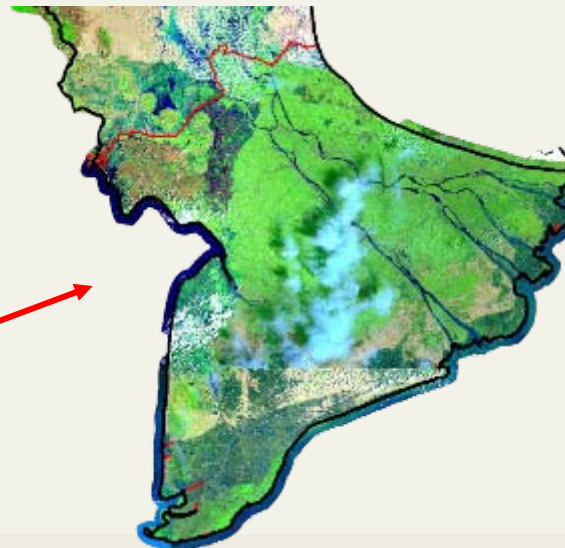




MEKONG DELTA WETLANDS, VIETNAM



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Mekong Delta's wetland habitats



Mekong Delta biodiversity



Species

- **Birds:** 386 species (Bengal Florican, Sarus Crane, Red-headed Vulture, Chinese Egret, White-shouldered Ibis, Painted Stork, etc)
- **Fishes:** 400 species
- **Mammals:** 23 species (Hairy Nosed Otters, Eurasian Otter, etc)



Economic importance of Mekong Delta

- Mekong Delta is one of the most fertile and productive deltas in the world
- Area: 40.000 km² (12% country area)
- Home for 17 million people
- Contributing 30% of country GDP

Fruit Production: 70% Vietnam fruits come from the Delta,
3 million tons of fruits and export turn-over: 500 million USD/year



Economic importance of Mekong Delta

Rice production:

60% (22 million tons) of rice production in Vietnam

90% of Vietnam exported rice from the Delta

(Vietnam is ranked No.1 in rice export)

In 2010, Vietnam exports 7 mil tons with export turn-over of 3.2 billion USD



Economic importance of Mekong Delta

Fisheries and aquaculture: 65% of total country production



Pangasius farming: 1,2 mil tons (1,55 billion USD) in 2011, 99% of international market



Shrimp farming: 400.000 tons/year (about 1 billion USD in 2011)



Key challenges for Mekong Delta

- **Key challenges:**

- ☐ Unsustainable productions (aquaculture and agriculture)
- ☐ Unsustainable fishing
- ☐ Climate change
- ☐ Upstream hydropower dams



Key challenges for Mekong Delta

Unsustainable productions:

- ☐ Aquaculture area (1 million ha): 25% of delta area (4 million ha).
- ☐ Paddy field (1,8 million ha): 45%
- ☐ Wetland protected areas: less than 1%
- ☐ No Ramsar sites in Mekong Delta

Issues

- ☐ Overfishing and destructive fishing
- ☐ Defragmented ecosystems
- ☐ Natural wetland habitats reduction
- ☐ Biodiversity loss
- ☐ Ecosystem services impaired
- ☐ Water pollution
- ☐ Disease outbreak
- ☐ Crop failure





Key challenges for Mekong Delta

Climate change impacts:

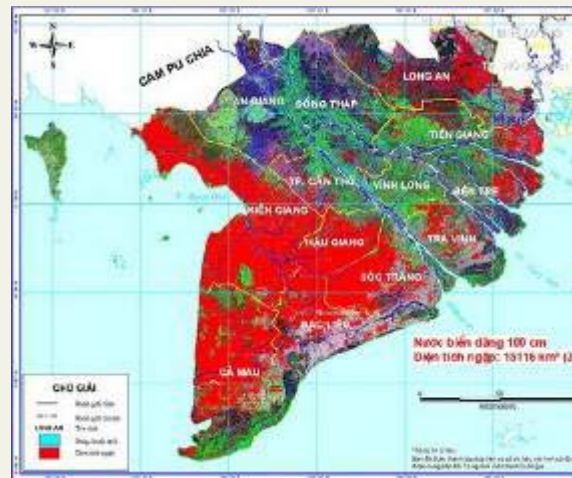
- ❑ Mekong Delta is one of 03 most vulnerable and seriously impacted deltas by CC on Earth.

Changes have already begun:

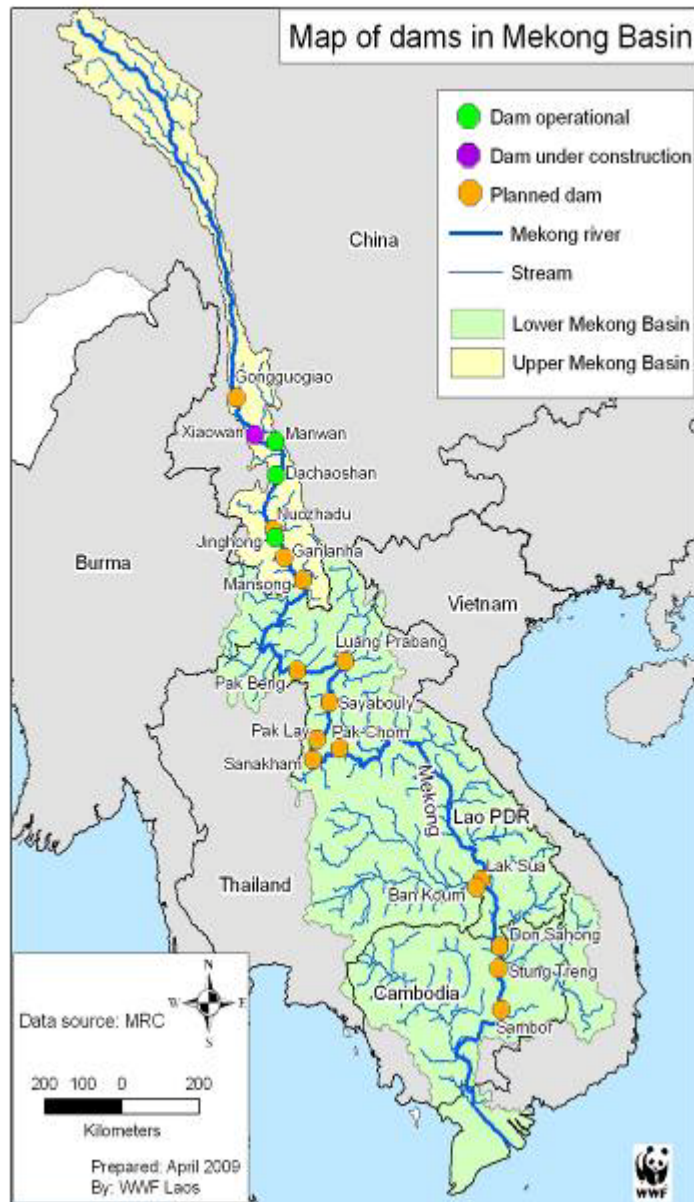
- ❑ More flood: rainfall increases in rainy season
- ❑ More drought: Rainfall decreases in dry season
- ❑ Sea level is raising and the Delta is sinking (20 cm in the last 50 years). If sea level raises 1 m, 38% delta is inundated, 8,5 million people lose home, 70% paddle-field affected by seawater.
- ❑ Coastal erosion
- ❑ Seawater intrusion

Impacts:

- ❑ Natural habitats degradation
- ❑ Loss of production land
- ❑ Productivity reduction
- ❑ Livelihood of poor people



Key challenges for Mekong Delta



Upstream hydropower projects:

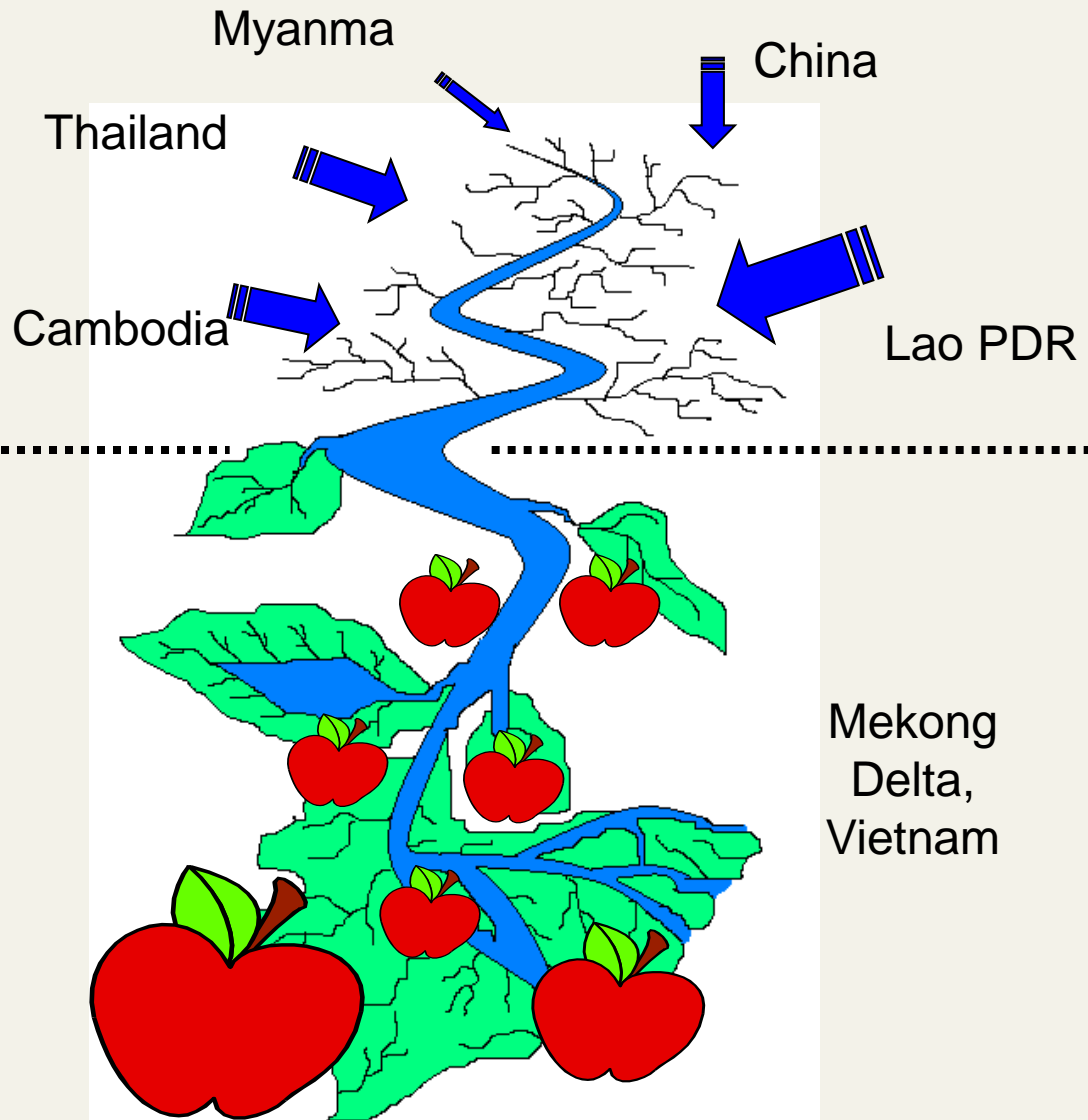
- 11 hydropower project proposals in the mainstream of the Lower Mekong River.

Potential Impacts:

- Blocking fish migration routs (70% of fish catch is long distance migrants).
- Food security and livelihood of local people (60 million).
- Modification of hydrology
- Modification of sediment and nutrient flows.
- Reduced the sediment provided to the Delta and make it less stable and more vulnerable to CC.

If any of these dams built, the Mekong River and Delta will be changed forever.

Mekong Delta: as the upper part (fruits and leaves) of the tree while its trunk and roots lying in other countries





WWF supports to the sustainable development of Mekong Delta

Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries:

- ☐ Promotion of sustainable aquaculture and fisheries through MSC and ASC certification
- ☐ Establishing communities based fisheries areas and promoting biodiversity friendly farming.

Climate change:

- ☐ Ecosystem based adaptation: Strengthen the resilience to climate change by conserving and restoring natural ecosystems and habitats of the Delta (03 projects in Tram Chim, Ben Tre and Lang Sen)

Upstream hydropower dams:

- ☐ Advocacy activities to call for 10 years delay of dam construction
- ☐ Research on the impact of dams on sedimentation movement pattern and aquatic resources.
- ☐ Support in development of: Hydropower Sustainability Assessment and Rapid Basin-wide Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Tools

WWF commits to support in nomination of at least 05 Ramsar sites in Mekong Delta in the next 3 years.

Thank you!