

Strategy and 2022 planning for the Floating Development Community (FDC)

STRATEGY

Introduction

Floating development and related amphibious and stilted options are providing innovative adaptation solutions with many development benefits (see box 1 below). It provides resilience in the face of extreme water levels, such as flooding and sea level rise.

Despite demonstrated benefits and existing good practice, there is a critical gap in scaling up floating development solutions, and not many companies are working on this topic. There are challenges to scaling up because floating development is sometimes lacking enablers such as regulations and can encounter resistance as it is a new and unknown solution.

The Community (FDC) thinks that floating and resilient development is a niche that deserves scaling, supporting the connection of solution seekers and solution providers. This FDC has therefore come together with the understanding that to create an impact you need to work together. Important goals are to improve the collective understanding of various aspects about floating such as technology, governance, social issues, design and engineering, and upscale sustainable floating solutions.

Objectives:

The Floating Development Community (FDC) therefore aims to provide:

- Showcase of innovative floating and adaptive solutions which contribute to increasing climate and urban resilience and allows “living with water”.
- Networking to understand each other’s interests, vision and needs, and see how we could help bring people together within the Floating Development Community in the future.
- A platform for market matchmaking and bringing together multidisciplinary stakeholders worldwide for joint value creation.
- Thought leadership on floating development, which can bridge knowledge gaps, inspire and support its members and create awareness for floating development solutions across different perspectives.
- A platform to expand the network.
- Support learning opportunities such as a training module for policymakers, entrepreneurs amongst others.
- Scale up floating technologies, increasing cost-efficiency to make it relevant for people all over the world, relevant and accessible for different social groups.

Scope of the community

- All types of income levels and geographies, rural and urban.
- Development for living, working, recreational, farming (cattle and crops).

- Development designed to “Live with the water”. This includes floating development and Flood resilient development (including amphibious, houses on stilts) addressing flood issues, needs for connectivity and dynamic flow of water-environments, and sea level rise (do we need to change name of the group?).
- Technical, environmental, social and cultural issues related to this solution
- Emphasis on circular economy (reuse of materials, recycling, sustainable timber etc).
- Inclusive of added value, cost-effectiveness for vulnerable communities, (shelter, schools, community buildings, support to low-income country networks and entrepreneurs).

Box 1: Floating development offers several benefits:

Adaptation solutions:

- A way to adapt with sea level rise
- Be resilient in the face of floods, including protecting assets and livelihoods that do not get destroyed by flood waters
- Providing continued functioning of schools, livelihoods, health care facilities, community gatherings and safe shelters in flood prone areas.
- An opportunity to support vulnerable people living in flood prone areas.

In addition, floating development has several development related benefits:

- It supports dynamism and connectivity of rivers and water-ecosystems.
- It takes (some) pressure off sand mining which is a problem for riverine ecosystems.
- In areas with great tidal differences, it is a flexible option for ports and terminals.
- It can address urbanisation to expand development on water.
- It can reduce the use of valuable land, that instead can be used for agriculture etc.

The CFD is supported by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) Water Adaptation Community (WAC) - a multi-stakeholder platform for knowledge exchange, shared learning, collaboration, inspiration, and capacity building¹.

PLANNING 2022

Suggested/Planned activities – mainly three themes:

1. Networking with city networks and the FDC in general for upscaling.
2. Exploring links to environmental benefits.
3. Exploring how the FDC can benefit vulnerable communities.

¹ Platform URL: [The Water Adaptation Community | Water Adaptation Community \(adaptationexchange.org\)](https://adaptationexchange.org) - Watch the 7 min video presenting the Water Adaptation Community: <https://tinyurl.com/4a9kwun2>



Time schedule (tbc) 2022

Activity	Date	Description
Prep meeting with FDC (online)	2 Feb	Meeting to discuss the workplan. Identify participants of FDC meeting (see audience below) – assign actions to people.
Preparation (email)	na	City meeting: Prepare concept with the group. Send invites – letter and agenda of meeting. Prepare presentations. Format:
Meeting with WWF and other environmental actors (online)	Mid-February	Develop agenda, short presentations by WWF and FDC – prior email exchange to develop the agenda. Zoom meeting with registration. We can record the meeting. Possible outcomes: Joint activities? Research publication? Public webinar? Production of a brief?
Participating in workshop by Research Institute of Land and Water	Mid Feb	Be part of the international awareness workshop organised by the “Research Institute of Land and Water” in mid mid-February and create awareness about floating development.
City meeting	April 19	Discuss possible joint activities like a training. Understand cities challenges, interests, needs, visions and see how the FDC can support a growing interest in Floating and Resilient Development.
Contact scientific network/ general audience interested in the FDC	March	Open meeting to discuss interest in FD. To understand each other’s interests, vision and needs, and see how we could help bring people together within the Floating Development Community in the future.
Participating in UN-HABITAT 2 nd roundtable discussion	April-May	Take part of the 2 nd roundtable discussion by UN-HABITAT on sustainable floating city development in April-May this year (as a follow-up from the first one). GCA and WAC-FDC could show what have been achieved and how we could contribute to UN-Habitat’s efforts in bringing together a brain-trust on floating urban development. [What actions are needed for this?]
Social media: invite people to sign up at WAC-FDC and join the community	Before June meeting	Video material from the FDC [please send to Ase so that GCA can edit it for a social media outreach]
General networking in the FDC	Sep 29 2022	Global knowledge exchange - CoP meeting online General scoping for collaboration or need for studies, new knowledge etc.
Develop training material	tbc	What is needed? Demanded? Time, funds? Audience?
Cities training	tbc	Define one day training to city authorities. Develop concept and presentation and training material. We should target cities that really show serious interests in floating urban



		development. E.g. Busan City (South Korea), Singapore, Helsinki, Swansea, Lagos, etc. [What actions are needed by whom?]
Environmental benefits and floating development	Autumn 2022	Publishing and communicating output on FDC and environmental benefits(?)
Vulnerable communities and floating development	Autumn 2022	Publishing and communicating output on FDC and vulnerable communities. Follow up action to support activities and scaling up in this topic.

Target audience for the FDC (to be expanded on, please feel free to add)

City upscaling:

- Resilient city network
- ICLEI
- C40
- ca 500 cities signed up to UNDRR resilient cities.
- African cities in the CCA City Adaptation Accelerator (GCA).
- Blue21 has an extensive network and could reach out to these cities simultaneously as GCA does, as long as we coordinate.
- UN-Habitat
- WRI

Environmental benefits:

- WWF
- IUCN
- Etc.

Vulnerable communities

- BRAC (NGO supporting boat schools in Bangladesh)
- Other NGOs, companies and universities targeting low income populations
- Bangladesh/Gobeshona
- City and environmental networks (as above)

Other experts (Identifying relevant scientific areas, scientific institutions, individual experts, etc.)

- IHE
- TU Delft
- Hong Kong/HKPolyU
- Etc.

Community references

- In Sep 2021 a floating development community [webinar](#) was held. This contributed to the general awareness of floating development as an important adaptation solution.
- The FDC is [online on the WAC](#). After registering on the platform and connecting to the community, members can upload own material to the platform.
- Info on the training module Rutgers is online – what other material should be uploaded?

Comms activities

[please give me feedback here – better to use existing material if this already exist]

Video production (tbc)

The WAC will be able to contract a video producer (s) to support the awareness raising of water adaptation – including floating development solutions and some of the issues and opportunities. It can also contribute to e-learning. Here are some suggested activities:

- A shorter video of main messages for social media promo: interviews with the FDC community from a script with questions the FDC can help develop.
- Longer video – also including original footage from around the world, in countries where you have contacts for example. The FDC can help develop the script and provide cases.

General audiences – invite for special workshops/webinars

- GCA can advertise via social media and the CoP online platform for the FDC.

Social media comms

Is there not a Day for Floating Development? World Water Day is very crowded. In any case, GCA can support social media on floating development. Please feel free to make suggestions. Good content for social media is always appreciated.

Measure of success for the FDC

Short term indicators: what activity is visible on the platform: Number of hits, number of registered members, discussions, uploaded materials.

Medium term: number of meetings with various partners, e-learning held, articles and cases written on progress, consultant signed up for work in Bangladesh, connections with scientific community, cities and NGOs developed.

Long term indicators: Understanding and Support for floating development is increased expressed by experts, NGOS, decisionmakers and developers. Number of cities interested.