

# 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 (SPA) on  
Climate Change Adaptation & Water Management**

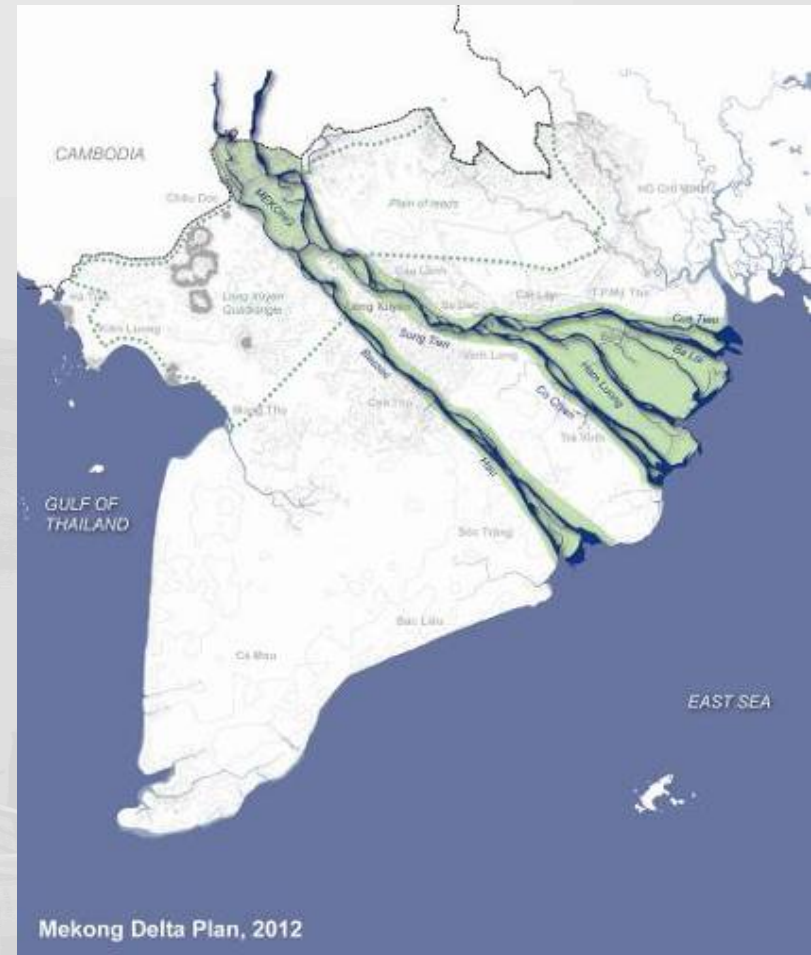
Supervision by VN - NL Intergovernmental Steering  
Committee, chaired by Prime Ministers of VN and NL

## Preliminary Findings

**Version 0.2**

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Chief Technical Advisor for the Mekong Delta Plan

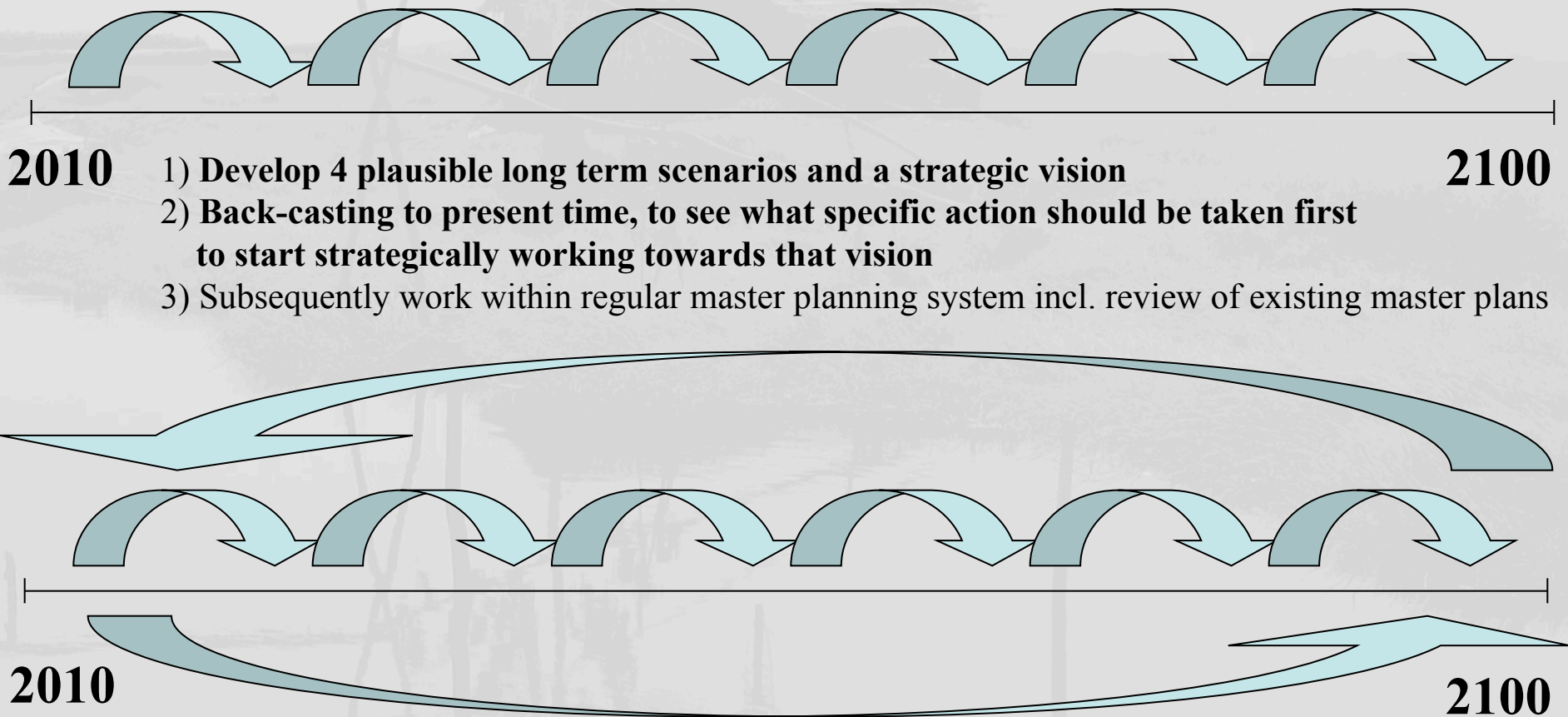
**Deltas2013 Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, 21 May 2013**



# What is the Mekong Delta Plan?

**THE MEKONG DELTA PLAN AIMS TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM VISION (100YR) FOR A PROSPEROUS, SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE DELTA.**

Instead of regular 5-10 year planning (with outlook towards 2020-2030)



# 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**

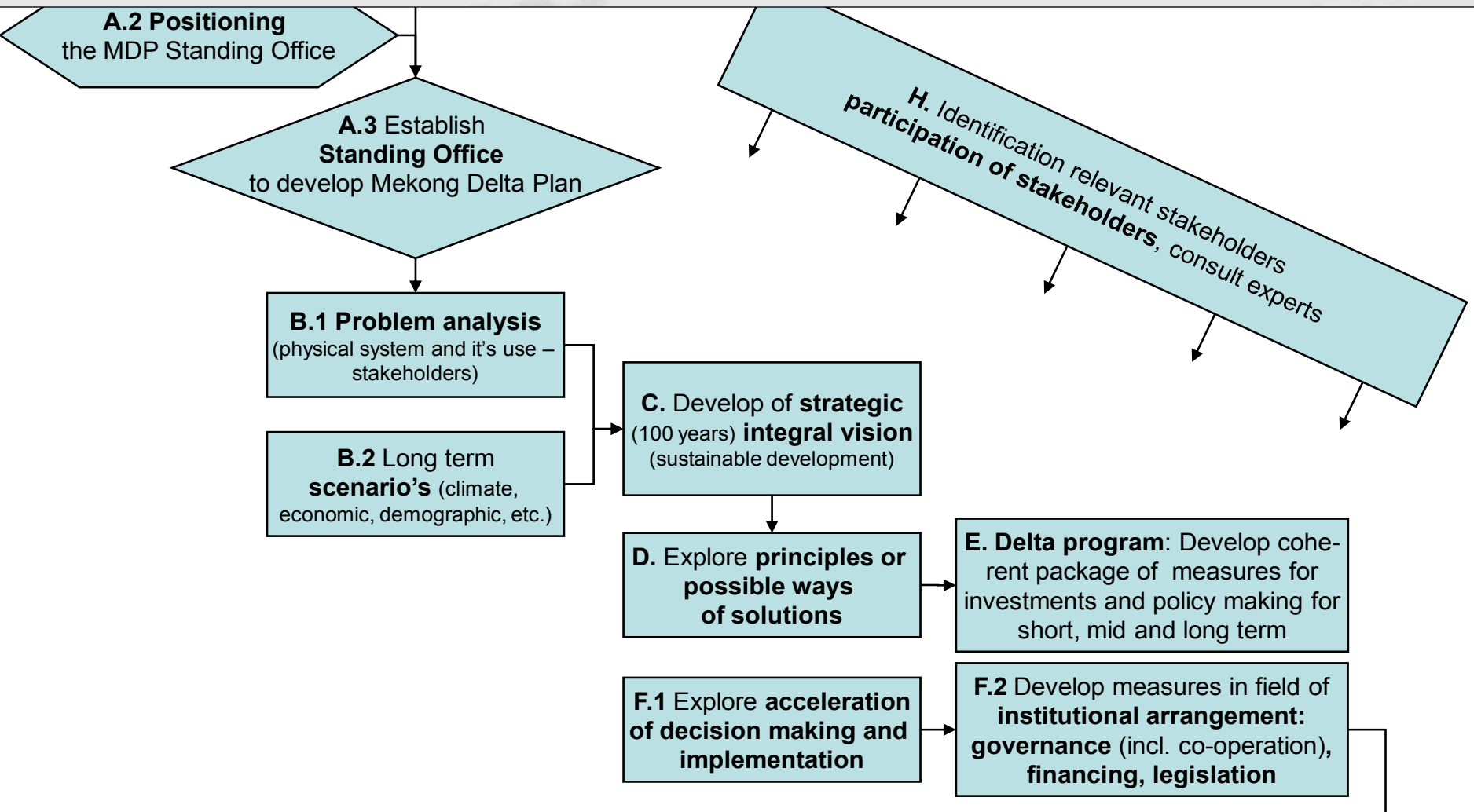


\* CSED: Comprehensive Social & Economic Planning System

This (integrated) approach requires active participatory involvement of:

- National government: MoNRE, MARD, MoT, MoC, MPI
- Provincial government: 13 Mekong Delta provinces
- Municipal governments: HCMC and Can Tho
- Universities and research institutes
- Major stakeholders: IFI's, bilateral donors, NGO's, ..
- South-West Steering Committee

# Mekong Delta Plan development - process steps



# Climate Change scenarios

Impact	Moderate scenarios		High Scenario	
	2050	2100	2050	2100
Sea Level Rise	20-30cm	30-50cm	40-60 cm	100-200 cm
Temperature	+1°C	+2°C	+2°C	+4°C
Dry season flow of Mekong	-5%	-15%	-20%	-50%
Wet Season flow	No change	+10%	0 - +10%	+20 - +50%
Salinity intrusion	Slight increase	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Dramatic increase
Extreme rainfall events	No change	Moderate increase	Moderate increase	Rapid increase of number and severity
Typhoons	No change	Moderate increase in severity	No change	Increase in frequency and severity

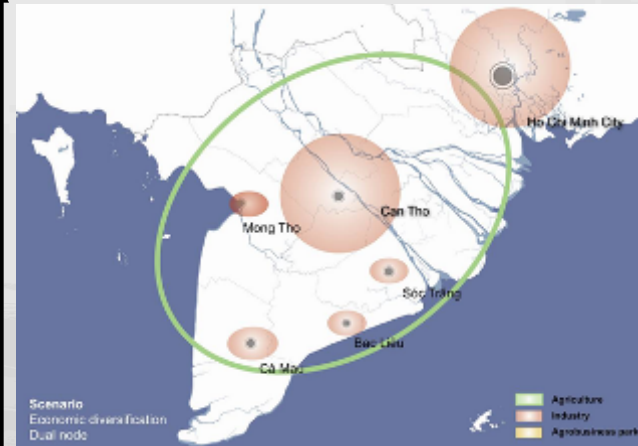
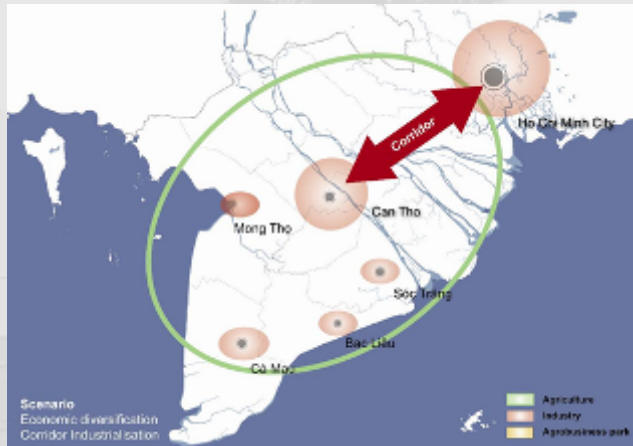
# What will the future of the Mekong delta look like?

Economic diversification

Corridor industrialization

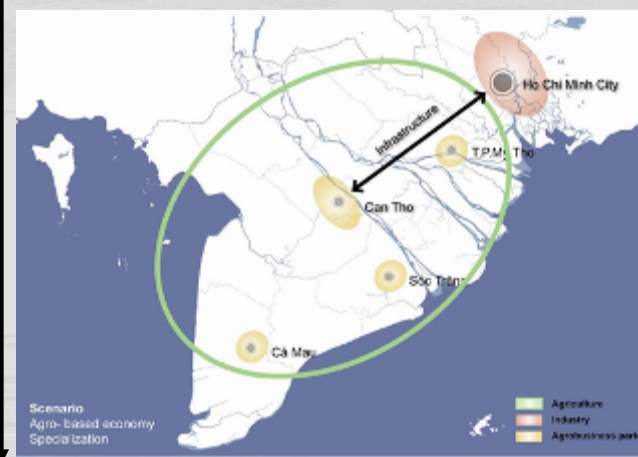
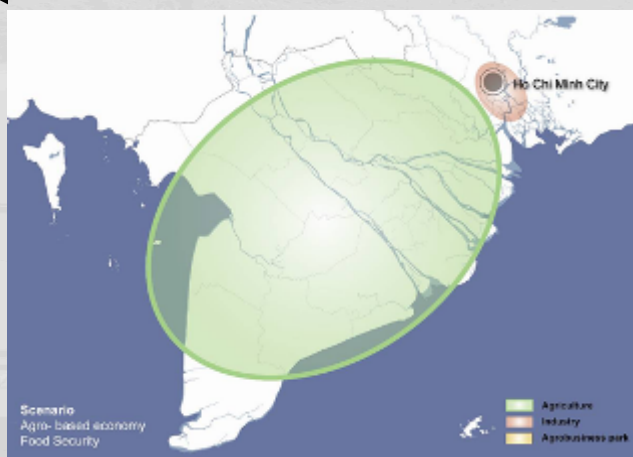
Spatially evolving

Food security



Dual node industrialization

Spatially directed

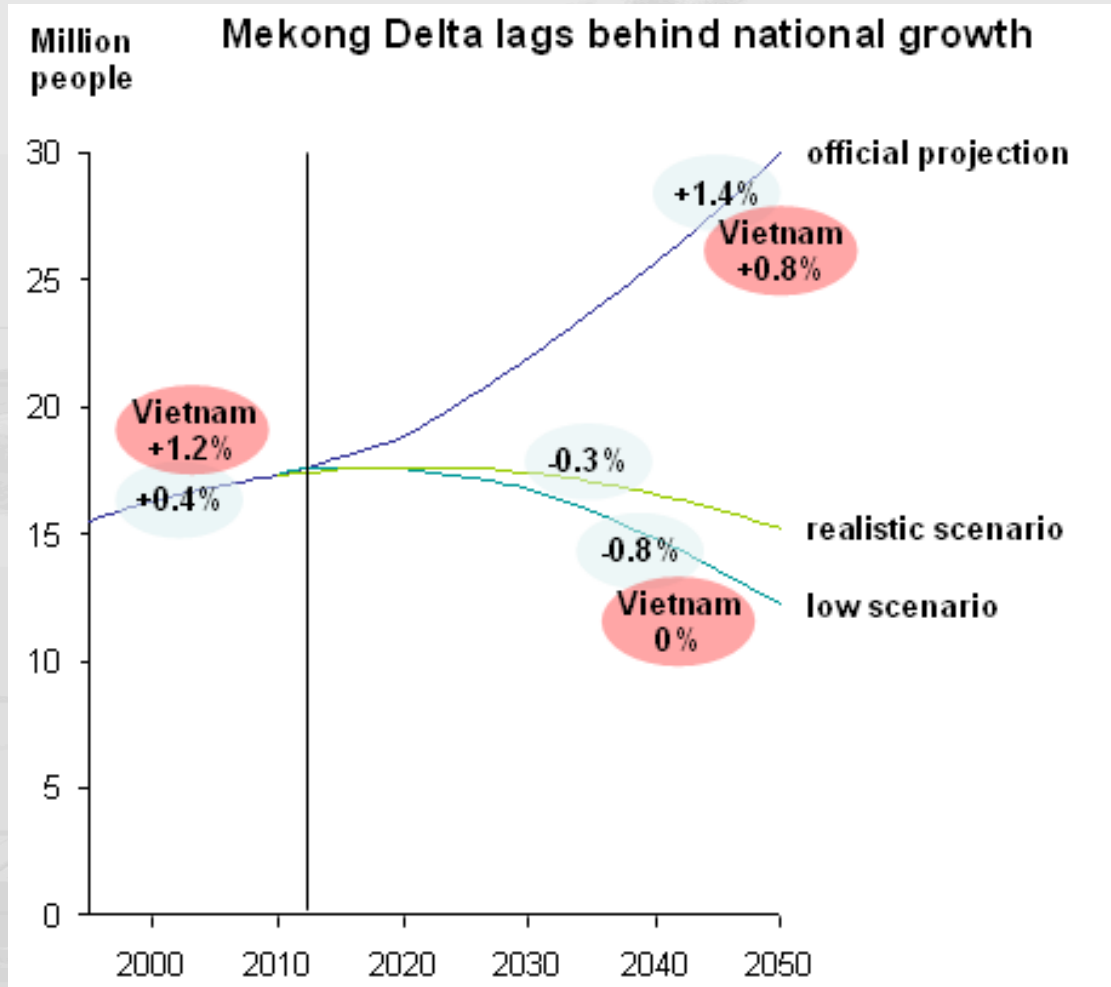


Agro-business specialization

Agro-based economy



# Expected high population growth realistic?



**30 million people**

High land use pressures  
Competition for jobs

**15 million people**

Lower land use pressures  
Sustainable economic growth  
possible

## Most likable scenario: Agro-business specialization

***In view of predicted climatic change impacts and existing challenges, the agro-industry based specialisation scenario is considered to offer the best perspectives for the Mekong delta.***

***It fits and utilises the typical natural features of the delta (low lands, fertile soils, waterways) thus providing an excellent basis for future sustainable economic growth and spatial arrangements.***

***An agro-industry based specialization also best fits the demographic, economic and hydrological structure of the delta, which markedly differs from neighbouring regions and the country as a whole.***



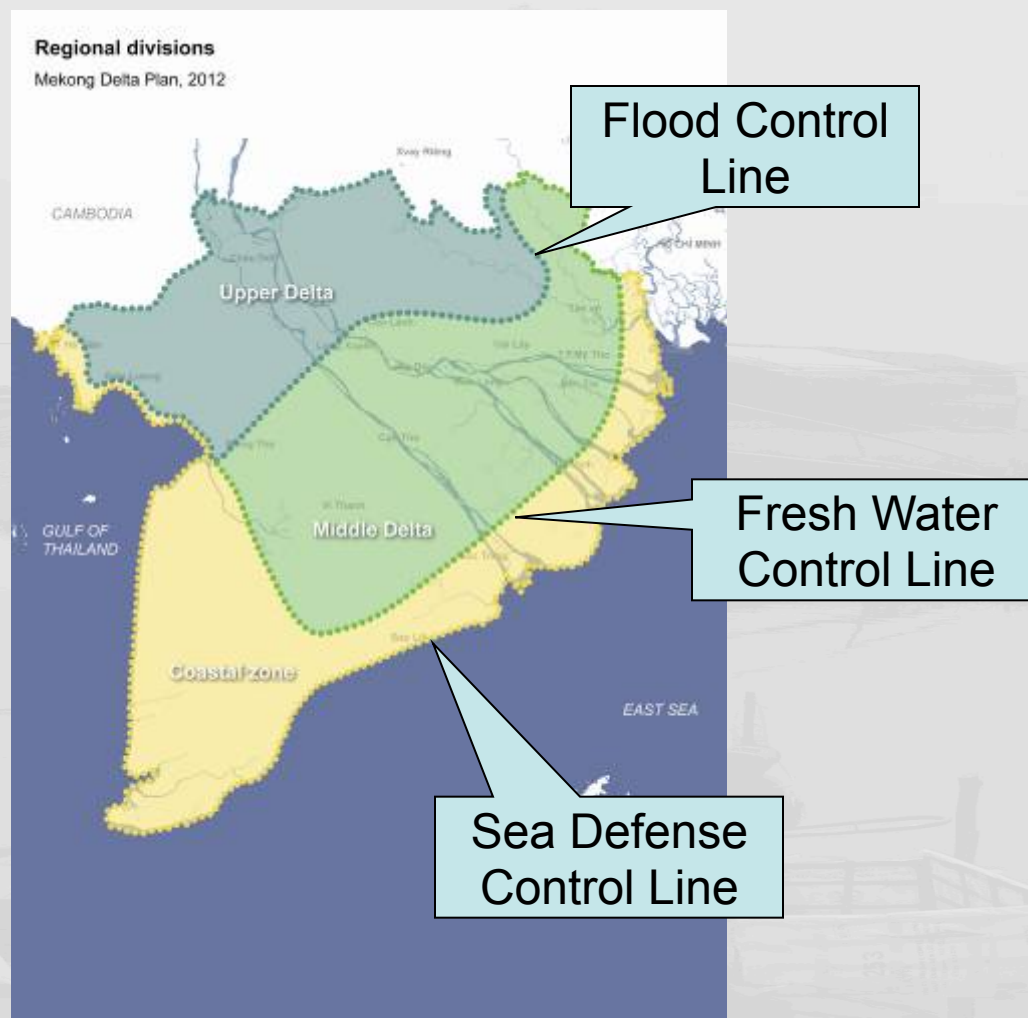


# Exploring principles and possible solutions



- Adaptive delta management
- Explore 'no-regret' and priority measures
- Identify 'tipping points'
- Avoid overinvestment

# Regional recommendations



*Regional division based on main impacts and integrated solutions*

Upper Delta

Middle Delta

Coastal Area

# Upper Delta

## Seasonal Flooding

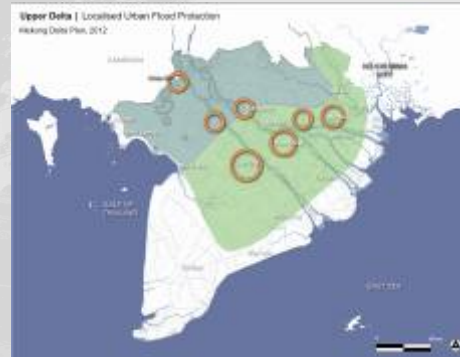
### Controlled Flooding

*Reduce downstream flooding risk*



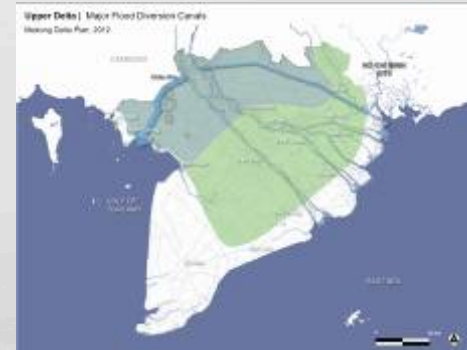
### Urban Flood Protection

*Increase Safety and Sanitation*



### Diversion Canals

*Limit downstream investments*



**Now – 2050**

Reinstate retention areas  
Reconsider triple rice growing  
Land use planning  
Diversification of crops/fish

**Now - 2050**

Flood & Inundation  
protection (Ring dikes)

**2050 -2100**

Urban Polders  
Pumped drainage

**Now**

Space reservation  
Research and Planning

**2050 - 2100**

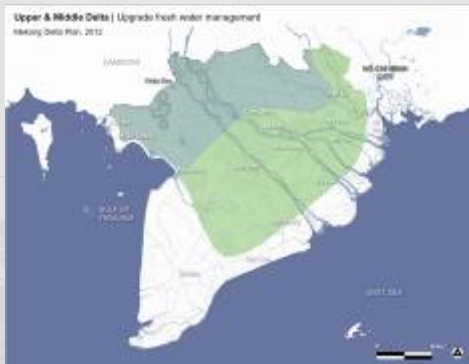
Construction of additional  
discharge capacity

# Middle Delta

## Fresh water in dry season

### Water Management

#### Fresh Water Supply



Now - 2050

Upgrade existing systems

2050 -2100

Polders  
Pumped drainage

### Bassac Link Canal

#### Assure fresh water West Delta



Now

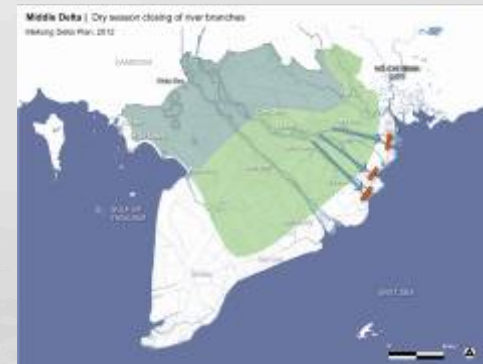
Monitor  
Research and planning

2050 - 2100

Secure flow division  
Bassac-Mekong through  
construction of Link Canal

### Closing River Branches

#### Assure fresh water East Delta



Now

Research and planning

2050 – 2100

Construction of Tidal  
Barriers

# Coastal Area

# Salinization and Coastal Flooding

## Dual Zone Management

### *Go for Brackish Economy*



Now - 2050

From shrimp farming to sustainable aquaculture including mangrove restoration

## Water Management

### *Alternative fresh water supply*



Now -2050

Mitigate groundwater usage  
Local rain harvesting & storage  
Surface water supply

2050 – 2100

Fresh water shortage  
Saline agriculture

## Coastal Defense

### *Better Protection*



Now -2050

Upgrade existing sea dikes  
Restore mangroves  
Unlink road and dike system

2050 – 2100

Closed Sea Defense, except Bassac



# Towards a prosperous, safe and sustainable future Mekong Delta

## ***Agro-business specialization as a strategic long-term development path:***

- ***for socio-economic and spatial development***
- ***to respond to climate change***

### Planning:

- *MDP V1.0 in June 2013*
- *Develop Delta Program*
- *Develop Institutional Arrangements*
- *Stakeholder Consultation (national and provincial level) in Mekong Delta*
- *MDP V2.0 in October 2013 (final version)*
- *Submit MDP to VN-NL Intergovernmental Steering Committee in November 2013*
- *Present MDP at Mekong Delta Economic Cooperation forum in December 2013*

