



# Vietnam Business for Environment – VB4E

**Project title:** Flood-based livelihoods in support of water retention strategy in the Mekong Delta

**Project duration:** 3 years

**Geographic area of the proposed project:** Mekong Delta

## **Project idea:**

Amongst the 'societal challenges', ecosystem service losses in aquifer recharge area and POPs pollution. These issues are intimately linked to intensive rice production across the upper delta. The reason why households and industry alike are forced to use groundwater is that the surface water is polluted at the landscape level (ie. non-point source), predominantly by agriculture sourced POPs and fertilisers.

Our nature based solution to the problem has been flood-based livelihoods to replace the third rice crop, thereby breaking pest cycles and increasing soil nutrients by conserving and/or restoring the floods. This is the only effective way to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use at scale. Conserving or restoring the floods relates to whether the demonstrations are in low dyke or high dyke areas. Conserving flood volume means replacing the incentive for farmers to demand more high dykes with alternative flood-based crops that are more profitable than the third rice crop. Restoring flood volume means flooding the high dykes to do a flood based crop instead of the third rice crop.

Whether we can reduce pesticide and fertilizer use at scale depends on how much flood area we can conserve and/or restore. The project aims at farm level demonstrations in the Mekong Delta to expose various levels of government agencies, farmers cooperatives, and farmers/womens unions to the idea and practice of flood-based livelihoods to the point where they are confident enough to make commitments to upscale.

## **Relevance to VB4E thematic areas**

The project would contribute to two focus themes of water and wetland conservation and climate change.

## **Management structure:**

The project activities will be monitored and supervised by the VB4E's National Coordinating Body (NCB), who are experts on forestry, biodiversity, water resources, hence will provide technical advice and support during the project implementation. IUCN play the role as secretariat to the NCB to organize monitoring, evaluation and learning (MLE) trips for NCB.

The Provincial People's Committee, Farmer Unions, Women Unions and relevant functional departments will be engaged as key partners for the project implementation.

**Total Budget:** \$200,000/year \* 3 years on rolling basis

**Co-financing:** IUCN would mobilize funding from other sources to co-finance the project

Please contact coordinator at [VB4EAlliance@gmail.com](mailto:VB4EAlliance@gmail.com) for further information if you are interested in the project idea.