

Strengthening salinity intrusion data sharing and forecasting for adaptation to climate change impacts in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam

Project Working Group Meeting Report

Online meeting held April 21st 2026 15:00hrs Hanoi/10:00hrs CET

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting in progress. The main window displays a presentation slide titled "Salinity Platform Components". The slide content includes a flowchart with the following components: External Data Sources, Data Ingestion & Storage (using PostgreSQL, InfluxDB, and File Storage), Processing & Modeling (using MIKE), APIs & Services (using DHI Web API and GeoServer), and User Interface. The flowchart shows data flowing from External Data Sources through Data Ingestion & Storage to Processing & Modeling, then to APIs & Services, and finally to the User Interface. Below the main window, there is a "Notes" section with the text "Notes from notes section will appear here...". On the right side, there is a "Participants" list showing 12 participants: Maija Bertule (Organizer), DT (Đồng Trần), Jakob Luchner, NT (Nguyễn Nhân Tuan), NV (Nguyễn Quốc Việt), P (phuong), P2 (Phuong 2), S (SIWRR-Thuan), Soeren Tjerry, T (Thien.VNMC), and T (TranQuangTho_SIWRP). The bottom of the screen shows a navigation bar with thumbnails of the presentation slides.

1. Background

The “Strengthening salinity intrusion data sharing and forecasting for adaptation to climate change impacts in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam” is implemented with support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) at the request of the Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC) as the main Project Proponent. DHI is the main implementer of the project.

A Project Working Group (PWG) will be established under the said CTCN TA project. The main objective of the PWG will be to create an opportunity for key institutions involved in salinity data collection, management and use in the Viet Nam Mekong Delta to share their feedback and technical advice throughout project implementation. The aim is to ensure that the CTCN TA project outputs are practical, relevant, and maximize the benefits of the project for national and sub-national stakeholders and take into account their needs and advice when it comes to salinity data management.

See full TOR for PWG in Annex A of this meeting report.

This document pertains to the first online PWG meeting agenda and meeting summary.

2. PWG meeting objectives

The main objectives of this online Project Working Group meeting will be following:

- i. To introduce project working group (PWG) to the CTCN TA project – main activities, outputs and timeline;
- ii. To introduce PWG with proposed TOR for the group's work and general guidelines for engagement;
- iii. To collect any initial feedback from the PWG on project objectives and implementation activities;
- iv. To collect initial PWG feedback on the respective institutional roles in salinity intrusion monitoring and expectations/needs from the salinity data sharing in the Delta.

3. Meeting Agenda

Time (Hanoi/CEST)	Agenda item	Speakers
15:00 – 15:05	Official opening of the meeting	VNMC
15:05 – 15:15	Roundtable of introductions to participants	All
15:15 – 15:30	Introduction to the CTCN project and Project Working Group (PWG) terms of reference	DHI
15:30 – 15:40	QA/PWG interventions (open floor for questions and discussion)	All
15:40 – 15:50	PWG feedback on initial questions: - How does your organisation engage with salinity data collection and use? - What support does your organisation need for better salinity data management and sharing? - Do you have any immediate suggestions to the design of the salinity data sharing platform developed for VNMC?	PWG, facilitated by DHI
15:50 – 15:55	Next steps on project, PWG activities (including inception workshop)	DHI
15:55 – 16:00	Meeting closure	DHI and VNMC

4. PWG meeting attendee list

No.	Name	Institution	Role
1.	Dr. Nguyen Anh Duc	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	Deputy General Director/ Project Acceptance Representative
2	Mr. Tran Tien Dong	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	Project Coordinator/ PWG member
3	Mr. Nguyen Dinh Dat	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	National modelling expert/ PWG member
4	Mr. Vu Minh Thien	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	Senior modelling/ PWG member
5	Mr. Nguyen Nhan Tuan	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	Mike Operation, Mobile-compatible web application Assistant/ PWG member
6	Mr. Nguyen Quoc Viet	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC)	Modelling Assistant/ PWG member
7	Dr. Tran Anh Phuong	National Center for Water Resources Planning and Investigation (NAWAPI)	Deputy Director of Center for Water Resources Warning and Forecast/ PWG member
8	Mr. Pham Khac Thuan	Southern Institute of Water Resources Research (SIWRR)	Deputy Director of Center of Rural Technical Infrastructure Development/ PWG member
9	Mr. Tran Quang Tho	Southern Institute of Water Resources Planning (SIWRP)	Head of Mekong Delta Division/ PWG member
10	Mrs. Maija Bertule	DHI	CTCN TA PM/ implementation partner
11	Mr. Jakob Luchner	DHI	CTCN TA technical lead/PWG member
12	Mr. Søren Tjerry	DHI	CTCN TA lead modeller/PWG member

5. First PWG Meeting Summary

Official opening of the meeting

The meeting was officially opened by the meeting Chair, Dr. Nguyen Anh Duc, the Deputy General Director of VNMC. Dr. Duc started the meeting with welcoming remarks to all participants.

Round of participant introductions

After the opening remarks, the meeting proceeded with a round of introductions of all participants, introducing themselves and their respective institutions.

- VNMC remarked that they would like to see the PWG work together during the implementation of the project and to provide feedback on key outputs of the project along the way. This is to ensure that the project outputs are useful for all institutions involved in salinity monitoring in the Delta.

Introduction to the CTCN project and Project Working Group (PWG) terms of reference

After an initial round of meeting participant introductions, Maija Bertule (DHI) presented the CTCN TA technical project to all meeting participants. **Presentation slides can be found in Annex B of this report.** The presentation briefly covered:

- History of the project development
- Main project objectives and expected outputs and outcomes
- The expected role of the Project Working Group (PWG) and specific ways and activities through which the PWG is expected to engage in the project implementation
- A brief summary of the project timeline and key activities.

Open QA and discussion

After the project introduction and overview of PWG role in the project, including PWG terms of reference, the floor was open to PWG questions, comments and suggestions. A few guiding questions were included to kick-off the discussion with the PWG as follows:

- How does your organisation engage with salinity data collection and use?
- What support does your organisation need for better salinity data management and sharing?
- Do you have any immediate suggestions to the design of the salinity data sharing platform developed for VNMC that would support your daily work?

The PWG provided following feedback and questions to the discussion:

- **Mr. Tran Quang Tho (SIWRP)** remarked that SIWRP uses near real-time salinity data for the development of irrigation planning, e.g. to inform the operation of sluice gates. It also uses salinity forecasting to inform irrigation schedules.
He also inquired about the scope of the project – specifically whether the focus would be only on the mainstream and whether the project would consider tidal influences. The question mainly focused on the boundaries of the model, including the focus area and whether water use would be incorporated. He also remarked that a near real-time forecast frequency is not always necessary
- **Dr. Nguyen Anh Duc (VNMC)** responded that the project should focus on all areas impacted by salinity in the Viet Nam Delta. He also remarked that it is necessary to clearly establish the upstream–downstream boundary at this stage of the project. An important consideration was also raised regarding

the need to have clarity on what will happen to the data-sharing platform after the immediate project closure at the end of 2026.

- **Dr. Tran Anh Phuong (NAWAPI)** remarked that the project was very important not only for VNMC but also for NAWAPI's work, including NAWAPI's forecasting centre. He also raised a question on what the lead time for forecasting information is (how many days). Dr. Phuong also concurred on the need for definition upstream boundaries, investigating how we can use forecasting from the upstream boundaries and consideration of tidal influences.
- **Mr. Pham Khac Thuan (SIWRR)** requested more information on how it will be possible for other stakeholders to obtain data from the project and the salinity data-sharing platform – i.e. what the data-sharing policies for the platform will be. He reflected on SIWRR's experience with forecasting for the delta and noted challenges in accessing data for forecasting in practice. Even where formal data exchange and sharing policies exist, actual data access can be very difficult in practice. The project will also need to consider recent changes in governing institutions (previously two institutions, now merged into one). VNMC remarked that they are already working on accessing the relevant data.
- **Mr. Vu Minh Thien (VNMC)** made note that it was necessary to clarify the lead time for forecasting, as the platform will provide not only near real-time data but also future forecasting. Depending on the upstream boundaries, this will rely on the MRC model, while for the downstream it will also need to consider tidal influences in determining what lead time can be provided.
- **Mr. Nguyen Dinh Dat (VNMC)** clarified that the upstream boundaries will be based on the MRC model and the regional centre that provides weekly predictions for water flow in the mainstream. MRC is also developing mid-term and long-term predictions, including water demand in the lower Mekong. The model will include basin-wide development estimates for future water demand, including Cambodia. The project will also utilise work carried out by MRC to develop downstream regime predictions for 2050. If historic data on the tidal regime are available from other organisations, the project team may use these for validation.
- **Mr. Jakob Luchner (DHI)** added that one of the most important items to determine during inception workshop and visit will be how the project team can get access to the necessary data for the platform, including what are the rules and guideline for data access, use and sharing.
- **Dr. Nguyen Anh Duc (VNMC)** added that in addition to the data discussion, the inception workshop and visit will be critical to determine how the salinity data sharing platform can be shared and used by other stakeholders, so that the platform is useful not only for VNMC, but also other stakeholders in the delta.

Next steps on project, PWG activities

After discussion and QA, DHI provided quick wrap up slides, outlining the next steps in project, with focus on activities that will be relevant for PWG members. These included the upcoming Stakeholder Workshop, tentatively scheduled for mid-June at the time of the first PWG meeting. The PWG members will be formally invited to join the Stakeholder workshop as soon as the final date is confirmed by VNMC.

Meeting closure

After the closing slides, VNMC chairperson thanked all PWG members for taking part in the meeting and formally closed the meeting.

ANNEX A. Project Working Group Terms of Reference

1. Background

The project “Strengthening salinity intrusion data sharing and forecasting for adaptation to climate change impacts in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam” is implemented with support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) at the request of the Viet Nam National Mekong Committee (VNMC) as the main Project Proponent. DHI is the main implementer of the project.

This project aims to strengthen the national capacity for monitoring, forecasting, and sharing salinity intrusion data in the Mekong Delta through the development of a salinity data sharing platform (DSP), improved forecasting tools, and targeted capacity development. The project places strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement, use of existing national salinity data and systems, and ensuring that data and information products from the salinity data sharing platform support decision-making for climate change adaptation at national and sub-national levels.

2. Purpose of the project working group (PWG)

A Project Working Group (PWG) will be established under the said CTCN TA project.

The main objective of the PWG will be to create an opportunity for key institutions involved in salinity data collection, management and use in the Viet Nam Mekong Delta to share their feedback and technical advice throughout project implementation. The aim is to ensure that the CTCN TA project outputs are practical, relevant, and maximize the benefits of the project for national and sub-national stakeholders and take into account their needs and advice when it comes to salinity data management.

3. PWG mandate

The PWG will function as a voluntary advisory group and is not expected to take formal decisions on project implementation.

Decisions related to project scope, deliverables, approvals, and implementation are taken by the Project Proponent (VNMC), the lead project implementer (DHI), and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), in line with established governance arrangements of the CTCN Technical Assistance project.

4. Scope of work of PWG

The expected interactions with the PWG during project implementation include following:

- Opportunity for the PWG to review and provide advisory feedback on the project work plan, technical approach, and selected deliverables.
- Provide inputs and perspectives on the PWG institutional needs to capacity needs assessment and capacity development planning.
- Provide technical and institutional advice and perspectives on needs and gaps to inform the design and development of the salinity data sharing platform (DSP).

- Take part in dialogue with VNMC and project implementing team on salinity data availability, data quality, and practical data-sharing arrangements, in alignment with the institutional mandates.

5. Expected PWG activities

The specific engagement opportunities for PWG are expected as follows:

- Online PWG meeting at the start of the project.
Expected engagement – one 1-hour online meeting.
- Invitation to review and provide advisory feedback on key project deliverables – specifically on the capacity needs and the data sharing platform functionalities and institutional needs/wishes for the platform.
Expected engagement – comments on 1-3 documents during the project implementation timeline.
- Opportunity to participate in the stakeholder inception workshop for limited number of participants.
Expected engagement: one 1-day in-person meeting.
- Opportunity to take part in any capacity development activities held at the end of the project.
Expected engagement: one half-to full day meeting (in-person or online) at the end of the project.

6. Composition

The PWG will include representatives from key salinity data management institutions:

- VNMC: Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
- NAWAPI: National Center for Water Resources Planning and Investigation
- SIWRP: Southern Institute of Water Resources Planning
- SIWRR: Southern Institute of Water Resources Research

7. Participation practicalities

Participation in the Project Working Group is voluntary and on a pro bono basis at all stages of project implementation. PWG will not receive remuneration for their participation in online meetings or related activities.

Any direct travel expenses related to participation in in-person stakeholder workshops for the project will however be covered by the CTCN TA project.

8. Roles and responsibilities

VNMC and DHI: Facilitate coordination of the PWG and act as the main national counterpart (meetings, agendas, invitations, document sharing).

PWG members: Participate in meetings, provide technical and institutional inputs to selected documents when possible, support information sharing and coordination on the salinity data sharing in the VMD.

Project implementer (DHI): Organize meetings and prepare agendas, materials, and minutes. Consolidate PWG inputs and reflect them in project implementation and deliverables, as appropriate.

9. Meetings and duration of PWG activity

The PWG will operate for the full duration of the project and conclude upon completion of final project deliverables – expected to be **April - December of 2026**. An initial online meeting will be held to introduce the project to PWG in April of 2026. Meetings will be documented through short minutes and action points.

ANNEX B. PWG meeting slides



Adobe Acrobat
Document