Dear project consortium members,

We hope all of you are doing fine and that the topic of strategic delta planning has appeared clearly on your radar! As it has been a while since our last update of August 12, we like to share recent developments with you through this newsletter.

**DENVIS day** Project partner Leo Pols from PBL organised together with UNESCO-IHE a DENVIS day on September 28. Objectives of the workshop were to understand the functioning of DENVIS tool, its (potential) role in strategic delta planning processes and to learn from DENVIS experiences. In total 14 participants participated; partly also from outside our project which offered a good opportunity to get input from others and link up with other initiatives. The workshop was very interesting as participants got to learn a lot about DENVIS and the strengths and weaknesses of this participatory tool. Shahnoor Hasan used the workshop to test her evaluation methodology for participatory planning tool workshops. You can find the full report of the workshop in the attachment, it will be uploaded on our project website in due time ([strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org](http://strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org)).

**MOTA paper** Phi and the MOTA methodology have found its way into a peer-reviewed journal paper! The paper ‘A framework to assess plan implementation maturity with an application to flood management in Vietnam’ is published in the journal of Water Alternatives. You can find a copy attached. Professionals in the delta planning community have indicated already their interest in the paper, as it provides a solid framework to reflect on plan implementation difficulties. The official link to the article is [http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02508060.2015.1101528](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02508060.2015.1101528).
Progress PhDs All researchers are making good progress on their proposals and first case studies. Regular meetings are held between the PhD’s, postdoc and supervisors. We welcome prof. Margreet Zwarteveen (UNESCO-IHE and University of Amsterdam) to our project consortium, she is the supervisor and promotor of Shahnoor Hasan. Shahnoor has found her research niche and is busy with drafting her proposal. Hoang is already back in Vietnam with a completed proposal, and she starts with her first case study on innovative solutions in the Mekong delta. Myrthe makes good progress with her first paper on actor coalitions in the Dutch southwest delta and she expects to finish her proposal by December. Chris is working on the final draft of the Hourglass paper, this will be shared with you next week for final comments.
Case studies We have developed a set of case selection criteria. Ideally, a case in our research project is a delta region with a planning history of 30 years, currently part of a larger/wider strategic delta planning initiative. That region is confronted with a pressing issue (e.g. flood control, water supply, salt intrusion) that is threatening sustainable delta development. Innovative solutions are considered to address the pressing issue, and these solutions are multi-purpose. Different actors participate in the planning process, and there is more than one actor coalition involved. A change in the type of stakeholders involved occurs during the planning process. Participatory planning tools are preferably applied in the strategic delta planning process. We look at tools that are participatory (active representation stakeholders), have potential to contribute to consent on key outcomes of strategic delta planning, and are applicable in a workshop setting.

Main differences across cases are sought in political, social, economic, hydrological context and the types of participatory planning tools. In addition we have practical selection criteria that address data collection and analysis. Each researcher focuses on different ‘outcomes to explain’. Myrthe aims for factors that determine formation and change of actor coalitions in strategic delta planning over time. Shahnoor focuses on the roles of participatory planning tools and approaches to facilitate stakeholder engagement and to advocate decision making process in strategic delta planning process. Hoang aims to explain the attitude of stakeholders over time towards a technical innovative solution.

Based on these considerations we have come to a first, preliminary set of cases that requires further discussion with our partners in the deltas on whether these are suitable cases. Please share your thoughts with us about relevant cases!

- Tidal River Management in south-west coastal area (Khulna Satkhira)
  Picture and weblog on [http://www.asiapacificmemo.ca/water_resources_bangladesh](http://www.asiapacificmemo.ca/water_resources_bangladesh)

- Opening up delta works in the south-west delta (Haringvliet)
  Implementing room for the river (Nijmegen-Lent ?)

- Controlled flooding in middle-upper delta (An Giang – Can Tho (?) )
  Rice-shrimp-mangrove systems in the coastal region (Tra Vinh)
**NWO UDW meeting** The NWO UDW programme meeting originally planned in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November this year unfortunately had to be cancelled due to security issues in Bangladesh. The meeting now has been relocated to Vietnam on January 25-27. We are preparing a programme to make the most out of this trip, probably by combining this Vietnam event with a visit to Bangladesh (for a small group) and with a Vietnam fieldtrip and project meeting. We will seize the opportunity to meet our southern project partners, together with researchers and their supervisors - Dutch and local - who will attend the NWO UDW meeting.

**Progress report** We like to ask you to fill in a brief progress report, as the project already approaches its first anniversary! We like to know more about your progress in the project, whether you have any concerns, and what sort of spin-offs you (fore)see. The progress reports matter to us to keep our project on track and to tailor it the most to your interests. We will send it out in due time to the contact persons in the project consortium.

**2016 Plans** We are working on the planning for 2016, and it promises to be a year full of interesting meetings! In January we visit Bangladesh and Vietnam and have the project meeting with southern project partners and team members that participate in the NWO UDW meeting. In the spring we plan to have a project meeting with the Dutch project partners. We want to organise a strategic delta planning tool workshop in the second or third quartile in either Bangladesh or Vietnam. In 2017 a similar workshop will be held in the other delta. A detailed programme of these workshops will be discussed with all of you as it brings together our southern partners and expertise of MOTA, design charrette, scenario development and DENVIS. Could you also let us know whether there are relevant events scheduled in the region that are relevant four our project?
We look forward to hear from you. And if you have interesting things to share with us and/or a wider audience, please do, we could also put it on our website. Chris will be working on an update of the website the coming week’s strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org

Best regards and warm greetings to all of you,

Chris Seijger and Wim Douven
Strategic delta planning - Update January 2015

Dear project consortium members,

We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday period and wish you all the best for 2016! That it may become a good year for you, your family and our joint project! Next to these new year wishes we like to use the opportunity to share with you recent developments and upcoming events through this newsletter.

**Fieldtrip Bangladesh** Malik Fida a Khan from CEGIS facilitates a visit to Bangladesh of PhD Shahnoor, Wim Douven and Chris Seijger in the period of 20-24 January. The visit will cover meetings with Bangladesh partners in Dhaka (a.o. IUCN, BUET, ULAB, CEGIS) and the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 team. Furthermore, they will visit potential case study sites in the southwest coastal polder district and discuss with key stakeholders about: the main issues, (innovative) solutions, previous plans and actors involved and (and meetings with few key stakeholders). We will update you about the outcomes.

**UDW programme meeting Vietnam** NWO UDW organises together with the Delta Alliance a 3 day meeting in Ho Chi Minh City for all UDW research projects from 25 to 27 January. The meeting’s objectives are related to: knowledge sharing between research projects, enhancing research uptake, linkage with other implementation projects. We attached the draft program for your information. From our project PhDs Shahnoor and Hoang, Ho Long Phi, Fida Khan, Jake Brunner and Chris and Wim will participate. Leon Hermans and Wil Thissen will join as well, funded by their other UDW projects.

**Project meeting Vietnam** As several team members will be in HCMC we also plan a small project meeting following the UDW programme meeting. Ho Long Phi and Miss Ann from WACC are facilitating this meeting from 28 January to 30 January. We start with a 2 day visit to the coastal province of Tra Vinh and the South Mantit irrigation system. The 3rd day we have a project meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, where we will discuss: 2015 progress after Inception workshop, 2016 plans, suitable cases in Bangladesh and Vietnam, workshops on participatory planning tools. Please let us know if you have already other topics you like to discuss for the project meeting.

**Progress reports** Project leader Wim Douven will ask several of you to fill in a progress report to know more about your progress in the
project, whether you have any concerns, and what sort of spin-offs you (fore)see. The progress reports matter to us to keep our project on track and to tailor it the most to your interests.

**Hourglass paper** Unfortunately the Hourglass paper, on which many of you are co-author, has been rejected subsequently by the Journal of Ecology&Society and HESS (Hydrology and Earth System Sciences). A tested framework on strategic delta planning is apparently a hard sell since these top open-access journals considered the paper to be outside of their scope. We now reconsider our options and hope to resubmit the paper soon.

**Progress PhDs** We heard from PhD Myrthe that she has decided to stop her PhD study. This is a pity, but we also have to accept her decision that she took after careful considerations. We plan to fill a research position in Myrthe's field (stakeholder coalitions) again, and will keep you informed. Any suggestions also for names would be appreciated. Hoang and Shahnoor are working on final drafts of their proposals, and they are looking forward to discuss and present their ideas at the UDW meeting in Vietnam.

**2016 Plans** We want to organise a strategic delta planning tool workshop in the second or third quartile in either Bangladesh or Vietnam. In 2017 a similar workshop will be held in the other delta. Partners Deltares, PBL and Bosch and Slabbers will participate in these workshops. A detailed programme of these workshops will be discussed with all of you as it brings together our southern partners and expertise of MOTA, design charette, scenario development and DENVIS. We plan a project meeting with Dutch partners in April-May and a meeting with all partners at the end of this year or early 2017.

We look forward to hear from you. And if you have interesting things to share with us and/or a wider audience, please do, we could also put it on our website [strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org](http://strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org)

Best regards and warm greetings to all of you,

Chris Seijger and Wim Douven
Dear project consortium members,

With spring slowly coming in the Netherlands it is also time to provide you with the latest news in our strategic delta planning project!

**Hoang and Shahnoor: proposals submitted!** Both Shahnoor and Hoang have submitted their proposals, congratulations for this important milestone! Hoang is in Vietnam and prepares surveys for 3 research projects on innovations in the Mekong Delta – Can Tho (Room for the River), An Giang (Floating rice based-farming) and Tra Vinh (Co-management of mangrove). In addition she works on a literature review for her first paper on dynamics of the Mekong Delta Plan planning process. Shahnoor had a valuable stay last month at the Bangladesh Delta Plan office, meeting people of the BDP community, collecting data and attending (closed) meetings and workshops. She is thus gaining valuable insights for her case study of participatory scenario development in the BDP. She also works on her first paper - the role of participatory planning tools in strategic delta planning processes. Myrthe has completed her case study of the reopening of the Haringvliet sluices and drafted a conference paper on the case.

**NWO UDW conference Ho Chi Minh City** At the NWO UDW conference from January 25-27 we have presented our work (see the attached project poster) and learned about the other projects. We also exchanged ideas on research uptake and worked on brief movie clippings by Shahnoor Hasan and Wim Douven. Unfortunately there are no movies available yet, but we keep you posted!
**Bangladesh visit and field trip** We visited Bangladesh from January 19 to 24. In Dhaka we had informative discussions about the Bangladesh Delta Plan with staff from CEGIS, BDP team and prof. Navera (BUET). Malik Fida a Khan and Asraf (CEGIS) prepared a great fieldtrip for us. We travelled by car and boat from Dhaka to coastal polders (23 and 30) south of Khulna. In polder 23 the powerful elite forced an entire polder to shift from rice and other crops to shrimp cultivation (both fresh and brackish). Polder 30 was confronted with groundwater depletion, salt water intrusion and drainage problems. We held interviews with farmers and local residents about their livelihoods and options for change. Find more details in the attached **field trip report**, including personal insights of the researchers!

**Vietnam field trip** Mr. Ho Long Phi and Ms. Ha (WACC) prepared a wonderful trip in Tra Vinh province on January 28-29. We visited the South Mang Thit irrigation system and saw how this once fresh water system (fruit trees, rice) is transferring into a saline/brackish system dominated by shrimp farming. We also saw a small mangrove plantation project along the banks of the Song Co Chien river. Find more details in the attached **field trip report**, including personal insights of the researchers!
**Project meeting** We met in Ho Chi Minh City on January 30 with those consortium partners that were still around after the NWO UDW conference. The main issues that were discussed were the fieldtrips and implications for case studies, vacant research position on actor coalitions (TU Delft), new ideas for the Hourglass framework, research uptake activities, request for progress reports, and 2016 planning. A brief **report** of the consortium meeting is attached.

**Hourglass paper under review** Editors of the journal of Environmental Planning and Management have decided to send our manuscript out for peer-review. Usually we should receive results of the review in 3-4 months’ time.

So, lots of exciting things are happening! We also plan for next events, amongst others a meeting with Dutch partners (end of April), a strategic delta planning training workshop in Bangladesh connected to the BDP (first week of September tbc), and a project consortium meeting connected to an NWO UDW conference (November tbc).

Best regards and warm greetings to all of you!
Midterm review is on its way. We submitted the draft self-assessment report and expect to receive comments from the UDW steering committee in two weeks. We plan to organise small stakeholder events in Vietnam and Bangladesh with our local partners, IUCN and CEGIS. The UDW conference is scheduled on November 21-23 in the Netherlands, and will involve the external reviewers. We still have to see who will attend the conference, we do not plan to combine it with a consortium meeting.

Strategic delta planning training workshop in preparation. The first participants are already recruited for the regional training workshop on strategic delta planning and participatory planning tools. Given the safety situation and the number of participants we will invite, it was felt that the workshop could not be organized in Bangladesh. We hope that this will be possible next year. Leo Pols, Maike Warmerdam, Maaike van Aalst are preparing the program together with Jaap Evers and Shahnoor Hasan. Phi is coordinating with WACC the logistics. The workshop will take place between October 17 – 21. Deltares supervises a master student of Wageningen University (Joeri van der Stroom) who will develop an assessment framework for participatory planning tools. The framework will be tested in the training workshop. Please check the website for more information, also if you like to participate or know interesting participants https://www.unesco-ihe.org/news/training-course-strategic-delta-planning-and-management

The Hourglass paper is accepted for publication in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management! The paper introduces the framework and tests it (lightly) in the strategic delta planning processes of Bangladesh, the Netherlands, and Vietnam. Once the paper is available online we will circulate it again, for now you can already use the attached draft.
Researchers move from proposals to data collection! Both Shahnoor and Hoang expect to re-submit their proposals for final approval in September. The reviewer’s comments allowed them to improve their proposals. Shahnoor collects data to assess performance of the participatory scenario development in the BDP 2100 and the MDP. She also works on her first paper, of which will be a literature review on the role of participatory planning tools. Hoang completed supervision of 3 BSc students who worked on 3 case studies of implementing proposed innovations in the MD. She also collects data on perspectives of key actors involved in the MDP (delta planners, experts, policy makers). Hoang will return to the Netherlands by the end of October, she will work on her first paper. Dorien developed her research strategy, and completes the case analysis on opening up the Haringvliet Sluices in the Dutch Southwestern Delta (work that Myrthe had started). She will focus the coming months on connecting MOTA to actor coalitions. Chris is analysing the interviews on planning and implementation of the Mekong Delta Plan. Phi and his staff prepared MOTA promotion material to recruit master students. Also they are working on MOTA papers that cover implementation of Mekong Delta Plan strategies. It is good to see we are joining efforts on MOTA in the context of this project!

Finally, we hope you enjoy the summer as much as he did. Colorado was beautiful and Wim explored the rural area 😊 - no urbanizing deltas on holiday!
Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 09 November 2016

Dear all,

Our project is progressing well, we are approaching our halfway point. In this newsletter you find news on the successful training workshop, mid-term review, traveling researchers, Hourglass paper and upcoming events (consortium meeting, conference Bangladesh).

Hopefully you find some time and a cup of coffee to enjoy the newsletter!

Kind regards, Chris Seijger and Wim Douven

Successful training workshop in Tra Vinh Mekong delta From 17 t p 21 October the training workshop Participatory Planning Tools for Strategic Delta Planning & Management. The workshop was prepared and facilitated by staff from WACC, UNESCO-IHE, Bosch+Slabbers, PBL and Deltas. Below a brief summary of the workshop, attached to this email is also the formal report.

The aim of the training workshop was to bring together professionals from river deltas like the Mekong Delta, Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, Ayeyarwaddy Delta, and Ciliwung Delta who play or will play key roles in delta planning and make them aware of different types of participatory strategic planning approaches, identify feasible approaches and methods given the local contexts and share experiences among the various deltas. In total 45 people from 6 countries participated in the workshop.

During the training workshop the participants were introduced to the various tools offered by our tools partners; Participatory Scenario Development (Deltas), Design Charettes (Bosch Slabbers), DENVIS (PBL), and MOTA (WACC). These tools were used to analyse, discuss, and plan the case of Tra Vinh province. Tra Vinh province is characterised by the salt-fresh water issues; competition between rice farming and shrimp culture, salinization of groundwater supply, and socio-economic developments like urbanization, industrial/port development.

The observations and discussions of the field trip formed the input for the tools sessions in which the participants, based on planning by design (drawing on maps), developed high/low growth scenarios and visions, a more detail design of measures, analysed stakeholder interests and conflicts, and assessed the implementability of two specific measures from a specific stakeholder perspective.

At the final day we discussed the role of tools in planning processes and how the set-up of this workshop could be used in other contexts. Some major lessons
learnt: Strategic delta Planning is a highly abstract concept, and making strategic planning activities more explicit by the use of tools is highly valued, both as a learning activity and planning activity. There is a need for better learning, incorporating lessons learnt from the past, but also inter-delta learning (especially South-South, for example on the sustainability of shrimp cultivation), and inter-stakeholder learning. Valuable insights are lost to a lack of incorporating these lessons learnt. The tools can support the learning (but with the remark that participant constellations are highly influencing the outcome of such planning activities) in planning processes, but also to teach new generations students in integrated / strategic planning for deltas.

Insights of this training workshop will be incorporated in a second workshop, to be organised in 2017. We look forward to further develop the project’s ideas on participatory planning tools and training together with our Southern partners and tools partners.
Final Mid-term review submitted We submitted the final self-assessment of our project to NWO UDW. Many thanks for your inputs. The assessment incorporates some of the first outcomes of the training workshop in HCMC. In addition, the stakeholder consultation session resulted in interesting insights for our project. It partly confirmed our relevant scope and activities, but also raised new issues such as weaknesses of strategic delta planning and how much quantifiable data is needed. Looking at where we are now as a project, we are confident we can look forward to a positive and helpful mid-term review 21-23 November. Our project will be represented during the mid-term review by Fida Khan (CEGIS), Andrew Wyatt (IUCN), Dorien, Wim and Chris. Please find attached the submitted review report. Output of the stakeholder consultation session are disclosed in Annex 2.

Traveling researchers Our researchers are making their air miles! Shahnoor went to Vietnam to conduct interviews on the role of scenarios in the Mekong Delta Plan. Next she will fly to Dhaka to conduct interviews and data analysis on the application of scenarios in the Bangladesh Delta Plan. Hoang is back in the Netherlands until May. She will attend courses on qualitative analysis and systematic literature review. In addition she will write her first paper on political agenda setting of the Mekong Delta Plan. Dorien is finishing the Haringvliet paper on actor coalitions in re-opening Haringvliet in the south-western Delta. She prepares, together with Phi and Ha from WACC a Vietnamese case study on MOTA and actor coalitions in Ben Tre province, Mekong Delta. Chris is working on an Hourglass case analysis of the Mekong Delta Plan.

Hoang and Shahnoor are on their way for a joint interview in Can Tho

Hourglass Paper online The paper in which we introduce the Hourglass as framework to analyse strategic delta planning processes is published online. Please find attached a pdf version for your personal use and distribution in your network. We are very pleased to have the MOTA and Hourglass paper published
as they cover the two concepts in which all our research work fits. Thanks again for your contributions in writing the papers!

**An analytical framework for strategic delta planning: negotiating consent for long-term sustainable delta development**


**Upcoming events** We would like to inform you about two upcoming events. Somewhere in February-March 2017 we will have our next consortium meeting, probably in Bangladesh or Vietnam. An important consortium meeting as we will discuss key activities for the second half of our project. During the meeting we will discuss amongst others: outcomes of the Mid-term review, follow-up on the training workshop, engagement with delta planners, research findings, and training material. In addition, we organise a panel at the 6th Conference on Water and Flood Management in Dhaka 4-6 March. The panel ’From delta planning to implementation: lessons learned’ aims to bring experiences in delta planning together to learn lessons on delta planning and implementation. The panel will be moderated by prof. Navera from BUET, some of the presenters in the panel are Shahnoor Hasan and people of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the Dutch Embassy.