



The Delta Coalition

International governmental cooperation on delta resilience

For urban deltas, the triple uncertainties of climate change, industrialisation and population growth mean greater geographical vulnerability. Knowledge-sharing and preventive action are key to protecting urban delta regions against water-related climate impacts. The Delta Coalition is a partnership of twelve national governments working together to boost the resilience of delta regions.



What's the issue?

Delta regions cover just 5% of the earth's surface. Yet it is projected that, by 2050, more than half of the world's population will live in urban deltas. The population density in delta regions is often ten times the global average, and is still increasing. In terms of sustainable development, urban deltas face a unique set of challenges. Space is limited, making it harder to strike a balance between development and environmental protection. Many deltas are also affected by extreme poverty, so they play a key role in efforts to eradicate poverty worldwide.

Delta ecosystems are among the most vulnerable on Earth. In urbanised deltas, this vulnerability is magnified by changes in land use, industrial pollution, erosion and subsidence. Storms are causing more frequent and severe flooding. In addition, relative sea levels are rising due to a combination of land subsidence and higher absolute sea levels caused by climate change. Water is the basis of prosperity and the primary driver of sustainable delta development. Yet it also poses a threat: the effects of floods on low-lying land along rivers and coastlines can be devastating. In addition, drought and the depletion of groundwater reserves can cause salinisation. This has implications for the quality and quantity of fresh water for vital uses, such as irrigation, sanitation and drinking. Every year, about 100 to 200 million people are affected by flooding, drought and other water-related disasters. Such events also impact on business, communities and governments.

Knowledge-sharing and preventive action

The challenges facing urban deltas call for targeted responses. An inclusive, comprehensive and preventive approach to delta development, management and governance is needed. With a view to supporting delta regions to take appropriate preventive action, it is vital to share knowledge, experience and best practices in delta management. Knowledge-sharing and support across various disciplines, sectors and regions can help to boost the overall resilience of deltas.

International governmental coalition

The Delta Coalition is a groundbreaking international partnership of twelve governments committed to jointly addressing the challenges faced by delta regions and to enhancing these regions' resilience. The coalition's members are Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam, and the Netherlands.

As a flexible body, the Delta Coalition promotes exchange, innovation and creativity among member countries and observers. It collaborates with research institutes and networks such as the Delta Alliance (an international, knowledge-based network organisation) with the aim of generating new knowledge about the world's deltas, adaptation, resilience and sustainable urban development. More significantly, the Coalition serves as a vehicle for delta countries to team up and promote best practices, innovation, and financial opportunities. Such initiatives contribute to the implementation of projects that reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Goals of the Delta Coalition

1. To put investment in the inclusive, sustainable development of the world's deltas on the international agenda;
2. To facilitate the development, availability and exchange of knowledge about delta regions, resilience, and sustainable urban delta development;
3. To promote practical implementation and collaborative efforts to increase the resilience of urban deltas and to encourage investment in sustainable urban development.

With input from research institutes and networks such as the Delta Alliance, the Delta Coalition is developing an operational plan for 2016-2017. This will include a long-term framework, merging the Coalition's three goals with UN Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 11 and the Sendai (Disaster Risk Reduction) targets.

More information and contact

The Delta Coalition's activities are currently coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

For more information, contact Koos Wieriks or Janette Worm at:
deltacoalition@minbuza.nl
or visit our website:
www.deltacoalition.net.