Mekong Delta Plan
Towards a prosperous, sustainable and safe future for the Mekong Delta

Joint project (2011-2013) under:
The Vietnam – Netherlands Strategic Partnership Arrangement (SPA) on Climate Change Adaptation & Water Management

Supervision by VN - NL Intergovernmental Steering Committee, chaired by Prime Ministers of VN and NL

Preliminary Findings
Version 0.2

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Deltas2013 Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, 21 May 2013
What is the Mekong Delta Plan?

THE MEKONG DELTA PLAN AIMS TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM VISION (100YR) FOR A PROSPEROUS, SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE DELTA.

Instead of regular 5-10 year planning (with outlook towards 2020-2030)

- 1) Develop 4 plausible long term scenarios and a strategic vision
- 2) Back-casting to present time, to see what specific action should be taken first to start strategically working towards that vision
- 3) Subsequently work within regular master planning system incl. review of existing master plans
How does the Mekong Delta Plan fit in the VN planning system?

THE STRATEGIC LONG-TERM VISION CAN SUPPORT VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING AND REVIEWING ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, SPATIAL PLANNING AND SECTORAL MASTER PLANNING FOR THE MEKONG DELTA

This (integrated) approach requires active participatory involvement of:

- National government: MoNRE, MARD, MoT, MoC, MPI
- Provincial government: 13 Mekong Delta provinces
- Municipal governments: HCMC and Can Tho
- Universities and research institutes
- Major stakeholders: IFI’s, bilateral donors, NGO’s, ..
- South-West Steering Committee
Mekong Delta Plan development - process steps

A.2 Positioning the MDP Standing Office

A.3 Establish Standing Office to develop Mekong Delta Plan

B.1 Problem analysis (physical system and it’s use – stakeholders)

B.2 Long term scenario’s (climate, economic, demographic, etc.)

C. Develop of strategic integral vision (100 years) (sustainable development)

D. Explore principles or possible ways of solutions

E. Delta program: Develop coherent package of measures for investments and policy making for short, mid and long term

F.1 Explore acceleration of decision making and implementation

F.2 Develop measures in field of institutional arrangement: governance (incl. co-operation), financing, legislation

H. Identification relevant stakeholders, consult experts

G.1 Edit Delta Plan report with recommendations

G.2 Present Delta Plan to Prime Minister
## Climate Change scenarios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Moderate scenarios</th>
<th>High Scenario</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2050</td>
<td>2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Level Rise</td>
<td>20-30cm</td>
<td>30-50cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>+1°C</td>
<td>+2°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry season flow of Mekong</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Season flow</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinity intrusion</td>
<td>Slight increase</td>
<td>Moderate increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme rainfall events</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>Moderate increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoons</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>Moderate increase in severity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What will the future of the Mekong delta look like?

Economic diversification

Corridor industrialization

Spatially evolving

Food security

Dual node industrialization

Spatially directed

Agro-business specialization

Agro-based economy
Expected high population growth realistic?

- **30 million people**: High land use pressures, Competition for jobs
- **15 million people**: Lower land use pressures, Sustainable economic growth possible

Mekong Delta lags behind national growth

- Official projection: Vietnam +1.4%, +0.8%
- Realistic scenario: Vietnam +0.4%, -0.3%
- Low scenario: Vietnam 0%, -0.8%
Most likable scenario: Agro-business specialization

In view of predicted climatic change impacts and existing challenges, the agro-industry based specialisation scenario is considered to offer the best perspectives for the Mekong delta.

It fits and utilises the typical natural features of the delta (low lands, fertile soils, waterways) thus providing an excellent basis for future sustainable economic growth and spatial arrangements.

An agro-industry based specialization also best fits the demographic, economic and hydrological structure of the delta, which markedly differs from neighbouring regions and the country as a whole.
Exploring principles and possible solutions

- Adaptive delta management
- Explore ‘no-regret’ and priority measures
- Identify ‘tipping points’
- Avoid overinvestment
Regional recommendations

Regional division based on main impacts and integrated solutions

- Upper Delta
- Middle Delta
- Coastal Area
**Upper Delta**

### Controlled Flooding

- Reduce downstream flooding risk

### Urban Flood Protection

- Increase Safety and Sanitation
- Flood & Inundation protection (Ring dikes)

### Diversion Canals

- Limit downstream investments
- Construction of additional discharge capacity

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**Seasonal Flooding**

### Controlled Flooding

- Reinstall retention areas
- Reconsider triple rice growing

### Urban Flood Protection

- Land use planning
- Diversification of crops/fish

### Diversion Canals

- Space reservation
- Research and Planning

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**Now – 2050**

- Urban Polders
- Pumped drainage

**2050 - 2100**

- Construction of additional discharge capacity
Middle Delta

Fresh water in dry season

**Water Management**

*Fresh Water Supply*

**Bassac Link Canal**

*Assure fresh water West Delta*

**Closing River Branches**

*Assure fresh water East Delta*

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**Now - 2050**

Upgrade existing systems

**2050 - 2100**

Polders
Pumped drainage

**Now - 2050**

Monitor
Research and planning

**2050 - 2100**

Secure flow division
Bassac-Mekong through construction of Link Canal

**Now - 2050**

Research and planning

**2050 – 2100**

Construction of Tidal Barriers
Coastal Area

Salinization and Coastal Flooding

**Dual Zone Management**
- Go for Brackish Economy

**Water Management**
- Alternative fresh water supply
- Mitigate groundwater usage
- Local rain harvesting & storage
- Surface water supply

**Coastal Defense**
- Better Protection
- Upgrade existing sea dikes
- Restore mangroves
- Unlink road and dike system

**Now - 2050**
- From shrimp farming to sustainable aquaculture including mangrove restoration

**2050 – 2100**
- Fresh water shortage
- Saline agriculture

**Now - 2050**
- Mitigate groundwater usage
- Local rain harvesting & storage
- Surface water supply

**2050 – 2100**
- Closed Sea Defense, except Bassac
Towards a prosperous, safe and sustainable future Mekong Delta

Agro-business specialization as a strategic long-term development path:
- for socio-economic and spatial development
- to respond to climate change

Planning:
- MDP V1.0 in June 2013
- Develop Delta Program
- Develop Institutional Arrangements
- Stakeholder Consultation (national and provincial level) in Mekong Delta
- MDP V2.0 in October 2013 (final version)
- Submit MDP to VN-NL Intergovernmental Steering Committee in November 2013
- Present MDP at Mekong Delta Economic Cooperation forum in December 2013