

Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 28 March 2017

Dear all,

We have passed our halfway point safely (positive review, excited project consortium meeting, everybody on-board)! In this newsletter we like to update you on activities in research, training and societal relevance.

Kind regards, Chris Seijger and Wim Douven

Project meeting Dhaka The project meeting in Dhaka organised by Fida Khan and CEGIS colleagues was a big success. Not only did we talk to a range of (high-level) experts about the Bangladesh Delta Plan, we also visited the coastal polder area around Khulna and the Sundarban mangrove area, and we set priorities and actions for the second half of our project. Attached the brief meeting report with highlighted our main priorities and activities to continue our project.



Minister of Water Resources proposes flood-free use of the coastal polders.



Prof. Dillip from Khulna University advocates case-by-case introduction of tidal river management in coastal polders (allowing floods + sediment to enter polders)



Fida is respectful for unpaid sluice operator, 70 years old



Prof. Navera on management issues in the coastal polders

Professional training workshop October 2017: After the successful HCMC training workshop last year, we have agreed that the professional training workshops form a crucial vehicle for testing and evaluating participatory planning tools. In addition, the workshops strengthen capacities of delta professionals and supports learning between deltas. A second training workshop is now planned for October 2017, again focussed on integrating the various tools (design charette, DENVIS, scenarios, MOTA), and targetted at young professionals from southern deltas.



Research update: Dorien prepares for a MOTA case study in Ben Tre, Vietnam, together with WACC staff (dr. Quan and Ms. Ha). Her aim is to advance the MOTA framework to a strategic planning context, which will done in close collaboration with WACC. Hoang is in Wageningen, she followed courses on data analysis and is currently writing her first paper on agenda setting by the Mekong Delta Plan. Shahnour is in Dhaka, completing her first paper and conducting a case study on the role of scenarios in the Bangladesh Delta Plan. Chris is in Delft, completing a paper on implementation of the MDP.



Presentations by Shahnour, Hoang, Dorien and Chris during the meeting in Dhaka. Powerpoints can be found in our project dropbox

https://www.dropbox.com/home/SDPP_NWO_UDW/Bangladesh%20meeting%20feb%202017/presentations



Better linking to and contributing to strengthening the planning community: During the Dhaka meeting we discussed on the last day how we can better support the planning community and wider audiences, and ways of communicating and disseminating our lessons learned. Various ideas and actions were discussed. We made a distinction between:

1) Primary activities which are directly part of the project, including:

- Present our findings from case studies and lessons learned at various events in the different deltas. Be pro-active in identifying opportunities.
- Further implement and develop participatory planning tool workshops (see before).
- Further strengthening use of Mota (WACC, Dorien a.o.). Look for opportunities applying in Bangladesh or e.g. Myanmar (see before).
- Strengthen curriculum at BUET and VNU (by Navera, Phi, Quan).
- Write two-pagers for professional magazines to communicate about our findings.

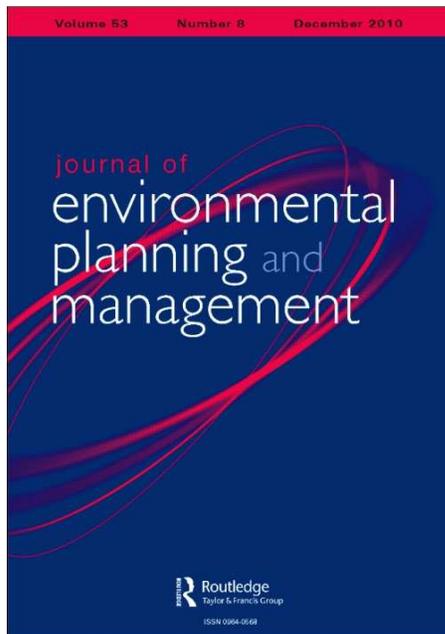
2) Projects and prospects that have clear links to our project. Some of the examples mentioned are:

- The recently started Mekong delta communication and dissemination project (with involvement Jaap, Andrew and Gerardo)
- The pre-approved Mekong Delta Integrated Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Project (funded by GEF) led by IUCN with an activity to Prepare and deliver customized short courses on adaptive delta management - twinning between Mekong universities and international universities (contact Andrew).
- Other projects where our products and insights gained could be used including projects of WACC, CEGIS, BUET, as well as the new Niche Delta Cap project supporting BDP implementation in Bangladesh BDP) (lead UNESCO-IHE and WUR).

- Use of participatory planning tool tested, validated in our project in various occasions.

We encourage all partners to keep on thinking about how we can better link to and contribute to the planning communities, and seek opportunities for synergies. For various actions identified in Dhaka names responsible for implementing are mentioned (please consult report of Dhaka consortium meeting), in case not we will soon follow-up.

Special issue: We want to publish a set of research articles into a special issue in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. The special issue offers an opportunity for cross-case comparison and a first set of lessons learned on strategic delta planning and implementation. In addition it offers opportunity for collaboration with other UDW projects. As also discussed in the project meeting, we plan at this point from our project contributions from Deltares, WACC, CEGIS, UNESCO-IHE in addition to PhD and postdoc researchers. Within a few weeks we will send a synopsis and call for abstracts. You can already contact us when you like to submit an abstract.



Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project –July 2017

Dear all,

Before closing our doors for a summer break we like to update you on several exciting activities in our Strategic Delta Planning project.

Education and professional training Jaap Evers currently runs a Short Course at IHE Delft on Strategic Planning for River Basins and Deltas. The course is meant for young and mid-career professionals who are interested to learn and apply concepts of adaptive and strategic planning, design, for developing management and development plans. Professionals are introduced to various case studies: travel of Dutch delta expertise, adaptive delta management in the Netherlands, soft implementation of the Mekong Delta Plan.

Jaap is also preparing, together with colleagues from Delta Alliance, IHE Delft, Deltares and TU Delft, a professional training course on delta planning and management in Bangladesh, 14-19 September. Please contact Jaap when you want to know more about the course, and see to what extent course material can be made available for your curriculum.

In addition we plan to organise a second professional training workshop on participatory planning tools probably in Bangladesh, after the succesfull first one in November 2016 which was organised with **WACC**, Deltares, Bosch+Slabbers and PBL. More information will follow after summer.

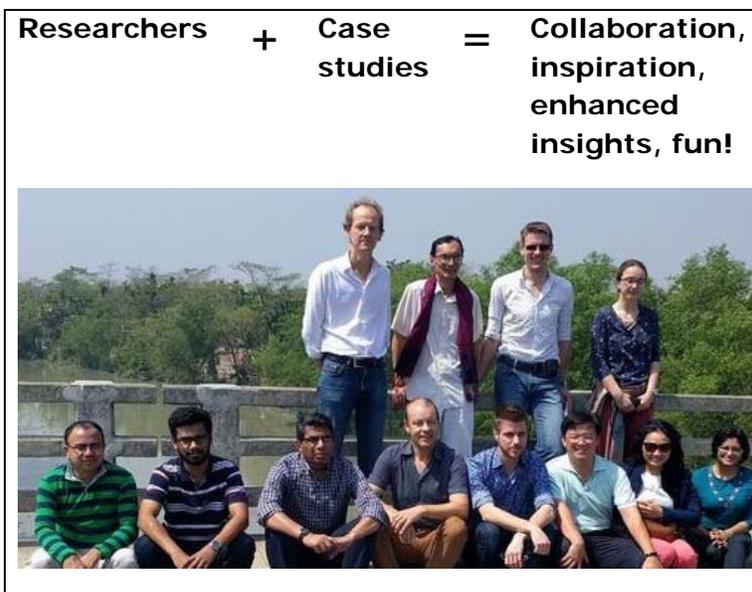


Special Issue JEPM Many of you are (co)-authoring a manuscript in the special issue on Strategic Delta Planning in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. The abstracts cover a broad range of topics in the context of strategic delta planning, beyond our own core topics of actor coalitions, tools, innovations (e.g. citizen observatories, travel of delta planning expertise, grassroots implementation, impractical changes). Similarly, insights from 'new' case studies are obtained as contributions focus on delta regions in Romania, California, Indonesia. We think that the Special Issue has the potential to become an extremely timely and insightfull collection of research on the many aspects of strategic delta planning and implementation. The guest editors already gave

feedback on the abstracts to ensure coherence and focus across the contributions. The next deadline for full manuscript submission is 1st of December 2017.

Programming activities southern partners 2017-2018 Wim Douven is discussing with CEGIS, WACC, and BUET their project activities for 2017 and 2018, which could relate to joint research, reflection on tools, curriculum development, training workshops and dissemination events. These activities are integrated with the work of the PhDs and postdocs and are key in achieving the objectives of our project. We hope to update you about these activities in a next newsletter.

Collaborative research projects Bangladesh, Vietnam, Netherlands



It is extremely rewarding to see the many examples of collaboration in our project (for instance papers, leaflet, field trips, workshops, project meetings), here we highlight some joint research projects:

In the Mekong Delta, Quan works together with WACC staff, Dorien Korbee and Leon Hermans on further development of the MOTA framework through testing it in Ben Tre province. Likewise, Hoang is working with Gerardo van Halsema, Andrew Wyatt (IUCN) and Chris Seijger on implementation of the Mekong Delta Plan and ‘niche’ innovations in the upper part of the Delta.

In Bangladesh, Shahnour conducted with the help of Fida (CEGIS), many interviews on dynamics in and around the Bangladesh Delta Plan. Chris will be

working with CEGIS staff on innovation trajectories in the coastal zone of Bangladesh.

In the Netherlands collaborative research is expected to take place in 2018. Dorien and Hoang aim to work together on a Dutch case study. Shahnour her last case study will focus on Denvis and the Haringvliet, in which she will collaborate with PBL and build on an earlier Haringvliet case study by TU Delft researchers (Leon Hermans, Dorien Korbee, Myrthe Vermoolen).

Dissemination of project findings The brochure is online, including a first overview of lessons learned in our project. We think it nicely captures our project, and offers interesting insights for professionals involved in delta planning. You can find it here, and do not hesitate to spread it in your network http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/sites/strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org/files/project_leaflet_strengthening_strategic_delta_planning_jun_2017.pdf

And we like to end this newsletter with a cartoon ☺

Dilbert questions who should be in charge of defining strategic changes.... Were similar discussions held prior to strategic delta planning initiatives in our countries?



Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project –December 2017

Data, data, data, collecting data Our researchers are out in the field, collecting lots of data! In Vietnam, Quan and Dorien conducted fieldwork on the implementation feasibility of the Mekong Delta Plan in Ben Tre province Vietnam. During the visit, they learned about planning procedures of the local government officials and their motivations and abilities to change towards practices in line with the Mekong Delta Plan. Hoang has been out in the field in Dong Thap province, interviewing farmers and farmer unions on local innovations such as farming giant freshwater prawns, lotus flowers, rice-shrimp systems. Chris went to Dhaka and Khulna to collect data on tidal river management as a strategic innovation for the southwest of Bangladesh. Fida Khan and Riasat Amin (CEGIS) were of great help in arranging interviews. Together with Prof. Dilip Datta and research assistants (Khulna University) a field visit and Focus Group Discussion was held with people from Beel Pakimara.



Second participatory tool workshop. Preparations have started for a second workshop on strategic delta planning and participatory planning tools. In a recent meeting at IHE, we discussed with Deltares, Bosch+Slabbers and PBL lessons learned from the HCMC training (in 2016), and suggestions for improvement for the second workshop. This workshop will take place in Bangladesh, probably second quarter, hosted by CEGIS with contributions of WACC, PBL, Deltares, and Bosch+Slabbers. Objectives of the second workshop are to make participants aware of planning tools, use tools as vehicle to stimulate discussions on strategic delta planning, and generate insights for tool developers to better tailor tools. The workshop will be co-organised with the Nuffic NICHE project DeltaCap.

Education material is being prepared through Strategic Planning Course at IHE, and course material will – over the course of our project – be made available on our website. <http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org>

Progress review NWO Wim and Dorien had a very good meeting with NWO, the funder of our project. Project leader Wim *“They were impressed with what we achieved, and how we carefully designed and implemented the project. Apart from scientific progress, they complemented us for our efforts to link to and support planning practice. Our strong focus on implementation, both in conceptually in the framework, as well as through our focus on tools incl. MOTA, was also much appreciated”.*

Seeking master students to fill gaps in case study work We are recruiting 2 MSc students who are interested to do research or a more practical study in the context of actor coalitions and participatory planning tools. Students from Southern partners as well as Dutch universities are welcome to contact us! Descriptions are available on our website, top item <http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/news>

Scheduled activities 2018 NWO UDW meeting in Dhaka is scheduled 21-23 January. Our project will be represented by Fida, Navera, Wim, Gerardo, Leon, Quan, and possibly Shahnour and Andrew Wyatt (IUCN). In addition, a cross-case analysis will be conducted next year, comparing input from our empirical studies in BD, NL, VNM. This will be carried out through two major meetings: a mini NL consortium meeting 1st quarter (present findings, discuss aspects for analysis), and an in-depth 2day session in the 3rd quarter.

Interest of Dutch Deltacommissaris Wim and Chris had an interesting Skype call with Jos van Alphen, Staff Deltacommissaris. Jos was triggered by our project leaflet with preliminary lessons learned on delta planning and implementation. He agreed upon the difficulty to stimulate learning between deltas, and was missing a focus in our project leaflet on government as a user of our (preliminary) outcomes, in particular also the Dutch government. He is involved with the Dutch and Bangladesh Delta Plan, and it turns out he is interested in how Dutch planning expertise travels to other deltas, the extent to which plans are implemented, and reflection and learning from past Dutch-driven efforts in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Jos will explore appetite with (foreign) delta planning professionals in Dutch ministries for a result-sharing-session with UDW projects (ie ADM project, our project, others) later in 2018. He will also attend the NWO UDW meeting in Dhaka, and is open to discussions what kind of topics should be initiated in context of implementation BDP.



Deltacommissaris

Special Issue in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management is in progress. So far we work with 18 contributions, focusing on 3 core themes: (re-)introduction of new ideas and innovations to manage land and water resources in the delta, changes in actor coalitions and institutional frameworks, and application of participatory planning tools to stimulate learning and consent across stakeholders. Received abstracts and manuscripts contain empirical studies from 8 delta countries (Netherlands, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Romania, Mozambique, Colombia, Indonesia, United States). Diversity is also reflected in first-authorship: 11/18 non-Dutch, 8/18 southern country, 8/18 from our 'own' project. We aim for completion of the Special Issue autumn 2018.



Dorien, Quan and Hoang celebrate successful data collection!



Shahnoor and Chris visit Fida at CEGIS headquarters in Dhaka October 2017.

How is IUCN using insights from our project? Andrew Wyatt from project partner IUCN Vietnam explains:



MOTA “The large-scale and radical transformations that are being considered in the Mekong Delta requires careful consideration and action at multiple scales. In 2013, the Dutch funded Mekong Delta Plan had first made the observation that the 3rd rice crop was undermining the climate resilience and sustainability of the delta and that policy makers needed to consider the trade-off between the 3rd rice crop and alternatives such as flood-based agriculture. By 2016, the World Bank had responded to government requests to fund these transformations. IUCN was involved from an early stage to assess community willingness and capacity to make such a transformation. At that time, **we needed assessment tools that went beyond a typical vulnerability assessment and socio-economic survey.** MOTA provided the tool that we and our government partner, the Vietnam Academy for Water Resources, needed to assess communities motivations and technical and financial capacities to adopt the new flood-based agricultural livelihoods that were being proposed for funding. **The tool allowed an accurate projection of the types of support that communities needed to supplement their knowledge, skills and financial capacities, as well as interventions to reduce the risks of the new livelihoods.”**

Hourglass model and Delta Strategy “Better regional planning was also a recommendation that came out of the 2013 Mekong Delta Plan. By 2016, the Vietnamese Prime Minister had issued Decision 593 to pilot Sub-Regional Socio-Economic Development Planning. This was the first such institutional mechanism that required multiple-province groupings based on agro-ecological zones to develop their own development plans. As this was a new process, the first attempts to initiate the process failed and **IUCN was asked to help facilitate in two agro-ecological zones, the Plain of Reeds and the Long Xuyen Quadrangle.** In doing so, **we followed the hourglass approach,** by helping to set the agenda with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders through a visioning process which identified strategic directions for the respective agro-ecological region. These resulted in innovations such as flood-based agriculture being identified, considered and prioritised in the strategic directions. **Currently these strategic directions are being formulated into plans for large scale sub-regional transformations utilising the innovative application of climate resilient flood-based agricultural livelihoods** to affect positive change on large-scale ecosystems such as the flood plains of the Mekong Delta.”



Andrew Wyatt on Padma river ferry
March 2017, photo credit CEGIS

Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 1 May 2018

NWO UDW meeting Dhaka We had a good NWO UDW programme meeting 21-23 January in Dhaka. The project was well represented with Fida Khan, Prof. Naveera, Shahnoor Hasan, Quan, Leon, Gerardo and Wim. Also Dillip Datta of Khulna University participated, with whom we collaborate on a tidal river management research project (tidal river management as a strategic choice), with CEGIS and Chris Seijger. During the meeting Quan very successfully pitched the MOTA concept and applications, also to policymakers. Quan received many positive responses, and the approach is clearly seen by many as one having strong societal relevance.

We also chaired a session about MDP implementation, lessons learned for Vietnam, as well as for other deltas. This resulted in interesting insights in and comparisons between the Dutch, Bangladesh and Vietnam delta planning contexts and processes. Shahnoor participated in another session on adaptive delta management. In addition, 4 posters were presented - about MOTA (Quan and Dorien), political agenda setting in the Mekong (Hoang), tidal river management BGD (Chris, Dillip, Fida), and transdisciplinary research (Chris, Wim). The posters can be found on <http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/project-results>.



Update from PhDs and postdocs in addition to all writing efforts for the special issue, our researchers work on their next research steps.

Shahnoor is currently in Dhaka, working on her case analysis of policy transfer and uptake in the Bangladesh Delta Plan. Hoang is working on a paper that discusses Floating Rice as a Room for the River innovation in the Mekong Delta. Dorien is preparing for the MOTA workshop in Vietnam and will start a new case study on actor coalitions in Dutch strategic delta planning. Chris will disseminate findings on tidal river management in July with Fida Khan (CEGIS) and Dilip Datta from Khulna University, and he will start the synthesis article for the special issue.

Master students At present we have found 3 master students who like to explore aspects of strategic delta planning in their master thesis. We like to introduce them here, wish them good luck and look forward to their research findings!

- Gurvinder Arora, TU Delft, Use and difference between MOTA and Robust Decision-Making as analytical tool for implementation phase of strategic delta planning. A case study in Ben Tre, Mekong Delta.
- Aditya Saptadjaja, Wageningen University. Further development of an integrated tools assessment framework. The tool training workshop as case study.
- Juan David Patino Guerra, TU Delft, Policy transfer: problem and solution driven approaches. A study into policy transfer in delta planning, focus on Netherlands ↔ Dhaka ↔ Khulna area.



Juan in Khulna with Prof. Dilip Data



Tidal river management canal, Pakhimara Beel. Photo by Juan.

Tool workshop Khulna is scheduled for 8-12 July. After a successful workshop last year in the Mekong Delta, the participants will now learn to apply a suit of planning tools on the south-west of Bangladesh. The main objectives are to 1) Make participants aware and enhance their capacities on participatory planning tools, including MOTA, reflect on use and role tools, applicability, cultural differences; 2) Trigger amongst participants a wider discussion on strategic delta planning (topic of our project), and experiences, lessons learned; 3) Provide input to tool developers / appliers for better tailoring these tools in practise, also in learning situations, including a further development of an integrated assessment framework; 4) For part of the participants, a training-of-trainers course, for delivering these types of workshops on participatory planning tools and delta planning in the future. In addition to the Khulna sessions, a

Dhaka reporting event will be organised to brief those interested on outcomes and possibilities for future training and projects. The workshop is a close collaboration between CEGIS, Khulna University, Bosch+Slabbers, PBL, Deltares, WACC, and IHE Delft, and is organised together with the Delta Cap project on strengthening capacities for implementation of BDP.

Extension of our project We currently discuss the opportunities with NWO to extend the project so that we have extra time to organise events related to dissemination and knowledge uptake. Bearing in mind the budgeting rules of NWO, we most likely have opportunities for extra activities in Bangladesh and Vietnam with our local project partners (IUCN, WACC, CEGIS, Khulna University) until end of 2019. A final project meeting/workshop is scheduled for end of 2018 or start of 2019

Special Issue Many of you have submitted, or participated in the creation of, an article for the strategic delta planning issue. We look forward to a good and constructive review process, and keep all our fingers crossed that everything gets accepted for publication. The manuscripts provide planning insights on deltas as diverse as the California Delta, the Po Delta in Italy, “our three deltas” and the city of Jakarta. Theoretical lenses range from participatory planning tools, policy transfer, agenda setting, to MOTA and Hourglass framework. For those of you who experienced a challenging writing process, we would like to cheer you up! You are in good company, as even **Ernest Hemingway**, one of the great writers of the 20th century, was daily in the troublesome business of writing “**There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed**”. Good luck to all co-authors in the review process!



MOTA Workshop On 21-22 May 2018, a training workshop will be held on MOTA in the context of strategic delta planning for the Mekong Delta. The workshop addresses different applications of MOTA for project and strategic level, future applications, and the participants will apply the MOTA framework themselves to a local case study. Invited participants are active in strategic planning and policy for agriculture, rural development, environment and water resources. The workshop is organised by WACC (Quan, Ho Long Phi) IUCN (Andrew Wyatt) and TU Delft (Dorien Korbee).

How is Bosch+Slabbers using insights from our project?

Bosch+Slabbers, a Dutch Landscape Architect firm is with us from the project start, and is especially concerned with the application and adjustments of design tools in strategic delta planning. **Clim Sorée, B+S Landscape architect**, shares the lessons he has learned. "Working in a **charrette** as a strategic delta planning tool **in Vietnam has shown us some interesting insights**. When you use strategic delta planning as a top-down approach it works on a more larger scale. Therefore, you also need a vision on the area. **This vision can be created in a charrette or can already be active and used as input for a charrette.**"

"While working in a participatory way, you work from large scale to small scale, from vision, to strategy to implementation to awareness. The input in the process is also downscaled from top-down to middle-down/middle-up to bottom-up. In the workshop, participatory strategic delta planning has shown its value when discussing issues between several different governmental actors, engineers and professionals. The real challenge is **how to get the plans and visions**, developed on the high scale levels can be **implemented in the actual situation**. **For this you need enforcement, local knowledge, public awareness and the plan needs to be kept alive and working**. It is really interesting how this step can become part of these planning tools."

"We **learned that when creating awareness, success stories are very important**. Through success stories you can show the people that there are solutions that work. You need to create the right attitude and make sure that the plan is kept in use. You need to create awareness on all levels of the people involved, this is needed to get the output of the charrette implemented. Use of local knowledge and active ambassadors of the plan can ensure that the plan is being implemented. Not only at the start of the project, but also during the whole time of the project and afterwards."



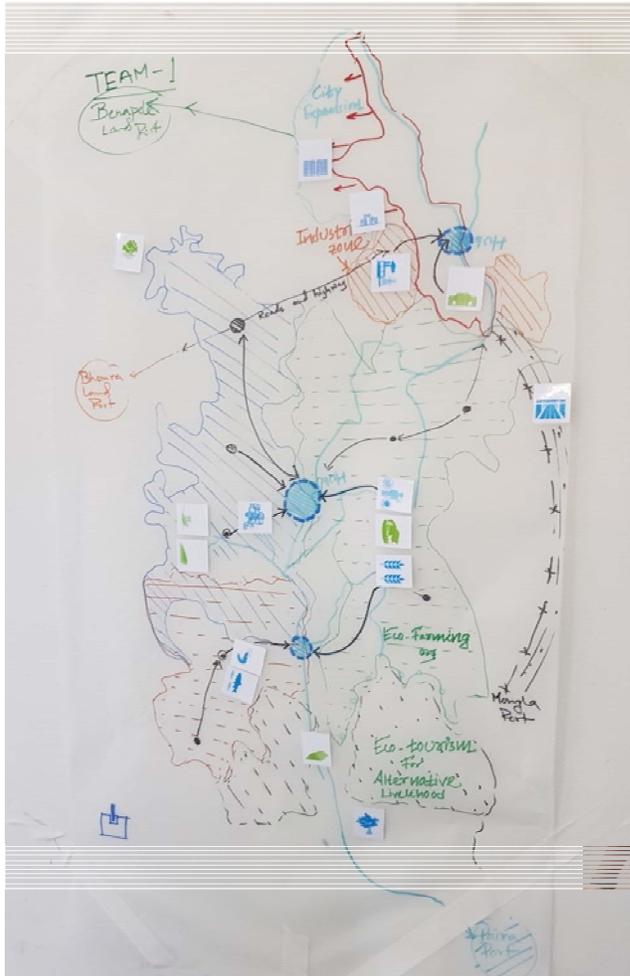
Clim Sorée in action during the training workshop "Participatory Planning Tools for Strategic Delta Planning & Management" 17-21 October, Ho Chi Minh City.

Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 1 July 2018

Tidal river management - dissemination meetings Dhaka Khulna A variety of our research activities focused on tidal river management in the south west of Bangladesh. Our findings (Khulna University, CEGIS, IHE Delft, TU Delft) were synthesised in presentations and disseminated to interested professionals in Dhaka and Khulna. The main message that resonated throughout the presentations was that tidal river management has to be rethought, if it wants to evolve into further implementation. There should be more attention for the multiple benefits of restoring tidal river systems (ecologically, socially) to reduce conflicts that are now associated with tidal river management. Moreover, new livelihood models should be developed and experimented with, that include these multiple benefits (e.g. restored hilsa fish, mangrove trees, sediment benefits, riverine transport). In Dhaka we discussed our findings with professionals involved in delta planning (e.g. from CEGIS, Bangladesh Delta Plan, Bangladesh Water Development Board, UNDP, Uttaran). In Khulna we had a 1 day meeting with people representing local communities, regional government agencies, NGOs and universities. Reports of both meetings are currently prepared and will be shared on our website. As next steps we will prepare dissemination material, as at a local level there is a major demand to disseminate knowledge on TRM concepts and practices. Therefore we will prepare a bilingual documentary and information booklet.



Tool workshop Khulna Jaap Evers successfully coordinated with CEGIS, Khulna University and Deltacap, the second training workshop on participatory planning tools for strategic delta planning and management. The workshop took place from 8 to 12 July in Khulna. Our project partners (Bosch+Slabbers, PBL, Deltares, IHE Delft) gave 5 days of training to a group of 25 young professionals in which they focused on the south-west delta. The tools ranged from participatory scenarios to stakeholder analysis, MOTA (developed by our partner WACC), and design charrettes. A photo-summary is available [here](#), a full report is under preparation.



Update PhDs Postdocs

- Hoang presented her research during conferences in Rome, Cape Town, Amsterdam. She now works on analyses for her next paper on innovations for the upper-middle-lower Mekong Delta regions. Read her update [here](#)
- Shahnour wrote a compelling [blog](#) in which she explains her (constructive) scepticism towards the dominant position of Dutch delta planning knowledge. She presented her research work on Bangladesh delta

planning at the session on Delta Dynamics: Dutch masterplans and SDGs session in the SDG conference.

- Dorien shapes her Dutch case study of strategic delta planning, in which she focuses on actor coalitions in the delta decision for spatial adaptation, meanwhile also looking into learning processes.
- Chris coordinated the dissemination meetings on tidal river management. He submitted a paper about tidal river management as a strategic innovation to the journal of Water Policy.

Update master students Our three master students are making good progress in their (internship / thesis) studies:

- Aditya Saptadadja completed his internship on assessing participatory planning tools. His main finding is that his tool assessment framework is useful for both participants and tool developers to critically reflect on expected aims, actual participation, and what they learned from working with the tool.
- Juan prepared a 5 minute [movie](#) on his comparison of problem-driven and solution driven approaches in international water management, comparing Bangladesh Delta Plan with Tidal River Management.
- Gurvinder is currently in the final stage of his thesis, in which he proposes a Program Implementation Framework to structure the implementation process in Strategic delta planning. The key idea is to monitor the implementation as an adaptive process while keeping track of the actor positions as the project moves forward. This framework was developed with the support of WACC and applied to a case of coastal livelihood transformation in Vietnam.



Aditya observing participants during the tool workshop in Khulna.

Critical perspectives conference UVA hosted an interesting session “Delta Dynamics: Dutch masterplans and SDGs” which took place on 26 June 2018 at the University of Amsterdam. The session was organised by Giacomo Galli (Both ENDS), Raquel Hadrich Silva (UvA), Rachel Thompson (Harvard University), Andres Verzijl (UvA), Arjen Zegwaard (UvA), Margreet Zwarteveen (IHE Delft and UvA), within the framework of the project DoUbT: Deltas Dealing with Uncertainties. Main discussion points related to (more info in this [blog](#)):

- How to deal with Dutch water knowledge in other deltas
- Who is involved in the delta planning processes
- Dutch delta planners should reconsider the ways in which they know a delta
- Dutch masterplanning misused by the local administration

Project consortium meeting 12-14 Nov 2018 As one of the knowledge sharing activities in our project we will organise a project workshop on **12-14 November 2018** to reflect on what we have been doing, what we have learned, and opportunities we see for next steps. In this context we also would like to discuss the cross-case comparison. We are drafting a programme for this workshop, which Wim already shared (email 25 July). Wim will also inform all soon for further details.

Having ideas for master research? The project has some budget left for 1-2 MSc students in the period 2018-2019. Contact Wim and/or Chris for your ideas

What does WACC VNU learn from participating in our project?

The MOTA framework has been extended and developed in the project “Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond”. **WACC has been involved in development the MOTA (scientifically) and also testing MOTA (practically) for the case in Mekong delta, Vietnam.** During the project implementation, staffs of WACC (lead by Phi and later by Quan) have learnt and contributed to the project. In the past few years, WACC has been focusing a lot on water system analysis i.e. via modeling. **The project has enhanced the capacity of WACC on the water policy related** e.g. social adoptability, water governance, planning which are very essential in Vietnam. The staff has been now familiar with conducting workshops, interviews with various stakeholders e.g. obtained during the number of field trips conducted in the project. The staff has involved in 3 manuscripts which is now under review. The inheritance of MOTA has been further tested in other ongoing projects at WACC crossing different sectors e.g. Agricultural livelihoods transformation, urban retrofitting.



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Synthesis workshop With our project entering its final year we organised the Research Synthesis Workshop “How influential are strategic delta plans in innovating land and water development, and improving local livelihoods?” at IHE Delft on 12-14 November. Over 50 guests from Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Netherlands attended the workshop, which included students, academics and governmental officials. Participants evaluated the workshop very positively, from the sessions on actors to innovations, MOTA and planning tools, appreciating the diverse topics and balanced discussions with much input from Bangladesh and Vietnam participants. The full workshop report (<https://bit.ly/2LnLMq1>) presentations (<https://bit.ly/2SVuS4C>) are available online.

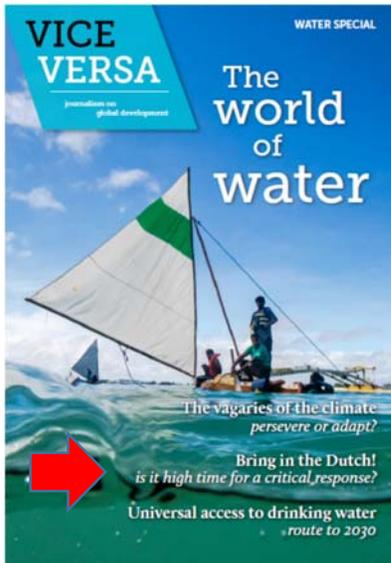


End-review UDW During the workshop we also had our end-review by the NWO UDW programme. We received compliments from Isa Baud “From initial scepticism to very positive” (Chair of UDW Programme). Furthermore we had constructive discussions with the reviewers Prof. Coleen Vogel and Prof. András Bárdossy. We still await the review report and will share it with you.

Master students The following 2 master students work on their master thesis in the context of our project:

- Sjoerd Kemink from Wageningen University, vulnerability assessment Mekong Delta, possibly related to MOTA outcomes (sjoerd.keming@wur.nl)
- Yukiko Ohno from IHE Delft, on international delta cooperation comparing Dutch and Japanese approaches for delta planning (yoh001@un-ihe.org)

Publications are on the rise!



A **critical reflection** on the Dutch delta approach by Shahnoor Hasan, Chris Seijger and Arjen Zegwaard was published in the ViceVersa Magazine (←and made it to the front page of the Magazine!). In English you find it here, page 58-61 <https://bit.ly/2RUHIW4> Dutch version <https://bit.ly/2GalAAa>

Two **scientific papers** of project researchers got accepted for publication since the last newsletter. Contact us if you want a copy of the article:

Seijger C, Ellen GJ, Janssen SKH, Verheijen E, Erkens G (2018) Sinking deltas: trapped in a dual lock-in of technology and institutions. Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation.

Seijger C, Datta D, Douven W, van Halsema, G, Khan, M (online first) Rethinking sediments, tidal rivers and delta livelihoods: tidal river management as a strategic innovation in Bangladesh. Water Policy.

The **Special Issue** that we feature in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management is progressing. At this point, 3 articles got already accepted, addressing monitoring human use in Californian Delta, transfer of Dutch delta planning to Jakarta, wide green dikes in the Netherlands. Another 9 manuscripts are still in review, with many already resubmitted. We have good hopes that these 9 also become accepted over the coming months!

The **workshop report** of the training workshop on participatory planning tools for strategic delta planning and management, held in Khulna 8-12 July 2018, is also available. Interested in what our project partners did? Read the report here: <https://bit.ly/2LgH6C5>



Smiles all over the place during 3rd day Synthesis Workshop!

2019 Plans Time flies when you are having fun... a saying that also applies to our project! The project runs until December 2019, with contracts ending over the course of 2019 for many of us, thus we roll out the (already!) last project activities on the basis of the discussions held during the Synthesis workshop. The table below shows the main plans for 2019. Though we think we covered most activities please let us know when something is missing!

Who	Main activity	Expected end
Shahnour Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang	Write research articles and PhD thesis	December 2019
Dorien Korbee	Case study climate adaptation, MOTA, write research articles, Special Issue	Contract until 31-12-2019
Juan David Patiño Guerra	MOTA manual, research in Vietnam	Contract until 15-4-2019
Chris Seijger	Special Issue, website, project coordination with Wim	Contract until 28-02-2019, plan for extension tbc
WACC, IUCN, TU Delft	MOTA manual, test in Bangladesh	June 2019
Khulna University	TRM documentary and booklet	June 2019
Deltares, PBL, Bosch+Slabbers	Brochure, possibly a 3 rd workshop	June 2019
All, coordinated by Wim Douven	Closing project, also financially	Second half 2019

Planned events

- Leon Hermans coordinates a session on transdisciplinary water research in the International Conference on Water and Flood Management, to be held in Dhaka 2-4 March 2019. Panellist will include researchers from projects working on hydro-social deltas, strategic delta planning, adaptive delta management, and groundwater management in peri-urban areas ("shifting grounds"). L.M.Hermans@tudelft.nl
- The UDW programme will have its annual meeting on 21-22 March 2019 in The Hague, the Netherlands. Ideas for topics? Contact the UDW secretariat udw@NWO.NL. More info will follow when there is a programme.



Quan his bird-eye view from the MarkerWadden tower!