



Introduction

In this newsletter the International Secretariat of the Delta Alliance provides an overview of the workshops held in the various delta countries by the delta wings. Also information, knowledge, experiences to share with other wings, new publications and important meetings in the coming period are given. The Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation is currently being established in the Netherlands. As a partner the Delta Alliance is involved in the preparations of this centre. We invite you to actively contribute with important experiences in strengthening resilience in deltas to our next newsletter and to the Delta Alliance website.

Active participation in the Alliance and sharing of knowledge contributes to an effective community of practice on deltas. Please mail your contributions to the [International Secretariat Delta Alliance](#).

We hope that the reported activities will invite you to be in touch with us.

The International Secretariat of the Delta Alliance wants to sympathise with the victims of the heavy flooding across Asia caused by the rains of the monsoon. The urgency to join forces to improve the resilience of the delta countries is high. We ask the members of the Delta Alliance to support the collaboration in sharing knowledge and assist in what is needed.

Renske Peters
Director Delta Alliance

DeltAlliance

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Wings activities

Argentina Wing: Roundtable for a Dialogue on the Reconquista River Basin (31 May 2017)



The Roundtable for a Dialogue on the Reconquista River Basin was organised by the Delta Alliance Argentinean Wing, Fundación Torcuato Di Tella, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and the Comité de Cuenca del Río Reconquista (COMIREC)-Reconquista Basin Committee. The Roundtable was attended by over 60 representatives of government institutions and agencies and relevant stakeholders. They explored major conflicts of the Reconquista river basin and discussed how to accomplish sustainable and collaborative solutions.

This basin, as the most of the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires, is characterised by acute imbalances between wealthy nuclei and large areas with high density, inhabited by low and very low income groups, usually with large deficits in social infrastructure and housing, poor and insufficient health and educational services, growing insecurity and typically large unemployment. In fact, about 17% of the inhabitants of the Reconquista basin are under the poverty level, in stark contrast with private residential developments for the higher income groups located in the lower basin, mainly in the municipalities of Tigre and San Fernando. The lack of planning and/or planning deficiencies led to an unsustainable and irrational occupation of the territory.

The conclusions of this initiative are being submitted to the COMIREC as a technical report, in order to be



used as a knowledge base for the elaboration of priorities within the political agenda and foster the consideration of solutions. The document will also eventually be used in meetings within the scope of COMIREC, such as the ones concerning integrated management of urban solid waste, meetings the universities involved in projects within the area, etc.

- Read more: [programme meeting, meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Verónica Zagare](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Argentina Wing

Bangladesh Wing: Seminar Adaptive Delta Management: Bangladesh perspective (2 May 2017)

The Institute of Water Modelling and partners of Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing organised a seminar on Adaptive Delta Management: Bangladesh perspective. Prof. Dr M Monowar Hossain, Executive Director, IWM chaired the seminar.

Dr. M. Shah Alam Khan, Professor, IWFM, BUET delivered the keynote paper in the seminar. Prof. Dr. Md. Ataur Rahman, Head, Department of Water Resource Engineering, BUET, Mr. Abu Saleh Khan, Deputy Executive Director (Opn), IWM, Mr. Md. Sarafat Hossain Khan, Director General, WARPO and Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President, Bangladesh Water Partnership discussed on the keynote paper as designated discussants which was followed by an open discussion session.



The seminar created an environment to enhance understanding of the participants of deltas in many ways. To date, knowledge development has largely taken place within the Delta Programme, predominantly in regard to determining tipping points and identifying measures and adaptation pathways in relation to climate change. The seminar also suggested that attention also needs to be given to the changing institutional and socio-cultural conditions and its effect.

- Read more: [programme seminar](#)
- Read more: [meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Prof. Monowar Hossain](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Bangladesh Wing

Egypt Wing: Resilience of Nile Delta and adaptation options under climate change (25 May 2017)

Seventy participants, representing ten delta governorates, universities, institutes, authorities, NGOs, private sector and companies, discussed this issue. As an introduction, five presentations regarding current activities of the delta wing, were given covering modelling of extreme weather in the west delta, adaptation to climate change, Nile delta subsidence, observation, modelling and monitoring, and Nile delta inundation.

Suggestions from the group discussions a.o. were to:

- Construct an updated database of the delta areas indicating the problems
- Use satellite imagery through inexpensive programmes to monitor the changes that are constantly occurring
- Develop long-term research plans to address the problem of Delta inundation
- Improve water quality in the Manzala Lake - in light of its importance for fish production
- Launch a project of "dikes to protect the low areas from the sea flood"
- Take advantage of rainwater
- Use integrated natural technologies such as wetlands as a technique to treat agricultural wastewater before discharging it to lakes
- Adopting three-way wastewater treatment technology

- Read more: [programme meeting](#)
- Read more: [meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Mohamed Soliman](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Egypt Wing



Ghana Wing: Stakeholders consultation meeting (9 June 2017)

The second meeting of the Delta Alliance-Ghana Wing was organised by the Development Institute. This was a follow-up to the [first critical stakeholders' meeting](#) which took place in February, 2017. This second meeting aimed to define the strategic management framework of the Ghana-Wing.

Follow up activities:

- introduce Ghana Wing officially to relevant Chief Directors of state institutions and Ministers
 - preparations for detailed discussions with stakeholders concerning the intended Ghanaian-Netherlands Universities Project for the Volta Delta
 - develop concept note for meeting with world bank, National Development Planning Commission, the presidency, a communiqué on the Volta Delta
 - releasing press statements to media by involving the Coastal Development Authority to support coastal initiatives
- Read more: [programme](#)
- Read more: [meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Ken Kinney](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Ghana Wing

Kenya Wing: Sustainable management of deltas in Kenya-policy and decision dialogue Round Table consultative meeting (26 May 2017)

The objective of the workshop was to engage with stakeholders (policy and decision makers) from Lake Victoria Region (16 counties) and to share experiences from other deltas under Delta Alliance Initiative and to start the Nyando Delta Plan development consultations.

The meeting agreed that the Delta Alliance Kenya Wing will collaborate with the Lake Basin Development Authority. This Authority is an institution with an overall legislative mandate to guide and direct all the other institutions in the delta to spearhead the development of the Nyando Delta Plan.

- Read more: [Programme Round Table meeting](#)
- Read more: [Meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Peter Odhengo](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Kenya Wing

Vietnam Red River Wing: Red River Delta issues and initiatives (1 August 2017)

The Red River Delta Wing organised a meeting to comprehensively review issues causing the decrease of water level in the Red River and assess the possibility of combining remote sensing and citizen science in solving the problem. Conclusions:

- The decrease of water level in the Red River delta is mainly caused by shortage of suspended sediment in the water body. This issue is the consequence of long-time regulations of upstream reservoirs located in land of China and Vietnam
 - Combing remote sensing and citizen science (e.g. monitoring by students or other volunteers) is possible and should be implemented in the Red River delta to continuously monitor the suspended sediment concentration. The understanding of suspended sediment concentration in the river is significantly important to figure out the physical relation between suspended sediment and water level
 - Citizen Science has large potential in scientific activities. Many previous researches have proved the success of bringing local people into monitoring natural resources. In the Red River delta, less complex projects should be prioritised to be first implemented to investigate the responsiveness of citizen
 - Within the implementation of the project, an open platform should be built to easily store and share data
- Read more: [programme](#)
- Read more: [meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Prof.Dr. Pham Quy Nhan](#), coordinator Delta Alliance Vietnam Red River Wing or [Thi Van Le Khoa](#)



Meetings / webinars

Regional workshop: Kenya and Ghana Wing mission report to Ouémé Delta, Cotonou, Benin (3-6 April 2017)



The Ghana and Kenya Delta Alliance Wing coordinators (Ken Kinney and Peter Odhengo) and the Dutch Wing (Victor Langenberg) went on a mission to Cotonou, Benin. The objective of the mission was for Ghana and Kenya to get to learn from each other's delta approaches, and to jointly explore with Benin an even wider geographical scope. Benin had shared earlier the intentions to become a wing of the Delta Alliance.

During the mission several consultative and dialogue meetings were organised and facilitated by BEES (Benin Environment and Education Society) and PNE (Partenariat National de l'Eau du Bénin). The latter being the national antenna under GWP-west Africa (Global Water Partnership).

Main results

- The ambitions and the intentions of the Delta Alliance and the wing coordinators from Ghana and Kenya were very well received by Benin stakeholders. Now, with a first detailed overview of relevant public and private parties (NGOs, knowledge institutes, agencies and central structures), and the acknowledged support from DG-water and several government advisors we agreed to initiate the creation of a DA Benin wing that will help to improve the dilapidated Ouémé delta state.
- The award winning Tana-Lamu delta process approach of Kenya in combining SEIA-framing, Smart Land Use Planning and IWRM for Adaptive Delta management and monitoring is preferred for developing further in and around the Ouémé delta.
- All public and private partners agreed that immediate attention need to be given to the fisheries management practices and address the detrimental "AKADJA" fishing practices in delta Ouémé.
- Furthermore, the parties agreed that it is of outmost importance to combine the delta wing formation with private sector involvement.
- The parties also discussed the feasibility of setting up an overarching Africa supra wing entity, to be sure that African deltas are firmly represented within the Delta Alliance and easing knowledge sharing. In this context, 6 new deltas more were identified that need to come under the attention of the Delta Alliance network and expertise.

- Read more: [mission Benin](#)
- Full mission report ([pdf](#))
- Contact: [Victor Langenberg](#), Delta Alliance / Deltares

Webinars: Rural Urban Linkages in Deltas (19 April and 16 June 2017)

Wim Timmermans elaborated on this topic in his Delta Alliance 'thought leadership' activity. On the 19 April the first webinar on this subject was held, organised by the Delta Alliance of the Netherlands, facilitated by the Water Channel. Presentations were given by Verónica Zagare (coordinator Delta Alliance Wing Argentina), Ken Kinney (coordinator Delta Alliance Wing Ghana) and Dirk Wasscher (Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra), the Netherlands).

Rural urban linkages in general were discussed, as well as their possible contribution to safety and living quality in delta cities in particular. The webinar recognised the concepts of 'delta development' and 'development for delta cities' and identified plausible ways to combine the two concepts.

The second webinar on this topic was held on 16 June. In the first one the framework of combined urban and delta development has been developed. In the second webinar it was further developed by an depth analysis of two cases: Hatirjheel in Dhaka (presented by Nahyan Hossain, Wageningen University and Research / Bangladesh) and Lentse Bocht (presented by Maarten van Ginkel) in Nijmegen. Both used the urban natural



system as a basis for urban development, combining different investments in reducing flood risks and ameliorating green and urban quality.

The thought leader report is expected in September. An outline about how the existing natural water system can be used to contribute to the prevention of flood risks will be given. Also an analysis of the Dhaka and Nijmegen cases will be given; it will be argued that a flood risk prevention strategy that is well integrated with other urban policies (such as traffic, nature and recreation) brings multiple benefits for the city as a whole. Finally the intensive public participation process, that was executed in Nijmegen, is shortly described as a possible example for other cities.

- Read more webinar 19 April: [programme, recording and meeting report](#)
- Read more webinar 16 June: [programme, recording and meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Wim Timmermans](#), Delta Alliance / Wageningen Environmental Research

Webinar: Urbanisation and flood risks: understanding the fabric and governance of delta cities (9 May 2017)

Delta regions across the world are rich in natural resources and economic opportunities. As a result, they have historically been home to dense, growing urban communities. The process of urbanisation is often rapid and results in formal and informal urban fabric. Planned and unplanned urbanisation processes both affect delta infrastructures. A variety of institutions and stakeholders generate these simultaneous processes.

What is the relationship between formal-informal and planned-unplanned urbanisation processes in the world's deltas? How do they affect the urban water system and the allocation of flood risks? How does the physical battle for space relate to various stakeholders and their financial, executive and judicial capacities? The webinar, with contributions from Mahbubur Rahman (Institute of Water Modelling, Bangladesh) and Like Bijlsma and Ton Dassen (PBL-Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency) discussed some of these interdependencies in Baranquilla, Beira and Ho Chi Minh City, and addressed current urbanisation dilemma's in East Dhaka.

Discussions made clear that formal and technocratic city planning often does not take into account informal city growth. As a result flood risk is increased, especially in unplanned and informal settlements. However, interdependencies between formal and informal urbanisation processes vary for different institutional and cultural contexts. A better understanding of these local interdependencies is necessary if we want to come to green and inclusive planning solutions.

- Read more: [programme, recording and meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Like Bijlsma](#) and [Ton Dassen](#), PBL-Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, and [Prof Mahbubur Rahman](#), Institute of Water Modelling, Bangladesh

Wageningen Delta Seminar: Water, Climate, Food and Ecosystems in Deltas (22 May 2017)



The Delta Alliance and Wageningen Environmental Research organised a seminar to discuss delta related knowledge development - illustrated by some key research outcomes and identified knowledge gaps. The seminar was well attended by over 80 participants. Bram de Vos, director of Director Wageningen Environmental Research, opened the seminar.

Mr. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, started his speech by stating that deltas are the most urbanised areas. Four critical areas need urgent and concerted actions: disappearance of natural land-water transition zones, deltas as centres of transportation hubs of fossil fuel based economies, land use changes, agriculture and fishing are competing with urbanisation, industrialisation and even with nature conservation.

Renske Peters, director of the Delta Alliance, gave an overview of the current activities and an outlook to the future and some current developments for the near future regarding the Delta Coalition (Bangladesh as chair for the coming period) and the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation (to be established in the



Netherlands).

Ivo Demmers gave an overview of the research carried out by Wageningen Environmental Research. These presentations were followed by a discussion with the audience and five pitch presentations on 1. Water and ecosystems in deltas, 2. Marine environment, aquaculture, building with nature, 3. Climate smart agriculture, water and food in deltas, 4. Delta planning and 5. Deltas in Wageningen education.

- Read more: [DA website](#) (presentations, speeches)
- Contact: [Ivo Demmers](#), [Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga](#), Delta Alliance / Wageningen Environmental Research

Webinar: Adaptive Delta Management (29 June 2017)

The thought leadership Adaptive Delta Management (ADM) by Marjolijn Haasnoot brings together latest insights on ADM. It aims to assess climate change impacts, develop adaptation measures and analyse the effectiveness, robustness and flexibility of the adaptation strategy. Besides that, ADM aids in dealing with uncertainties in a transparent and sensible way, by linking current decision making to future choices. Though the primary focus is on delta areas, the approach can be applied beyond deltas areas. On 26 June a webinar has been held on this topic, where the overall approach to ADM as well as experiences from various deltas have been discussed. Among others, the USA Water Institute of the Gulf presented key insights into how to bring the ADM decision support theoretical framework into practice: it needs to be tailored to suit local and context specific needs.

In preparation is a paper describing the state of the art on ADM.

- Read more webinar 29 June: [programme, recording and meeting report](#)
- Contact: [Marjolijn Haasnoot](#), Delta Alliance / Deltares

Delta Coalition Ministerial Conference 28-29 July 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Delta Coalition (DC), the 'government to government' collaboration to enhance resilience in deltas, has held its second Ministerial Conference in Dhaka, hosted by Bangladesh.

The twelve member countries participating in this event discussed two major theme's, Delta Financing and Coastal Delta Management. See the [concept note](#) for more information.

Presentations were given by Delta Alliance Wing representatives of Bangladesh (Prof Monowar Hossain), Myanmar (Dr Zaw), Egypt (Dr Soliman). Dr Okada, Director for International Coordination of River Engineering River Planning Division, gave a presentation on land subsidence management in Japan. Catharien Terwisscha van Scheltinga participated on behalf of the International Secretariat of the Delta Alliance.

The DC agreed upon a work plan for the coming five years, and Egypt took over from Bangladesh as chair for the coming year.

Back-to-back to this Delta Coalition ministerial conference, Bangladesh has also hosted the SE-Asia regional meeting of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) as well as a SE-Asia Regional Water Conference on SDG6. The conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. In her speech she indicated, among others, that Bangladesh will implement its Bangladesh Delta Plan to address the challenges in the delta.

- Read more: [DA website](#)
- Read more: [DC website](#)



Master class

Training Capacity development in Delta Planning and Management

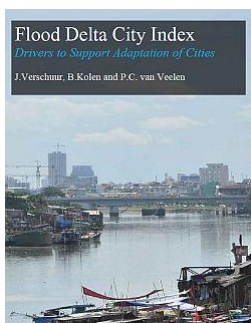
There is an increasing need to train professionals who are able to deal with the interdisciplinary complexities of delta planning and management. The Delta Alliance and its partners in close cooperation with the DeltaCAP project have developed a capacity development programme to support professionals in delta planning and management. The first training will take place on **16-19 September** in Dhaka (by invitation only).

This training will focus on developing trainings for organisations dealing with adaptive delta management. The training will entail longer term planning and implementation, and improving the capabilities for integrated assessments and analyses, thus widening the scope for solutions and development of sustainable solutions in the delta.

The learning objectives in the training focus on:

- Understanding the – urbanizing – delta as complex adaptive system
 - Dealing with uncertainties: scenarios, adaptation, and no-regret measures
 - Action and policy focus: Linking long term policy goals (development vision, large system scale) with short term local scale interventions
 - Combining design, engineering, and governance
 - Integration of sectoral policy domains
 - Inclusive development
- Read more: [DA website](#)
- Please visit the [DeltaCap website](#)
- Contacts: [Jaap Evers](#), Delta Alliance / IHE Delft or [Jos Timmerman](#), Delta Alliance / Wageningen University and Research

Flood Delta City Index, Drivers to Support Adaptation of Cities



To help decision makers in delta areas to select appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies it is necessary to have a clear picture of the main sources of risk and how this risk evolves under changing conditions. Because flood risk is often considered an urgent but almost never acute problem, it is difficult to keep flood risk on the investment agenda. Acknowledging these problems, the Delta Alliance and the TU Delft took the initiative to develop a new index that helps cities to better understand the dominant drivers of risk, formulate ambitions, and compare and share their results with other delta regions. The approach is based on previous work at TU Delft in collaboration with HKV and Deltares. The rankings goal is not to formulate an “exact” risk number, but aims to serve as a benchmark that supports the discussion and supports a peer learning process with other deltas. And that helps to better communicate risk within the political arena.

Invitation to participate

To test the approach, a first ranking of 38 delta and coastal cities have been prepared. The coming period the Delta City Index functionality will be further developed and tested. One of the shortcomings of using open data is that it generally lacks data that covers the scale of delta territory. To overcome this problem collaboration is sought with Delta Alliance Wings to test and improve the ranking. These delta regions are expected to provide basic information on topography, patterns of urbanization and economic development and actively contribute to the ranking by performing a self-assessment. In return, the delta regions will receive an updated factsheet and assessment report.

- Full report: [Flood Delta City Index, Drivers to Support Adaptation of Cities](#) (2017) J.Verschuur, B.Kolen



- and P.C. van Veelen (Delta Alliance / TU Delft)
- Factsheet: [Buenos Aires](#)
- Factsheet: [Guangzhou](#)
- Contact: [Peter van Veelen](#) or [Bas Kolen](#), Delta Alliance / TU Delft

Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation



The GCECA is working to build excellence in order to accelerate progress on climate adaptation, by convening groups of stakeholders worldwide and supporting projects that can increase or measure the impact of actions. It bridges various domains and engages with stakeholders from national, regional and local governments, NGOs, multilateral organisations, businesses, financial parties and knowledge institutions.

GCECA will develop its activities and services in the coming months, in close cooperation with stakeholders around the world. Its official launch will take place at COP23 in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017. The Delta Alliance is partner and member of the Preparatory Group. The GCECA website was launched on 1 July 2017.

- Read more: [DA website](#)

Publications

Report: Adaptation experiences in deltas around the world



For the course Academic Consultancy Training: Design of Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies, four Wageningen students have performed an extensive desk research on adaptation projects in eight countries of the Delta Coalition: Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam. The goal of this research, commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was to identify trends in adaptation experiences in these countries and to provide a framework for 'good practices' when adaptation strategies in delta regions are concerned.

- Read more: [DA website](#)

Agenda

Future Deltas course: Understanding drivers, predicting impacts, optimising solutions (28 August - 1 September 2017)



Are you working on river flooding, coastal dynamics, land subsidence, salt water intrusion, livelihoods, governance or environmental law? These and other interdisciplinary topics are all important for the sustainable management of coastal river deltas worldwide, which are currently under pressure of human impact and climate change. In this course,



we offer an unique opportunity to look beyond your own (research or professional) boundary, and place your expertise in a broader context of natural (e.g. physical, biological, geochemical) and social (e.g. governance, law, socio-economic) processes affecting delta systems and delta life.

- Read more: [flyer](#)
- Contact: [Sanneke van Asselen](#), Utrecht University

WWW Stockholm, Climate Change Adaptation to Face Water Challenges (29 August 2017)

Invitation to the members of Delta Alliance (DA) who will participate in the coming WWW-Stockholm Conference to attend the Egypt Showcase:

Climate Change Adaptation to Face Water Challenges Tuesday August 29, 14:00-15:30, Rm. NL253

H.E. Dr. Mohamed AbdelAty, the minister of Water Resources & Irrigation of Egypt will present and share in the panel discussion. Of course, as Egypt will take over the chair, highlight of DA activities will be included in the discussion in regard to adaptation and CC for Resilience of Delta.

Prof. Mohamed Soliman
Delta Alliance - Egypt Wing

- Read more: [website World Water Week](#)

Contact

Social media

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