam, IUCN/CEGIS/WACC helps with writing and disseminating brochure
What	Case studies (NL, BD, VNM) on planning and implementation of Strategic Delta Planning	Benefits of SDP Difference between conventional and strategic planning What worked, what did not work Tools for planning and implementation Getting support for plan and implementation

- Related to the above-present sheets two ideas of training material and the Brochure were explained into more detail and generally supported by the participations. It was mentioned that we should be careful with referring to terms like guidelines and recommendations, as that probably is not realistic given contextual differences. rather use the terms "lessons learned" etc..

Reporting and midterm evaluation

- Progress report 2015
- Mid term review: a selfassessment supported by stakeholder input / workshop followed up with external evaluation
- Key issues for midterm evaluation
 - How far on track?
 - What do we suggest to change?

- Attention to all project partners for 2015 progress report and midterm evaluation, Wim has asked the project partners for their input on the 2015 progress report. Regarding the Midterm review Wim will contact all, after having received more information from our donor NWO-WOTRO.

Planning 2016

- Research by PhDs and postdoc
- Further elaborating MOTA (WACC, TU Delft, Deltares?)
- March: Meeting Dutch partners esp. PBL-Deltares-Bosch Slabbers
- Mid term review (lead Wim)
- September training workshop Bangladesh (funding needed, IenM?: lead UNESCO-IHE with CEGIS)
- November UDW conference Dhaka (tbc)
- Continue communication (internal, external through website, personal relations at events)
- Other suggestions?

- Our main plans for 2016, generally approved by the participants.



Top: group picture with rice-shrimp farmers in Tra Vinh, Vietnam. Left: discussions in the field with Ms. Ha (WACC) and Mr. Long (Tra Vinh National University). Right: Farmers in polder 30, Bangladesh