

NWO UDW research project ‘Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond’

Report Inception Workshop (draft)
18-20 May 2015
UNESCO-IHE, Delft, the Netherlands

UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education



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Sun, sea, wind and the strategic delta planning project team posing on the iconic Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier!

1. Objectives Inception workshop

1.1 Introduction UDW 'Strengthening Strategic delta planning' project

Worldwide a sustained development of urbanizing deltas is at risk. Deltas are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise, ecosystems are threatened by urban sprawl, industrialisation and intensified agriculture. Due to these differing interests, it becomes difficult to agree on strategic choices for the spatial development of a delta. Strategic delta planning is an approach to come to a more sustainable development of a delta. During a strategic delta planning process, a vision (the strategic delta plan) is developed and actions and means for implementation are initiated. In many deltas around the world such a planning approach has started, ranging from Myanmar and Bangladesh to the Netherlands and the United States.

This project focuses on the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Vietnam. It aims to better understand the dynamic delta planning processes within a longer time-frame and the roles of stakeholders, experts and policy-makers therein. The researchers in the project study three crucial elements that together heavily influence the fit of delta planning within society: dynamics in stakeholder coalitions over time, the role of knowledge and tools that support participatory processes, and the role of technological advances and innovative solutions.

These scientific insights will be used to strengthen planning practice through tools and recommendations, supported by capacity building. The project is linked to real-world strategic delta planning processes. A direct link to on-going delta projects ensures the involvement and capacity building of key stakeholders and dissemination of results. Ultimately this should result in well-informed broadly supported plans, which contribute to sustainable delta development. The project contributes to participatory planning tools and approaches that support the development of stable stakeholder agreements on strategic choices that can be effectively translated into innovative solutions.

This project is part of Research Programme "Urbanising Deltas of the World" funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Our project website is: strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org. The website explains the project and is regularly updated with project documents (such as presentations and posters), photos of meetings and field trips, videos of different deltas and webstories of people participating in the project.

1.2 Objectives of the inception workshop

The Inception workshop was scheduled over three days from Monday 18 May until Wednesday 20 May. Most members of the Consortium as well as the research team attended the three days (Annex 1). The first day of the Inception workshop (18 May) a wider audience of researchers and professionals involved in delta planning and in other related UDW projects were invited (Annex 1).

For the project team the objectives of the three day Inception workshops (18-20 May) were:

- Familiarise: consortium members get to know each other and get a better understanding of the project's outcomes and relevance.
- Gain ownership: members know their own role in the project, and understand the role of other partners in the project (what to bring, what to offer).
- Learn to think in the project's conceptual framework: members apply the conceptual framework to 'their' delta / research / professional work. The framework is a combination of the Hour-glass and MOTA (see Hour-glass figure on the next page).
- Work from a cross-case perspective: comparable presentations on strategic delta planning and research proposals.
- Learn about the participatory planning tools: members become acquainted with the participatory tools that will be analysed in the project.
- Address research issues: members make decisions on criteria for case selection, shortlist of potential cases and a list of contact persons.
- Combine multiple objectives: members identify approaches on how to combine research with capacity building and societal relevance.
- Oversee the project from the beginning till the end: discussions on project planning and organisation.

2. Outcomes Day 1

Welcome

Stephan Uhlenbrook, Vice-Rector for Academic and Student Affairs of UNESCO-IHE, welcomes the participants. Today not only the project team members are present, but also other interested researchers and professionals who are involved in delta planning, such as PhD candidates from other UDW projects (See annex 1 for all participants).

Introduction programme workshop

Chris Seijger, postdoc from UNESCO-IHE and organiser of the inception workshop, outlines the objectives of the first day: presenting the project, getting comments and suggestions from within and outside the project team, and exploring possible links with other activities and projects.

Overview project

After this, Wim Douven, project leader from UNESCO-IHE, gives a short overview of the UDW project "Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond". He outlines the challenges of deltas, the objective of the UDW-program, and the need for knowledge & research, relevance for sustainable development, and capacity building to innovate in the project. He introduces the hour-glass model of the three different phases of strategic delta planning on macro-level (advocacy and agenda setting, strategic delta planning, and implementation), and the position of the three strategic delta planning processes in the three countries (NB: there is a lot of discussion between the participants about where exactly in the hour-glass Bangladesh (BD), the Netherlands (NL), and Vietnam (VN) are placed; there is however consensus that the NL is the furthest along in the process, then VN, and then BD). On the micro-level of strategic delta planning, the MOTA model is explained. Wim also explains the importance, roles and relations between stakeholder coalitions, participatory tools, and innovative solutions.

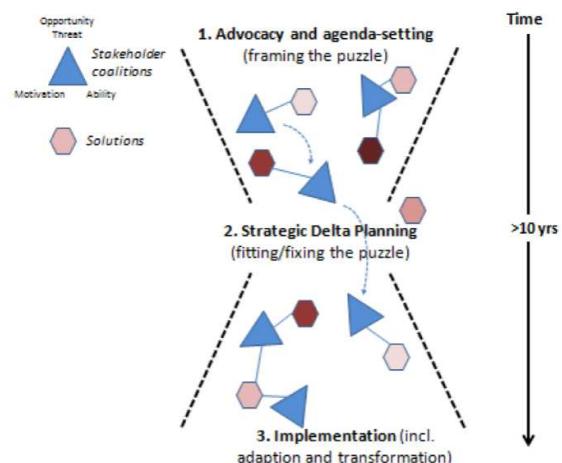




Image 1: Participants in the Day 1 session
Presentation on three deltas along conceptual framework

The Dutch Southwest Delta case

After the morning coffee break, three representatives of the three deltas gave a presentation. First Pieter Bloemen, UNESCO-IHE and staf Deltacommissaris, concerning strategy development & science, adaptive delta management (DM) in the Delta Program (DP), gave an introduction of the Dutch Southwest Delta (SWD), consisting of three elements:

- I. Key features of the delta: the Delta Program, with Delta Law (DL), Delta Commissioner (DC), Delta Decisions (DD) and Delta Fund (DF; 1 billion euros per year, secured fund). Strategic delta planning (SDP) is about finding the right balance between "**leading the way**" (by means of a responsible national government) and "**leaving enough room**" (for uncertainties). Central to SDP are according to Pieter:
 - a. adaptive Delta management
 1. connecting **short-term decisions** (in a broad physical domain; shipping, housing, recreation, etc.) with **long-term tasks** (related to water safety and fresh water)
 2. thinking in **adaptation pathways** instead of end situations
 3. looking for and 'rating' **flexibility** (e.g. Sand Engine, where the pace of the process is easy to adjust to the pace of climate change (CC)).
 4. **Linking** with other investment-agendas (aging infrastructure, nature, urban development, recreation, shipping, etc.)
 - b. multi-level government (both **horizontal** and **vertical**).

Pieter gives an example of SDP in the SWD, where 3 discussions are going on, about the Haringvliet, the Grevelingen Volkerak-Zoom lake (GVZM), and Bubble-screen. He introduces the term '**baskets**' related to adaptive planning (taking into account fast and slow CC;

scenarios are very important for testing the **robustness** of a strategy). Regarding the hour-glass and the long-term planning horizon, Pieter comments that you **must let the future generation choose, and be able to choose** (no path dependencies). He also comments about the converging phase of the hour-glass and about agreeing on the criteria: what prof. Phi calls “compatibility”, the DP calls **“goal oriented”**: everybody understands why, everybody signs, but may not necessarily be happy with the plan. Regarding the process of getting to consensus, Pieter gave the example of Frank Spaargaren of Rijkswaterstaat (RWS), who kept his ‘cards’ to himself for too long.

II. Comments of Pieter regarding the proposal

- “Fitting within society” vs. “socially robust solutions”?
- “delta planners” is not a word, there is no group of people who makes the plan! In the DP, the **Delta Community** is introduced, and the emergence of a group of Delta Planners is prevented.
- “planning processes” are crucial, but short in the DP (4 years); the **decades that follow** are what counts.
- “actors involved” are people who NOW coordinate and contribute, while implementation will take place in the coming 50 years. The people who NOW are involved will change in the future → **“future actors” are just as important**

III. PhD-1 on Stakeholder coalitions

- Stakeholder coalitions are **not always attached to a solution** (comment on hour-glass); the Delta Atelier and Delta Community structure in the DP tries to prevent this. DP tries to prevent war of reports.
- There are **obvious stakeholders** (water boards etc.), how do you find un-obvious?

PhD-2 on participatory planning tools

- **Participation should be a by-product of involving people throughout the whole process**
- In the DP this is done by:
 - Multi-level governance
 - Regional subprograms and regional steering groups
 - NGO's
 - Joint fact-finding (JFF)
 - Design workshops
- The **building blocks** (Dutch: “blokkendoos”) of the Room for the River (RftR) projects was not applicable for the DP, because it was too complex. Instead, they created the **Delta Model**.
- An expert meeting is not with for instance mayors, and thus not participatory according to Pieter.

PhD-3 on innovations

- **Experts are too optimistic about solutions, and too pessimistic about innovations** (e.g. salt-water potato)

- Innovation is a **by-product of serendipity, and opportunities and threats**

The Vietnam Mekong delta case

Second, Ho Long Phi, director of the center of Water Management and Climate Change (WACC) in Vietnam, gave a presentation of the Mekong Delta and MOTA.

I. Key features of Mekong Delta:

- More triple-rice cropping in flood prone areas
- Impact of sea dike → longer flood duration → negative impacts on downstream city (higher water level downstream for same water level upstream).
- → Strategic objective by planners is controlled flood upstream, inundated rice paddies with fishing and floating vegetables.

II. MOTA:

Phi and his team conducted a survey amongst farmers in An Giang province (upstream) to find out attitude towards this strategy. Outcome is that they want to change, but they prefer something dry. In the discussion afterwards there was noted that this outcome also depends on the way the survey was set up, which answers you provide to the farmers on the form, but also which information and knowledge they have (if they can fill in "other", their answers depend on what they know is imaginable and possible), so what will happen to the MOTA if you first inform the farmers of the vision made by the planners? Maybe they didn't think floating vegetables were an option. Phi replies that an initial MOTA without extra info is needed to see what planners should take into account, and to not antagonize the farmers. Regarding the question about other stakeholders than the farmers whose MOTA is important, Phi replies that, next to decision makers, the farmers are most important for the adaptation phase. On the long-term, they are the ones who have to live with it and their adaptability may determine the gap between expected- and actual performance of the plan. Chart planned target vs. exogenous limit vs. ability limit (planner's MOTA and farmer's MOTA) → SDP has to take this into account. Plans for the coming 5-10 y have to be beneath farmer's MOTA. For 2100 you have to make sure that solution space is big enough.

III. CFP-cube

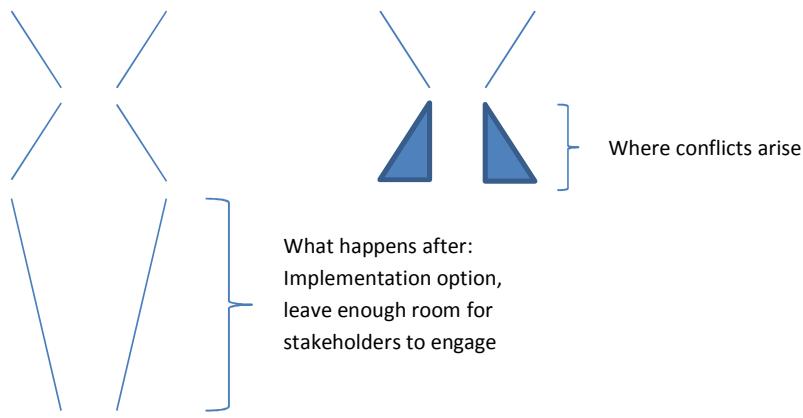
Compatibility/ Feasibility/ Performance.

Compatibility: how vision makes room for flood, which solution is compatible with vision?

Feasibility: MOTA

Performance: societal cost-benefit analysis (CBA)

IV. Hour-glass



The Ganges – Brahmaputra - Meghna delta case

Finally, Malik Fida A Kahn, from the Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) in Dhaka, BD, gave a presentation about the BD delta.

I. Key features of BD delta:

- DP BD still under construction
- Comparison with Dutch and VN statistics: there are 57 transboundary rivers in BD (NL: 4).

Also, there are a lot of river dynamics (discussion: in the NL we embanked our rivers from the 1200s. We now face a lot of problems because of that, why 'blindly' apply the Dutch DP on the BD case? What could you learn from that?)

- Ganges – Brahmaputra - Meghna (GBM) rivers are 86% of the total
- Key issues:
 - CC: less glaciers, more monsoon, dry seasons, upstream and transboundary problems
 - Socio-political and socio-economical: rapid unplanned urbanization, water is driver for development, goal to become developed country in 2041

II. In BD/ CEGIS, the stakeholder analysis is very important. The stakeholder participation matrix is filled in for several stakeholders, according to their position, interest, power, issues, participative level and strategy. There is a very traditional way of consultations.

There is a lack of financial resources and a lack of awareness, which cause plans (series from 1954) to not be implemented. There are several hotspot types in BD, of which the coastal zone might be most interesting as a case study (at least for stakeholder mapping, see notes tomorrow?).

Use of design charettes in delta planning

In the afternoon, Stijn Koole from Bosch and Slabbers presented the design charrettes. Discussion about how to get the right people on the table. What kinds of stakeholder mapping methods are used? (Stijn: not scientific) Phi: people who are affected, but who might react negatively, should you include them too? According to Phi, this never happens.

- Different levels of scale; whole watershed + key projects
- Designer with a pen (“**power of the pen**” unites perspectives, explores, to get to know each other’s vision), who listens and draws;
- Information → getting GIS, satellite images, right numbers; making a base map might take 3-4 months!
- Charrette takes 4 days
- You must have an important person to present to in the end

Poster session PhDs and post-doc

Next was the poster presentation by the 3 PhDs and 1 Postdoc. They will reflect on their comments and suggestions the next day.

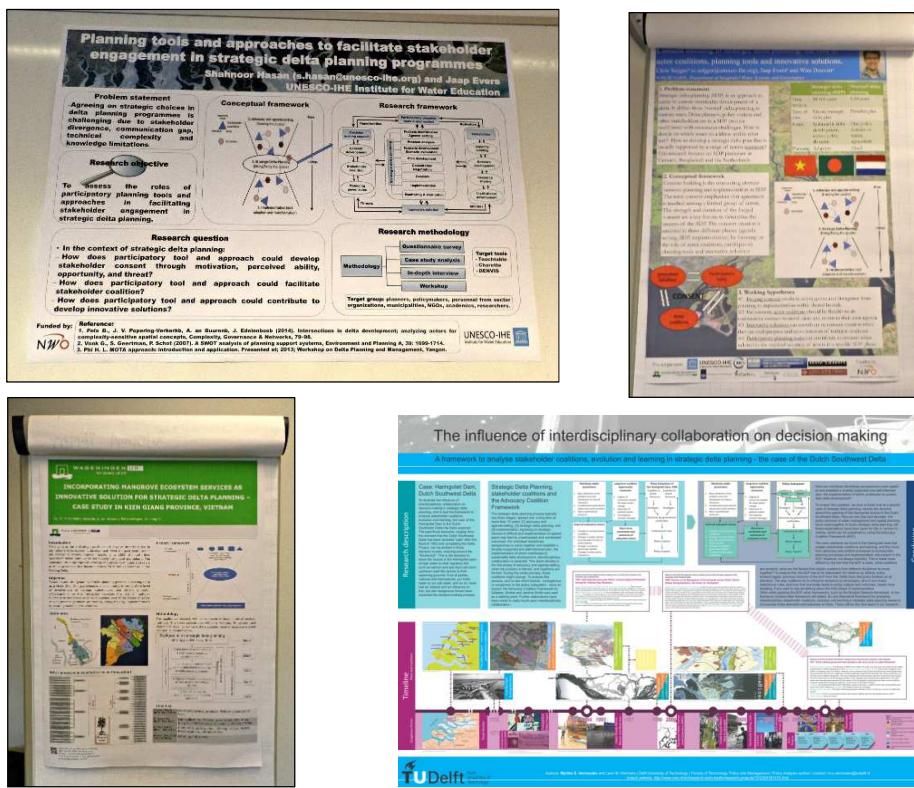


Image 2: Posters presented at the workshop

Many issues were discussed at the four posters, for instance the degree of integration in the Dutch Delta Programme, and how Dutch Parliament keeps the programme focused (a tight Hour-glass) through the Delta Act (see also Image 3).

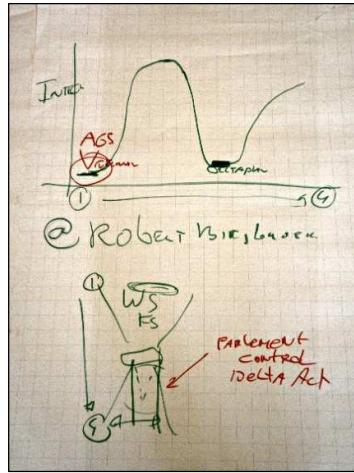


Image 3: Integration over time in the Dutch Delta Programme.

Research - policy interface in delta planning

Finally, Jake Brunner from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Vietnam presented his lessons and recommendations regarding the research-policy-society interface in SDP.

- SDP does not fit the VN planning regime, because a plan has to have a budget and timeline; it needs to be fixed)
- A strategy in VN is much more a wish list, doesn't have to be compatible or consistent
- VN culture seeks for consensus, even if that means basically ignoring the problem
- Contextual factors (note for PhD-1; compare to exogenous factors from ACF): sinking deltas, USGS visualization Mississippi delta (learning), 2000 and 2011 floods (geophysical characteristics changed; lower water level, but less sq. km flood plain; CHECK PPT).
- August dike = low dike
- November is peak flood season in VN, really cloudy. However, in 2011 during flood season, still a lot of areas were dry. This means that if the dikes fail, a lot of damage will occur.
- Why is change so hard?
 - Embedding in society
 - Generally individual voices make little difference, much more consensus-based (except when floods 2011 happened)
 - Need to build consensus through:
 - Advisory groups/ networks
 - Media (increasingly free, no censorship, but not very experienced)
 - Political engagement (SWSC, National Assembly)
 - Community participation: community is very ignorant about the options → huge gap
 - Knowledge-policy interface: policy makers have limited access to latest thinking; they rely on universities and state organizations, with **narrow disciplinary biases** (see comment Phi), so there is a lack of critical thinking and joining the dots.

Wrap up: key comments and recommendations

Chris Seijger ended the day by asking each participant to give his or her suggestions for matters that the project team should take into account. The suggestions ranged from tightening definitions in the conceptual framework to research methodology and sharing knowledge across UDW projects. Image 3 summarises the main points made. Image 4 shows the suggestions made by the participants.

<p>SUGGESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEBRIEFING SESSION OF POSTERS (2-6 MINS) - REVISE FRAMEWORK PLANNING → IMPLEMENTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ STAND VS - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VS TEST, NORMATIVE TERMS VS DESCRIPTIVE TERMS - CONSENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TOOLS - SOCIETAL'S - HOW TO REDUCE OTHER VARS - TIPS FOR DATA COLLECTION (MAPS, NO) - TRANSBOUNDARY FACTORS & SHREEMENTATION - } } LIMITS ACCEPTATION - COMMON PLATFORM OTHER UDW RESEARCH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS FEASIBLE / ACTIONABLE - SHARE UDW DATA / INFO / RECEIPE - FRAMEWORK: TIGHTEN DEFINITIONS AND CONTEXT. FACTORS - LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION FOR U.U. PROJECT - CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK CLARIFIED C.R. INNOVATIONS - CONSENT OR CONFLICT AND TRADE-OFF ?? - ZERO SUM GAME → WIN-WIN - TRANSLATE BACK TO PRACTICE (POINTS OF SIGN K.) SCIENCE → PRACTICE - SYNCHRONISE RESEARCH PHD'S (SHARE TOMORROW) - OVERLAPPING WITH OTHER PHD'S IN STRAT & PLAN - ACTION RESEARCH: LINK TO PRACTICE THE ROLE OF CROSS-CASE CASE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HYPOTHESES & METHODOLOGIES (THE ENERGY PATIENCE) ↳ REVIEW PRESENT
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Image 4. Suggestions based on the discussion of day 2

Based on the suggestions, the programme for the upcoming two days was changed so that more time could be spent on the conceptual framework and applications to the three deltas.

3. Outcomes Day 2

Leon Hermans starts the programme. In the morning we will discuss the conceptual framework and the three research projects. In the afternoon we will go on a fieldtrip into the south-west delta.

Reflection PhDs and post-doc on comments and suggestions received

The session started with three PhD and postdoctoral fellows sharing the feedbacks they received during the poster presentation of respective research held during the day 1 of the workshop.

Myrthe Vermoolen, PhD fellow 1: the relevant research terms including actor, actor coalition, and the research framework should be well defined. During the presentation, experts present also discussed about developing a diagnostic tool and selection of her research case studies.

Shahnoor Hasan, PhD fellow 2: a suggestion was made to consider other participatory planning tools in strategic delta planning and delta areas along with the target ones. Also, she has been asked to review assessing the roles of participatory planning tools in each step of strategic delta planning process.

Vo Thi Minh Hoang, PhD fellow 3: recommendations were given to change the study area where proposed innovative solution(s) can prove beneficial for the local stakeholders.

Chris Seijger, Postdoctoral fellow: the conceptual framework (i.e. hour glass) should be well defined. Experts also pointed out to review research hypothesis and expected outcomes.

Discussion

Wim Douven, Project leader made a remark that not only the definition of actor coalition should be well developed, but also different levels of coalition and how it forms should be identified with consideration of time scale. He also suggested application of MOTA approach to analyse actor coalition.

Participants decided to prepare a list of relevant research terms with definitions. The list will be shared among the project partners.

Participants shared the same view with Chris Seijger about giving emphasize on agenda setting and planning phase of strategic delta plans as the targeted delta plans would not be in the implementation stage during the project time period.

Initial application of hour-glass framework to three deltas (II)

Chris Seijger requested the participants to give feedback on the draft paper titled 'a framework for strategic delta planning: building consent for transformation and adaptation. The role of actor coalitions and participatory tools'. The article will be published in a peer reviewed journal. The main points are listed in Annex 4.

During a group discussion, we tried to discuss in which strategic delta planning phase the different deltas are. Discussions centred on what to put in the different phases (agenda setting, strategic delta planning, implementation). The Dutch case was first explored. Main points for discussion were whether the Dutch Veerman plan is the narrowest part of the hour-glass, or whether that would be the Delta Act and Delta Programme. The discussion taught us that institutional innovations/changes are also needed in Bangladesh and Vietnam to embed the delta plan in mainstream planning and decision-making. Image 5 confirms the relevance of discussing the framework, as many aspects still have to be clarified when applying the framework to a case.

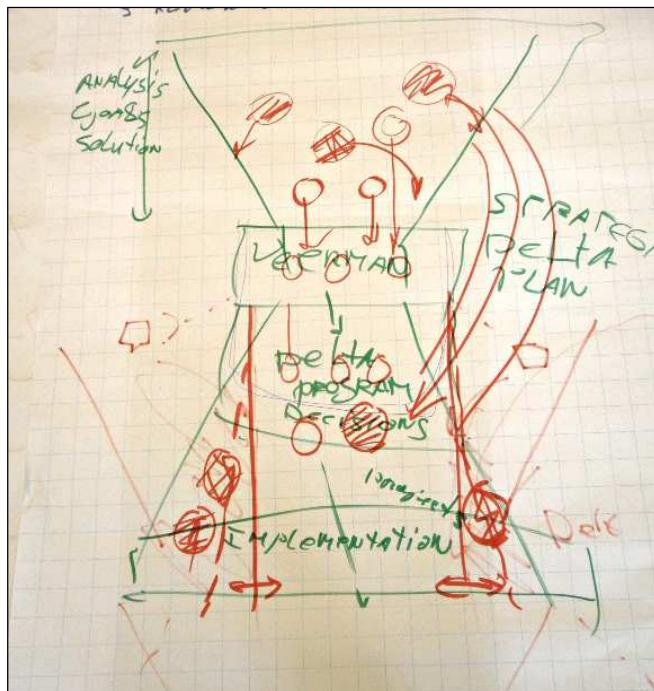


Image 5: The framework sparks discussion! Where to put the Veerman plan? How to deal with bypass opportunities? How to deal with the triangles of conflict?

Field visit to Dutch South-West delta

At noon the participants went to visit the Dutch delta works in Haringvliet, Oosterscheldekering, Krammersluizen (see for programme Annex 3).

In Haringvliet, Leo Pols from PBL gave a presentation on a participatory planning tool called DENVIS, and on its application in strategic delta planning. He was joined by Mr. Pim de Wit of Rotterdam Port Authority who talked about his experience of attending DENVIS workshop, and how the tool and knowledge learned at workshop are being integrated in development of the port.



Image 6: Leo Pols and Pim de Wit giving presentations on DENVIS

The team of participants then visited eastern Scheldt dam which is considered the most impressive storm surge barrier structure in the Netherlands.



Image 7: Participants visiting eastern Scheldt dam

The next destination of the field trip was to see how Philips dam and Krammer sluices have been constructed to prevent saline intrusion from eastern Scheldt. A local stakeholder who played an active role in ‘seducing the government’ to improve water quality in the region joined the team to share his experience.





Image 8: Participants visiting Philips dam and Krammer sluice area

The day came to an end with a dinner in a beautiful fortified city of Willemsoord.

4. Outcomes Day 3

Initial application framework to deltas (II)

Jaap is opening the session by an introduction of the 3rd day's activities. The main goal of the day is restructuring the framework and fitting the 3 PhDs positions into the framework.

The first activity was the division into 3 small group discussions (3 PhD case studies) which are to see how each case study fitting on the framework, to see where we are now in the process and the integration of the three cases and to draw which element/ factor that needs to be further added or modified in the framework shape.

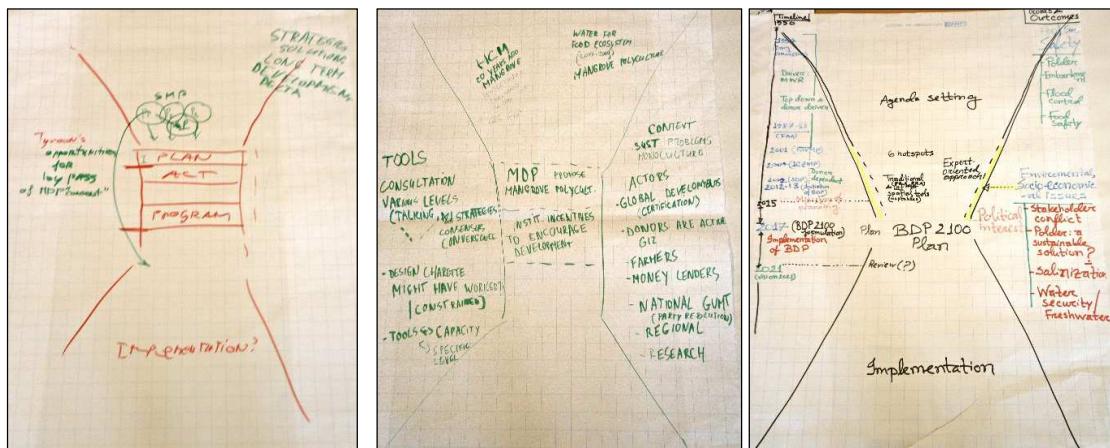
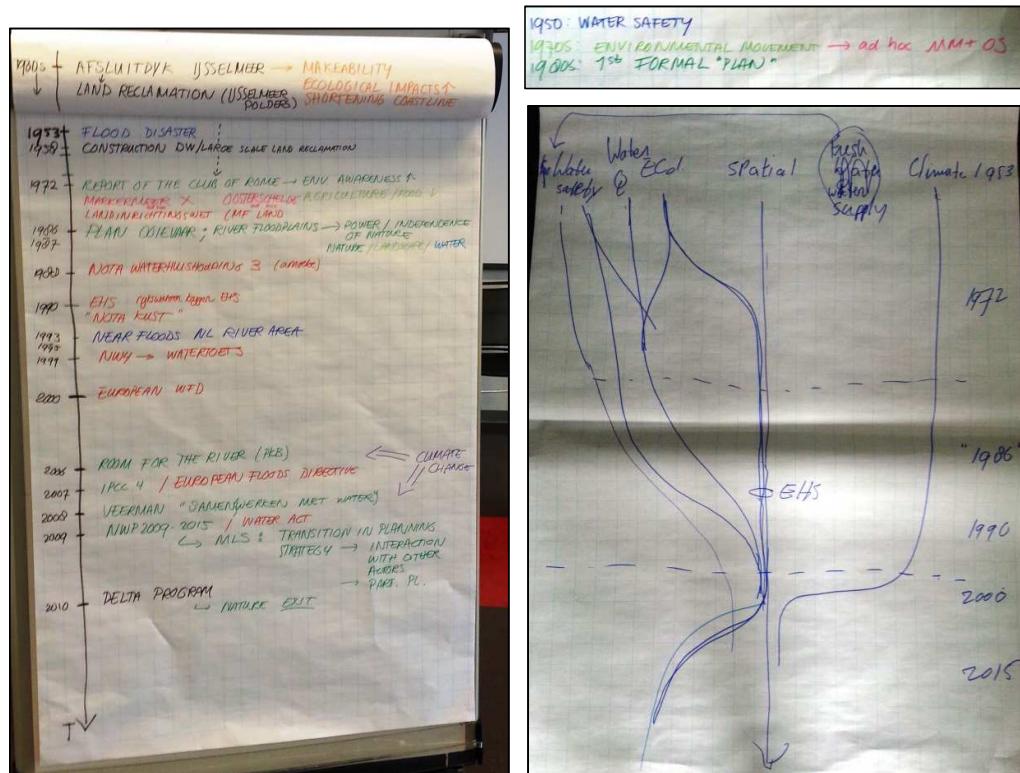


Image 9: Outcomes of the discussion on three research target deltas. From left to right: Vietnam, Vietnam, Bangladesh. Below: the Netherlands



After the discussion we came up with some crucial points, as follows:

1. For the group of PhD 1: The group 1 started by introducing their timeline with initial realization on the integration of ecological, nature, landscape and water aspects with different institutionalization. The discussion was on the project of “Room for the river” as well as about the interesting combination of improving safety and creating nature. The project framework can be ultimately integrated to local planning process at the implementation stage.
2. For the group of PhD 2: The discussion on the group 2 was on the BDP and the role of participatory tool. BDP is currently on the formulation stage that was started from 2012 – 2013 and in line with the 5-years planning cycle and was expected to have the complete plan in 2017. The discussion also mentioned about the actor coalitions and the role of some tools such as PRA, RRA (traditional tools) and map table (spatial tool). The group’s work will be focus on a vision being formulated by the government to 2021 where the cone is expecting to put the country in to the middle income list. According to the discussion, any project can be linked to the local planning process via the planning cycle under the review and adaptation.
3. For the group of PhD 3: The group 1 had 2 rounds of discussion on national planning and a specific innovative solution. Although the consensus was hard to get within the group discussion but the discussion was trying to make clear on any kind of convergence and divergence about the strategic solutions for long-term development. So finally the group has not come up with the solutions of linking the project framework to local planning process because of the complicated political system in Vietnam and we need to have further discussion on how to solve this problem.

Case study selection and cross-case analysis

The second activity was the presentation by Chris and Wim on the project management which presented about strengthening strategic delta planning and the cross-case comparison. The cross case comparison is considered as ultimate outcome to look into different deltas by coming up with characterisation of the strategic delta planning process in the Netherlands, Vietnam and Bangladesh. And it is also important to make connectivity between the project to the societal relevance. To be more specific, the convergence of actor diversity was discussed. As for the innovation, in order to look at the sustainable development or institutional angle or as a whole delta, we should put some criteria for it (social, institutional or technical approach) and all those things should be made clear on the project. And the criteria also should be chosen based on specific case study. As for the participatory tools, because 3 PhDs can have common tools so they are involved to each other. Then in the year 4th, the cross-comparison can be made on the same issue based on 3 different elements (contributed by 3 PhDs) as long as the final outcome can benefit all stakeholders and nurture the world strategic delta planning as a whole. As for case selection, the focus should be concrete, non-abstract and illustrative. The selected cases also need to be detailed and localized, need to answer very specific issues as well as address issues at national level. And the case-study areas were selected as in the table below:

	Bangladesh	Vietnam	Netherlands
Tools (Shahnoor)	Coastal (SWBD) polder, Satkhira or Bagerhat region	Ho Chi Minh City Dong Thap province	Haringvliet (DENVIS)
Actor coalitions (Myrthe)	Coastal (SWBD) polder, Satkhira or Bagerhat region	Dong Thap flood retention and An Giang provinces (historical case analysis)	Roodevaart, GVZM. (historical case analysis)
Innovations (Hoang)	Coastal (SWBD) polder, Satkhira or Bagerhat region	Dong Thap and An Giang provinces and some other coastal places	Afsluit Dyk (closure dyke)

Project management

In the afternoon, Wim wrapped up what already obtained during the workshop. He mentioned on the outline of the project outcomes (can be found in details in the project proposal). Then he talked about the budget that will be mainly spent for PhDs and postdoc researches, partly for traveling, partners, supervisors, co-sup, promoters, local-sup, advisor, consortium meetings and so on. Due to its limitation, there will be combination of/ amongst activities to each other. The supervisors, promoters as well as local supervisors and/or advisor were also introduced. Regarding upcoming activities, the first mention was that the PhD proposals were supposed to be finished before autumn. Some practices on software should be made rather than just staying on the desk for reading. In addition to this, as per the request of PhDs on the base-line data, there is a need of a platform where participants can upload materials and PhDs can download easily. The platform eventually was decided as the project website with a Drop box link with user name and password that will be provided to all. The website will contain project description, partners, PhDs and postdoc introduction, link to upload materials, and so on.

The cartoon of the project also was raised to consultation. It is interesting to conclude with some different feedbacks: from the Dutch view, it is okay; from VN view, it is unacceptable to be an academic illustration, from BL view, still thinking.

Evaluation and next steps

The last session was about the comments, questions, feedbacks and contributions from all participants. Everyone found this inception workshop was very nice, useful, feeling involving, confident especially impressive on the very well organized field trip. Dr. Fida suggested that all discussions should be reflected otherwise these discussed points will be forgotten. These reflections also should be documented and put into the proposals. Leo considered the workshop as a real start-up of the project although it was very intensive, however, its insensitivity triggers more energy/motivations for participants to go ahead and work on the papers next few months more effectively. He also suggested that the workshop should prepare the big table maps for next meetings/ discussions. Jaap suggested on the invitation PhDs as well as their supervisors should be

invited to tool practices. Dr. Phi mentioned that it will be much more useful to collect side-products for instance the stakeholder meeting for more practical outcomes in order to go to official reality and he was also worried about the translation of Vietnamese data/documentation mostly in Vietnamese, and it should be a heavy burden for the users. Dr. Willem thought this workshop has made a good step and very valuable connection between project partners then we can go on for the next steps of the framework. Chris stated that he was happy because all of us coming together for the meeting and the fieldtrip, he still needs feedback from participants for the cartoon of the project and look forward to seeing how the project can get delta support and concerns from other partners. Finally, Dr. Wim closing up by saying that we have made an important step. He believed that we all have a promising team because everybody engaged and interacted to each other very well. He mentioned that in coming months we need to get design for closely interaction amongst all project partners. He finally expressed his appreciation to everyone. Let's go to next steps of challenging project!

Annex 1. Participants

Participants of inception workshop 18-20 May: the Project team

Ho Long Phi	WACC, Vietnam
Malik Fida A Kahn	CEGIS, Dhaka
Jake Brunner	IUCN, Vietnam
Leo Pols	PBL
Willem Ligtvoet	PBL
Stijn Koole	Bosch Slabbers
Gerardo van Halsema	Wageningen University
Vo Thi Minh Hoang	Wageningen University
Prof. Wil Thissen	TU Delft / UNESCO-IHE
Leon Hermans	TU Delft
Myrthe Vermoolen	TU Delft
Prof. Pieter van der Zaag	UNESCO-IHE
Chris Seijger	UNESCO-IHE
Jaap Evers	UNESCO-IHE
Shahnoor Hasan	UNESCO-IHE
Wim Douven	UNESCO-IHE, Project leader

Participants for first day (18 May) (beyond project team)

Stefan Uhlenbroek	UNESCO-IHE
Pieter Bloemen	UNESCO-IHE and staf Deltacommissaris
Md Ruknul Ferdous	UNESCO-IHE
Umme Kulsum	TU Delft
Masud Alam	TU Delft
Febya Kusnadi	TU Delft
Maruddin Marpaung	TU Delft
Sharlene Gomes	TU Delft
Philip Minderhoud	UU

Annex 2. Programme of the Inception Workshop

Programme 18 May.

Strategic delta planning in three countries: the cases and research projects and their relation

Venue: UNESCO-IHE, room A3

Day chair: Chris Seijger

09:30-09:50	Introduction Welcome UNESCO-IHE and workshop Introduction participants	Stephan Uhlenbrook - Rectorate UNESCO-IHE Wim Douven
09:50 – 10:20	Project presentation Programme of inception meeting	Wim Douven Chris Seijger
10:20 - 10:40 Coffee Break		
10:40 – 12:15	Cases Case illustrations of strategic delta planning from Bangladesh, The Netherlands, and Vietnam <u>Structured presentations:</u> key features of delta, planning processes, elements of framework should come back, e.g. by means of covering framework elements for a particular solution as discussed in a delta plan. <u>End discussion:</u> similarities, differences, link to framework, cross-delta learning	NL by Pieter Bloemen VN by Ho Long Phi BD by Malik Fidah A Kahn Total 3x20 minutes, 30 minutes discussion PhDs and postdoc as first commenter in presentation
12:15-13:15 Lunch		
13:15-13:45	Tools Use of design charettes in strategic delta planning (<i>Bosch and Slabbers</i>)	Stijn Koole
13:45-15:15	Research projects poster carousel The main research projects are presented through posters	3 PhDs and postdoc Posters are discussed in bus- stop carousel format with plenty of opportunity for discussion among participants
15:15 - 15:35 Coffee Break		
15:35-16:00	The research – policy – society interface in strategic delta planning: lessons and recommendations from IUCN	Jake Brunner
16:30-17:00	Group discussion: key comments and recommendations from the discussion of the day and (plus input for agenda of coming two days)	Chris Seijger
17:00 - 18:30	Reception UNESCO-IHE	

Programme 19 May.

Research issues and field visit South-western Delta (project team only)

Venue: UNESCO-IHE, room A3

Day chair: Leon Hermans

09:00-10:00	Reflections PhDs and postdoc on comments and suggestions received	
10:00 – 12:00 Coffee break at 10:30	Initial application of hour-glass framework to three deltas (I) Give feedback on the draft conceptual paper. Explore how the framework applies to the strategic delta planning processes in the different deltas, especially focusing on the different phases of strategic delta planning.	Group discussion
12:00 – 19:00	Fieldtrip Tour the SW delta, have presentations about application of Denvis tool (PBL), successes and proposed plans, controversies and actor dynamics in different places: -Haringvliet -Oosterscheldekering -Krammersluizen Lunch and dinner are provided during fieldtrip	Myrthe Vermoolen and Leo Pols (max 2-3 stops)

Programme 20 May.

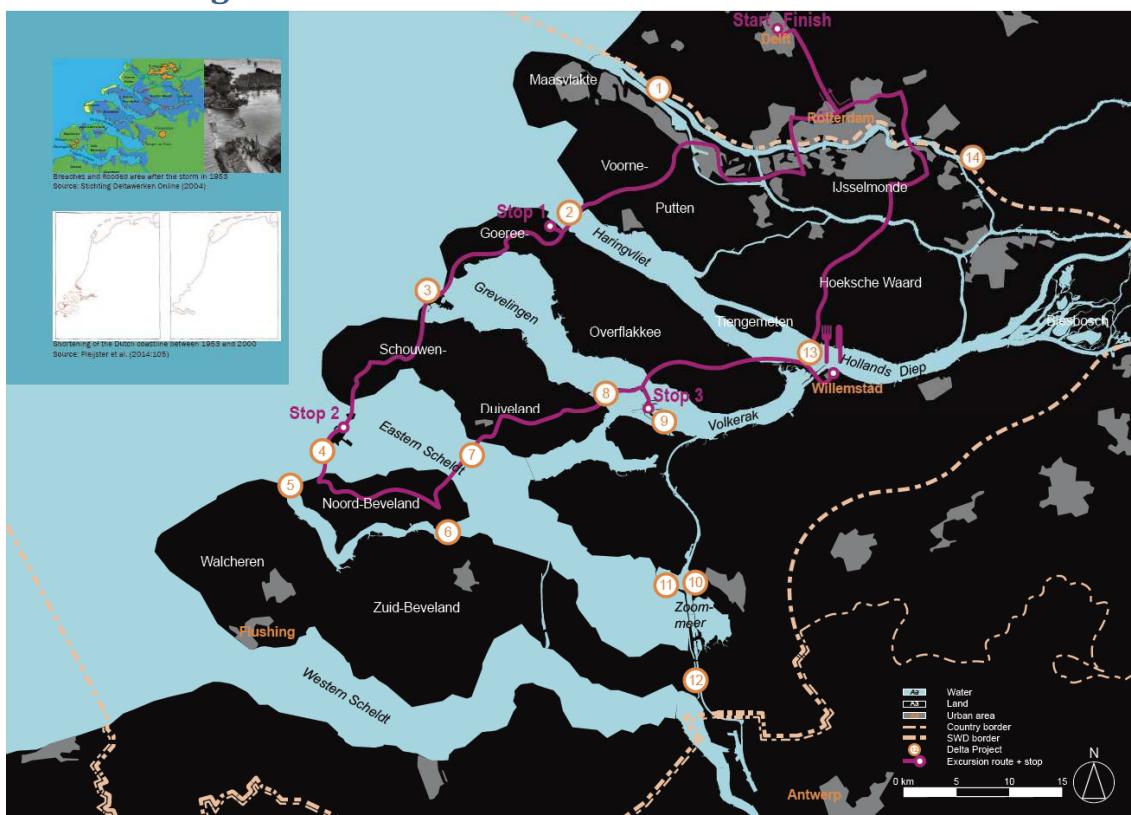
Research, relevance, capacity building and project management (project team only)

Venue: UNESCO-IHE, room A3

Day chair: Jaap Evers, Wim Douven

09:00-10:30	Initial application of hour-glass framework to three deltas (II) Apply framework to the deltas of Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Netherlands. What are main elements of the different phases in the hour-glass, and also focus on a specific issue in the delta to discuss specific actor coalitions, innovative solutions and the role of participatory tools.	Discussion in three smaller groups
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee break	
10:40 - 12:15	Case study selection and cross-case comparison Main aspects to consider in selecting case studies. How does a cross-case table look like? What are our criteria for selecting a case?	Chris Seijger
12:15-13:15	Lunch	
Coffee break at 15:00	Project management Project organisation and planning, e.g. - Project activities 2015 - Consortium, role of partners - Project management, decision-making, internal communication - External communication, link to local planning processes / events - Planning joint activities, incl. UDW / other - Budget, admin, reporting	Wim Douven and Chris Seijger
16:00-16:30	Wrap up: -What have we achieved -Next steps	

Annex 3. Programme field visit South-West Delta



Annex 4. Input for paper conceptual framework

Comments regarding conceptual aspects

Jake:

- Missing environmental history → unexpected outcomes (risks, vulnerability) → due to exogenous factors you have to rethink planning → the point around which these coalitions have formed
- Mekong: invisible actors are most powerful (ministries in Hanoi, operating through backchannels)

Myrthe:

- about solutions, before tools, while PhD-2 is tools, and PhD-3 is solutions → switch order of 2.3 and 2.4 in paper?
- Figure hourglass: make more cyclic iterative, change colours of solutions/stakeholders, add section bottom of hourglass “where the conflict happens” (Phi), change ‘tools’ symbol

Pieter Bloemen:

- Figure hourglass: separate solutions from actors!

Willem:

- The project team should think better about how we want to use the framework

Comments regarding characteristics Deltas (arising from discussions of the day)

Vietnam

Jake:

- Mekong: invisible actors are most powerful (ministries in Hanoi, operating through backchannels)

Phi:

- Planning job in Vietnam is a privilege, planning is mostly the privilege of the ministries, therefore biased by discipline
- Role of media is important: bloggers become more important, they make noise so big the government can't ignore it
- Donors are more important for info: e.g. World Bank → you can talk to them, you can have reasonable discussions
- Mekong Delta Plan (MDP) is on national level only
- Mekong River Commission (MRC) is international (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand), and voluntary