

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEKONG DELTA

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?  
WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

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*(Revised)*

# INTRODUCTION

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This is a summary of a 5-year project according to the donor.

The project identified critical environmental, economic and social impacts in the lower Mekong Basin. The project was funded with approximately \$10 million. It included 1 consultant company, 2 NGOs, and a research institute.

It assisted select rural communities to strengthen their adaptation capacity.

**What did the project accomplish?**

**What adaptation solutions were implemented?**

**And what results on reducing climate change impacts were actually achieved?**

# MEKONG ADAPTATION

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## ACTION

1. Basin – wide climate change impact and adaptation study.
2. Presented adaptation and resilience strategies for climate change to senior government officials from the region.
3. Preliminary analysis of the lower Mekong basin indicating \$34 billion annually at risk from climate change impacts on: Infrastructure, worker productivity, agricultural output, hydroelectric power, ecosystem.
4. Community awareness of adaptation increased 30% to 64%.
5. Community practice of adaptations increased 20% to 58%.

## IMPACTS

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Members know at least 1 adaptation strategy.

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# MEKONG ADAPTATION

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## ACTION

## IMPACTS

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|---|---|
| 6. Tested 33 climate change adaptation tools or technologies at 5 field sites.                        | ? |
| 7. More than 1000 hectares of biological significance or natural resources under improved management. | ? |
| 8. Strengthened regional platforms.   | ? |
| 9. Piloted a participation planning process for climate change adaptation in one commune.             | ? |
| 10. Pioneered an integrated vulnerability assessment and decision making framework.                   | ? |
| 11. Produced two papers for scientific journals.  | ? |

# ASSESSMENT

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**Only 2 actions** were directly related to climate change adaptation at the community level and these focused on awareness with a vague indication of practicing adaptation. No specific solutions were described and no specific impacts or results were indicated.

**4 Actions** were related to studies, analysis, pilot tests or specific assessment technologies or applications. No evidence of impacts or results and the implementation of solutions or scaling up of the pilot actions to a wider area indicated.

**1 Action** related to natural resource management with no specific solutions or climate change reduced impacts.

**1 Action** related to strengthening regional platforms. This was not explained in any detail and no impacts on reducing climate change identified.

**1 Action** focused on academic publications on planning processes related to adaptation.

# Adaptation Strategy

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- ✓ Introduce more heat resistant breeds of pigs and chickens (i.e. black pigs and black-boned chickens).
- ✓ Introduce better shrimp production techniques in rice-shrimp system.
- ✓ Diversification of livelihoods through frog and fish ponds.
- ✓ Test more drought and heat resilient varieties of rice and fruits.
- ✓ Diversify cropping pattern such as beans/maize, and intercrop rice/vegetables with rubber and coconuts.

# Adaptation Strategy

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- ✓ Improve local knowledge of weather patterns and water resources.
- ✓ Improve water security through increased storage and source protection.
- ✓ Negotiate/ arbitrate between diverse water demands.
- ✓ Create firebreaks to protect forests.
- ✓ Reforest degraded forestlands and mangroves.
- ✓ Improve land management and cultivation practices to reduce erosion.

***How much was really accomplished?***

***What were the impacts related to climate change?***

# Performance Indicators

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- Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change adaptation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented.
- Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to impacts of climate variability and change.
- Number of adaptation activities or strategies designed and implemented by communities to reduce gender-specific vulnerability to climate change.
- Number of people aware of climate-resilient livelihood strategies.
- Number of climate adaptation tools, technologies, and methodologies developed, tested, and/or adopted.
- Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management.

***This is from the monitoring and evaluation section of the final report.***

# Results [Direct to households]

Based on 4 locations (Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia)

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- 66 Raised pigs, 46 sold at \$200 per animal.
- Planted robust crops (fruits, pepper, bamboo, rattan).
- Planted nature rice 5.5 tons annual.
- Raised chicken for egg production 8 eggs a day.
- Produced shrimp nursery 58% with higher incomes

## ***Other Direct Benefits***

- 900 villagers with clean water from filtration systems
- 72 fish ponds.
- 6 solar power stations.
- 57 wells.

# CONCLUSION

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Unfortunately, this is a typical donor approach to climate change projects. There is more emphasis on studies, analysis, planning and discussion than on actual climate change adaptation solutions and real indicators of reducing climate change impacts.