



INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

A stronger coast in the Mekong Delta

The Integrated Coastal Management Programme (ICMP) is a development programme that is funded by the governments of Viet Nam, Germany and Australia. Its objective is to support the Vietnamese authorities in preparing the coastal area of the Mekong Delta for a changing environment and to lay the foundations for sustainable growth.

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THE CHALLENGE

The Mekong Delta is home to 17 million people and is Viet Nam's most important agricultural region. Producing 55 % of the country's rice, the Mekong Delta feeds more than 145m people, roughly the population of France and Germany combined. The region is the reason that Viet Nam, which once suffered from shortage of rice, is now the world's second largest exporter of rice.

But the Mekong Delta is facing existential threats. Climate change is leading to rising sea levels, and according to official studies, 38 % of the Mekong Delta could be underwater by the year 2100. Already today, some areas of the coast are eroding by 30 m a year. The mangrove forests along the coast which can pro-

tect the hinterland from floods and storms are in dramatic decline. At the same time, floods and storms are likely to increase considerably in the future. Furthermore, rising levels of saltwater intrusion lead to saline soils which pose considerable challenges to rice production. These changes threaten the future of the Mekong Delta and its ability to provide the essential ecosystem services that the communities of the Delta depend on.

Still, the continuous degradation of ecosystems is only one problem. Another grave threat for the Mekong Delta is a possible extreme weather event, especially a major storm flood. In case of such a storm flood, big amounts of water could flow over the dyke at different places and could form one big water expanse which reaches 20 – 30 km inland, with no way to drain off. Such an event would add significantly to the salinisation of the soil and destroy vast parts of agricultural

harvests, putting the livelihoods of tens of thousands of farmers at risk.

The challenges that the Mekong Delta faces are diverse and closely interlinked. For example, mangroves are an integral part of coastal protection; coastal protection plays an important role in controlling soil salinity; the salinity of the soil impacts on agricultural production; the management of saline waters for agriculture and aquaculture needs is often complex and results in conflict between farmers with competing water needs – to mention just a few of the interconnections.

This is why the governments of Australia, Germany and Viet Nam have jointly launched the Integrated Coastal Management Programme (ICMP) in 2011 to make the coast of the Mekong Delta more resilient against climate change.



OUR APPROACH

The purpose of ICMP is to strengthen the coast of the Mekong Delta by making it more resilient against climate and environmental change.

This objective cannot be achieved with a one-dimensional sectoral approach. The very nature of the problem is that many different issues are inter-linked, such as water management, forestry, dykes, aquaculture and agriculture. For many of these issues,

different Vietnamese authorities are responsible, partly with a low degree of coordination.

This is the reason for the cross-sectoral and vertical approach of ICMP, spanning across six working areas: agriculture, aquaculture, coastal protection, forests, planning & budgeting and water management. Only by combining these fields – for instance by feeding the experiences from provincial area management into the national coastal legislation, or by creating awareness for environmental changes in order to motivate farmers to adapt their techniques – the programme is able to attain its objectives.

Using the ecosystem to protect the coast

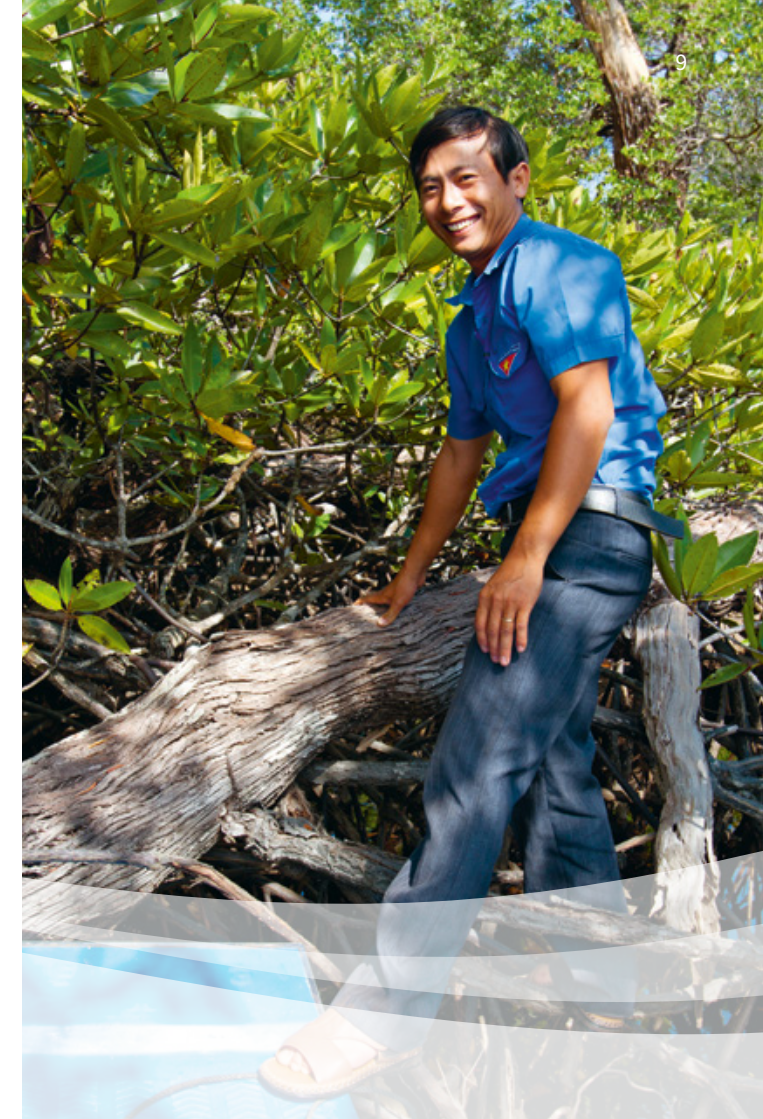
We have developed solutions that have pushed the coastline up to 180 metres further into the sea, enabling land (mudflats) to be reclaimed for the rehabilitation of mangrove forests. These forests are the best protection against floods and storms, especially if combined with other coastal protection measures. This approach is at the heart of integrated coastal protection plans for the Mekong Delta.

Supporting farmers in adapting to climate change

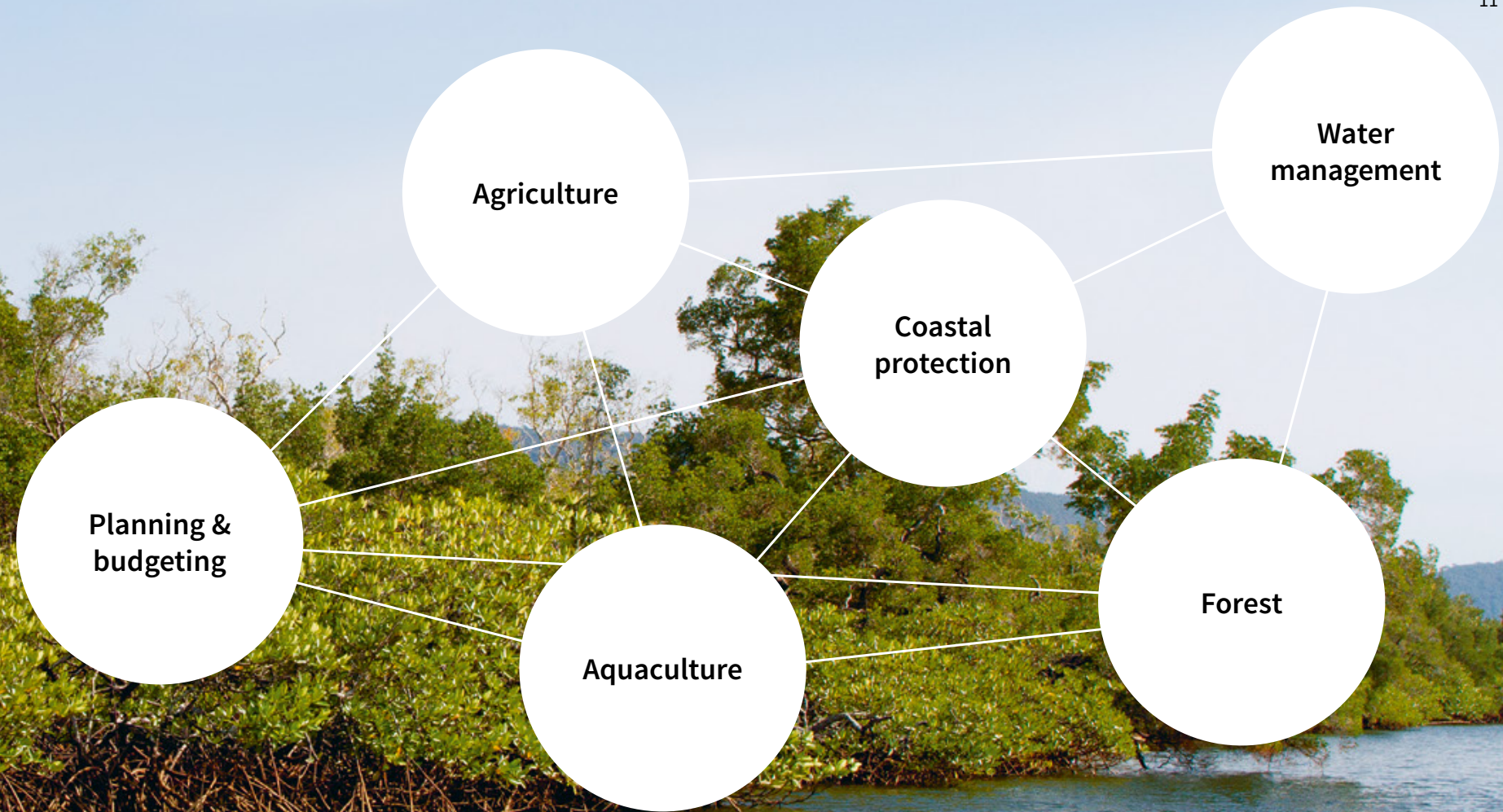
We support farmers in applying new techniques that will enable them to better cope with climate change, earn a higher income and protect the environment. We do this, for example, by reducing the need for water and pesticides in rice production by up to 30 %, or by supporting producers of environmentally sound shrimps to access world markets.

Promoting cooperation across borders

Climate change does not stop at borders. This is why we support authorities on the national and provincial level in establishing a coordinated approach to coastal protection and climate-resilient development, and encourage institutions in the provinces to include climate change and coastal protection into provincial budgets.



WORKING AREAS





IMPACTS

Selected impacts of ICMP in Phase I (2011 – 2014):



603 hectares of mangrove forests have been rehabilitated.

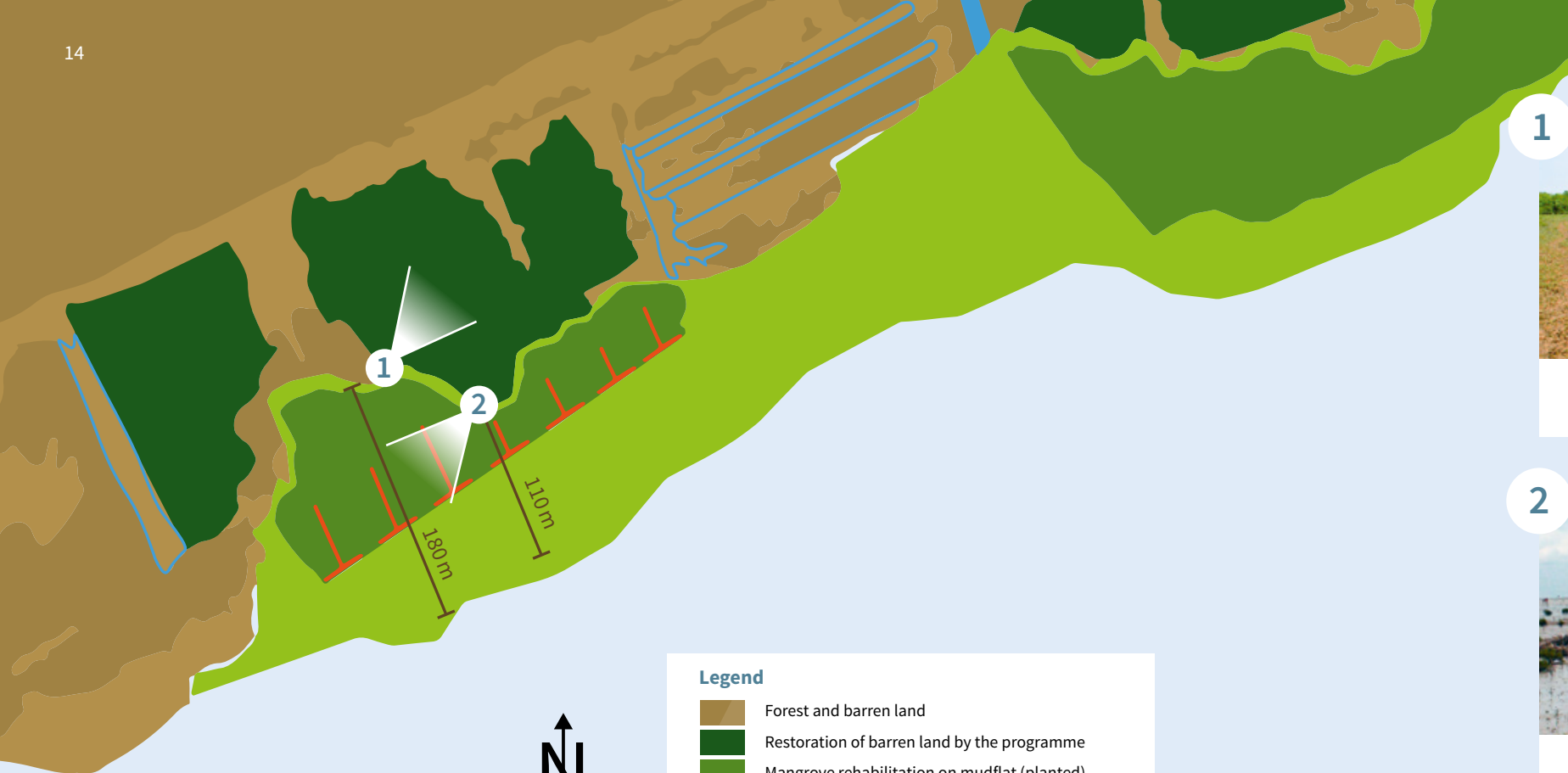
22 livelihood models that reduce environmental pressure and increase incomes by up to **60%** have been introduced in **8,500 households**.



On **99%** of the coastline of Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, waves no longer directly affect the dyke.

Two policy packages on forest management and irrigation management have been produced and are expected to benefit **8.7 million** people.





Legend

- Forest and barren land
- Restoration of barren land by the programme
- Mangrove rehabilitation on mudflat (planted)
- Natural regeneration of mangroves (after planting)
- Water

1



BEFORE

Barren land on which no trees can grow



AFTER 20 MONTHS

Barren land restored

2



BEFORE

Erosion site with first new sedimentation due to breakwater fences and some planted mangrove seedlings



AFTER 23 MONTHS

180 metres of land with abundant vegetation re-gained from the sea, reaching much farther than the breakwater fences and the planting site

PROGRAMME PARTNERS AND DONORS

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF VIET NAM (MARD)



The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam (MARD) is responsible for performing nationwide state management functions in the fields of agriculture, forestry, irrigation / water services, rural development and other.

MARD is the executing agency of ICMP; correspondingly, MARD and its subsidiary bodies at the provincial level (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, DARD) are the most important partners for implementation. Within MARD, the programme is institutionally anchored with the Forestry Projects Management Board.

GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (BMZ)



The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) develops the guidelines and concepts on which German development policy is based. These are the foundations for developing shared projects with partner countries and international development organisations.

Since 1990, Germany has provided more than 1.8 billion Euros for Viet Nam, mostly in the form of loans for joint programmes. The core areas of the bilateral cooperation with Viet Nam are environment (coastal management and biodiversity), energy and vocational training.

AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT) – AUSTRALIAN AID



The Australian Government's overseas aid programme is a Federal Government funded programme that helps reduce poverty in developing countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian Aid manages the programme. Australia, through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian Aid, works with other governments, the United Nations, Australian companies and non-government organisations to design and set up projects which tackle the causes and consequences of poverty in developing countries.

The Viet Nam country programme focuses on progressing Viet Nam's greater economic integration in the region through support for transport infrastructure and economic reforms; strengthening Viet Nam's human resources; and improving environmental sustainability.

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH



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In this function, GIZ is the implementing agency of ICMP. Having worked in Viet Nam for more than 20 years, GIZ currently has around 250 specialist staff deployed across the country, including national and international personnel, development workers and international experts.



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