

Mekong Delta Plan

Towards a prosperous, sustainable and safe future for the Mekong Delta

Joint project (2011-2013) under:

The Vietnam – Netherlands

Strategic Partnership Arrangement

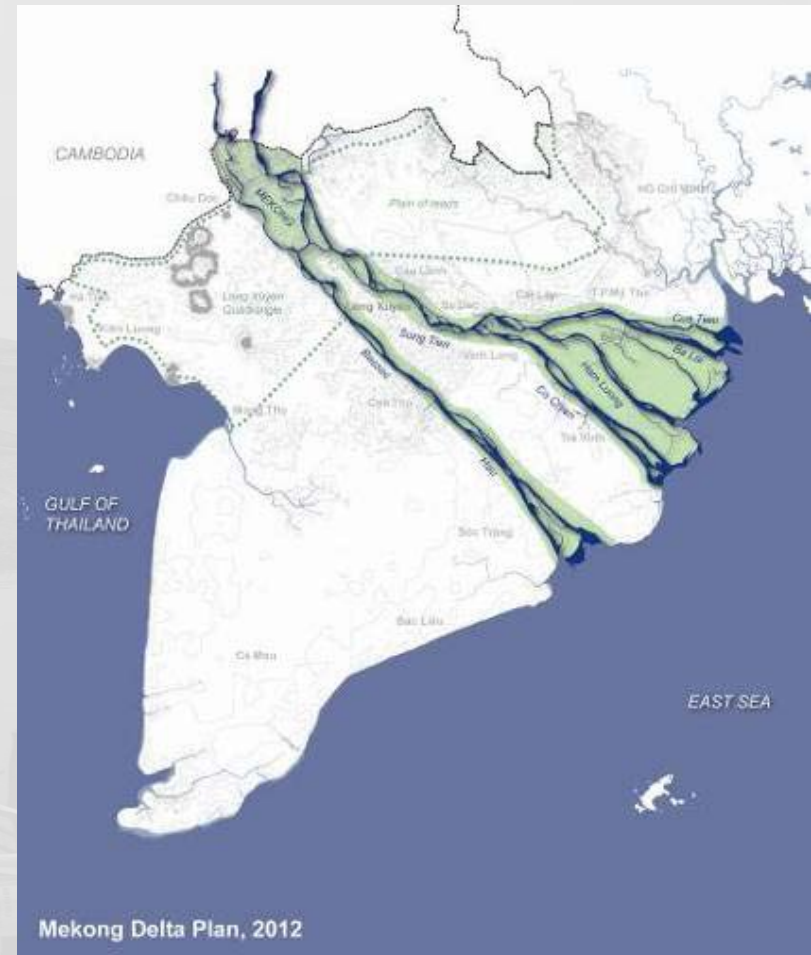
on

**Climate Change Adaptation &
Water Management**

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Chief Technical Advisor for the Mekong Delta Plan

Ho Chi Minh City, 26 January 2016



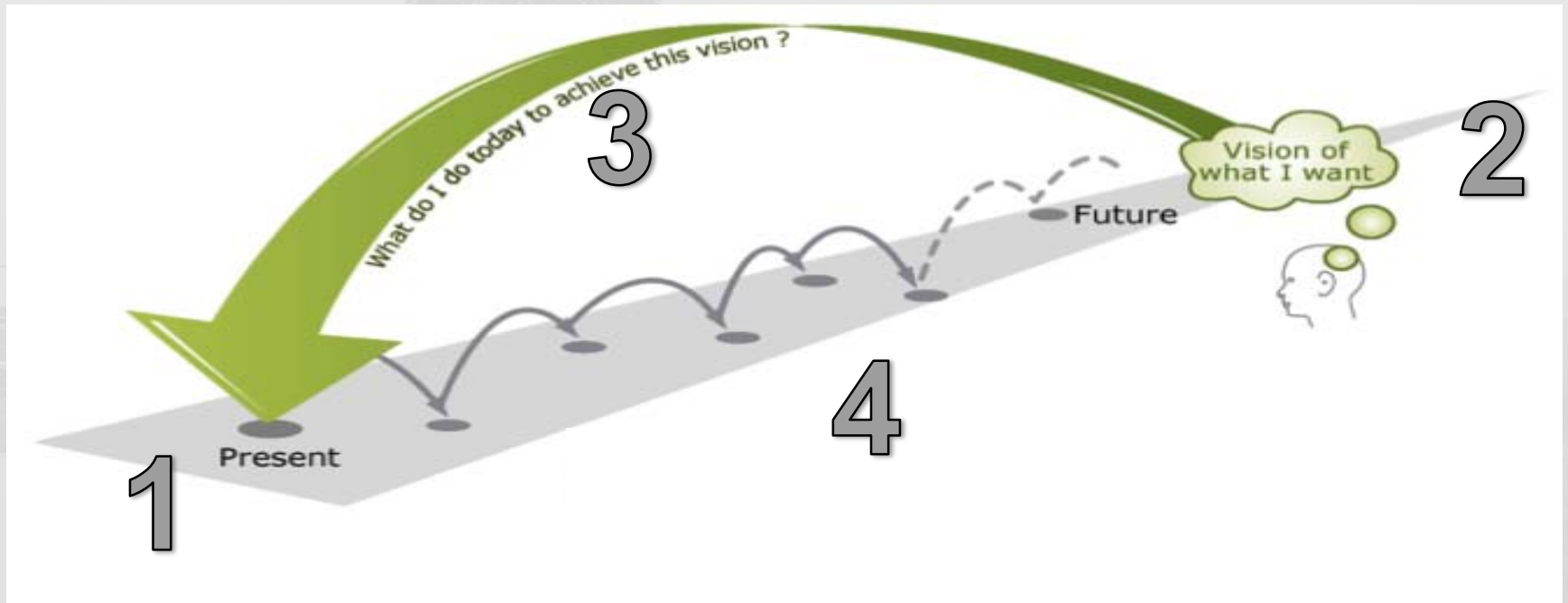
Presentation content

Mekong Delta Plan

- Approach
- Context: state-of-the Mekong Delta river basin
- Plausible future outlooks and long-term vision
- Strategic recommendations
- Endorsement by VN government

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- Follow-up

Approach: **begin with the end in mind**



1. State-of-the-basin analysis
2. Develop plausible future scenarios and a long-term vision for a safe, prosperous and sustainable delta
3. Move back to present time and determine no-regret and priority steps
4. Adapt step-by-step within the regular planning system

State of the Basin: external challenges

1

Rainfall and temperature changes: Climate change will increase the variability in seasonal rainfall, making the wet seasons wetter and the dry seasons drier and polarising the seasonal conditions of the Basin with more severe and frequent flood and drought incidence.

2

Hydropower development in the Mekong Basin: rapid expansion of hydropower in the Mekong basin will alter timing of downstream hydrology during regular operations and could lead to large emergency releases during storm events. Hydropower reservoirs will also sever sediment transport processes, trapping sediments and reducing rates of natural fertilisation in the floodplain and offshore environments as well

3

Land use change: Rapid trends of deforestation, urbanisation and agricultural expansion will continue to alter the hydrological balance between surface run off and infiltration .

4

Sea level rise (SLR): Rising sea levels will alter the delicate balance between freshwater and estuarine conditions in the delta, pumping salinisation issues further into the delta interior affecting ground water and permanently inundating large areas of the Mekong Delta.

Hydropower developments

- river discharge regimes
- sediment flow & composure
- fish migration



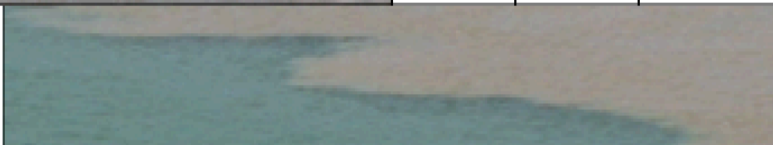

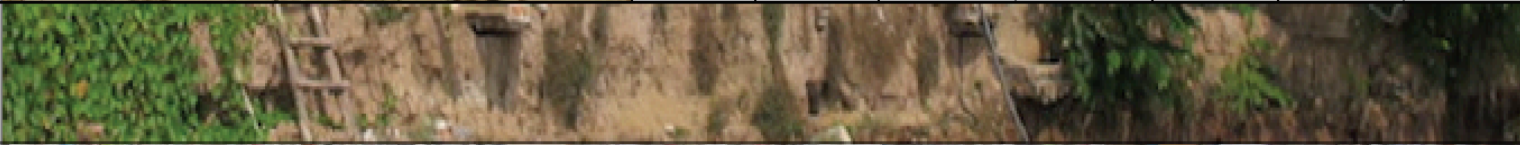
Land use changes

- agriculture expansion
- deforestation
- urbanisation

Climate Change impact

- increasing fluctuations in river discharge due to changing seasonal rainfall and temperature changes
- sea level rise

State of the Basin: water related challenges (timeline)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flood												
Salinity intrusion												
Acid water												
Drought												
Erosion												
Water quality												

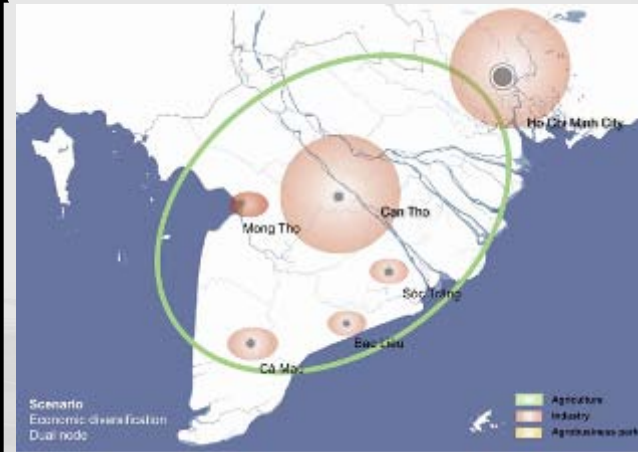
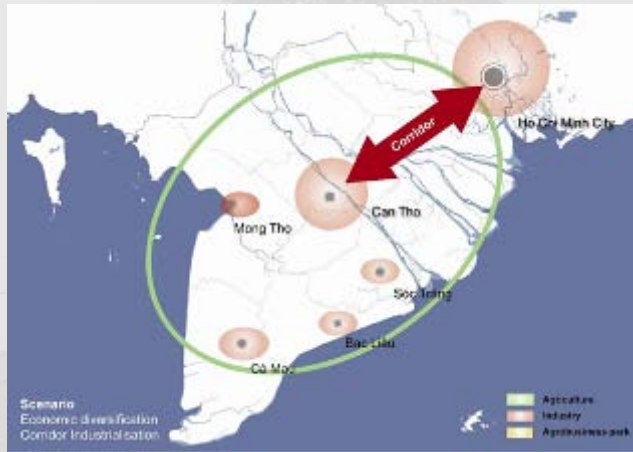
What will the future of the Mekong delta look like?

Economic diversification

Business as Usual: corridor industrialization

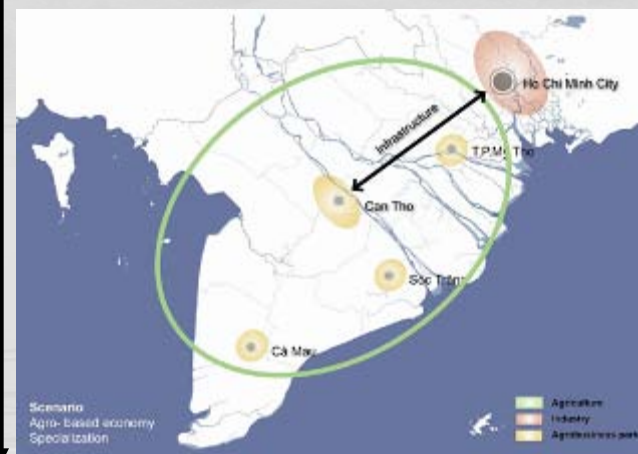
Spatially evolving

Worse case: Food security



Combined VN master plans: Dual node industrialization

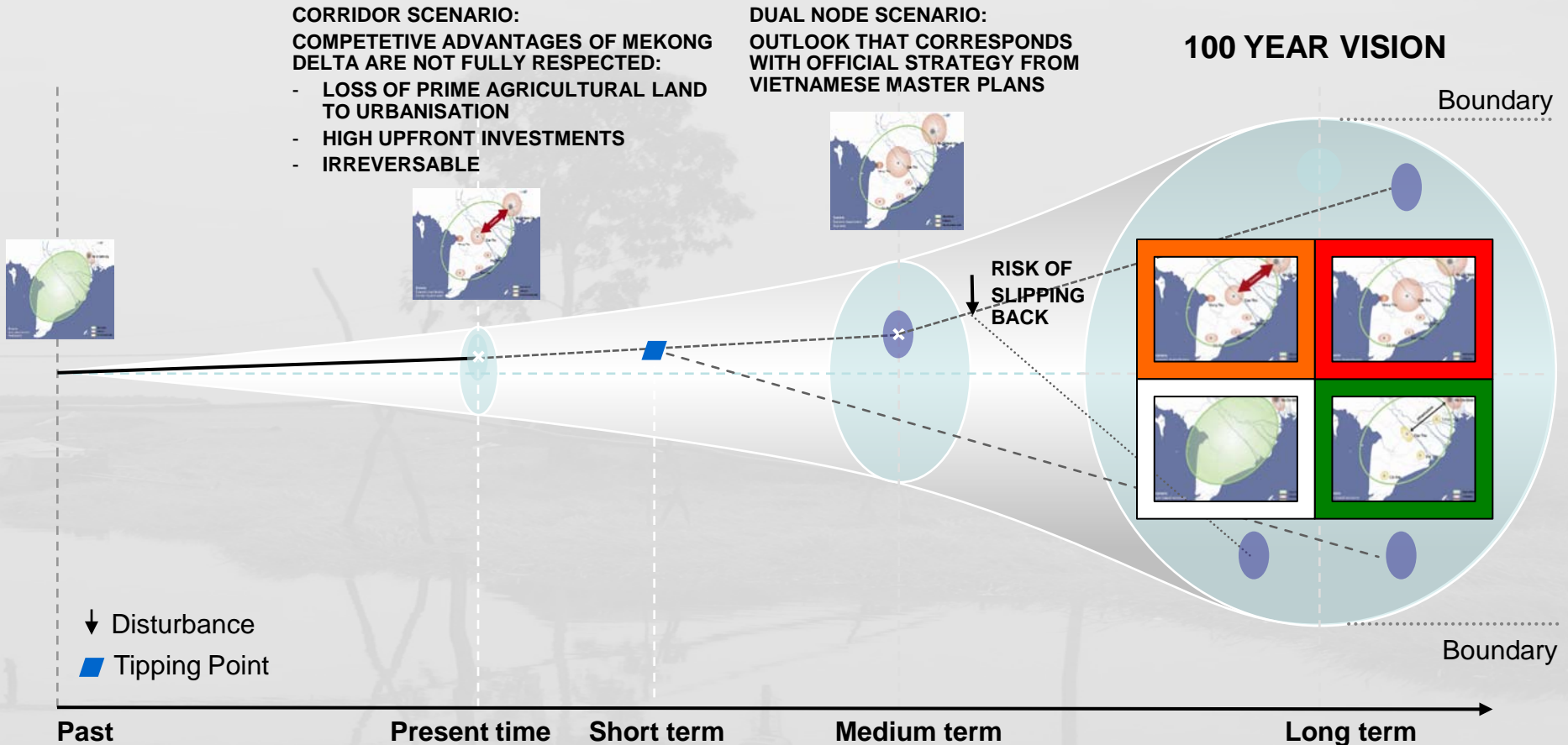
Spatially coordinated



Customized: Agro-business specialization

Agro-based economy

Most likable scenario: Agro-business specialization



In view of predicted climatic change impacts and existing challenges, the agro-based industrialisation offers the best perspectives for the Mekong delta.

It utilises the typical natural features of the delta (low lands, fertile soils, waterways) and best fits the demographic, economic and hydrological structure which markedly differs from neighbouring regions and the country as a whole, thus providing an excellent basis for future sustainable economic growth and spatial arrangements.

Strategic Recommendations

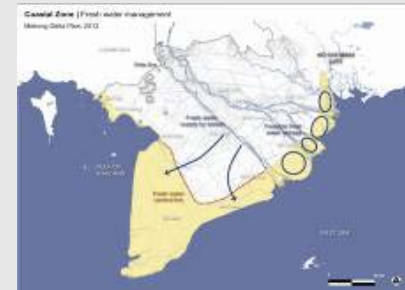
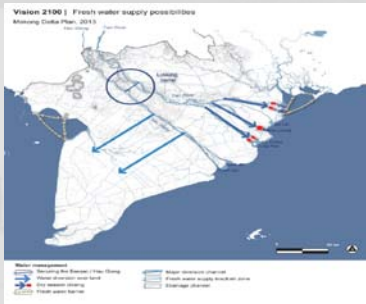
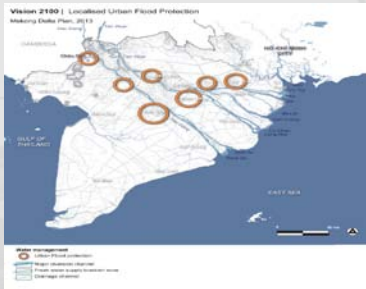
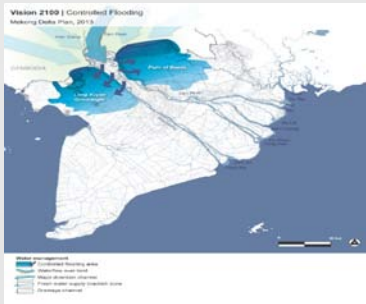
Hydrological zones

A strategy for controlled flooding in upstream provinces, in relation to downstream water safety, fresh water storage and salinity intrusion.

A strategy for sustainable development of horticulture areas in the coastal zone in relation to fresh water supply and salinity intrusion.

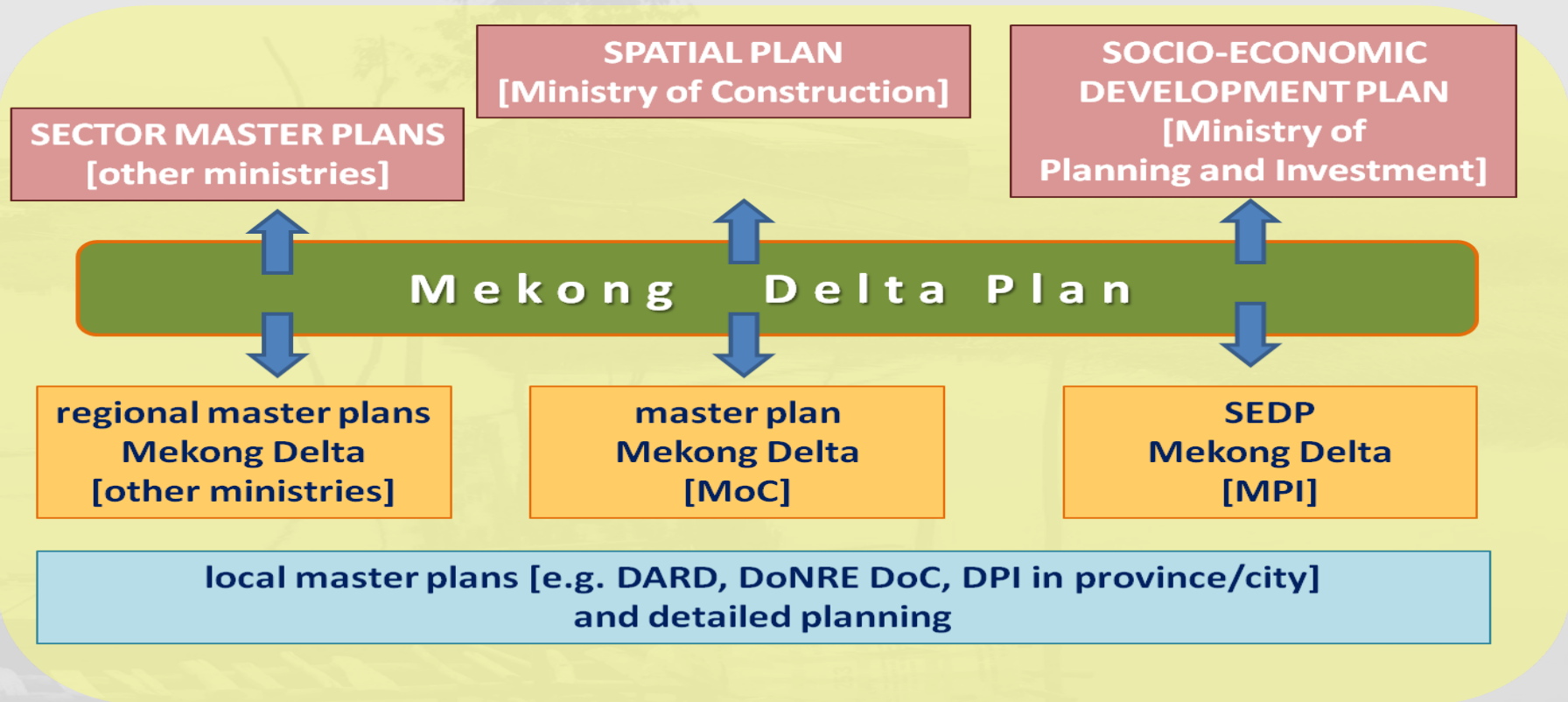
A strategy to address the overexploiting of ground water aquifers in view of land subsidence and SLR/salination.

A strategy for coastal zone protection and sustainable aquaculture development.

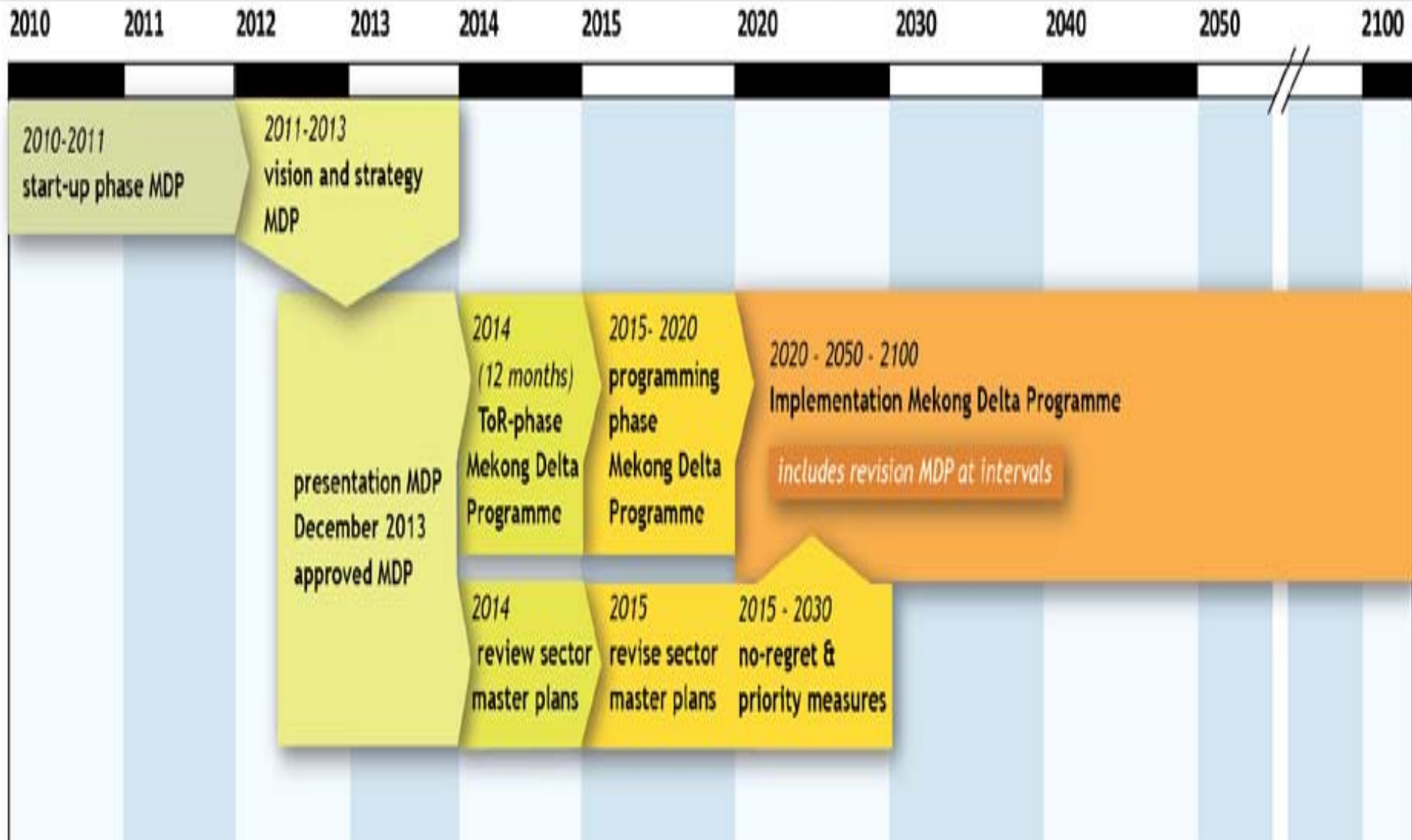


How does the Mekong Delta Plan fit in the VN planning system?

THE STRATEGIC LONG-TERM VISION CAN SUPPORT VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING AND REVIEWING ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, SPATIAL PLANNING AND SECTORAL MASTER PLANNING FOR THE MEKONG DELTA



Mekong Delta Plan – Follow Up (planning)



The background is a faded, grayscale image of a river scene. In the foreground, there are trees and a boat. In the background, there are more trees and a distant shoreline.

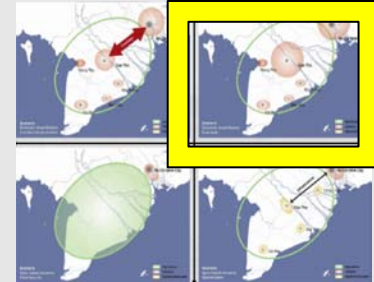
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.MEKONGDELTAPLAN.COM

Outlook VN government: Dual Node industrialisation

The delta develops into a diversified economy, with both high-value agri-food business as well as secondary and tertiary sector activities in designated economic zones.



Assumptions:

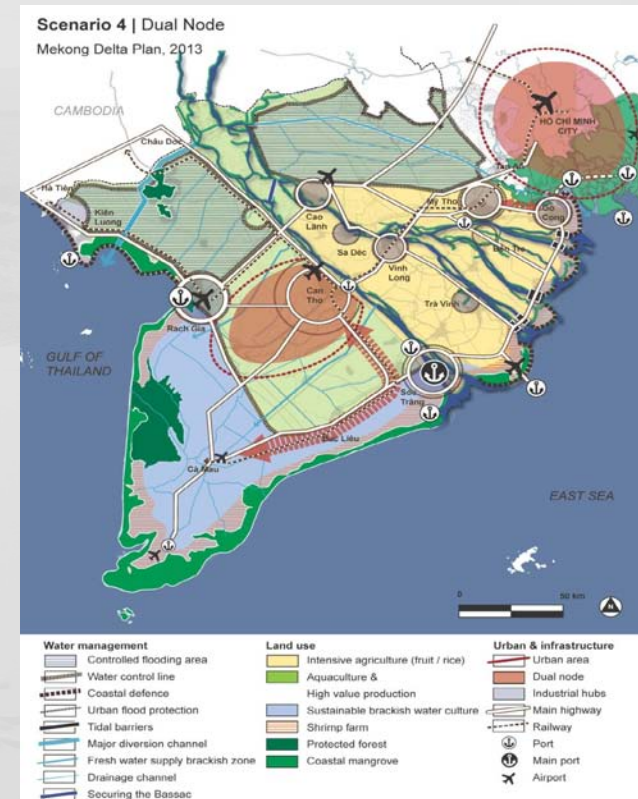
- The global economic climate is highly favourable with seamless global trade.

Requirements:

- Impeccable institutional arrangements (integrated and coordinated spatial planning)
- High upfront investments (respond to adverse impacts of climate change)

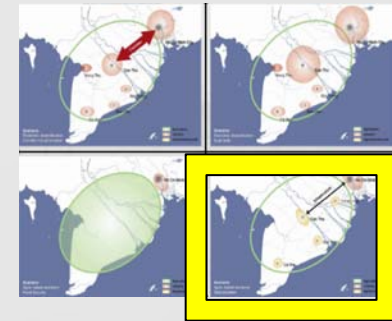
Assessment NL team:

- Only attainable in the long-term once a strong and solid socio-economic basis has been established
- Risk of decay or system collapse



Long term vision: Agro-business industrialisation

The Mekong delta is transformed into a regional hub specialised in high value agriculture and agro-food products for export and domestic markets. Emphasis is put on the market value of agricultural products instead of on production quantities.

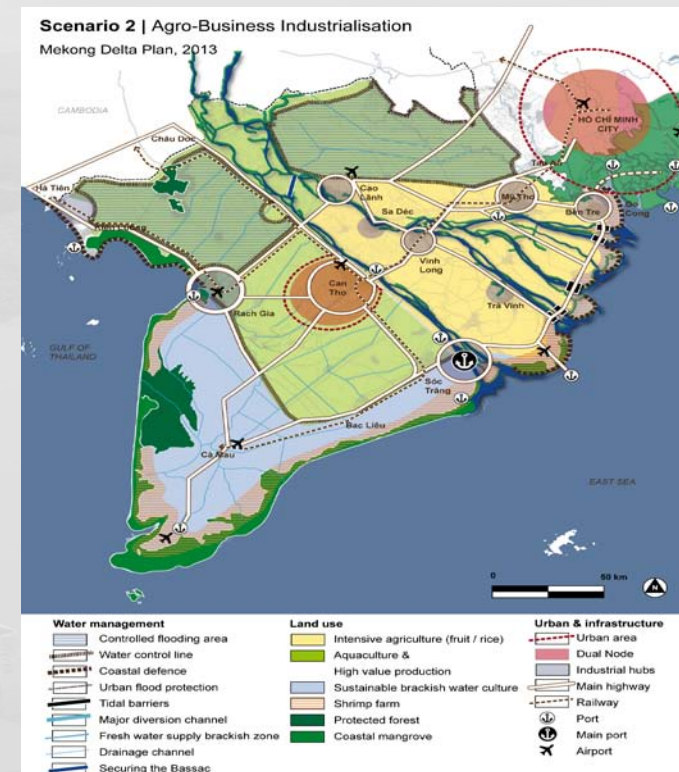


Requirements:

- Clear and concerted focus on the characteristics of the Mekong delta region, instead of duplicating the industrialisation patterns of other provinces.
- Turn-around of the agri-sector into a modern, commercial, high quality production system
- Non-agri industrial and service activities are gradually directed outside the Mekong delta towards industrial zones in other regions
- Flexible investment scheme (adaptive)

Assessment NL team:

- GDP growth deviates from existing objectives and is based on regional competitive advantages.



Mekong Delta Plan: endorsement by development partners



The Netherlands commits to Mekong Delta Plan
Prime Minister Mark Rutte has voiced the Netherlands' support for the 2013 Mekong Delta Plan, with a view to minimising the adverse effects of climate change and developing a safe, prosperous and sustainable delta.

Dutch PM M. Rutte called for joint efforts (photo: Nhut)

Joint Development Partners Statement on Integrated Mekong Delta Development

On behalf of several development partner organizations (which include the ADB, Australia, Finland, Germany, IUCN, Japan, the Netherlands, UN agencies, and the World Bank), I would like to emphasize our support to the Government for the sustainable development of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta.

At the launch of the Mekong Delta Plan in December last year, development partners highlighted the importance of a shared framework for the sustainable development of the Mekong Delta. We recognize the Mekong Delta as a highly productive agricultural area that is rich in biodiversity and critically important to the economic prosperity of Vietnam. The Delta is also one of the most vulnerable areas in the world – facing multiple threats from the adverse effects of climate change as well as from development both within Vietnam and in upstream countries.

The choices made about the long term vision and overall development of the Mekong Delta should be based on sound science, bringing different sectors together, and prioritizing investments and policies that build resilience.

We are pleased to hear that the Vietnamese Government has decided about a sustainable direction of development for the Delta. And in response, we announce our joint support for a sustainable Mekong Delta, and stand ready for long-term engagement.

In view of the Delta's economic importance and vulnerability, we have collectively endorsed the principles on which the Mekong Delta Plan is based. These principles provide building blocks for a development of the Delta that capitalizes on its natural assets, and recognize the trade-offs in land and water management, for example between rice cultivation and water retention, or between rice production and aquaculture. As such, these are highly relevant to major policy choices on, for instance, agriculture, industry, transportation and urbanization.



Joint Development Partners Statement on Mekong Delta Development

Thank you I am happy to attend this high-level meeting....

On behalf of several development partner organizations (which include ADB, UN, Germany, Australia, IUCN, IFAD, Finland and the Netherlands), I would like to highlight our support to the government for the sustainable socio-economic development of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta. Today, we are grateful to the Dutch for bringing us together. With their considerable experience in delta management, and integrated water resources management, they have made an important contribution to the development of a long-term vision, through the development of the "Mekong Delta Plan".

We recognize the national and international importance and potential of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta as a highly productive agricultural area; as well as of its ecosystems in supporting biodiversity and productivity. We also acknowledge that the Mekong Delta is one of the most vulnerable areas in the world to the adverse effects of climate change and that its ability to adapt to these impacts will be essential for its sustainable development. There are also immediate impacts of socio-economic development within Vietnam and from upstream countries.

This is an important moment in time. Decisions relating to the Mekong Delta's development taken today and in the short term will have far-reaching consequences for the longer term capacity to influence that development or to respond to climate change.

We collectively endorse the principles on which the Mekong Delta Plan is based and recognize that it provides important building blocks to the long-term development of the Mekong Delta. The MDP, which is in line with recent prime ministerial decisions on the envisioned development in the Mekong Delta, also provides a means to identify projects in current sectoral masterplans that will help to increase the resilience of the delta.

Today, at this important event, we urge the Government to move forward in implementing an **integrated strategy** for the harmonious long-term development of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta. We support the development of a **shared framework** to assess existing development policies, to structure and evaluate sectoral and regional masterplans, as well as to optimize short-term investment decisions, especially in relation to impacts on the river and wetlands. The overall objective is to build a more resilient delta, increase the resilience of the Mekong Delta to cope with socio-economic development needs and climate change related stresses.