



# DREDGING DAYS 2015

5-6 November, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

mindmeeting

## **Session 7: When Is Your Project Sustainable?**

Friday, 6 November, 11:00 – 12:30

### **Case Description**

#### **General Situation**

The City of Loof is the biggest port in the country of Distan. Loof is beautifully situated on the right bank of the river Tariwa, which means “Blue Waters” in the Distan language.

The Loof port is situated downstream from the city centre, but since a couple of decades, it has been included in the urban area due to the city’s rapid growth. The port has silted up significantly in the last 10 years and can now only be used by small vessels. The lack of maintenance is partly the result of a prolonged armed conflict between Distan and its neighbouring country Remotia. Fortunately, in February 2015, a peace treaty was signed between the two Presidents of the countries.

About 7 km downstream, on the left bank of the Tariwa and close to its mouth, lies the marine protected area of Clong, a pristine reef area with sea grass, fish nurseries etc, and one of only two places on earth with a viable population of the Moldy Sea Dragon, an extremely rare fish species. The fish is important for the local ecosystem and an indicator for its health; the Moldy Sea Dragon is the symbol of Loof and is an endangered species included in the CITES Red List.

In a remote corner of the port lies the site of the former razor blade company “The Swinging Blade”. This company went bankrupt in 2004 and has left an ugly heritage of soil polluted with heavy metals, used in the razor blade production process. The port sediment has been contaminated with these heavy metals.

## Specific Information for the Dredging Project

The Ministry of Infrastructure has charged the Loof Port Authority with the task of choosing a dredging company that will make the port utilizable again for large seagoing vessels, as before the armed conflict. It is granting the necessary funding very slowly, though. Revitalizing the port is of great economic importance for Loof.

Dredging the port involves the risk of releasing some of the heavy metals left by The Swinging Blade. Heavy metal concentrations in the sediment have been found on average 4 times above the acceptable maximum levels.

Now, the Port Authority has received an urgent message from the President's Cabinet. The President has received a historical peace-making gift from his Remotia colleague: a large yacht, and, more importantly, Remotia is willing to pay for part of the dredging expenses, immediately, as a sign of goodwill. The condition is that both Presidents would need to sail into the port by the end of November, symbolically confirming the peace treaty. Refusing the gift would be politically sensitive.

**You will now receive 5 different scenarios relating to the sustainability of the dredging project in Distan. The small working group with whom you are sitting together at this session has been called in as advisors by the Port Authority. They ask your opinions on the scenario choices.**