

Project “*Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond*” (2014-2019)

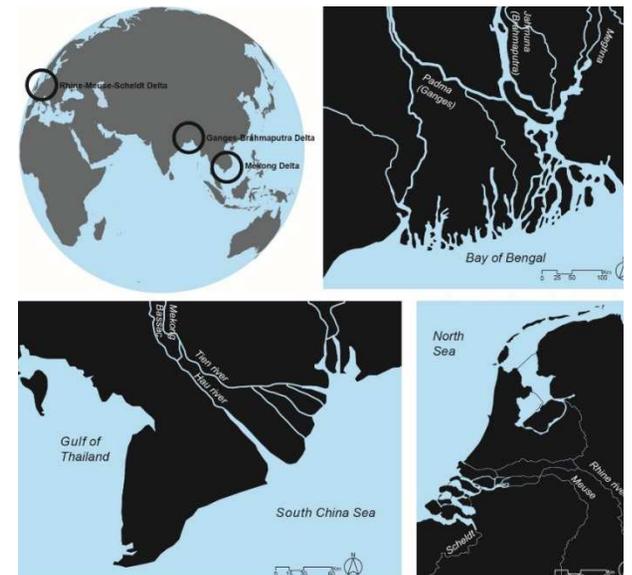
Wim Douven, UNESCO-IHE

Delft DIMI Colloquium
24th November, TUD

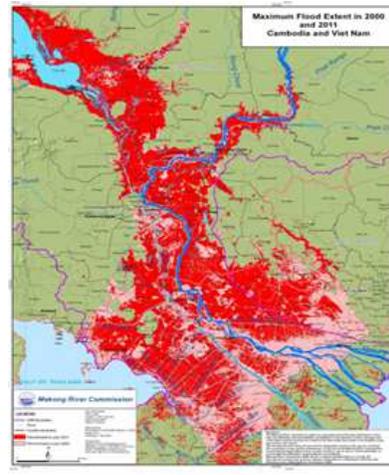
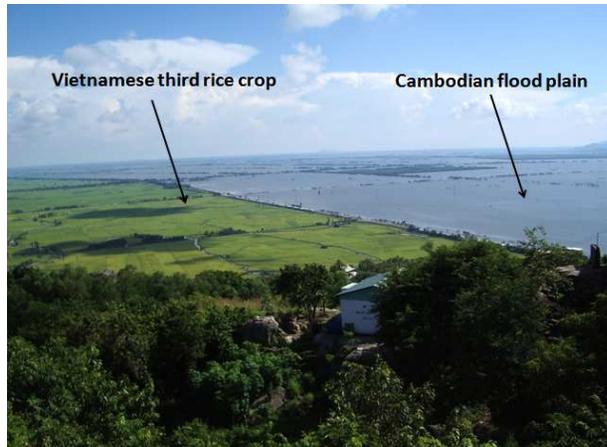


Main points presentation

- **Delta's** and challenges for planning and implementation; example Mekong Delta Plan
- **Why** we analyse strategic delta planning
- Preliminary scientific **findings**
- **Lessons** on research uptake and impact



Mekong delta and challenges for planning and implementation MDP



Lũ 2011 và lũ 2000 ở Mê Công
(Nguồn: MRC, 2011)

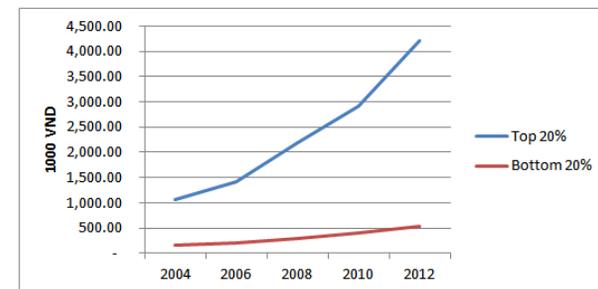


Vờ đê xã Vinh Trung, H.Tĩnh Biên, An Giang, 2011
Nguồn: Báo Thanh Niên (9/2011)



Bảo vệ đê tại xã Sa Rài, H. Tân Hồng, Đồng Tháp, 2011
Nguồn: Báo Thanh Niên (9/2011)

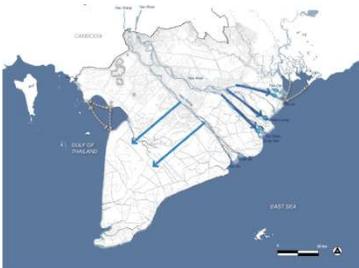
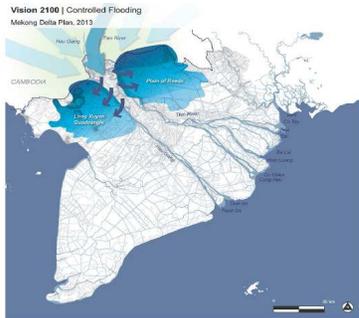
The growing gap in monthly incomes in the Mekong Delta (Source: GSO, 2014).



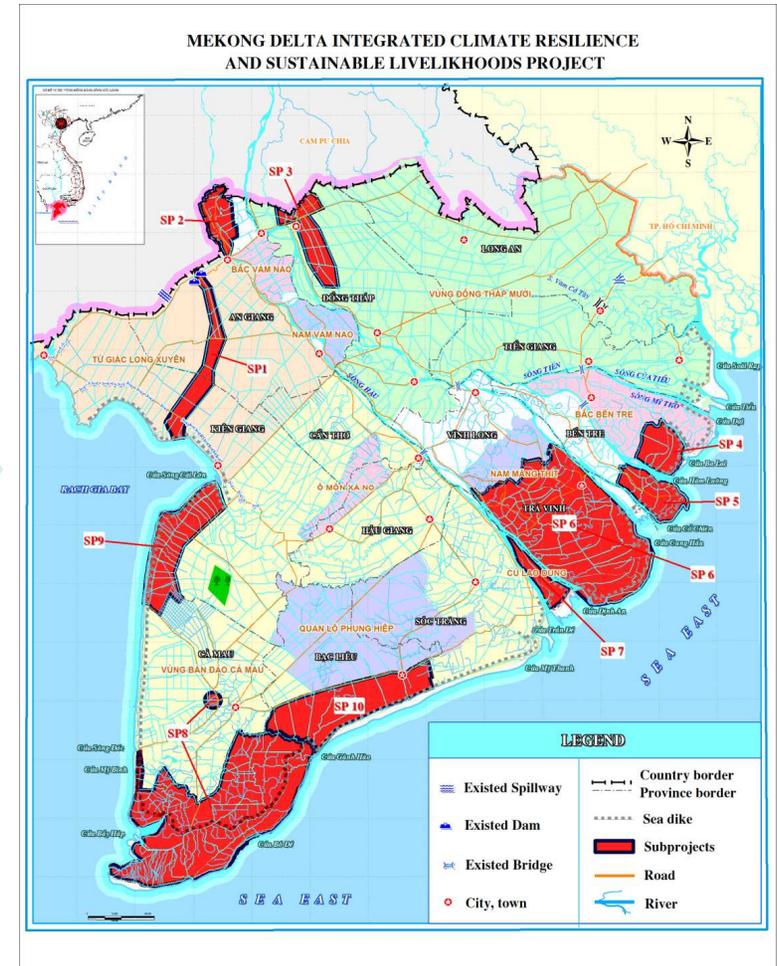
Declining climate, economic and social resilience:

- Between 3 and 11 million USD in additional flood damages in Can Tho City (ICEM, 2015)
- Lost fisheries value approximately \$1,000 USD/ha/yr (Tong, 2015)
- US\$15 million/yr free fertilisation lost (Chapman and Tri, 2016)
- Subsidence of 10 mm/yr (Chapman and Tri, 2016)
- Increasing accumulation of POPs (USGS, 2013)
- Increasing social inequality

Mekong delta and challenges for planning and implementation MDP



- Consensus for change
- Political support
- Knowledge gaps
- Farmer support
- Capacity to implement
- Regional coordination



The problem we address in our project

Limits to delta development

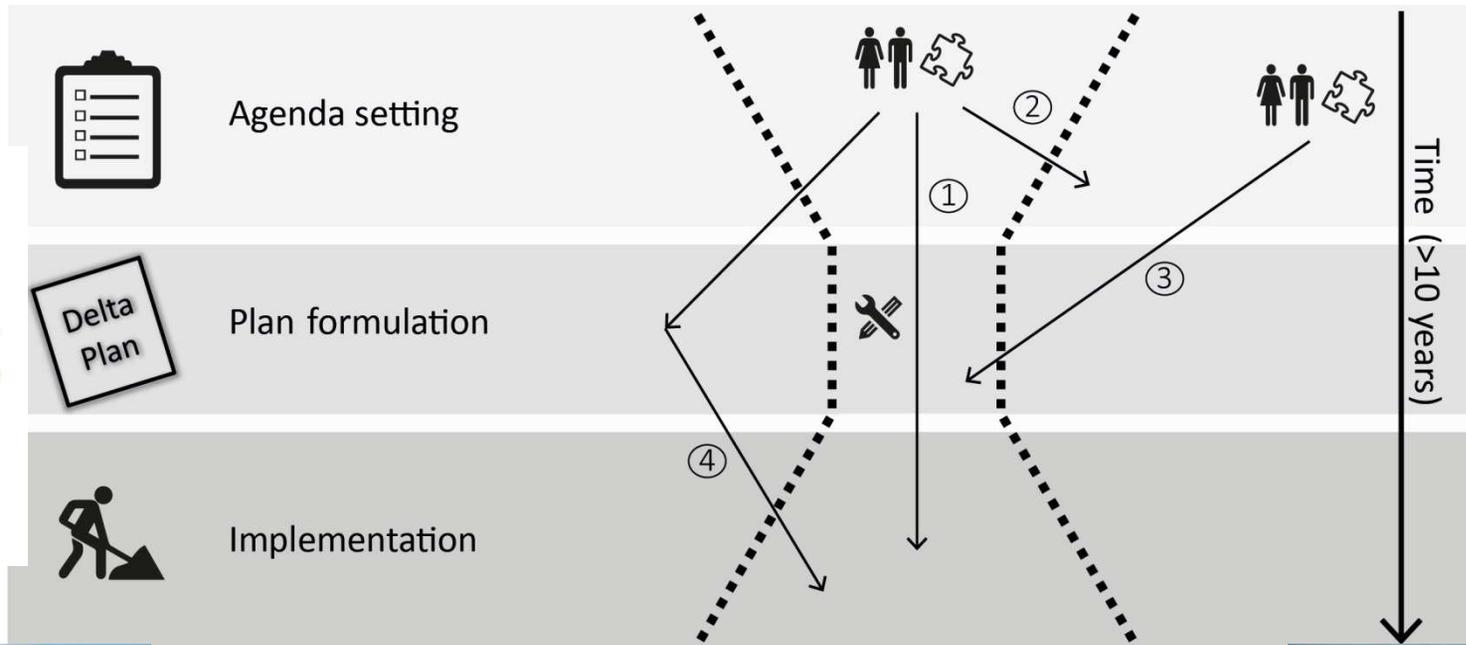
Strategic delta planning **conceived as a (potential) solution**

What is the role of strategic delta planning in **implementing** proposed changes?



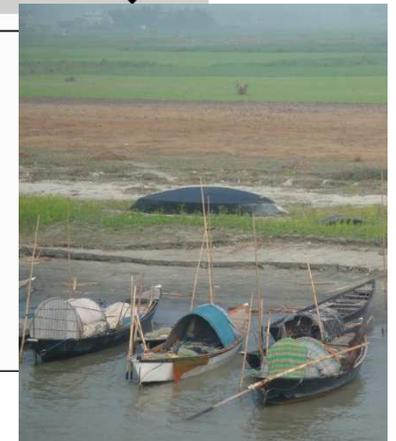
Navera sees the potential of strategic delta planning. It offers really a way to think differently on how land and water is managed. She sees the polders as a good (innovative) solution in the 60s, but now with all the knowledge that we now have, we may question again the polder concept and think about new solutions such as tidal river management. She

Moving from planning to implementation?



Legend

- Convergence and divergence on delta management strategies
- 👤👤 Actor coalitions
- 🧩 Innovations
- 🛠️ Participatory tools
- ① Trajectories in negotiating consent



Example: Innovations in flood management in the Netherlands

Shift in thinking: from 'fighting against floods' to 'coping & living with floods', e.g. Room for the river project

- How are innovative ideas introduced and adopted over time, and what is role of a strategic planning process?
- What role do actor coalitions have in introducing, understanding and appreciating these new ideas and how do these transform over time?
- What is the role of participatory planning tools to negotiate agreement on strategic choices and innovative solutions?



Example: Innovations in flood management in the Netherlands

Shift in thinking: from 'fighting against floods' to 'coping & living with floods', e.g. Room for the river project

- How are these innovations being implemented?
 - What are the examples from Bangladesh, The Netherlands, Vietnam or other deltas?
 - What can we learn from these examples?
 - How can agreement on strategic choices and innovative solutions be facilitated in different contexts?
- How are we appreciating these new ideas and how do these transform over time?
- What is the role of participatory planning tools to negotiate agreement on strategic choices and innovative solutions?



‘Measuring’ the transformation from plan to implementation

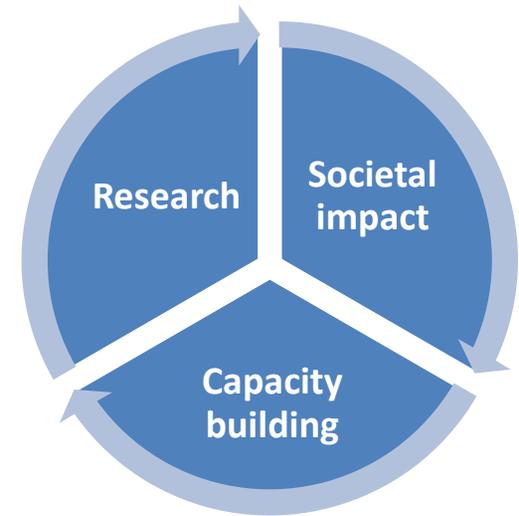
Should not only be measured in terms of any specific solution or plan, but in the degree of transformation of stakeholder coalitions and their perceptions over time.

E.g.:

- Adoption of ideas in regular planning (sectoral, provincial)
- Feeding into societal debates
- Gaining interest from local stakeholders
- Taken up by NGOs
- Supported by donors
- Emerging as new research subjects



Project objectives



- **Enhance understanding** of the dynamics of strategic delta planning processes, using a view of delta planning as a long-term adaptive process in an open system.
- Strengthen **participatory planning tools** that support the development of more stable consent among key players, enabling agreements that more effectively translate into innovative solutions.
- **Enhance capacities** of key stakeholders through participatory action research in ongoing delta planning projects.

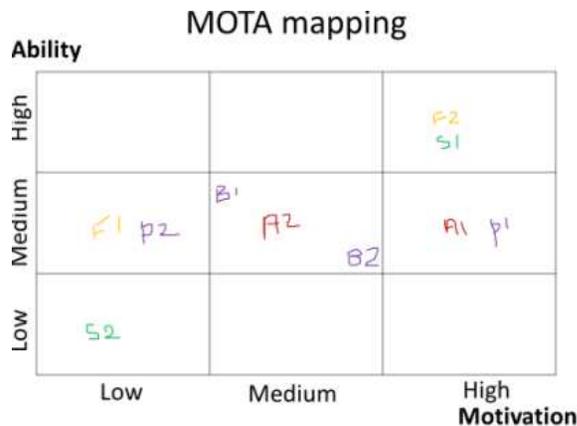
Main scientific findings (1/2)

- **Hourglass framework:** each phase has a distinct political context, actor coalitions, innovations and tools.
- **Actor coalitions:** advocacy and pragmatic coalitions, strategic delta planning almost by definition linked to new actor coalitions.
- **Innovative solutions:** needed to come to regime shifts (e.g. from rice to sustainable shrimp cultivation), yet perspectives are diffuse and innovations are not by definition sustainable.
- **Participatory planning tools:** high expectations, but unclear what tools precisely do. Adaptations to scenario planning in Bangladesh to make it fit in political context.



Main scientific findings (2/2)

Understanding **MOTA** (motivation and ability) of actor groups is key for understanding implementation issues, and what can be done to overcome these issues (Phi *et al.*, 2015).



- Much interest in the concept by delta planners, academics, World Bank
- Awareness raising about gap between high planning ambitions and implementation
- Concept links to Hourglass, actors, implementation
- Use in training workshops

Further reading

- Seijger et al. (in press), *An analytical framework for strategic delta planning: negotiating consent for long-term sustainable delta development*, Environmental planning and management.
- Ho Long Phi et al. (2015), *A framework to assess plan implementation maturity with an application to flood management in Vietnam*, Water International, 2015 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02508060.2015.1101528>

<http://strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org/introduction>



Questions?



Discussie

- Het succes van strategisch delta planning moet je niet afmeten ahv het plan zelf, maar de transformatie van percepties stakeholders over oplossingsrichtingen
- Er is te weinig aandacht voor lokale context, cultuur in strategic delta planning
- Motivatie en vaardigheden van stakeholders worden vaak vergeten, strategic delta planning is te vaak expert verhaal
- Relevant onderzoek kun je alleen doen als je uptake partners al in consortium zitten

Main lessons learned on research uptake and impact

- **Appreciate the local context** and needs, and **discuss** uptake in the project team, reflect on experiences.
- **Joint papers** to come to a joint understanding of strategic delta planning, and the project's role.
- Try to understand **what triggers change, how does learning occur** (discussions in training workshops; research on MOTA).
- **Dual, but interlinked, tracks** (addressing science and practical demands stakeholder).
- **Seeking links** to projects who can help us achieve objectives; e.g. NICHE projects Bangladesh, tender Mekong Delta Plan.
- Build **networks from consortium**, reach out to various target groups (interviews, conferences, send project updates).



Discussion on addressing knowledge gaps in delta planning and implementation

Enhance understanding of strategic delta planning processes, using a view of delta planning as a long-term adaptive process in an open system. Method: (Historical) analysis of cases relevant for current / past delta planning processes, case comparison, in 4 projects:

1. Participatory planning approaches and tools (PhD Shahnour Hassan)
2. Innovative solutions (PhD Vo Thi Minh Hoang)
3. Actors coalitions (Post-doc Dorien Korbee)
4. Integration and comparison (Post-doc Chris Seijger)

Discussion on target groups and added value of our project

Delta planners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons learned from 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 lessons learned of applications in different planning contexts