

Assessing implementation feasibility Strategic Delta Plans: The application of the MOTA framework in Vietnam

NWO UDW project 'Strengthening Strategic Delta Planning Processes in Bangladesh, The Netherlands, and Vietnam'

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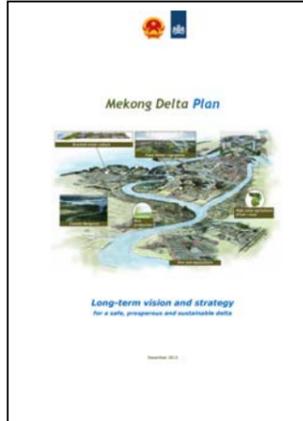
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Objective

Strategic Delta Planning focus on strategic, long-term choices at a national level to alter practices, stimulate sustainable projects and adapt the planning system. A well-known problem of plans and policies is the implementation gap; plans are not implemented the way they were intended, or have not been implemented at all.

In this research project we aim to develop, apply and improve a diagnostic tool to assess plan implementation feasibility.



MOTA framework

The MOTA framework is bottom-up approach to inform planning practices based on a behavioural perspective, centralizing the motivations and abilities of actors to act.

In this study the MOTA framework was applied for 3 typical issues in Vietnam i.e. flood management, farmer adoptability for agriculture transformation and delta plan implementation



I: A framework to assess plan implementation maturity with an application to flood management in Vietnam

Aim: explain the evolution of flood management concepts and to develop some predictive claims about the most likely next developments in the flood management process

Study: case study of the the planning process for an integrated flood management strategy for Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.

The case of the HCMC flood management planning options shows that MOTA scores and concepts help explain the observed course of events and dynamics in plan implementation and in the subsequent plan developments. It suggests that the language and logic of the MOTA framework fit with observed planning and implementation phenomena.



Ho Chi Minh City flood control plans and projects

Further reading (1)

II: Farmer Adoptability Mekong Delta Plan in Ben Tre Province

Aim: understand the motivations and abilities of local farmers in adopting alternative livelihood models

Study: MOTA analysis based on 100 structured interviews in Ben Tre province

The analysis showed that the local setting is a very pluralistic one; the abilities to change differed greatly among the communes included in the analysis. The analysis discovered the underlying factors behind farmers' self-perceived motivation and abilities. Furthermore, each of the communes has its own preferred livelihood models. These differences can partly be explained both by the physical (hydrological) conditions, such as the availability of fresh water and by socio factors, such as the (un)ability of farmers to cooperate in farmer cooperatives or the difference in motivation to change.



Ba Tri, Thanh Phu District, Ben Tre province



Successful rice – shrimp livelihood model



Farmer explained coconut – shrimp livelihood model

Further reading (2)

III: Implementation of Strategic Delta Plans – in the nexus of strategic national plans and household-level transformations

Aim: analyse the capability of the actors in the planning system to convert the strategic plan into implementation activities at the local level.

Study: MOTA analysis based on semi-structured interviews with 28 representatives of provincial and district level government agencies in Ben Tre province.

The analysis of the governance setting shows that salinity intrusion is primarily perceived as a threat. There is a high motivation to change, but this is a change towards 'controlling salinity' rather than 'adapting to salinity'. The ability assessment shows a low ability to change for all actors. The actors state to a lack of finances, techniques, and institutional abilities to improve current situation.



Vice-chairman of Thanh Phu People Committee



Vice-director of Ben Tre Nat. Res. & Env. Dept.

Further reading (3)

Conclusions

- The MOTA bottom – up approach, the social adoptability i.e. whether or not farmers adopt plans (normally top – down direction), should be appropriately supported by governments and other organizations given their limited abilities.
- Discussions with stakeholders at various levels shows the concept is appealing as it helps to better understand motivation and ability for change. It gives an perspective that is often not considered in delta planning
- We developed and applied the tool from project/farmer scale to a more strategic scale. This allows for assessing strategic plan implementation feasibility at provincial and district levels and what is needed to implement at the local level.
- Applications of the tool in training workshops helped to test and improve the tool, to discuss the role of the tool in strategic planning, and strengthen capacity to apply the tool.

Future work:

- MOTA workshop for planning officers in Ho Chi Minh City – 2018.
- Participatory Tools workshop in Dhaka/Khulna - 2018
- National research project. Ministry of Science and Technology Vietnam. Agricultural transformations for climate change adaptation in Mekong Delta, a case study in Ben Tre Province. Project lead: Nguyen Hong Quan, WACC

A reflection on MOTA by IUCN Vietnam:

The large-scale and radical transformations that are being considered in the Mekong Delta require careful consideration and action at multiple scales. 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.

Further reading:

- 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.
- Nguyen Hong Quan et al. Farmer adoptability for (sustainable) livelihood transformations in the Mekong Delta: A case in Ben Tre Province. In review
- Korbee, D. et al., Implementation of Strategic Delta Plans – in the nexus of strategic national plans and household-level transformations. In Review

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