Project meeting “Strengthening strategic delta planning processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond”, 30th January 2016, Ho Chi Minh City

This report is based on powerpoint sheets (Wim and Chris) and meeting minutes (Hoang).

Participants:

1. Shahnoor Hasan
2. Vo Thi Minh Hoang
3. Wil Thissen
4. Leon Hermans
5. Gerardo van Halsema
6. Andrew Wyatt
7. Wim Douven
8. Chris Seijger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda 09:00-13:00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introduction by Wim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Feedback field trips + implication for case studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PhDs + postdoc research activities (incl. case studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vacant position actor coalitions TU Delft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New insights for application of hourglass framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Uptake activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reporting (progress + midterm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Planning 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other important topics?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feedback field trips + implications for case studies

Chris gave a short feedback on the fieldtrip after which implications for the case studies were discussed:

- **Mekong delta:** innovations for **Hoang** such as shrimp-mangrove systems in Ca Mau province and a change from high dike system to living with floods in An Giang-Dong Thap region (e.g. one flood a year, relying on aquaculture). Participatory planning tools for **Shahnoor** such as design charrettes by Bosch+Slabbers in Ho Chi Minh City.
- **Bangladesh delta:** projectwide case studies might be what to do in the coastal polder area and how to manage the big rivers. **Shahnoor** focuses on participatory scenarios in probably 2 hotspots of BDP (choosing between coastal polders, hoar, big rivers, ...)
- **Dutch delta:** Haringvliet case as projectwide case (work of **Myrthe** on actor coalitions, **Shahnoor** on role of DENVIS). Hoang may focus on Afsluitdijk or room for the river.
- **Cross-case comparison:** three cases that illustrate key issues for delta development for which a strategic delta planning process may offer an opportunity for change:
  - Netherlands: open up sluices in the coastal region
  - Bangladesh: polders in the coastal area and how to manage rivers?
  - Vietnam: sustainable shrimp-mangrove system and providing room for the river.
- **Info by Andrew Wyatt on sustainable shrimp projects**
Vacant position actor coalitions TU Delft

- Myrthe has almost finished her case study on actor coalitions in the Haringvliet case. She will finish her research by writing a conference paper.
- Vacancy for a postdoc position, first round of selection through interviews on March 11th at TU Delft

### Applying the hourglass

- The longer time frame (20-30 years in a delta)
- On to which issue for delta development?
- Multi-level perspective
- Work of PhDs fit into hourglass
- MOTA for raising awareness of implementation gaps with farmers, policy makers (national-regional-local), donors, ...
- Criteria to ‘measure’ implementation

- Most of the points were generally endorsed by all the participants such as: the longer time frame of delta developments (looking 20-30 years back), a focus on delta development issues and seeking linkages between national-regional-local level as ideas of a plan have to boil down into a local region (and vice versa if local ideas are compatible with ideas of a delta plan).
- MOTA should be adapted to strategic delta planning context, for instance to raise awareness of implementation gaps with farmers, donors, policy-makers at national-regional-local level. Which position do these groups have towards a plan or strategy? Also use it to focus on triggers related to plan implementation, thus use it to signal that learning is needed for plan implementation.
- Be careful to define criteria to ‘measure’ implementation. Rather look at traces of implementation in the Hourglass. Be clear on what we consider to be implementation phase and trace how innovative solutions, actor coalitions, tools have ‘survived’ over time, whether they influenced the plan and are part of an implementation phase. Hence not predefine criteria up front. Different tools are applicable to different phases, hence the tracing could best be done by looking at a specific issue and tracing how innovative ideas and actor coalitions change over time.
Ideas for research uptake

- Due to the NWO UDW conference our ideas for research uptake matured.
- The table below is copied from the project poster, showing what we offer to different target groups. As a whole we are targeting the delta planning community, which consists of different groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delta planners</th>
<th>Guidance on strategic delta planning and management (planning and implementation, negotiating consent, planning tools, innovative solutions, actor coalitions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil society</td>
<td>Better insight in how strategic planning can act as an opportunity for change towards more sustainable livelihoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research institutes, private sector</td>
<td>Better insights in how innovative ideas (e.g. building with nature, tidal river management) can be incorporated in delta planning and implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>Case studies on strategic delta planning for enriching water and development training and education, incl. MSc curricula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific community</td>
<td>Discussion on pros and cons of strategic delta planning in scientific debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delta planning theories, tested analytical frameworks and case studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Experience in methods for science-policy interfacing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 main ideas for research uptake

- Link to BDP and MDP planning processes
- Test and adapt tools to strategic delta planning (incl. MOTA)
  - Training workshop Bangladesh september 2016
  - Development MOTA
- Recommendations (e.g. in brochure) strategic delta planning (supported by 2 workshops)
- Education material
• Related to the above-present sheets two ideas of training material and the Brochure were explained into more detail and generally supported by the participations. It was mentioned that we should be careful with referring to terms like guidelines and recommendations, as that probably is not realistic given contextual differences. Rather use the terms "lessons learned" etc..

• Reporting and midterm evaluation

- Progress report 2015
- Midterm review: a self-assessment supported by stakeholder input / workshop followed up with external evaluation
- Key issues for midterm evaluation
  - How far on track?
  - What do we suggest to change?

• Attention to all project partners for 2015 progress report and midterm evaluation, Wim has asked the project partners for their input on the 2015 progress report. Regarding the Midterm review Wim will contact all, after having received more information from our donor NWO-WOTRO.
Planning 2016

- Research by PhDs and postdoc
- Further elaborating MOTA (WACC, TU Delft, Deltares?)
- March: Meeting Dutch partners esp. PBL-Deltare-Bosch Slabbers
- Mid term review (lead Wim)
- September training workshop Bangladesh (funding needed, IenM?: lead UNESCO-IHE with CEGIS)
- November UDW conference Dhaka (tbc)
- Continue communication (internal, external through website, personal relations at events)
- Other suggestions?

• Our main plains for 2016, generally approved by the participants.

Top: group picture with rice-shrimp farmers in Tra Vinh, Vietnam. Left: discussions in the field with Ms. Ha (WACC) and Mr. Long (Tra Vinh National University). Right: Farmers in polder 30, Bangladesh