DELTAS IN PRACTICE SESSIONS: EXTENDED WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Theme 4: Green adaptation/ Building with Nature

Deltas in Practice Theme 4. Green adaptation / building with nature

DP 4.1 How to find the balance between economic and ecological sustainability – 5 WWF delta cases

Thursday 25 September, 13.30-15.15 Beurs Lounge

The programme will be:

- The first hour the 5 case studies will be presented and questions can be asked.
- Then for half an hour discussion with the audience on the best practices presented: are these really good practices, how to develop them further and to which parties can we address them to be put in practices more widely?
- Plenary write down several concluding workshop statements and closing.

Information on the case studies:

Case study 1: Located at the estuary, Shanghai is a city with rich water source but the quality of the water is very poor. This is due to poor water quality upper stream and offshore flowing into the city. Furthermore, due to the joint-influence of rising sea level and decreasing discharge of Yangtze (mostly related with climate change and partially because of human interference, e.g. the hydro power upper stream), Shanghai is facing increasing trouble of salt water intrusion, which will lead to water supply risk of the city. Besides this, other threats include land and underground water subsidence, eutrophication and blue-green algae outbreak and extreme weather conditions. This presentation will give an overall introduction of how Shanghai municipality works to tackle all these challenges to safeguard the estuary city Shanghai.

Case study 2: The Sundarbans Delta, shared between Bangladesh and India is part of the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin and is amongst the largest mangrove forest in the world and the only mangrove tiger habitat. In recognition of the high biodiversity and unique tiger habitat, it is designated as UNESCO World Heritage site in both the countries. However, the pattern of governance has struggled to keep up with management, development, and climate change induced challenges. In view of the grave situation an alternative scenario to the business as usual has been suggested to stimulate reasoned public discussion and encourage bold changes in policy and governance for sustained human development and restoration of mangrove ecosystem and related ecosystem services simultaneously.

Case study 3: The Mekong Delta is one of the most vulnerable deltas in the world to climate change. WWF and other NGOs have successfully initiated green adaptation measures that strengthen local community resilience to impacts from climate chance while advocating for new policies on ecosystem and community-based adaptation.

Case study 4: The Rhine-Meuse delta is heavily modified and almost entirely closed off from the sea. At first this delivered al lot of safety but in the light of climate change and rising sea levels this

will not withstand. Besides, it caused a lot of water quality problems, erosion and declining fish stocks. To move back to a more open and natural delta seems the most promising solution. However this meets a lot of emotionally based resistance among the Dutch people. Strategic partnerships with parties who will benefit from this approach, for example harbour companies, is used to gather public support and understanding.

Case study 5: The Estuary of the Guadalquivir, in Southern Spain is completely unbalanced, negatively affecting its natural values but also its economic activities, and Climate Changes threatens with making things worse. To move forward and improve the management of the estuary a holistic approach, involving all actors is developed. Deep scientific knowledge of the estuary is necessary to do this and therefore a unique tool is developed that will enable local actors to better understand the consequences of their individual initiatives and the possibilities and opportunities of joint coordinated work to improve the situation of the estuary.

Deltas in Practice Theme 4. Green adaptation / building with nature
DP 4.2 Making the business case for Building with Nature

Thursday 25 September, 15.45-17.30 Antwerp Room

Building with Nature (BwN) solutions for creating resilient coasts have rapidly gained momentum in recent years. Delta managers from across the world are now exploring how the concept can contribute to solving key challenges related to coastal security, environmental sustainability and use of scarce resources. Key to successful roll-out of BwN approaches will be the formulation of business cases that quantify costs and benefits of this new way of working and compare these with those related to conventional civil engineering approaches to achieving delta security. This will aid delta managers and corporate stakeholders to make informed decisions about future scenarios, while stimulating the finance sector to consider 'green' solutions in their investment portfolios. But what does a convincing business case look like? How to account for the hard-to-quantify co-benefits derived from Building with Nature, which contribute to improved economic, ecological and spatial quality? How to deal with uncertainties?

This workshop will, on the basis of practical case examples, explore what is needed to compile a convincing business case, bringing together perspectives from the finance sector, government representatives and corporate end-users of building with nature solutions. It is meant to initiate a long-lasting dialogue with key corporate and government stakeholders who, as potential users and funders of green infrastructure solutions, may make a fundamental contribution to secure, sustainable and prosperous deltas around the world.

For more information about Building with Nature see: www.ecoshape.nl

Deltas in Practice Theme 4. Green adaptation / building with nature
DP 4.3 Green solutions for resilient delta cities

Thursday 25 September, 09.00-10.45 Penn Room I

The climate is changing at the same time as we see enlarging and more densely populated urban delta areas. We need to find new and innovative ways to keep people in urban areas safe from chronic and acute stresses such as flooding and poor water quality whilst maintaining a desirable environment. Traditional responses generally focus on hard infrastructure solutions which are often costly to build and maintain, and do not always represent the most effective, sustainable or desirable option for people. Green approaches and solutions are increasingly proving themselves. Whether alone or combined with traditional approaches, they are often more adaptable, cost-effective and bring co-benefits such as nature development and recreation. However, for a variety

of reasons it remains a challenge to bring these solutions into mainstream considerations in planning and investment decision-making. What are these challenges and how can cities be supported in overcoming them?

We will use this session to work out how to bring green infrastructure into mainstream planning and implementation of adaptation and resilience initiatives. This can only be achieved through a participatory approach and so we need your involvement and support! By the end of the session we will have identified the key obstacles being faced by cities, some of the green options available to overcome these and the challenges to bringing them into being. The session will begin with short presentations providing an inspiring overview and short case studies from cities around the world. This will be followed by reflections from representatives of expert practitioner organisations and cities around the world. Finally we will break into a series of smaller round tables where participants will be asked to reflect on what they have heard and help shape the way forward.