

# Belmont Forum DELTAS CPC seminar

Southampton, 28 May 2015

Sylvia Szabo

credit: Ian Harrison, Efi Foufoula-Georgiou & Barbara Burkholder



# A global vision for sustainable deltas

- Deltas cover 1% of the Earth's area, are home to over half billion of people, and contain biodiverse ecosystems supplying critical goods and services around the world. Many important protected areas are within deltas.
- They are key contributors to agricultural production at the national and regional levels, and thus enable alleviation of global food insecurity risks.
- Deltas are under threat from a range of natural and anthropogenic activities. Globally >40% of river discharge and 26% of sediment are intercepted by large reservoirs.
- There is an urgent need for a better understanding of the physical, ecological and socio-economic characteristics of deltas as coupled socio-ecological systems.



# BF DELTAS Project consortium

BF-DELTAS Project Partner Countries

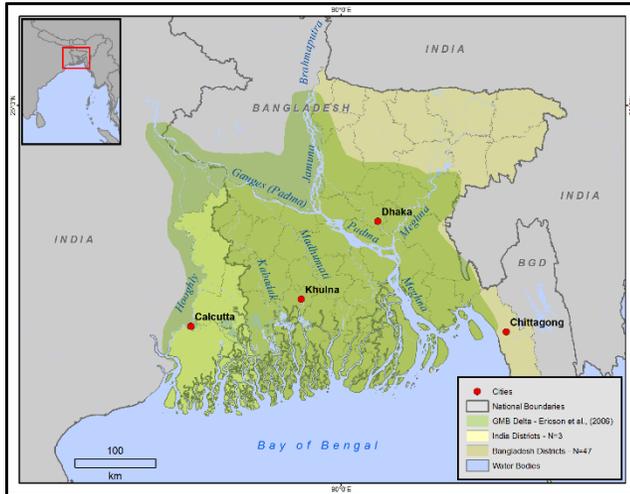


Lead: University of Minnesota

UK PI: Zoe Matthews

CIs: Robert J. Nicholls, John Dearing  
& Angela Baschieri

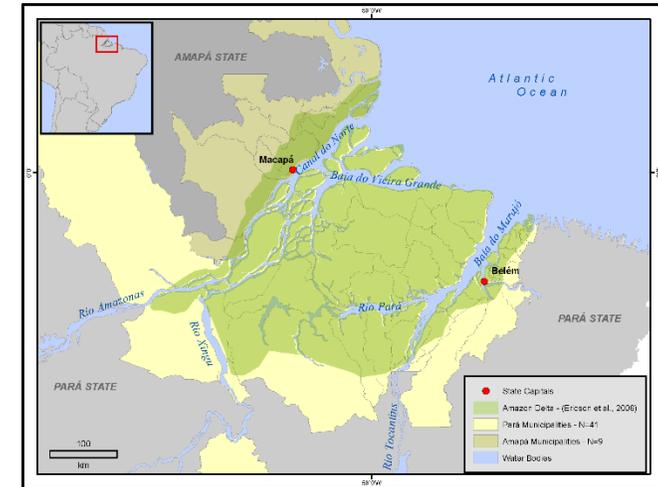
# Belmont Forum DELTAS study areas



Ganges Brahmaputra delta

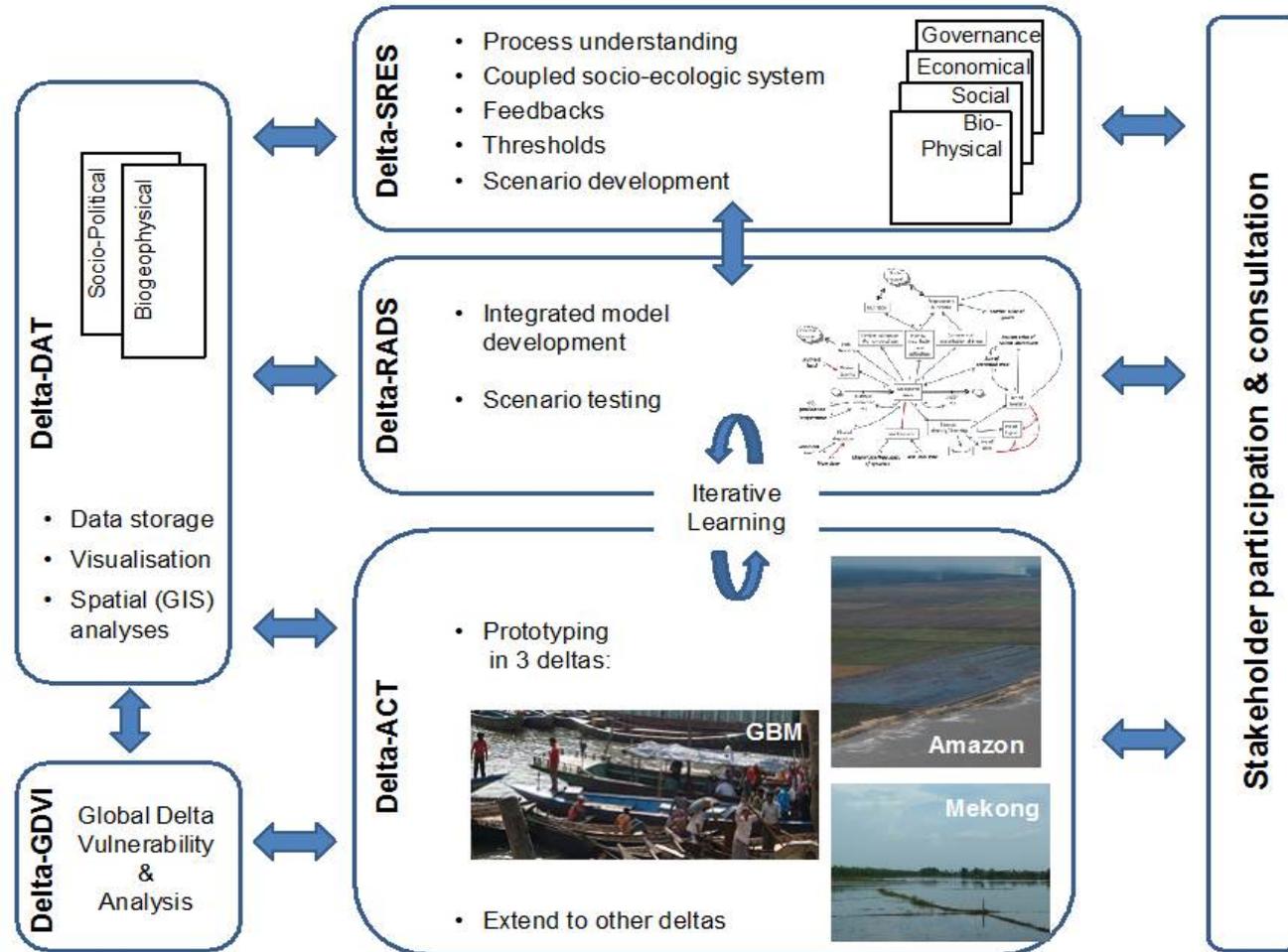


Mekong delta



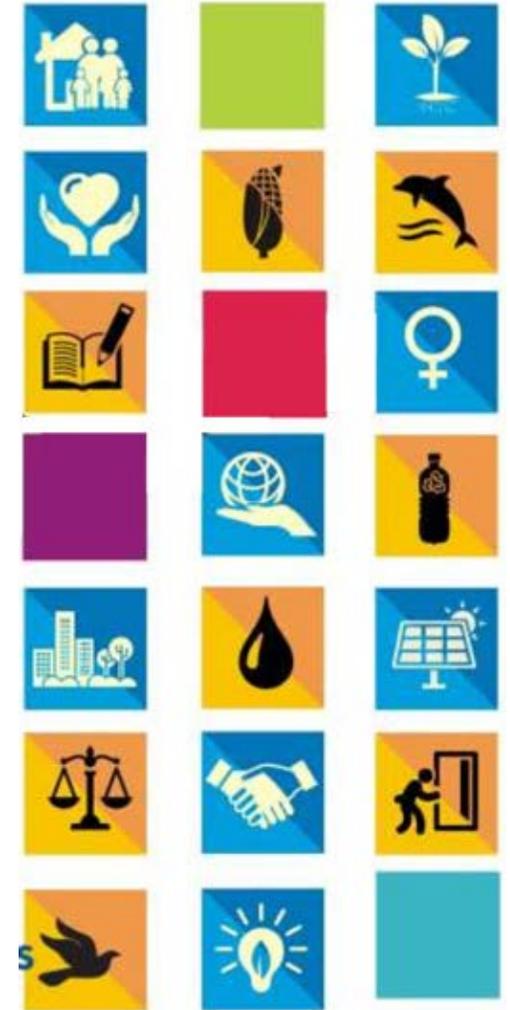
Amazon delta

# BF DELTAS: Research framework and objectives



# Relevance to SDG agenda & engagement with SDG process

- Socio-economic development of delta regions crucial to global sustainable development (e.g. food security).
- Proposed SDGs offer new opportunities for delta regions (goals and indicators on climate change, food security, agricultural production, price volatility and ecosystem services, marine environments and fisheries).
- Editorial in *Environment: science and policy for sustainable development* (Szabo et al., forthcoming).
- HL event in NY on deltas and sustainable development coordinated by the UNU (Oct 2015).





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