

Strategic delta planning and tidal river management in Bangladesh.

Findings of the NWO UDW Strategic Delta Planning Project

Draft agenda for dissemination meetings

4 July 2018, Dhaka

7 July 2018, Khulna



Location details

The dissemination meeting in Dhaka will take place at (insert info venue CEGIS)

The dissemination meeting in Khulna will take place at (insert info venue Khulna)

Background The Strategic Delta Planning project (<http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org>) aims to better understand the dynamics of delta planning in Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Netherlands. More specifically we focus on the role of strategic delta planning processes like the Bangladesh Delta Plan, in enabling consent among key stakeholders over strategic priorities and innovative solutions, and we explore if consent is sufficiently stable to allow for implementation. A basic premise of the project is that changes and innovations in water and land use are required to make deltas fit for current and future challenges related to water safety, water and food security and sustainable development. In Bangladesh we have looked into tidal river management (TRM) as a strategic innovation to address problems of congested rivers and water logging in the southwest. TRM has been initiated and advocated for over twenty years, yet each application of TRM has been surrounded with disagreement and conflict. Thus suggesting there is a need to discuss issues that enable and constrain consent for tidal river management in Bangladesh delta planning and implementation. Two meetings will be organised to disseminate research findings in Dhaka (4 July) and Khulna (6 July)

Findings Four studies were undertaken. During the seminars, findings of the following studies will be presented:

- TRM at 5 operational sites: Reconstructing innovation trajectories for sustainable management of the coastal zone, Bangladesh – Dilip Datta, Gouranga Nandy, Israth Rabeya, Sadhon Swarnokar (Khulna University);
- Rethinking sediments, tidal rivers and delta livelihoods: Tidal river management as a strategic innovation – Chris Seijger (IHE Delft), Malik Fida A Khan (CEGIS), Dilip Datta (Khulna University), Wim Douven (IHE Delft);
- Improving policy transfer: How to match real problems with real solutions in the Bangladesh Delta Plan – Juan David Patiño Guerra (TU Delft);
- Knowledge transfer in delta planning: making waves between the Netherlands and Bangladesh – Shahnoor Hasan (IHE Delft, University of Amsterdam).

Objectives of dissemination meetings

1. Share key findings regarding tidal river management and Bangladesh delta planning;
2. Engage in discussions:
 - a. is TRM a viable strategy (yes/no) for the southwest delta, that can get broader consent in planning and implementation;
 - b. how the application of tidal river management should be modified institutionally and technically;
 - c. what are important strategic aspects that should be included in future TRM delta planning and implementation for the southwest delta;
3. Identify key lessons learned on consent for TRM and possibilities for upscaling;
4. Formulate action points for TRM in context of implementation Bangladesh Delta Plan on which participants can agree and disagree / what are important aspects to make TRM happen;
5. Inform decision-making on TRM by stimulating informal debate among the delta planning community in Dhaka and local communities in the southwest, and by sending the formulated action points and lessons learned to the meetings' participants.



People explain us the impact of water logging, TRM was advocated as “the solution”



Silted up river banks along the Hori river, new land taken by local elites



Focus group discussion with people from Pakhimara Beel

4 July, Dhaka “How to move along with Tidal River Management?”

Day chair: to be confirmed I would propose Waji Ullah (CEGIS) or Shamsul Alam (Member GED Bangladesh Planning Commission)

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| 09:30 | 10 minutes | Introduction Word of welcome, program of the day | Day chair |
| 09:40 | 25 minutes | A brief overview on tidal river management planning and implementation: what is it, and what did we do in the past? | CEGIS staff member (?) |
| 10:05 | 10 minutes | Presentation of strategic delta planning project | Malik Fida A Khan |
| 10:15 | 25 minutes | Bringing tidal river management to the strategic level | Chris Seijger |
| 10:40 | 25 minutes | TRM at the communities level: insights from 5 focus group discussions | Dilip Data |
| 11:05 | 25 minutes | Questions and discussion main findings, lessons learned, action points for implementation BDP | Day chair |
| 11:30 | 20 minutes | Tea break | |
| 11:50 | 20 minutes | Transferring policy and knowledge in tidal river management and strategic delta planning. Main messages research Juan and Shahnoor | Shahnoor Hasan (when in BD?) |
| 12:10 | 20 minutes | Other recent insights on tidal river management (we could open the floor here for studies undertaken by participants). 10 minute presentations of: -expert @@ -expert @@ | BUET / IWM / CEGIS / BDP / |
| 12:30 | 45 minutes | Discussion: how to upscale TRM, inform decision-making, implementation of Bangladesh Delta Plan, linking local-national levels, lessons learned, action points for implementation BDP | Malik Fida A Khan, Chris Seijger |
| 13:15 | 10 minutes | Closure | Day chair |
| 13:25 | 60 minutes | Lunch | |

7 July, Khulna “Challenges of Tidal River Management and how to overcome them”

Day chair: Dilip Datta

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| 09:30 | 10 minutes | Introduction Word of welcome, program of the day | Day chair |
| 09:40 | 25 minutes | A brief overview on tidal river management planning and implementation: what is it, and what did we do in the past? | Local community leader / BWDB expert (?) |
| 10:05 | 25 minutes | Tidal river management in the Bangladesh Delta: TRM as a strategic innovation | Chris Seijger |
| 10:15 | 10 minutes | Questions | |
| 10:25 | 20 minutes | Tea break | |
| 10:45 | 60 minutes | Summarising main findings of 5 focus group discussions. | Sadhon, Ishrat |
| 11:45 | 25 minutes | First reaction participants | |
| 12:10 | 60 minutes | Lunch | |
| 13:15 | 40 minutes | Main similarities and differences between the 5 TRM applications. What are the key challenges of TRM and how can we overcome them? | Dilip Datta |
| 13:55 | 25 minutes | Second reaction participants | |
| 14:20 | 20 minutes | Tea break | |
| 14:40 | 30 minutes | Photo competition with Daily Kaler Kantho (?) Participants bring images from the field, turn it into photo fair to exchange views and stories TRM | Nandy Gouranga |
| 15:10 | 30 minutes | Discussion: how to overcome challenges of TRM, what are the lessons learned, action points, media coverage, advocacy | Nandy Gouranga, Dilip Datta, Uttaran (?) |
| 15:40 | | Closure | |



Evening twilight over Pakhimara beel link-canal