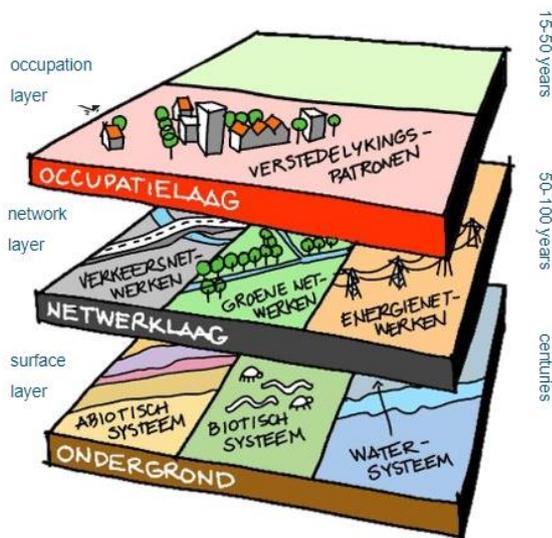


Royal HaskoningDHV, in cooperation with GIZ, has delivered the first integrated Master Plan in Vietnam, for the Mekong Delta. This World Bank funded plan sets out development orientations and spatial planning across different disciplines in the Mekong Delta to 2030, with a further view towards 2050.

Vietnam’s most southerly region – the Mekong Delta Region - is highly strategic. Since 2019, Royal HaskoningDHV is leading the development of the Mekong Delta Integrated Regional Plan (MDIRP) for the Ministry of Planning and Investment in Vietnam. The project is financed by the World Bank. The MDIRP is the first such plan to be prepared under the 2017 Law on Planning (LOP) which includes a mechanism to improve coordination of sectoral and provincial planning at the regional level.



Planning for the Mekong Delta is complex. The area is highly fertile and is the largest regional producer and exporter of rice, fruit, fish and aquaculture products, but its GDP per capita is lower than the national average. Increasing impacts from climate change and upstream dams are creating uncertainty.

The region has however huge potential to improve its economic position due to its strategic location within SE Asia. Meanwhile, agricultural success has come at the expense of the environment, with associated pollution of watercourses and extensive groundwater extraction which contributes to land subsidence. It is also the region with the least forest coverage and remaining areas, especially mangroves, are under pressure from coastal erosion and aquaculture expansion.

Within this context, agreeing a strategy to the year 2030, with a vision to 2050 with all key stakeholders, has been a huge challenge. The strategy has been agreed with the stakeholders and the integrated plan was approved by the Prime Minister in the first half of 2022. In the meantime, various Provincial Integrated Master Plans are being prepared based on the regional strategy.

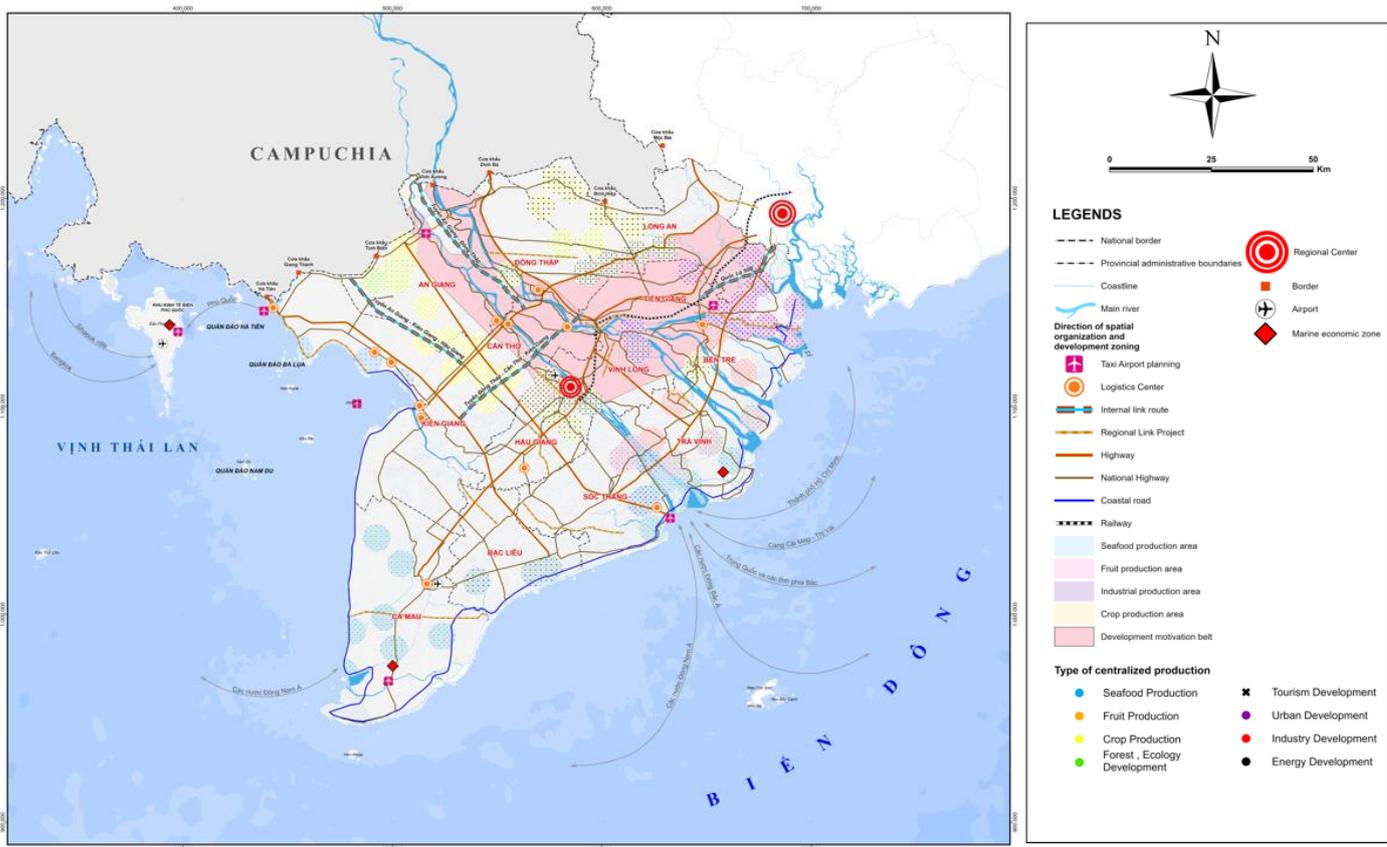
Outcomes

The strategy that is the basis for the MDIRP is designed to both “manage challenges” and “create value”. It aims to protect people, improve livelihoods, promote a more balanced regional development and improve the environment. The overall vision is of “prosperous and thriving communities, together turning challenges into opportunities, utilizing and protecting Mekong Delta resources”. The strategy is based on a simple and widely accepted premise that agriculture is the most advantageous sector in the region, and that much productive land is currently being underused relative to its potential suitability for higher value crops. The four integrated elements of the strategy are:

1. **Agriculture:** promote and support the production of larger quantities of higher-value, good quality crops based on land and water suitability, by relaxing land use restrictions, providing more support to farmers and promoting improved farming practices.
2. **Agro-industrial hubs:** to collect and consolidate agriculture and aquaculture products locally on a sub-regional basis, and add value, through developing processing hubs, being located preferably in provincial centers, also with services and other industries.

3. **Transportation:** phased improvement of roads, inland water transport (IWT) and ports, as well as regional logistics, to support the processing hubs and to improve overall accessibility within the region to benefit other sectors; and
4. **Water management:** protection of the core freshwater zone and coastal areas, improved water quality (especially in relation to agriculture and aquaculture), climate change adaptation and management of natural disaster risks.

Other sectors such as tourism will benefit from improved accessibility which will encourage increases in visitor numbers and their stay lengths.



Media attention

MDIRP has sparked some media attention in the Vietnam, being the first plan of its kind in the country. Please find our some of the exposure in the media through the following links:

- [The Mekong Delta, with the Dutch ambassador](#)

TV-broadcast on VTV-show Talk Vietnam: Vietnam – Netherlands cooperation on climate change adaptation.

- [View on the plan by consultant Michel Tonneijck](#)

Participating consultant Michel Tonneijck explains his view in the Mekong Delta Regional Plan.