VIET NAM WETLANDS: SELECTED CASE STUDIES

Xuan Thuy National Park in 1989 (Source: USGS)

Xuan Thuy National Park in 2009 (Source: USGS)

Black-faced Spoonbill in Xuan Thuy National Park © IUCN Viet Nam

Women collecting aquatic resources in Xuan Thuy National Park © Xuan Thuy National Park

1. XUAN THUY NATIONAL PARK
benefit sharing agreement

Located in the Red River Delta, Xuan Thuy National Park is of high economic importance: thousands of subsistence harvesters of aquatic products, commercial shrimp farmers, clam seed collectors, and clam growers depend on its mangroves and mud flats for their livelihoods. In an effort to defuse conflict over these resources, the management board has piloted a benefit sharing agreement for households involved in highly profitable clam seed production. The agreement has generated significant revenue to support local welfare services but has failed to address the over-harvesting of clam seed, which have declined significantly.

Lap An Lagoon in 1995 (Source: USGS)

Lap An Lagoon in 2010 (Source: USGS)

Local authorities surveying mangroves in Lap An Lagoon © CCRD

Local people participate in a mangrove nursery training in Lap An Lagoon © CCRD

2. LAP AN LAGOON
mangroves threatened by golf course

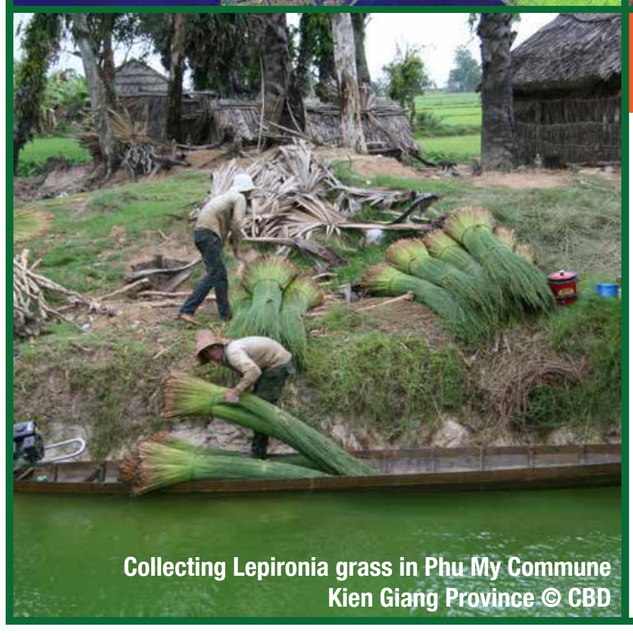
Located in Central Vietnam, Lap An Lagoon has lost most of its mangroves and its last patch of mangroves is threatened by conversion to a golf course. In February 2012, Nong Thon newspaper published a story on the proposed golf course and in April 2012 the Deputy Prime Minister ordered the province not to convert the mangroves. With small grant funding, an NGO attached to Hue University is trying to get the remaining mangroves designated as protection forest and hence legally protected. Meanwhile, some households have started planting mangroves of their own volition.

Kien Giang Province in 1991(Source: USGS)

Lepironia-Eleocharis meadows in Phu My Commune Kien Giang Province © CBD

Kien Giang Province in 2009 (Source: USGS)

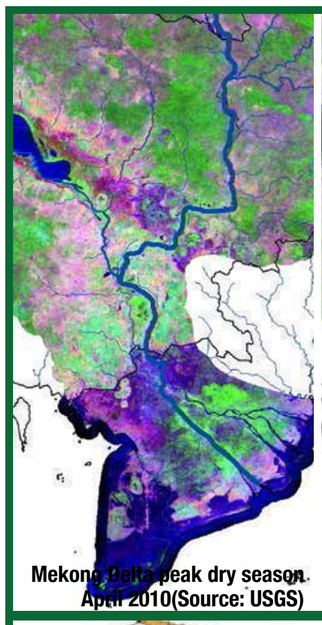
Electrical fishing in Phu My Commune Kien Giang Province © CBD



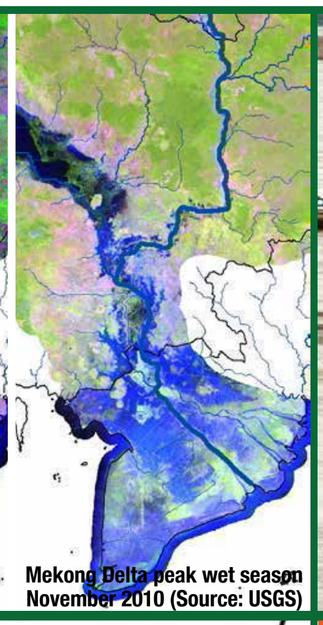
Collecting Lepironia grass in Phu My Commune Kien Giang Province © CBD

3. HA TIEN PLAIN
large-scale wetland conversion

Twenty-five years ago the Ha Tien Plain in Southern Vietnam was a sparsely populated area of seasonally flooded wetlands, grasslands, and mangroves, studded with about 20 isolated karst limestone hills characterized by high levels of species endemism. Since the early 1990s, in response to government plans to develop "wastelands", the plain has undergone a complete transformation as the natural wetlands, grasslands, and mangroves have been converted to rice fields and shrimp ponds. Cement mining has destroyed several karst hills. New protected areas have been proposed to protect the remaining hills and grasslands.



Mekong Delta peak dry season April 2010(Source: USGS)



Mekong Delta peak wet season November 2010 (Source: USGS)

Fishermen casting fishing nets in the Mekong Delta © Save Mekong Group

Local people rescuing the dikes in 2011 Mekong Delta © Save Mekong Group

Flood in 2011, Dong Thap Province © Le Anh Tuan

4. MEKONG DELTA
high costs of intensive rice production

The 2011 Mekong floods displaced 590,000 and killed 73 people. Yet the discharge was barely above average. What caused this damage was the construction of high dykes to support a third (or even fourth) rice crop. The dikes have shrunk the floodplain, accelerated water flow, and displaced flooding to urban areas downstream. In turn, this has reduced groundwater recharge, reduced river base flows, and increased dry season saline intrusion. It has also reduced soil fertility and wild capture fisheries. These impacts argue for a more natural hydrology that provides multiple benefits, including greater resilience to climate change.

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