



DELTAS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
 ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Deltas in Practice, policy-practice sessions	
Deltas in Practice Theme 2. Adaptation strategies	
DP 2.1 Migration as an adaptation to climate change: The best option for deltas?	
Chair	Dr Emma Tompkins, University of Southampton, United Kingdom
Organised by	Jon Lawn, University of Southampton, United Kingdom
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Michele Leone, International Development Research Council, Kenya ● Prof. Robert Nicholls, University of Southampton, United Kingdom ● Dr Belal El Leithy, Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Munsur Rahman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh ● Dr. Tuhin Ghosh, Jadavpur University, India ● Dr. Belal El Leithy, Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt ● Dr. Kwasi Appeaning-Addo, University of Ghana, Ghana
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The session participants discuss about whether and how migration can be a possible climate adaptation strategy, the vulnerabilities of the poorest and the necessary collaboration between science and policymakers
Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations	
<p><i>1. Dr. Michele Leone</i></p> <p>The presentation gives information on the CARIAA project explaining the goals, consortia-structure and programme architecture, focussing on different hotspots, the importance of DECCMA and it's four focus deltas, addressing the socio-economic aspects of migration and stipulating the necessity of collaboration with other consortia, to mutually learn from different experiences and solutions. For which not only on migration in deltas but also other climate adaptation issues can be considered.</p> <p><i>2. Prof. Robert Nichols</i></p> <p>The presentation is about the DECCMA project. It offers historical insight into the problems in the four deltas and the increasing quantity (> 100 million) of the people it concerns. It pays attention to wider delta issues, environmental challenges and human processes. The aim of DECCMA is to investigate what we can learn from different deltas and other adaptive strategies. They consider using the adaptive pathway approach, because there are different solutions and the circumstances keep changing. Besides the two very big deltas (GBM and Nile) we discuss in this session, there are smaller deltas all around the world dealing with the same problems of climate change.</p> <p><i>3. Dialogue, Prof. Robert Nichols and Dr. Helen Adams</i></p> <p>To warm up the discussion Prof. Nichols and Dr. Adams involve in a dialogue about her actual experiences in the delta regions. Often climate change is approached from a technological point of view. Helen is a social-scientist (though also educated as geologist) and studies the impact of migration on people in the deltas. She points out the different kinds of migration and the different levels of vulnerability. Depending on the causes of migration people look for different solutions.</p>	





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Question is what policy tactics are used. A rational cost-benefit strategy may result in the denial of help to the areas, but that violates the human rights of the people living there. Should the governments get involved and if so, to what extent? It can be interesting to think of different ways to organise migration and what conditions we have to provide. Or to consider that migrants have to create their own optimal circumstances.

4. Table discussion 1: The different delta- tables give feedback on the introductions and the dialogue

- Bangladesh

This table states that there are different kinds of migration: internal and international migration, (in)voluntary migration, temporary and permanent migration. It is therefore important to understand how the migration takes place and that the DECCMA project investigates the possibility to draw global conclusions. It is also important to discover if there are already tools available to study and analyse different types of migration. Also the project should think about which policies are to be considered in negotiations in international political context.

- Egypt

The discussion at the 'Egypt-table' emphasises that land corrosion is a problem in the Egyptian delta. The Egyptian government starts relocation programs. These are long-term projects (the scale of it, housing, infrastructure), with very high impact on the migrants and the regions that will receive migrants. Migration often leads to overpopulation (and accompanying problems) in urban areas.

- Ghana

In Ghana there are different kinds of migration, such as migration from coastal to inland areas (climate driven) and the other way around (economic driven). It is important to create understanding with the national and local government for the delta problems. Promoting understanding with policymakers proceeds very slowly, because the Delta is not necessarily the economically most important region of the country.

- India

This table agrees with a lot of issues pointed out in other groups. There has to be differentiation between forced (climate) and voluntary (economic) motivated migration. DECCMA should (hopefully) find answer to the question whether migration can be a successful adaptation strategy. And therefore continuation of the studies is important.

5. Three film vignettes on the Bangladesh, India and Ghana Delta are shown

The films demonstrate similarities of and differences between the deltas concerning the consequences and coping mechanisms. Also the films reveal the human and social aspects of the theme concerned.





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6. Dr Belal El Leithy

Demonstrating the challenges of the Nile Delta and what Egyptian government plans to change. Egyptian government plans migration in the future (policymaking!!). The operation is an enormous and long-term plan.

Feedback and discussion

- Feedback India:

Two country - governments (Egypt and Bangladesh) seem to be acting, (probably) because of the economic importance of the deltas.

- Feedback Ghana:

We notice some similarity between the four regions. Question is how to get policymakers to take action. A lot has to do with the short term vision of government. And this problem very much needs long term vision, therefore it is important that people have knowledge of the issues involved. Plus, we have to make the message clear with facts and figures (also by involving other participants such as foreign companies and journalism, and friends of government-officials)

- Feedback Egypt:

What should happen if migrants do not have opportunity to return to their home? Is there one possible decision to make or is there a choice? It can be unavoidable to move people. But it is hard to decide on a good moment to move them. If we do it now, no one will go, if we wait too long, it is too late. And on a different level the question exists whether it is an option to refrain from action. What is the cost of doing nothing? Will this possibly lead to a regional or international crisis?

- Feedback Bangladesh:

The main issues are different. The lack of water resource is the biggest problem in Egypt and Ghana. For India and Bangladesh the greater problems are land loss and damages and also livelihood is a very important issue. People already involved realise there is a gap between science and policy, but DECCMA has chance to change that. And it should constantly send information into the world.

There are a lot of issues to be concerned, besides the realisation of moving people, such as:

- The formal and informal functionality in cities, cities are not prepared for the large numbers of migrants
- Climate change is one among other reasons to migrate
- It is more constructive to enter into a dialogue instead of a debate, but how is it done
- In for example Ghana there is a huge debate on migration taking place, but there needs to be more communication between researchers and policymakers
- There needs to be attention to the issue of loss and damage claims

Main result or conclusion of the session

Migration can be an adaptation strategy, but only if we understand it very well. We need to study the issues more profoundly and on a wider scale. CARIIA and DECCMA are very important programs in this perspective. Science, private partners and policymaking institutions need to interconnect if this problem is to be tackled.

