Building Blocks

Building Block I

Title *Example: "Community management plans" (up to 60 characters)*

Panama Dutch Water Dialogues

Category *Please highlight up to 3 categories that apply to this building block*

Policies and Legal Frameworks

☐Alternative Livelihoods   ☐Co-Management Building

☐Enforcement   ☐Finance Scheme

☒Law and Regulations   ☐Strategy Development and Planning

☐Policy Advocacy

Technical Solutions

☐Technical Methods, Techniques and Tools   ☐Review

☐ Monitoring / Evaluation / Overseeing Implementation

Capacity Development Measures

☐Human Capacity Development   ☒Institutional Development

Research and Traditional Knowledge

☐Collection of Data and Information   ☐Use of Scientific Knowledge

☐Use of Traditional Knowledge

Network and Communication

☐Communication Outreach and Awareness Building

☐Partnership   ☒Stakeholder Dialogue

☐Other (please specify):

Scale *Please highlight the level that applies to this building block*

☒Local   ☐Multi-national

☐Sub-national   ☐Global

☐National

Phase *If applicable, please highlight the phase of solution that applies to this building block*

☒Planning Phase   ☐Documentation and Dissemination of Results

☐Inception Phase   ☐Review Phase

☐Implementation   ☐Entirety

☐Monitoring

Building Block Description *Please explain the purpose of this building block and how it works. (max 1.250 characters)*

A DRR team mission assisted the Municipality in analyzing flood risks in the city. A key recommendation was to start 'Water Dialogues' that provide a platform to initiate and facilitate a new process of water management. The first Water Dialogue, implemented in January 2016, delivered a

Road Map to 1) analyze the situation, 2) identify and bring together all relevant stakeholders varying from private sector to ministries and urban communities, 3) assess opportunities for application of water management approaches such as Building with Nature, Room for the River, retain-store-drain, and 4) develop a process of regulatory adjustment. The road map was inter alia implemented through community action to clean-up the drainage system, awareness raising activities, and legal advice to improve the regulatory framework.

The current work of the Municipality, focuses on the adoption of new regulations and building requirements for flood-prone areas. Furthermore, the Municipality is looking for parties that can pre-finance, design, build and maintain the infrastructural works that will prevent flood risks. Important in the design phase is the incorporation of benefits for local residents (recreational space, esthetic properties).

Enabling factors * *Please list conditions that are important to enabling the success of this building block. (max 500 characters)*

The process was piloted through a strong partnership of the Municipality, Dutch Cooperation and Wetlands International.
Stakeholder participation was optimized through knowledge exchange, scenario planning, modelling and institutional capacity building.
A hydrological study (financed by IDB) that showed the impact of the landfills on flooding of neighborhoods helped to raise awareness.

Lessons learned * *Please list key lessons learned during the process of implementing this building block. If relevant, please also mention aspects that have not worked and any specific advice to replicators of your building block on avoiding mistakes in their application.(max 1000 characters)*

The Water Dialogue facilitated a learning process, opened possibilities for stakeholders to cooperate and help to optimize water governance (content, institutional, relational).
Challenges regarding the content level included a lack of overview of reliable data, a lack of models, limited knowledge on economic loss related to flood risk, scattered technical knowledge and outdated decision making rules. At the institutional level, the process was confronted with a variety of authorities responsible, limited coordination, outdated laws and regulation, limited financial resources and limited enforcement. At the relational level, the process was impacted by unsatisfying stakeholder participation, limited technical backing for justification, collusion between private sector and communities and extensive press coverage.
However, the dialogues restored trust of affected communities in (municipal) authorities to solve problem of flooding. Cooperation between authorities improved.

Photo * *(Please provide photos that show your building block in action).*

Stakeholder meeting (Photo: Wetlands International)