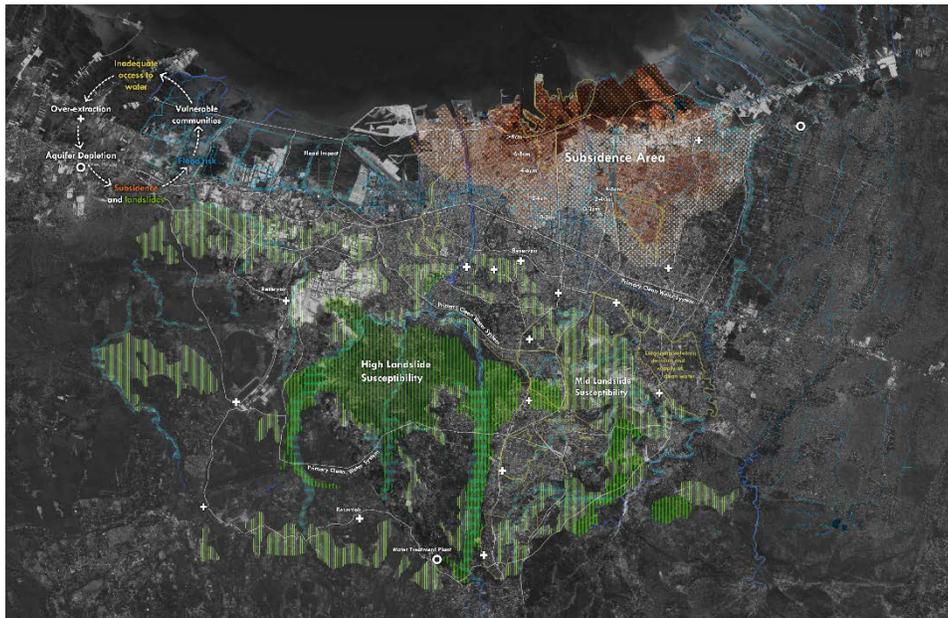


For Immediate Release

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ONE Resilient Team selected to work on climate-adaptive design for Semarang, Indonesia through Dutch government's Water as Leverage challenge

Addressing a complex array of environmental risks, a design team led by New York-based firm One Architecture & Urbanism (ONE) has been selected by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) to work on climate-adaptive design in Semarang, a rapidly subsiding and flooding port on the island of Java.



For our winning proposal, Water(shed) as Leverage, ONE Resilient Team mapped opportunities for interventions to work against the compound risks of subsidence, flooding, groundwater use, and urban expansion. (Courtesy ONE)

SEMARANG, INDONESIA & NEW YORK, NY (JULY 17, 2018). Following a highly competitive application process, ONE Resilient Team – a design team led by New York and Amsterdam-based design and planning **firm One Architecture & Urbanism (ONE)** – has been selected for the Semarang portion of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)-initiated Water as Leverage challenge.

The Water as Leverage challenge focuses on resilience to climate and urban risks in three cities across Southeast Asia: Semarang, Indonesia; Khulna, Bangladesh; and Chennai, India. For each city, two teams comprised of international and local members have been selected to develop resilience plans that “bridge the gap between plans and projects between a siloed technocratic approach and an inclusive process that connects all stakeholders from day one,” according to RVO.

ONE Resilient Team’s proposal for Semarang, titled **Water(shed) as Leverage**, came at the challenge from a dual top-down and bottom-up approach to cope with interconnected and compound risks such as subsidence, rob (repeat) flooding, landslides, aquifer depletion, and more. The team consists of a variety of design firms, engineers, environmental nonprofits, community organizers, independent researchers, financial consultants, and policy / governance experts. In addition to ONE, a selection of these team members include **Deltares** as environmental lead, **Sherwood Design**

Engineers as civil engineering lead, **Wetlands International** as ecological lead, **Kota Kita** as local planning and outreach lead, **Grobak Hysteria** as community engagement lead, **Iqbal Reza Fazlurrahman** as financial and economic advisor, **The Nature Conservancy** as ecological restoration advisor, **Atelier 10** as sustainability advisor, the **University of Pennsylvania** as climate and social research advisor, and **Diponegoro University** as urban research advisor. Many of these team members have already collaborated on a number of projects on Java, including Wetlands International and Deltares' Building with Nature project located in Demak, and a participatory climate change risk assessment in Semarang by Kota Kita.

"We see this as part of a larger turning point in resilience thinking that acknowledges the importance of integrated design approaches to cope with climate change and urban risk – especially in vulnerable cities across Southeast Asia," said **Matthijs Bouw, founding principal of One Architecture & Urbanism (ONE)**. "It's encouraging to see that international development banks and others are beginning to collaborate across sectors in responding to complex issues with complex solutions, and are discovering design as a tool for this."

Semarang is a city of 1.7 million with an average population increase of 0.83% per year, an influx that is rapidly densifying vulnerable areas in both the coastal and upland districts of the city. Environmental risks in Semarang are also exacerbated by human practices, namely uncontrolled groundwater extraction (due in part to highly polluted surface water). At a rate of sea level rise upward of 6 mm per year, and, in some places, a subsidence rate of over 10 cm per year, Semarang finds itself in a vicious cycle where its water-related practices directly contribute to higher flood risk. In parallel, the city is rapidly expanding in at-risk areas, with lack of effective governance to adapt to ever-changing environmental conditions.

"Throughout Indonesia, consideration of water systems above and below ground is key to sustainable development in both urban and rural areas," said **Bregje van Wesenbeeck, Expert Researcher and Consultant at Deltares**. "Our team will take a holistic approach to integrate natural and urban systems – core to this has been a blend of international and local expertise."

Water(shed) as Leverage proposes a suite of natural, social, and urban interventions focused on aquifer recharge, developing a culture of water commons (in which water and waterfronts are collectively-owned resources), naturalization, integrating gray and green coastal infrastructure, and fostering tools for social resilience through ecological stewardship and community water agencies.

"Our aim is greater synergy and collaboration between all stakeholders to cope with water challenges throughout Semarang and the surrounding coast and rural area," said **Nyoman Suryadiputra, director of Wetlands International's Indonesia office**. "We hope to set an example for how nature-based solutions can complement 'gray' infrastructure and pair opportunities for economic development with climate change adaptation."

This coming September, ONE and partners will visit Semarang for the first round of local design workshops, followed by regional workshops in Singapore in early December. The first phase of the project, focused on research and analysis for the development of conceptual designs, will be completed in December 2018. The second phase, focused on the development of proposals for urban water projects, will be completed in April 2019. The ultimate beneficiary of the challenge are the cities of Semarang, Khulna, and Chennai.

"Kota Kita believes in the power of active citizens to bring about change in their cities," said **Barry Beagen, Program Director at Kota Kita**. "Semarang's legacy of climate change initiatives and continued, self-organized transformations in neighborhoods are something we are excited to build on in our work."

Water as Leverage is a partnership between the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Special Envoy for International Water Affairs (Henk Ovink), and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) with the cities of Chennai, Khulna, and Semarang. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Dutch Development Bank (FMO), the Global Centre of Excellence on Climate Adaptation, Partners for Resilience, and 100 Resilient Cities (pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation) are also partners. The challenge is endorsed by the UN/World Bank High Level Panel on Water.

ONE Resilient Team: Organizations and Players

