



# AQUACULTURE

## Integrated Coastal Management Programme

### Challenge

The Mekong Delta is one of the world's top exporters of seafood. With highly fertile land and good access to water for irrigation, the Delta is a highly productive aquaculture zone. Over the last 10 years, Viet Nam's aquaculture and seafood industry has grown by around 500% and the Mekong Delta plays a central role in this fast-growing sector. Around 70% of the country's total aquacultural output comes from the Mekong Delta, which has some 750,000 hectares dedicated to this form of production.



However, aquacultural production in the Mekong Delta now faces a number of challenges. While it helps to boost economic development in the Mekong Delta, it also contributes to environmental problems. The lack of good management practices and proper regulation means that a substantial share of the Mekong Delta's aquacultural produce has yet to meet the requirements for accessing global markets.

For this reason, ICMP is working with the Vietnamese government and other stakeholders to support the aquaculture industry in the Mekong Delta by promoting environmentally sustainable production and thus strengthening the industry's competitiveness.

### Our approach

ICMP is addressing the two main challenges holding back the aquaculture sector in Viet Nam and in the Mekong Delta in particular – namely weak competitiveness and insufficient product quality. The purpose of the project is to increase the competitiveness of the aquaculture product chain and to lay the foundations for sustainable production.

These objectives cannot be achieved through a one-dimensional approach as many different and interlinked issues are involved, such as the policy framework, the institutional settings of the aquaculture sector and the lack of good farming practices.

ICMP's approach therefore spans two key areas, working (a) at the systemic policy level and (b) directly with farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

#### Policy reform: revising the Fisheries Law

Adopted in 2003, Viet Nam's Fisheries Law is now outdated and, following the country's move into the globalised marketplace, is incapable of driving the aquaculture sector in this new context. ICMP is supporting the government to reform the Fisheries Law by, among other things, providing technical advice and hosting consultation workshops with the private sector and smallholder farmers.

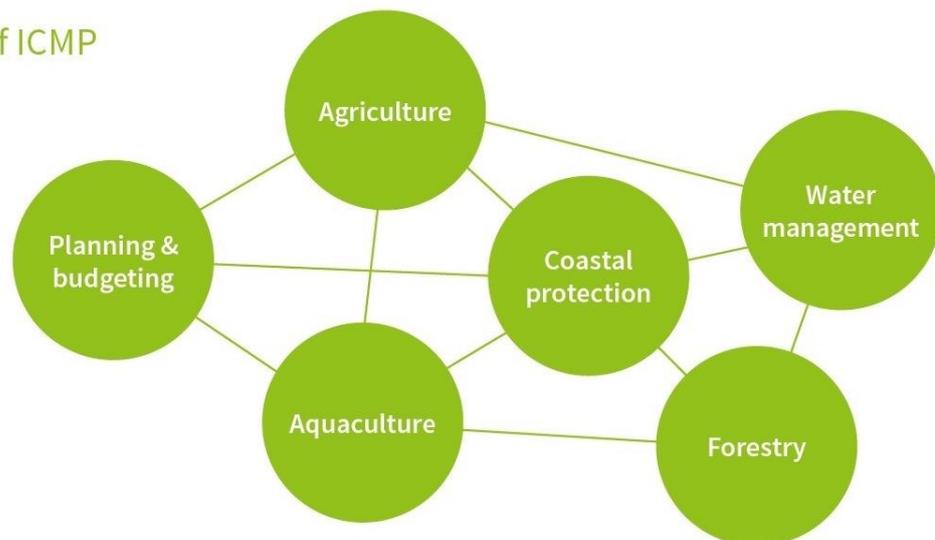
ICMP has also developed the Aquaculture Roundtable Dialogue platform to support the government's public-private-partnership mechanism by enhancing the effective participation and involvement of the private sector in decision-making.

## Supporting farmers to apply new techniques and develop market linkages

ICMP supports farmers and SMEs in applying new farming practices that enable them to produce better quality produce, earn higher incomes and protect the environment. ICMP also partners with local authorities to deliver training courses for farmers and SMEs, and it cooperates closely with aquaculture processing and trading companies, such as Minh Phu, Duong Hung and Quoc Viet, piloting value-chain and market linkage models designed to enable them to access world markets. These pilots have included the set up and support of models like the mangrove shrimp model in Ca Mau and the blood cockle model in Kien Giang.

The Integrated Coastal Management Programme (ICMP) is a development programme funded by the governments of Australia, Germany and Viet Nam. 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. The programme works in six interlinked working areas: agriculture, aquaculture, coastal protection, forest, planning and budgeting, and water management.

## Working areas of ICMP



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