

Delta Alliance side event
**Towards resilient African deltas through enhanced knowledge
exchange and research network**
18 June 2018

Programme

- Welcome speech, Kim van Nieuwaal, Director Delta Alliance
- Introduction of the African Deltas Alliance Network and goals for today's meeting
- Presentations of the West Indian Ocean Deltas Exchange and research network (WIoDER) and the DECCMA project:
WIoDER: The West Indian Ocean Deltas Exchange and Research network. Goals and opportunities, Michele Leone, International Development Research Centre, Canada
Highlights from the Deltas, Vulnerability and Climate Change: Migration and Adaptation project, Katharine Vincent, Kulima Integrated Development Solutions (Pty) Ltd, South Africa
- Discussion in groups focusing on:
 - * What do we want to achieve? Defining vision, mission and objectives
 - * How are we going to achieve this?
 - * Who do we need to support this initiative?

Meeting report

Delta Alliance and Wetlands Africa to set up an African Deltas Adaptation Lab

During the Adaptation Futures 2018 conference in Cape Town the Delta Alliance African wings coordinators of Ghana, Kenya, Benin and Egypt and the West Indian Ocean Deltas Exchange & Research (WIoDER) network, the IDRC and Wetlands Africa discussed common challenges of African deltas and effective approaches to develop comprehensive local adaptation planning for African deltas.

In May 2017 The Delta Alliance organised an interregional delta gathering in Cotonou, Benin. One of the results of this meeting was that the African Delta wings coordinators from Egypt, Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya and Benin expressed their interest in developing an African Delta Knowledge Exchange network to support exchange of knowledge and practices, and to enable peer-to-peer learning between African deltas. The side event held at the AF18 was meant as a follow-up meeting and focused on the question how to effectively integrate and share knowledge and best practice among African deltas, and how to collaborate with other African delta knowledge networks.

The Western Indian Ocean Deltas Exchange and Research Network (WIoDER) presented its network and approach. WIoDER a research project working in deltas in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar investigating livelihoods, migration, gender and mapping, funded by the IDRC. WIoDER aims to strengthen the research community working on the better understanding of the current and future sustainability of West Indian Ocean deltas and contribute to capacity building through support of post-graduate students, pilot research and targeted field schools. Since WIoDER arose out of similar recognised needs, there is scope to strengthen the cooperation and establish knowledge

exchange and peer-to-peer learning between the Delta Alliance African Delta Wings (Kenya, Ghana and Egypt) and candidate Delta Wing (Benin) and the WIoDER network.

After the presentations, the discussion focused on opportunities for collaboration between the two African Delta networks. The following opportunities for collaboration were identified:

- Developing common methodologies and tools adapted to the complexity of the Deltas.
- Common indicators comprising the key variables important to monitor in a long term observatory of the Deltas
- Strengthened North-South-South collaborations
- Local population engaged in participatory research and monitoring.
- Inform evidence based decision making

The session participants agreed that private sector investments in water security are urgently needed to achieve sustainable development and growth in African Deltas and provide a safe, healthy, and productive landscape that supports a growing African population. To achieve this it is crucial to develop long-term strategic planning to drive sustainable development and to create a learning environment that accelerate knowledge development and innovation.

At the closing of the session, the Delta Alliance, the African deltas in Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, and Benin and Wetlands Africa, and the WIoDER network proposed to develop an *African delta adaptation lab*. This lab may serve as a learning environment on sustainable delta planning to assure the transfer of collective knowledge on delta planning to other African Deltas and create conditions for private sector investments. The lab will bring together universities, experts, decision makers, companies and community leaders within African deltas to jointly develop knowledge on sustainable delta planning by actively designing, selecting and implementing practical solutions in a test site and learn for application elsewhere.