



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

Delta Sessions	
DS 7 Colombia: Room for the River, implementation in the Cauca Valley and other regions	
Chair	David Schaub-Jones, SeeSaw Group, South Africa, Paul van Koppen, NWP, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Álvaro Gutierrez Botero, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Colombia• Maria Clemencia Sandoval, Director Corporacion Autonoma Regional del Valle del Cauca, Colombia• MSc Klaas de Groot, ARCADIS Watermanagement and Business Development, the Netherlands

'A new river for a new Colombia'

The session was held in a packed room, with a good mix of Dutch and Colombian participants.

The Colombia case is different from other Delta Cases. Here, the threat does not come from sea and rivers, but mainly from the rivers. After a number of flooding's the government of Colombia started a partnership with the Netherlands, mainly in the Cauca area. This partnership, and the approach that it entails, took centre stage during the session.

During the first presentation, challenges and solutions were presented by Álvaro Gutierrez Botero, Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Colombia . The Natural disasters caused by La Nina in 2010-2011 were the strongest in Colombia's history. After the facts, Colombia came together; public and private enterprises donated money and reconstruction was begun. Four large projects were started: in La Mojana, The Canal Del Dique, Jarillon de Cali, and Gramalote.

The government invited the Dutch government to help and the Colombia Netherlands Water Partnership was founded. This is not without challenges: cooperation, legislation and conflicting interests are sometimes difficult to manage. An MOU was signed for the development of a long term integral plan for management of the Magdalena and Cauca river basins. Results of this MOU were a.o the reactivation of the Canal del Dique, by a consortium of a Dutch and Colombian company, and Early warning systems for Cauca and Upper Bogota, Multi Stakeholder governance, research on coastal erosion (ministry of environment with Deltares) , and master plans for flood risk management of the Cauca River (with ARCADIS) and Coastal Protection. The minister closed with the ambition to strengthen Colombia's resilience to climate change, a.o by investing in the restoration of nature such as the River-Wetland-Floodplain: "A new river for a new Colombia"!

In the second presentation, the success factors and lessons learned of the Room for the Rivers approach in the Netherlands and in Colombia (Rhine and Rio Cauca) were discussed. Klaas de Groot (ARCADIS) showed the participants a roadmap: from the decision making process, identifying possible measures, analysing the effects and then making a shortlist, and then developing the preferred strategy. De Groot





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stated the Water Governance consists of three layers: Content (knowledge, experience), institutional and relational. The presentation offered an insight into multi stakeholder management.

Building Blocks for a delta approach

This Session is part of nine sessions, where the 'Delta Approach' in nine deltas was discussed. Also, the twelve 'Building Blocks' for a delta approach were introduced; preconditions for sustainable delta management. The building blocks are essential for a delta approach and can be applied in all deltas.

For the twelve building blocks and the online magazine and video 'The Delta Approach' see: www.dutchwatersector.com/delta

The building blocks most discussed in this session were:

1. Governance and cooperation with stakeholders
2. Finance

