



# Water Management

## Integrated Coastal Management Programme

### Challenge

Located at the southern tip of Viet Nam, the Mekong Delta is dominated by flat floodplains formed by the mighty Mekong River, which flows across these plains and out into the sea through nine main distributaries. The Mekong's waterways are used to irrigate hundreds of thousands of agriculture and aquaculture farms in the Delta. The huge number and productivity of these farms makes the Delta the most important agricultural region in Viet Nam, providing more than 55% of the country's total production of rice, 65% of its aquacultural production and 70% of its fruit production.



Sluice gate in the Mekong Delta

However, the natural conditions of the Mekong Delta place it among the top five deltas in the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. During the dry season low and decreased river flows cause major water shortages, drought and saltwater intrusion.

Developments in upstream countries, such as increased water extraction and new infrastructure like dams, are also reducing the amount of water passing down the Mekong River.

The challenge of managing water resources in the face of a changing environment is further compounded by the ambiguity of recent climate change scenarios that indicate an equally likely chance of either increased or decreased flows.

ICMP is working with the relevant authorities, research institutions and stakeholders at the central and local levels to respond to these challenges.

### Our approach

#### Operational regulations

ICMP is working with the Vietnamese authorities on developing new operational regulations for two major irrigation systems in the Mekong Delta, namely the Long Xuyen Quadrangle in the north and the Quan Lo - Phung Hiep system in the south. The operational regulations will improve the management of the irrigation system by providing clear guidance on the water needs of different producers and the corresponding operation of sluice gates.

#### Developing an irrigation information system

To improve the quality of decision-making in irrigation management, ICMP is supporting the introduction of an irrigation information system that will help the Vietnamese authorities to better manage irrigation data and information.

## Promoting flood management in the upper delta

ICMP conducted a pre-feasibility study for a flood control project in the upper delta. The An Giang – Kien Giang floodway has been proposed as an appropriate solution for reducing unwanted flooding not only in the Long Xuyen Quadrangle, but also in cities further downstream such as Can Tho.

## Impacts

- The operational regulations will improve water management in 14,266 kilometers of canals in the Mekong Delta, which will benefit around 1.2 million people and have a positive impact on 767,000 hectares of agricultural land.
- A pre-feasibility study has been drawn up that aims to increase the efficiency of a USD 80 million flood control project in the upper delta.

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

