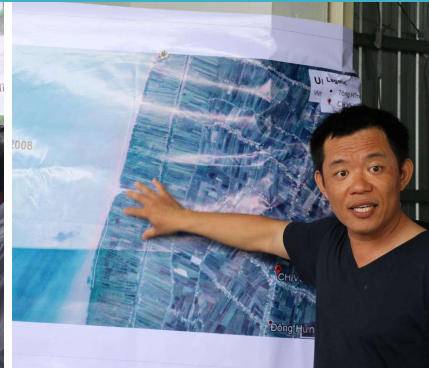


Investigating the relationship between coastal erosion and human activities in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam

Alumni grantee:

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Implementation duration:
2018 - 2019



Issue

According to reports from 2015, severe coastal erosion in the Mekong Delta continues to take place despite the adoption of a number of many protective measures. While the negative impacts of dam construction, sand exploitation and groundwater extraction in the upstream of Mekong river have been reported, the contribution of other human activity to coastal erosion requires further research and discussion.

Action

Research was conducted on mangrove management practices in seven coastal provinces of the Mekong Delta (Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau, and Kien Giang) and preventive measures for coastal erosion were reviewed and assessed. The alumnus also evaluated the use of mangroves to protect forests and improve livelihoods under the Government of Vietnam's Forest Protection Contracting Program.

Achievements

1. Nearly 200 mangrove-dependent local fishermen (more than 40% of whom are ethnic minorities) were interviewed to examine the anthropogenic and natural factors influencing coastal management.
2. Data collected on coastal mangrove protection was discussed and analysed in collaboration with James Cook University researchers.
3. Two articles were published in international journals:
 - "Marine algal species and their distribution in Phu Quoc marine protected area" published by Data in Brief.
 - "Current Management of Allocated Mangroves for Livelihood Improvement in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam: Knowledge Gaps and a Potential Model for Future Management" published by the Journal of Sustainable Forestry.
4. A follow-up technical proposal for a project on coastal erosion control and improved aquaculture techniques was submitted to the National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED) for financial support.

“ This is a very meaningful project as it has helped me understand how the use of contracted forests can impact coastal management and coastal erosion in particular. ”

Mr Thong, an interviewee in Dong Hung A commune, An Minh district, Kien Giang province