



Nature-based Solutions in IUCN's Asia Regional Office

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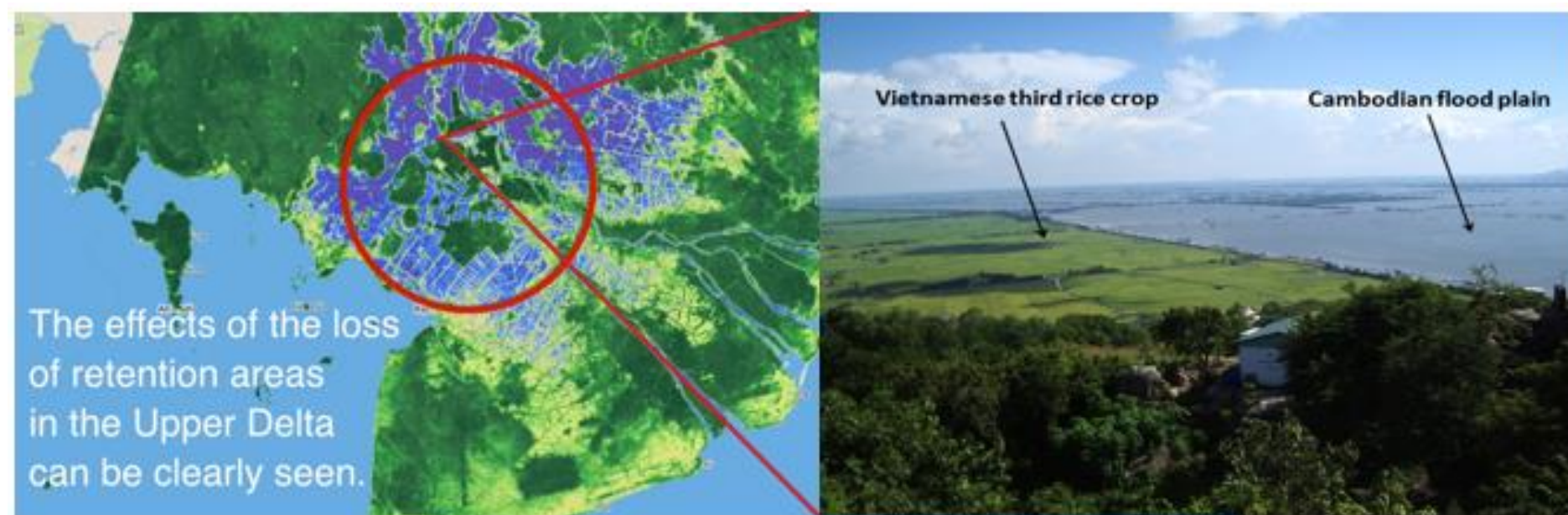


**Nature
based
Solutions**

The nature of progress

Best practices from the region: flood-based agriculture in the Mekong Delta, Viet Nam

- The upper Mekong Delta is a 1.4 million hectare freshwater seasonal flood plain, producing >60% of Vietnam's rice exports and providing habitat for over 100 aquatic species. Poldering has caused the loss of more than half the seasonal floodplain
- Goal: Develop profitable, low-risk, flood-based cropping systems that are a viable alternative to the third rice crop by:
 - reducing inequality by increasing farmer incomes
 - increasing resilience to climate change
 - restoring aquatic habitats for commercially important fish species:
 - conserve the remaining seasonal flood plain area
 - restore lost flood plain areas inside the polders
- Activities:
 - Cost-benefit analysis and documentation of various flood-based crops practiced by farmers: environmental and social impacts of upscaling
 - Small scale demonstrations (2016-2021) implemented by farmers and local governments to improve livelihood designs and address risks
 - Co-organising high level dialogues with the government on policy change
 - Working with the government and World Bank to design investment projects to upscale flood-based agriculture

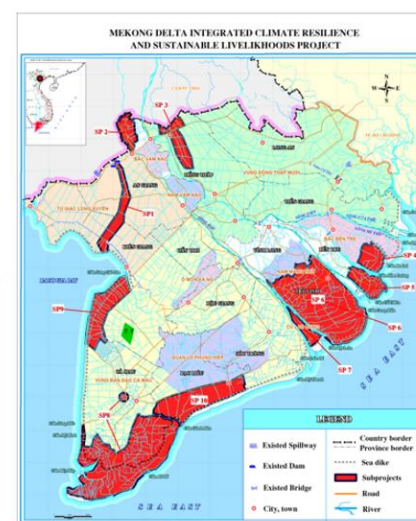


Mekong Delta Plan, 2013 (Vision)



- Consensus for change (High Level Dialogues)
- Knowledge gaps
- Alternative solutions
- Farmer support
- Capacity to implement
- Regional planning (legal and institutional dev)

World Bank ICRL project, 2016



Best practices from the region: flood-based agriculture in the Mekong Delta, Viet Nam

- 2013 Mekong Delta Plan included advice to trade-off rice intensification for increased climate resilience by adapting to the floods with higher value crops including flood-based crops
- Policy change in 2017 – National Resolution 120 stipulated a deintensification of rice growing and adoption of nature based solutions
- Over 500 hectares of farmer implemented profitable flood-based cropping demonstrations (2016-2021)
- Investment projects to upscale flood based agriculture:
 - WB ICRSL (20 million USD, 2020-2023)
 - GCF (40 million USD, 2024-2029)

Profiting from the floods: flood-based cropping systems are up to five times more profitable than double and triple rice cropping

