

Strategic Delta Planning in Vietnam; navigating implementation strategies in Ben Tre province

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Delta systems and climate change

Delta systems are vulnerability to the effects of climate change:

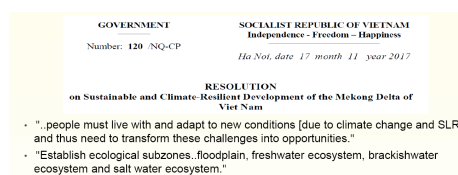
- **High population density**
- **Inundation:** In the Mekong delta up to 40% by the end of the century
- Water scarcity and droughts
- Flooding events
- Increasing levels of **salinity** in the coastal region

- To address these: **Strategic delta plans**



Mekong Delta Plan

- Development of scenarios that form the basis of a set of measures.
- Measures include controlled **seasonal flooding** in the upper delta, creating a system of **coastal flood protection, economic adaptability** and a **shift in agriculture**.



Strategic Delta Plans

- More and more, we see soft adaptation measures;
 - Shift to sustainable livelihoods
 - Adapting to salinity
 - Coping with regular flooding
 - Urgent requests for enhancing delta resilient and agriculture transformation.
- Strategic goals, implementation pathways not defined. Vision as check-list for policy & plans

Strategic Delta Plans

- More and more, we see soft ad



BDP 2100
BANGLADESH DELTA PLAN 2100
FORMULATION PROJECT

- Urgent agricult
- agricult



Werk aan de delta

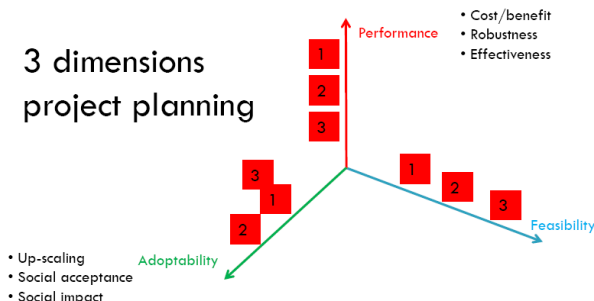
De beslissingen om Nederland veilig en leefbaar te houden



Policy and plan evaluations

- How to assess whether these plans and policies are implementable?

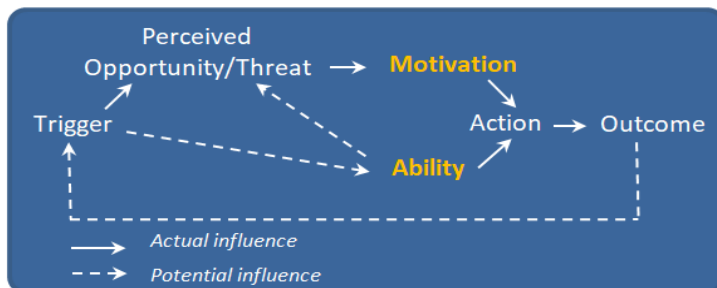
3 dimensions project planning



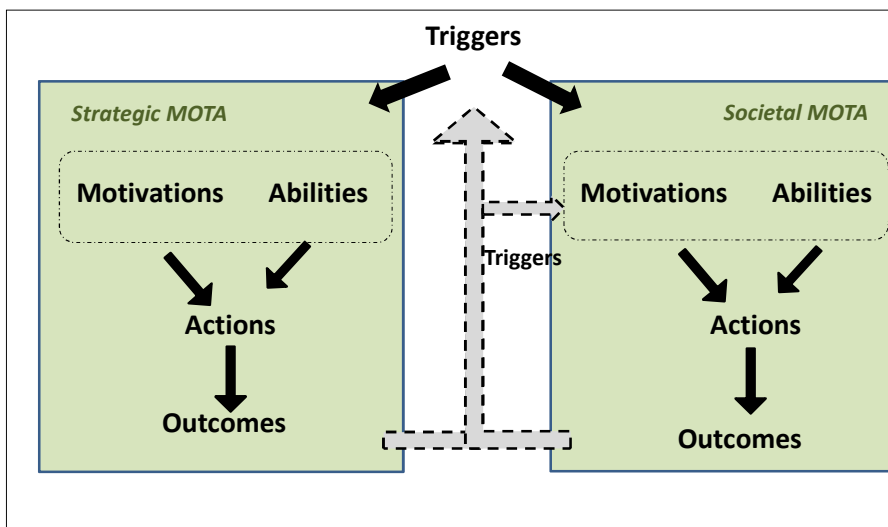
- Performance reflexes professional's point of view;
- Feasibility reflexes Government's point of view;
- Adoptability reflexes Community's point of view.



MOTA framework



Different Actor groups



Ben Tre province

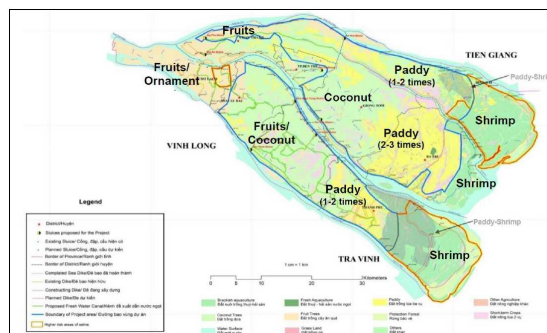


Ben Tre is one of the 13 provinces in the Mekong Delta

- total area of 2.359 km²
- population of 1.262.205

The primary **land uses**:

- rice farming
- (brackish) aquaculture
- fruits and coconut farming
- cattle



(JICA, 2016)

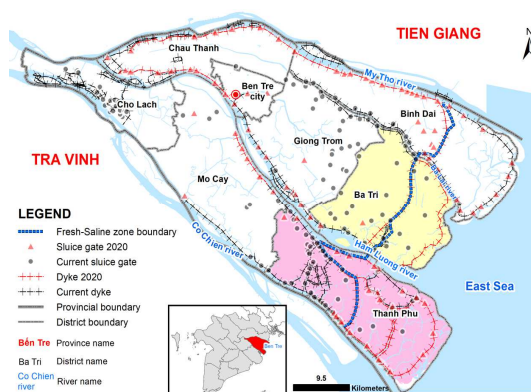


Societal MOTA

Aim:

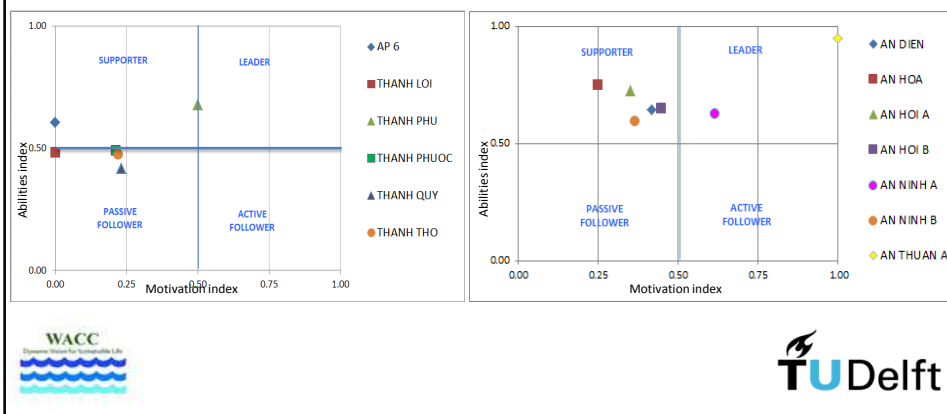
Understanding willingness and capability of **farmers** to adopt **alternative livelihood strategies**.

- 50 structured interviews of **farmer households**
- Two districts:
 - Thanh Phu
 - Ba Tri



Societal MOTA: results

MOTA mapping Thanh Phu (left) and Ba Tri (right)



Strategic MOTA

Aim:

Understanding possibilities and constrains for the implementation of the Mekong Delta Plan at local government level

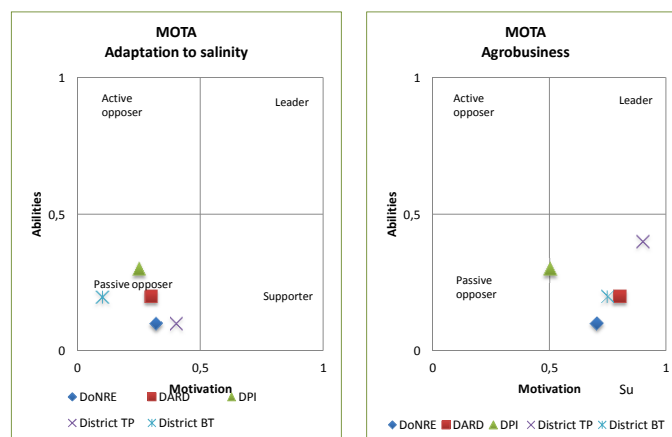
- Semi-structured interviews
- 28 representatives of **provincial and district level** government agencies

Focus on

- Adaptation to salinity
- Shift in agricultural livelihoods



Strategic MOTA: results



Conclusions

- The local setting is a very pluralistic
 - Differences between the communities;
 - Salinity intrusion is primarily perceived as a threat;
 - Agro-business as an opportunity
- The linkage of performance – implementation – adoptability can provide more holistic perspective in implementing and developing strategic delta plans
- **Future work**
 - Surveys in Ben Tre to include more livelihood options
 - Studies on 'implemented projects, such as Ba Lai Sluice gate



Thank you for your attention

For more information on project, see:

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

Further reading:

- (1) Ho, L. P., L. M. Hermans, W. J. A. M. Douven, G. E. Van Halsema, and M. F. Khan. 2015. A framework to assess plan implementation maturity with an application to flood management in Vietnam. *Water International* 40:984-1003.
- (2) Nguyen Hong Quan et al. Farmer adoptability for (sustainable) livelihood transformations in the Mekong Delta: A case in Ben Tre Province. In review
- (3) Korbee, D. et al., Implementation of Strategic Delta Plans – in the nexus of strategic national plans and household-level transformations. In Review
- (4) Korbee et al. (in preparation) MOTA; a tool to assess adoptability of soft adaptation measures

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Strategic MOTA: results

Motivation to change

- Salinity intrusion is a **risk** and should be controlled and monitored
- **Market integration** is an opportunity
- Motivation for **grassroots involvement** in developing plans (bottom-up)

Abilities to change

- Dependency on hierarchical structure for planning process
- Cooperation
- Technical know-how to support farmers available

Actions to change

- Actions in line with current policies and plans; **limited 'actions for change'**
- **Incremental changes** within boundaries of current institutional setting
- Space given within these boundaries is used as **opportunities**

Triggers caused by the MDP process

- The Mekong Delta conference September 2017
- Cooperation between provinces, under degree 593 by PM
- However, government officials are awaiting formalisation of MDP in 'regular plan or detail regulation/instruction'

