



Delta Alliance Newsletter December 2016

In this newsletter:

- Upcoming events & invitation
- Introduction
- From the Argentina Wing
- Red River Delta Wing established in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 7 Nov
- Delta Planning and Management
- Thought Leader: Adaptive Delta Management
- Thought Leader: Rural Urban Linkages in Deltas
- Habitat III – Quito: Transition towards sustainable delta cities
- ESPA Deltas meeting
- Team international secretariat

Upcoming events & invitation

- Webinar Argentina Wing – 15 Dec (report follows shortly, more information on DA website)
- Webinar Rural Urban Linkages – Jan 2017 (more information, see below in this newsletter)
- Dynamic Deltas project sharing meeting, The Hague, 26 Jan. Information: JanWillemLiebrand@wur.nl
- Master Class Adaptive Delta Management – March 2017 (for more information, contact Chris Zevenbergen: c.zevenbergen@unesco-ihe.org)

For more information on events, please also visit our website: <http://www.delta-alliance.org/events> or <http://www.delta-alliance.org/news/delta-alliance-news>

Introduction

In the International Advisory Board meeting of Delta Alliance in May 2016 the headlines of the new work programme for 2016-2017 were presented and discussed. From the Dutch government we got a subsidy for the coming 4 years.

In this newsletter, which is one of the important channels of communication with our Delta Alliance wings, delta management practitioners, researchers and policy makers, you'll read all about it like the introduction of thought leaders, a master class delta management, a series of webinars and a start of monitoring activities.

We invite the wings to take the lead for one of our next newsletter, and/or share ideas about a webinar or thought leadership.

Further, there were some changes in the international secretariat of the Delta Alliance. In this newsletter you find an introduction to the new people.

We look forward to keep in touch and invite you to contribute to delta related discussions! Stay connected by linking yourself to our Linked-In group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups?mostPopular=&gid=3520063>, and please share your news on your delta issues, both research and policies, via info@delta-alliance.org

Best wishes,

Renske Peters

Director





From the Argentina Wing

Seminar "Innovative Strategies in basins and deltas and their implementation mechanisms"

The Seminar "Innovative Strategies in basins and deltas and their implementation mechanisms" was held on October 25th in Buenos Aires. It was co-organized by Delta Alliance Argentinean Wing, Fundación Humedales - Wetlands International and Fundación Torcuato Di Tella, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Buenos Aires.

The seminar consisted of a series of presentations by international experts on innovative cases of intervention in urban deltas and basins and their implementation mechanisms. The invited international experts were Prof. Dr. Ir. Han Meyer (Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands), Dr. Machiel van Dorst (Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands) and Prof. PhD Lisa Diedrich (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden).

The Seminar was opened by representatives of the organizer institutions; Mr. Daniel Blanco spoke on behalf of Fundación Humedales - Wetlands International, Lic. Hernan Carlino did it on behalf of Fundación Torcuato Di Tella, MSc.Arch.PhD (c) Verónica Zagare spoke on behalf of Delta Alliance Argentinean Wing and Plv. Chef de Poste / Ambassaderaad Marc Hasselaar welcomed the audience on behalf of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Buenos Aires.

Prof. Dr. Ir. Han Meyer presented "Parana Delta - an exceptional case". Through a presentation of examples from the current practice in the Netherlands, Dr. Meyer reflected on the three main issues concerning the Agenda for water systems of the 21st century: Restore the natural resilience capacity, combine flood risk strategy with other agendas and make the system adaptable. After revisiting current strategies applied in the Netherlands he opened a discussion on the Parana Delta.



Dr. Machiel van Dorst presented "To find the combination of ecological and social resilience: how do we connect our global and long-term goals for resilient deltas to the residents-perspective -here and now-". Following a holistic approach, the presentation started with a review of the basis of ecological, environmental and social resilience, and ended with the presentation of cases of "holistic resilient delta design" around the world.

Prof. PhD Lisa Diedrich presented "Future urban water landscapes - site-specific design approaches". After introducing the challenges for urban landscapes, she presented a series of publications and examples of interventions in the Netherlands, Germany and the United States of America.

After the presentations there was a space for questions and reflections on the theme of the seminar regarding the potentialities of applying innovative strategies in the Parana Delta. The invited to attend the seminar included national, provincial and municipal authorities, as well as academic institutions, research centres and civil organizations. The seminar was held in the auditorium of the Torcuato Di Tella University. For more information: <http://www.deltasud.org/en/research-development.html>

Workshop Lujan Basin (Argentina)

The Workshop "Lujan Basin" was held on November 8th in Lujan city. It was co-organized by Fundación Biósfera, Fundación Humedales - Wetlands International and Delta Alliance Argentinean Wing. It consisted on a full-day meeting. During the morning a series of presentations were held regarding the situation of the Lujan Basin, the Hydraulic Plan for the development of the basin, the ecological characteristics of the area and innovative strategies to open the discussion about the possibilities of the region. After the presentations, a series of recommendations were developed to be delivered to the decision makers at the local and provincial levels. Invited attendants to the seminar included organizations of the civil society, governmental authorities and other stakeholders.



Red River Delta Wing established in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 7 Nov

A group of knowledge institutions is already working together in the Red River Delta for several years in cooperation with Dutch knowledge organisation: TU Delft, UNESCO-IHE and Deltares. On the 7th of November 2016 they jointly decided to become an official “wing” within the Delta Alliance. Although Vietnam has already a wing in the Mekong Delta, the challenges and issues in the North of Vietnam are rather different and therefore it is justified to make the Red River Delta a separate Wing. Mr. Tom Kompier of the Netherlands Embassy gave his strong support to the establishment of the Red River delta Wing and was present during the establishment meeting.

The members of the Wing are:

1. Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment (HUNRE), university under Vietnamese law under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) .
2. National Centre for Water Resources Planning and Investigation (NAWAPI), NAWAPI is an institution belonging to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) .
3. Water Resources University (WRU), a public university under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).
4. Institute of Water Resources Planning (IWRP), IWRP is a part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

The first Wing Coordinator is Prof. Dr. Pham Quy Nhan, vice-rector of HUNRE.

The Red River Delta Wing focuses on:

1. Transboundary water management (including use of remote sensing tools)
2. Multi-purpose Reservoir management
3. Develop tools to support water resources planning and make planning more based on ecosystem services
4. Improved used of new monitoring tools: using remote sensing and ground based monitoring
5. Increase citizen awareness and engagement of citizens (citizen science) on inclusive development of land and water resources



The ceremony in Hanoi took place during the final workshop of the CGIAR funded WLE-MK27 project: “Inclusive development paths for healthy Red River landscapes based on ecosystem services”. For more information: <https://wlemekong.wikispaces.com/MK27+news>





Delta Planning and Management

On 24th of November a colloquium on strategic and adaptive delta planning was held at Delft University of Technology. This colloquium focused on the challenge of urbanizing deltas in developing countries that need to adapt to face rapid changing environmental conditions. The question that was addressed during the day was how to develop long-term and integral delta strategies, while acknowledging differences in physical, socio-economic, cultural and governance settings and a context of deep uncertainty of these highly dynamic delta regions.

During the colloquium the first results of several NWO Urbanizing Deltas of the World research projects were presented. Examples from adaptive and integrative strategies for Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Mekong Delta and groundwater management in peri-urban regions in India's Ganges delta were shown and discussed. The presentations can be found at the DA website: <http://www.delta-alliance.org> More information on NWO Urbanizing Deltas: <http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/Urbanising+Deltas+of+the+World>

The main conclusions that could be drawn based on the presentations and the lively discussion that followed is that it is difficult to change the course towards more sustainable pathways because of vested interests, economic lock in and institutional barriers. However, a better understanding of the root causes of risk and mechanisms that 'produce' unsustainable behaviour is needed to develop effective strategies and interventions. Also, more focus is needed on how to use local knowledge and effective learning processes, for example in training workshops. Additionally, there should be a shift in focus from adaptive towards development and opportunities. In the end, successful adaptation strategies for urbanized deltas need not only to focus on flood risk reduction but also to deliver wider benefits for society.

The **NWO UDW project 'Strategic Delta Planning'** (2014-2019) led by UNESCO-IHE is nearly halfway. Proposals of the PhD researchers have been approved and first academic and practical findings of the project's understanding of strategic delta planning and experiences in training delta professionals in south-east Asia have been published.

1. MOTA paper by Phi et al., MOTA articulates major implementation issues of strategic delta planning. Although plans may look good on the drawing board they may never materialise as motivation and ability of actors are far away from what is needed to implement a plan.
2. Hourglass paper by Seijger et al., the paper explains our interpretation of strategic delta planning, and tests the Hourglass framework, a framework to analyse planning and implementation of strategic delta plans.
3. Report of 'Participatory Planning Tools for Strategic Delta Planning & Management' training workshop, the workshop familiarised international delta professionals with concepts and participatory tools of strategic delta planning. The workshop was held in Ho Chi Minh City, in total 45 people from 6 countries participated.

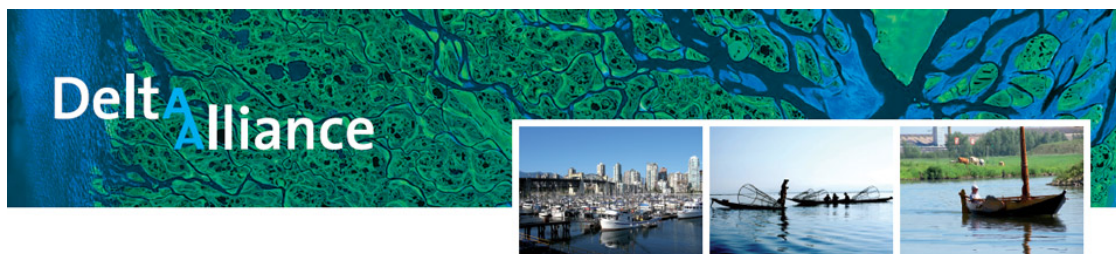
For more information, see DA website or visit <http://strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org>.

Thought Leader: Adaptive Delta Management

Latest insights on Adaptive Delta Management and Planning will be brought together by Marjolijn Haasnoot in her 'thought leadership' regarding the subject. More information: Marjolijn.Haasnoot@deltares.nl

Thought Leader: Rural Urban Linkages in Deltas

Quality of life in the cities also depends on the surrounding landscape. Wim Timmermans will elaborate on this topic in his 'thought leadership' activity, and all interested are invited to liaise with him. He will shortly organize webinars on this topic. More information: Wim.Timmermans@wur.nl



Habitat III – Quito: Transition towards Sustainable Delta Cities

In Quito, the Delta Alliance co-organized this network event 'Transition towards Sustainable Delta Cities' on 19 October 2016, jointly with the Government of the Netherlands as outgoing chair of the Delta Coalition, and with the City of Beira. The event, held during the Habitat III conference on the New Urban Agenda, attracted some 120 attendants from national and local governments, NGO's, research organizations and the private sector.

The Delta Alliance focused on organizing and moderating one of the network-event sessions, entitled *Collaboration is Key – creating action in cities and deltas*. Knowledge exchange and assessments for informed planning and interventions in urbanizing deltas are key to foster and promote an action oriented attitude.

With Prof. Ishrat Islam, BUET, Bangladesh, as the facilitator, the attendants discussed how to improve sharing knowledge and best practices and monitoring progress. It is essential to create interdisciplinary, multi-level and cross-sector (multi-stakeholder) alliances between parties such as governments, NGO's, private sector, researchers and designers to connect the local to the (inter)national, and vice versa.



Among the take home messages the creation of long term exchange programmes between deltas and fly-in technical assistance teams are being mentioned.

The summary report of this session can be found at the delta alliance website, www.delta-alliance.org.

ESPA Deltas meeting, London, 22-23 November 2016

The findings of the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation in Deltas (ESPA-Deltas) project were presented during a workshop in London, 22-23 November 2016. Renske Peters and Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga attended from Delta Alliance and Wageningen University and Research side. Main findings are regarding the model developed, where a.o. it was found that development related indicators influence the situation for the poor even more than climate change. Renske Peters contributed with a presentation on delta management in the Netherlands. She also highlighted deltas as an issue on the urban agenda. As a follow up, collaboration possibilities are explored. A more detailed report on the website <http://www.delta-alliance.org/news/delta-alliance-news/10877520/Report-ESPA-Deltas-Project-Final-Conference-Sustainable-Development-Goals-in-Deltas-22-23-November-2016>

The international secretariat in 2016-2017

Renske Peters, Director

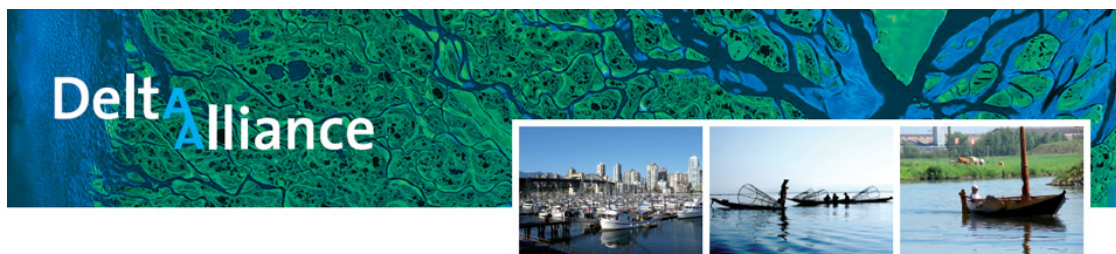
Renske is leading the Delta Alliance, further developing and strengthening its organization and network. Former Director of Water at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, and currently a member of the UNFCCC Climate Adaptation Committee, she maintains excellent skills, enthusiasm, experience and international networks to consolidate the achievements to date. Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or petersrens@gmail.com



Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga

Catharien has a keen interest in linking water, climate and food security matters. Catharien has worked in various international organizations and projects related to land and water management, both in research, policy, and capacity development contexts. Since 2000, she is





attached to Wageningen University and Research, where she is a member of the Climate Change and Adaptive Land and Water Management Team, as well as heading the Wageningen project office in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or Catharien.Terwisscha@wur.nl

Peter van Veelen

Peter van Veelen recently obtained his PhD at Delft University of Technology on adaptive planning of resilient coastal waterfronts (available at <http://abe.tudelft.nl/index.php/faculty-architecture/article/view/1424>). After working as an urban planner on climate adaptation and resilience for the city of Rotterdam for the last 10 years he is now coordinator of the Urban Deltas research program within the TU Delft that aims to develop interfaculty research and education on challenges of urbanized deltas worldwide. Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or p.c.vanveelen@tudelft.nl



Cees van de Guchte

Cees leads the Deltares Team on Global Agendas and International Organizations, in particular where it relates to water and urbanizing deltas. Disaster risk reduction and the development of adaptation strategies under the uncertainty of climate change are at the core of his work. Both knowledge development and specialist advice are being elaborated in numerous projects around the world, and shared in various dedicated networks. He is coordinator of the Delta Alliance Dutch Wing. Before he worked with UNEP, the Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works and Wageningen University, respectively, and gained over 25 years of experience in the field of national and transboundary IWRM. Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or cees.vandeguchte@deltares.nl.



Chris Zevenbergen

Chris Zevenbergen is professor at the Water Engineering Department of UNESCO-IHE and at TuDelft, The Netherlands. He is also visiting professor at the South East University (SEU), Nanjing. He works as a researcher in environmental engineering and water management of urban systems. He has published/edited five books and more than 100 scientific publications in the field of environmental engineering and urban flood management. He chairs the Flood Resilience Group (FRG) of UNESCO-IHE. He participates in various national and international advisory boards of governmental and scientific institutions. Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or c.zevenbergen@unesco-ihe.org



Marion Bogers

Mrs Bogers is working in financial and administrative project management at Wageningen Environmental Research, a major research institute in Wageningen, the Netherlands. In this capacity she is responsible for the management and communication of various European and international projects. She often functions as contact person for these projects and is involved communication activities like newsletters and websites.

Contact at info@delta-alliance.org or Marion.Bogers@wur.nl



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