

Consent building in strategic delta planning: the role of actor coalitions, planning tools and innovative solutions.

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1. Problem statement

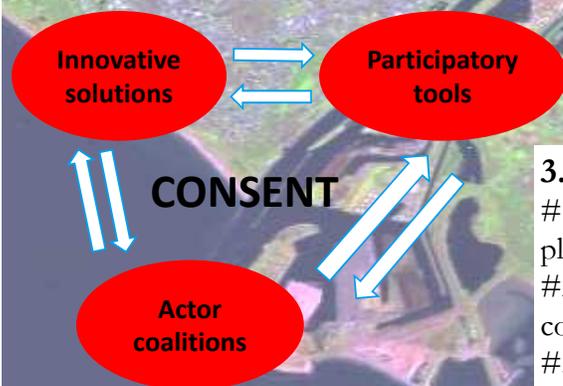
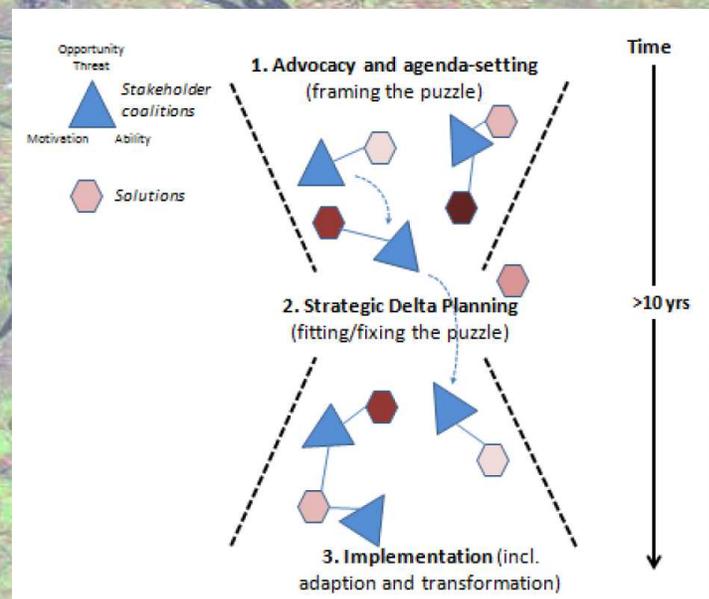
Strategic delta planning (SDP) is an approach to come to a sustained development of a delta. It differs from 'normal' delta planning in various ways. Delta planners, policy makers and other stakeholders are in a SDP process confronted with enormous challenges. How to decide on which issues to address and in what way? How to develop a strategic delta plan that is broadly supported by a range of actors (consent)? This research focuses on SDP processes in Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

	Strategic delta planning (SDP)	'Normal' delta planning
Time horizon	50-100 years	5-10 years
Type of plan	Vision, strategic delta plan	Detailed plan
Scope	Sustainable delta development, across policy domains	One policy domain i.e. water, agriculture
Planning	Adaptive	Fixed



2. Conceptual framework

Consent building is the connecting element between planning and implementation in SDP. The term consent emphasises that agreement is only reached among a limited group of actors. The strength and duration of the forged consent are a key feature to determine the success of the SDP. The consent creation is analysed in three different phases (agenda setting, SDP, implementation) by focusing on the role of actor coalitions, participatory planning tools and innovative solutions.



3. Working hypotheses

- #1. Forging consent results in convergence and divergence from planning to implementation within shared bounds.
- #2. For consent, actor coalitions should be flexible to do concessions, connect to novel ideas and return to their own agenda.
- #3. Innovative solutions can contribute to consent creation when they are multipurpose and serve interests of multiple coalitions.
- #4. Participatory planning tools can contribute to consent when tailored to the required accuracy of actors in a specific SDP phase.

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