CENTRAL ASIA

Nexus Dialogue Workshop

Istanbul, Turkey, 15-17 July 2014

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Nexus Dialogue Workshop

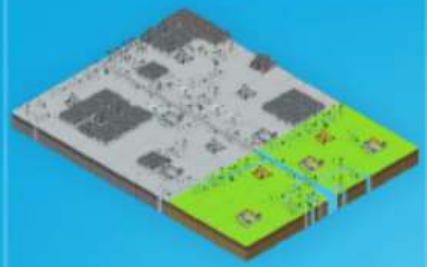
Basin Challenge Game

Dr. Nathanial Matthews

(CGIAR – Water, Land and Ecosystems)

Overview of Basin Challenge Game

- Online game that helps players to visualize and understand the complexities of river basin development.
- Development decisions players make are based on authentic situations and environmental and soci-economic data.
- There are timeframe, budgetary, and climatic constraints, and trade-offs must be decided (economics, social, environment)
- Simulates development of a river basin over the course of 50 years and see impacts of decisions instantly
- Encourages discussions surrounding trade-offs within the Nexus to improve decision-making through learning-by-doing.



Verden Basin
POPULATION: 500000

SCORE: 0
katharine.cross@iwahq.org

GAME HELP

Request Pause
Time left:65

SOUND OFF

VIEW GAME PLAY
VIEW TOPOGRAPHICAL (LAND ELEVATION)

CATCHMENT MANAGER

WATER RESTRICTIONS
LEVEL 1 LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3

WATER STATISTICS

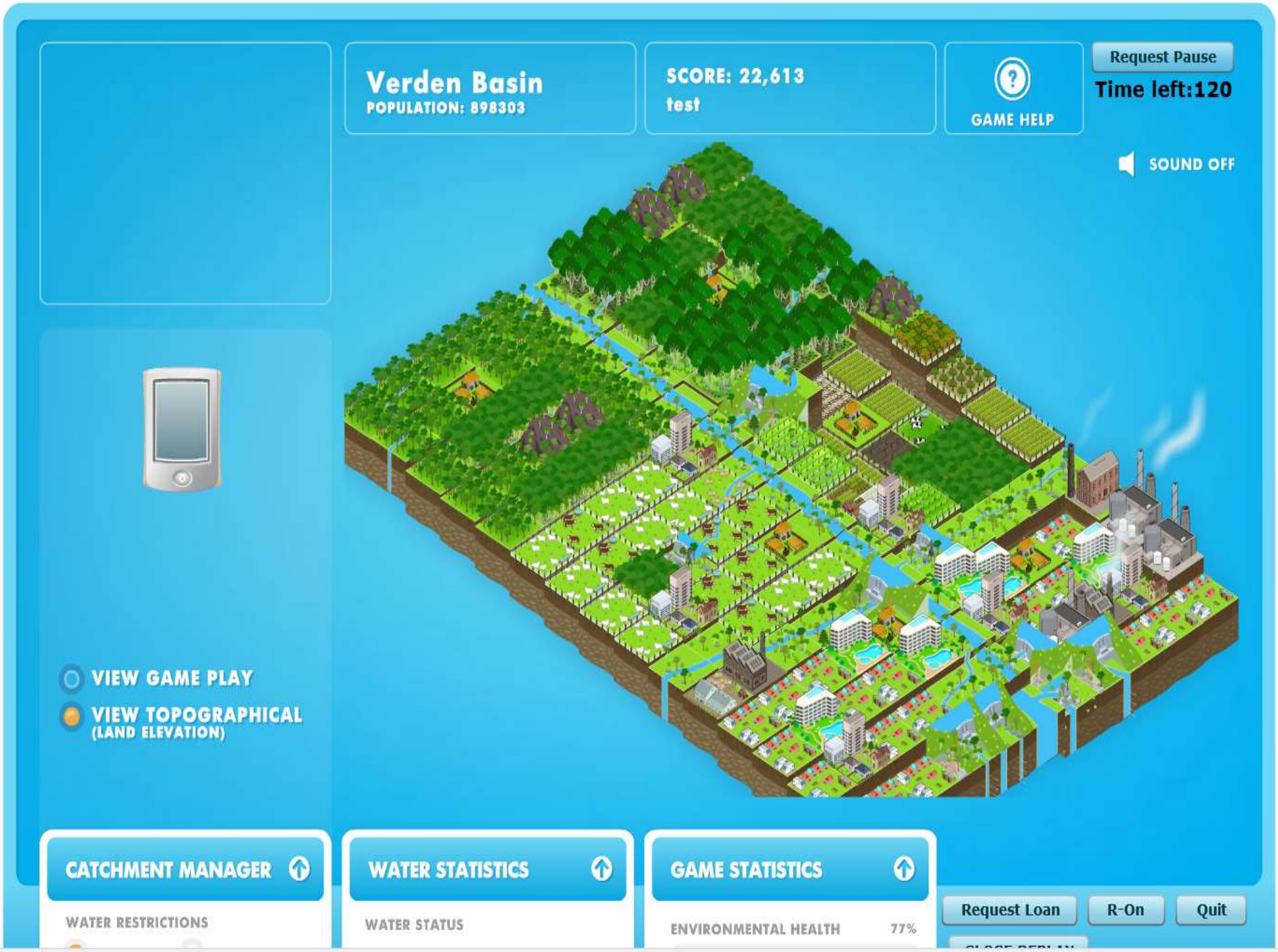
WATER STATUS
TERRIBLE
RAINFALL LAST TURN N/A

GAME STATISTICS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 39%
AVAILABLE CASH
$2,719,046,000

Request Loan R-On Quit

0 /50 NEXT TURN


Verden Basin
POPULATION: 898303
SCORE: 22,613
test
GAME HELP
Request Pause
Time left:120
SOUND OFF
VIEW GAME PLAY
VIEW TOPOGRAPHICAL
(LAND ELEVATION)
CATCHMENT MANAGER
WATER RESTRICTIONS
WATER STATISTICS
WATER STATUS
GAME STATISTICS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
77%
Request Loan
R-On
Quit

Basin Challenge Game Agenda

10:30 – 10:50 Overview of Game

10:50 – 11:50 Each group will play the game using a different resource use pathway, some mirroring choices pursued in the Amu Darya River Basin, to achieve food, water and energy security for overall social and economic development and stability.

11:50 – 12:30 – Plenary discussion to reflect on the value of the game in thinking about the interconnected challenges across the nexus.

Hints of the game

- Decide on who will control mouse
- Important to make more than one decision per turn (building)
- Click on cities to see changes
- City glows red when there is a message
- Soil is richer in the delta – more profit when farming in this area
- Facilitator will allow you to pause for 2 minutes to negotiate
- Finding a balance between ecosystems, electricity, population growth and food security requires trial and error.

Resource Use Pathways

- **Maximizing hydropower**
  - The aim of this pathway is to maximize power production with little or no consideration about downstream impacts.
- **Low (environmental) impact hydropower**
  - The aim of this pathway is to produce more sustainable hydropower. The group will want to carefully consider the location, amount and type of dam being developed
- **Maximizing cotton production**
  - The aim of this pathway is to focus on cotton development and industrial output. The group will need to build extensive irrigation schemes and factories in order to maximize economic outputs
- **Low (environmental) impact cotton production**
  - The aim of this pathway is to focus on sustainable cotton production. The group will need to careful consider the location of cotton and factories and attempt to balance industrial and economic growth with healthy ecosystems.
- **Maximizing agricultural production (cereals, fruits/vegetables and livestock)**
  - The aim of this pathway is to produce extensive food for the Basin with little or no consideration of the impacts. The group will want to focus on monocropping with high yield crops and livestock
- **Low (environmental) impact agricultural production**
  - The aim of this pathway will be to develop agricultural outputs while carefully considering the impacts of these outputs on people and the environment. The group will need to consider how to balance large scale agricultural production with issues such as water quality, tourism and ecosystem health.

Discussion questions

- How were decisions made in their Basin, what pressures did they face to make certain voices? Whose voices were heard the loudest? What voices or choices were left-out or deprioritized? Why?
- What are some of the consequences of the resource use pathways chosen? How does making decisions in a transboundary basin shape some of these consequences?
- What are your thoughts on the impacts in your Basin? How do the impacts compare with what is happening in the Amu Darya Basin? What is missing and what is similar?
- What do you think are some of the opportunities in developing the Basin? How does this compare to reality?
- Any other suggestions/comments related to the game or the session?