

Vietnam: two decades of Coastal Cooperation

from VA to ICZM, from planning to implementation

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*Coastal erosion Thuan An, TTHue Province, due to the November 1999 typhoon “Eve”.
(photo: Robbert Misdorp)*

Summary

Vietnam has a highly dynamic coast. Its strong socio-economic development, has left it critically vulnerable to the typhoons that regularly reach the coast. The projected impact of climate change makes the coast even more vulnerable. The IPCC Vulnerability Assessment (VA) of a 1 metre sea level rise showed that, if no adaptive coastal measures are taken, millions of people and billions US\$ of capital investment would be at risk of annual flooding and rice production would be at serious threat, particularly in the low lying flat deltas of the Mekong and Red River. Recognising this, the Vietnamese Government has enlisted the aid of others in developing ICZM.

A decision-making process based on holistic Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) provides a flexible approach to achieving more sustainable management in the interests of the population, economic development and the environment. Following the Vulnerability Assessment, Vietnam has made great strides in developing institutional mechanisms and coastal policies, simultaneously executing ICZM programmes at national and local level, through the Vietnam - Netherlands ICZM project (VNICZM) and the Vietnam Dutch Coastal Cooperative Programme (CCP). These efforts provided valuable experience to help cope with the present and prepare for adaptation to the potential future impacts of global changes, realising the importance of natural ecosystems to coastal resilience.

Concrete results of this cooperation include CZM Strategies and Action Plans at national level and in the three ICZM pilot provinces, and the establishment of a Coastal Management Centre for Vietnam, as well as a variety of achievements related to databases and tools, and dissemination; monitoring programmes; Remote Sensing analyses and application of Geographic Information Systems; intensive capacity building; and awareness raising among schoolchildren, their parents and teachers.

This chapter describes the approaches adopted by the Vietnamese and the collaborative efforts with the Netherlands in preparing the framework and executing coastal projects during the last two decades. The success of these endeavours can be measured by the self-reliant and ongoing efforts of the Vietnam government to start the ICZM process in an increasing number of provinces, supported by the Vietnamese Coastal Management Centre.

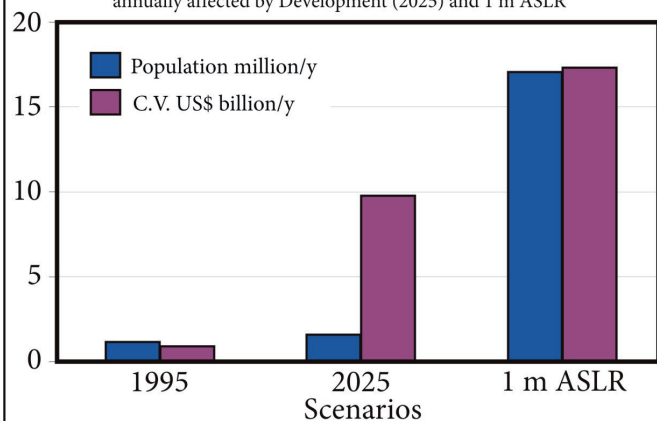
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Vietnam: 3500 km coastline



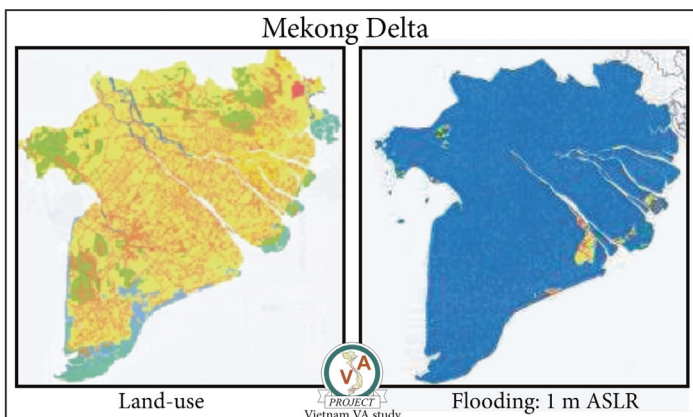
Vietnam: coastal Population & Capital Value, annually affected by Development (2025) and 1 m ASLR



Millions of people in the coastal zone and Capital Value (CV) will be annually affected due to 30 year socio-economic Development scenario (1995 – 2025) and to the effects of a 1 metre accelerated sea level rise (ASLR), in case no adaptive measures are taken. (source: Global Vulnerability Assessment, 1993, adapted by R. Misdorp)

← Three pilot ICZM provinces: Nam Dinh – Red River Delta (#1), Thua Thien Hue (#2) and Ba Ri Vung Tau – Mekong Delta (#3). (source: VNICZM-Atlas, 2006)

Mekong Delta



Mekong Delta – Land-use and Flooding.

Land-use: dominant rice cultivation and mangrove belts.

Flooding: the Mekong Delta will be annually flooded under a 1 m ASLR scenario and no adaptive coastal protection measures. (source: Vietnam Vulnerability Assessment, 1994 – 1996)



ICZM Strategy: Cover page of the ICZM Strategy – Nam Dinh province. (source: VNICZM, 2003)



Awareness raising: One of the winning drawings of the primary school drawing contest: “The role of water”, which was the start of an educational programme in TTHue province aiming at awareness raising – on water : a friend and foe and on integrated water and coastal management. This programme culminated in the creating of an Introductory Booklet, with the same title as the drawing contest and a comprehensive Training Manual for teachers. The Booklet in Vietnamese and English language was distributed among all 5000 teachers of primary and secondary schools of the TTHue province. Both documents are downloadable from the CCC website, see CCC-Part V. (source: CCP, 2002)