

Mekong Delta Climate Resilience Programme

Working for a climate-resilient future of the Mekong Delta

Challenges

The Mekong Delta of Viet Nam, the source of livelihood for 17 million people, is one of the regions hardest hit by the effects of climate change. These impacts include the rise of sea level, increasing temperatures and also an increased frequency of extreme weather events. Land subsidence on the one hand and sea-level rise on the other are leading to increasing salinisation of freshwater and flooding, particularly in the coastal region and along the Mekong River. This leads to loss of land and water resources. Inadequate land and water management, the construction of dykes for flood protection and the rapid increment of hydroelectric dams, particularly in the upper Mekong, as well as the infrastructure development for economic growth of the Mekong Delta, are putting more stress on the complex ecosystem. Urban infrastructure is being pushed beyond its limits due to the higher frequency and intensity of floods combined with insufficient capacity of drainage systems, unsystematic drainage planning, increasing urban surface sealing and uncoordinated river basin management.

Objective

The climate-resilient management of the Mekong Delta is improved via established regional coordination mechanisms and the use of innovative technical solutions in rural and urban areas.

Project name	Mekong Delta Climate Resilience Programme (MCRP)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-financed by	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
Project region	13 Mekong Delta provinces
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA)
Duration	01.01.2019 - 31.12.2025



Mekong Delta coastline © GIZ/Roman Sorgenfrei



Regional coordination in the Mekong Delta © GIZ/Sang Nguyen



A farmer celebrating their rice-shrimp harvest
©GIZ/ Tu Phung



An innovative temporary dam piloted in Ca Mau
©GIZ/ Thanh Nguyen



A digital water monitoring station installed in Ca Mau
©GIZ/ Anh Pham

Approaches



Support for the establishment of an institutional framework to facilitate regional coordination of climate-resilient development in the region



Implementation of innovative technologies in coastal and river erosion that strengthen the resilience of rural infrastructure and ecosystems



Improved investment planning at regional level for the climate-resilient and gender-sensitive management of water resources in urban and rural areas



Implementation of climate-resilient and water-sensitive urban infrastructure

Results



05 interprovincial platforms on water management, sustainable shrimp sector development, integrated coastal management and socio-economic development planning are now operational. These contribute significant inputs to the sectoral strategies and plans by fostering joint management of water resources, promoting climate-resilient innovations and upscaling, and by facilitating exchange and collaboration among 13 Mekong provinces.



21 water monitoring stations installed in Soc Trang, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau provinces, providing real-time data to **399,088** people and protecting **281,521 ha** of agriculture and aquaculture land. The digitalised water data is fed into the Mekong regional water management database, making it accessible to both provincial authorities and local communities.



Guidelines for the development of provincial master plans developed with technical support from MCRP were approved by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The draft provincial master plans of 13 Mekong provinces, incorporating technical inputs from MCRP expert groups, have been submitted for approval.



Innovative rice-shrimp model was piloted successfully in an area of **461 ha**, and with **02** shrimp cooperatives in Ca Mau province, increasing income for both men and women. The rice-shrimp value chain is strengthened by working together with the private sector.



02 innovative temporary dams constructed in Ca Mau province, protecting **120 ha** of agriculture land from salinity intrusion, thereby benefitting **80** households.



Tested solutions on water storage forming a solid technical basis for the **investment proposal of Ca Mau province**, involving over 200 water storage structures, has been prepared for approval by the Provincial People's Committee in 2022.

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