

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: VRM/SERD

TA No., Country and Name:			Amount Approved: \$1,300,000		
TA 7377-VIE: Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study in the Mekong Delta			Revised Amount: N/A		
Executing Agency: Institute of Meteorology Hydrology and Environment (IMHEN) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MoNRE)	Source of Funding Climate Change Fund and Australian Technical Assistance (TA) Grant.	Amount Undisbursed: USD 45,166	Amount Utilized: USD 1,254,834		
TA Approval Date: 11 November 2009	TA Effective Date: 17 September 2010	Fielding of First Consultant: November 2010	TA Completion Date Original: 30 April 2011  Account Closing Date Original: 30 April 2011	Actual: 31 October 2013  Actual: 30 June 2014	
<p><b>Description</b> Viet Nam is one of the countries likely to be most affected by global climate change. Within Viet Nam, the Mekong Delta region, in the south of the country, has been identified as particularly susceptible to the impacts of extreme climate events and climate variability. The Mekong Delta region is home to one-fifth of the national population and has population densities that are among the highest in the country. There is a large proportion of poor and near-poor households, and the population remains predominantly rural. Agriculture and fisheries are the major sources of income for the large majority of the people. To respond to increasing climate threats, the Government requested ADB support to integrate climate change adaptation measures in provincial development planning. ADB selected the Provinces of Kien Giang and Ca Mau because of their unique geography and high vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p><b>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</b> The expected impact of the project is that poor and rural people in the Mekong Delta Region will have developed physical and economic resilience to future climate change and variability. The outcome was improved capacity of sector and provincial authorities in the Mekong Delta Region to increase climate-resilience of plans and projects for future development planning. The TA was designed in 2008-2009 responding to the Government's socioeconomic development goals and the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTP-RCC), specifically to provide climate change related information at provincial and sector levels. The TA was designed for implementation in two parts: Part A identification of future climate conditions and assessment of the effects of future climate scenarios on natural, social, and economic systems in the Mekong Delta region; and Part B identification of appropriate climate change adaptation measures for target provinces and targeted regional sectors, designing pre-feasibility levels of analysis of pilot projects for scaling up and provision of support to institutional strengthening activities for Government decision makers and technical staff, as well as awareness raising activities for the community.</p> <p><b>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities</b> Implementation of TA activities spanned 4 years, 2010-2013. The TA was well designed in response to Viet Nam's emerging climate change policy framework at the outset, but, implementation delays diluted the impact of the project over time. In response to the request of the cofinancing partner, Part A and Part B consulting packages were awarded separately. Unfortunately, recruiting two consecutive but, not overlapping consultancies resulted in a delay in implementation and a loss of knowledge and working relationships. Part B consultants had to re-establish project implementation partnerships at the Provincial Level, leaving the experts with limited time to develop the project pre-feasibility studies; the most significant output needed to secure follow on financing from ADB and development partners.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome</b></p> <p><b>Outputs 1 and 2 (Part A): Identification of future climate conditions in the Mekong Delta region and assessment of the effects of future climate scenarios on natural, social, and economic systems in the Mekong Delta region.</b> These outputs were achieved by modeling future climate change scenarios in 2030 and 2050, building on work already carried out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and donors, and using global circulation models, regional downscaled models, and local and international climate data as appropriate. Good quality data and maps were produced for each Province. Taking into account both exposure and adaptation capacity the assessment identified 3 "hot spot" communes in each Province as highly vulnerable: Tran Van Thoi, Ca Mau and Dam Doi in Ca Mau; and Chau Thanh, Rach Gia and Hon Dat. In both Provinces, agriculture and livelihoods are the most vulnerable sectors due to exposure to saline intrusion and flooding and minimal adaptive capacity. Part A analysis was disseminated through workshops in Hanoi and the two Provinces and through knowledge products including an atlas of climate risks available on the ADB website.<sup>1</sup></p>					

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.adb.org/projects43295-012/documents>

**Outputs 3, 4 and 5 (Part B). Identification of appropriate climate change adaptation measures for target provinces and sectors, design and pre-feasibility level analysis of pilot projects for scaling up and support to collaborative mechanisms for information sharing and institutional strengthening activities for Government decision makers and technical staff, as well as awareness raising activities for the community.** Output 3 was successfully achieved using multi-criteria analysis designed collaboratively by the TA Consultant Team, ADB, IMHEN and each PPC. A list of 26 possible climate change adaptation projects and a short list of 6 projects (2 livelihoods, 2 transport and 2 urban investments) was finalized based on the analysis. Output 4 was partially successful. The technical approach of the projects, with the exception of the livelihood interventions, were of poor to moderate quality, lacking detailed discussion of resilience building measures to be embedded in the suggested road, water supply and waste water treatment investments. Output 5 was partially achieved. A basic capacity assessment was carried out and two courses of moderate quality were delivered, including i) climate change guidance for provincial officials (in particular how to prepare and access finance for climate projects) and ii) climate change awareness raising for civil society organizations and community members at district level. Outcome level results of the training were not measurable during the project implementation period. Moreover, no lasting mechanisms for communication or institutional strengthening were put in place.

**Overall Assessment and Rating** Partly successful.

The costs of inputs to the TA were reasonable for the scope of work. However, the design of the consulting packages lacked specifics about how to engage Government counterparts at the national and provincial level in a medium term planning process to achieve the intended outcome. The capacity of national counterparts could have been better used to strengthen the planning processes of local government counterparts. Limited time allocated for consultant field work in the Provinces during Part B was a significant impediment to using the consultant resources effectively. Productivity could have significantly improved if the implementation arrangement had consolidated consulting inputs into 1 package rather than 2 and local institutions were engaged more consistently during the life of the project. Recruiting two firms in succession resulted in implementation delays, and there were major barriers to dissemination of the Climate Atlas and other summary reports locally due to the IAs desire to be more directly responsible for the production (rather than approval) of climate change analysis. ADB was partially satisfactory as an EA. The project officer changed three times during the course of the TA period which resulted in delays in approvals and prevented regular dialogue with counterparts. Overall, the TA is assessed as partly successful due to the partial achievement of outputs 4 and 5.

### **Major Lessons**

- **Timely and continuous implementation.** TAs must be implemented continuously and without delays—in particular if they are responding to planning needs, and addressing a rapidly changing scientific area, like climate change. Furthermore, if assistance requires two consulting packages, recruitment of the second firm should be done in time to work with the first firm and ensure a smooth transition.
- **Linking TA results to Government Policy.** ADB should empower national agencies to liaise with Provinces and where possible provide funding, specialist equipment and expert staff to implement climate change modeling and planning in-line with national planning cycles. Furthermore knowledge of climate change processes, impacts and adaptation measures needs to be strengthened through practical, on-the-job training at local levels, including at community and district levels and of civil society organizations.
- **Lessons for future TA implementation.** Investment preparation and prioritization components embedded in TA lead to expectations on part of provincial counterparts. Climate change analysis is useful for the government in preparing strategic plans and should be timed to ensure integration in official planning cycles.

**Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions** Given the vulnerability of the target provinces and rich analysis provided by the TA, follow on assistance to the provinces should be processed in accordance with ADB's new priorities for the Mekong provinces (e.g. OCR and focus on revenue generating projects). The Climate Atlas prepared, project policy briefs and draft concept papers should be disseminated as a basis for informed discussion about climate change impacts and adaptation options in Ca Mau and Kien Giang Provinces. Future investments in both Provinces should build on the projects' basic studies and initial institutional and community capacity assessments. Project officers operating in the GMS should adapt the findings and capacity building materials from the TA for application with provincial, district and community levels in Mekong Provinces.

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