

INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Background

Vietnam has been identified as one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Its Mekong Delta is one of the most important agricultural regions in Vietnam, however, its high density population living in low lying land is being threatened by rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and increased water salinity. It is also facing an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as typhoons, storms and floods.

To help Vietnam cope with the challenges of a changing climate and environment Australia is supporting the delivery of innovative technologies and practical climate change solutions to address coastal erosion, agriculture and aquaculture in the most vulnerable areas. The program will help ensure natural resources are used sustainably, ensure ecosystems and livelihoods in the Mekong Delta are more resilient to climate change and promote sustainable economic growth.

Phase I (2011 – 2014) Results

- 40,000 people are better protected against storms and floods due to the construction of innovative, cost-effective and eco-friendly Breakwater Fences.
- Rehabilitated 630 ha of mangroves by introducing a new low cost technique which is now used by local foresters.
- More than 8,500 farmers understand the need for adapting to a changing environment.
- Decreased the use of water and pesticides by 30%, while raising the profit for farmers by up to 40%, by introducing the Alternate Wetting Drying rice production technique.
- Farmers who keep mangroves in their shrimp ponds have raised their profits by 27%, made shrimp less vulnerable to diseases and contributed to protecting mangroves at the coast since being taught new techniques.
- Authorities better able to coordinate along the coast due to new national policies and regulations.

Fast Facts

Australian Aid, an economic partnership. Delivering aid innovatively to build prosperity and tackle poverty.

Funding

AUD 16.5 million

Duration

Phase I: 2011 - 2014
Phase II: 2014 – 2018

Partners

- Government of Vietnam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Provincial People's Committees
- Government of Germany

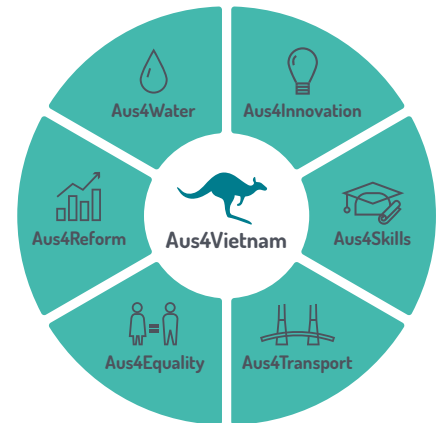
Project sites

- Mekong Delta region





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Phase II (2014 – 2018) Expected Results

Phase II will focus on scaling up the technologies developed in Phase I in order to realise their full impact on a broader scale. This includes:

- Support the Government of Vietnam to refine existing policy and develop new policies, drawing upon Australia's unique expertise and experience in trans-boundary water governance.
- Establish strategic partnerships with the private sector to draw upon private sector experience in climate-resilient development and increase investment in the region.
- Better cooperation and exchange of knowledge between the program and Australian research organisations, such as CSIRO and ACIAR.
- Australian and Vietnamese businesses are better informed of investment opportunities in the Mekong Delta.
- Ensure investment plans are climate resilient by completing feasibility studies in water management and coastal protection.
- Ensure women are more involved in planning and implementing climate change and disaster preparedness processes.

