



**TITLE: Integrated management of lagoon activities in Viet Nam**

### Summary

A coastline of 3,260 Km and a network of rivers, canals, lakes and ponds give Vietnam copious aquatic resources. Thua Thien Hue is a coastal province in central Viet Nam with a coastline of 126 Km. It includes the Tam Giang – Cau Hai lagoon system which covers five coastal districts and forms a source of livelihood for more than 300,000 people, i.e. nearly one-third of the provinces' population. The numerous activities carried out in the lagoon put a high pressure on this environment and risk to undermine its natural resources.

Hence, the need of re-planning the lagoon management system was strongly felt by the central and provincial Government of Vietnam which required technical support from FAO. FAO's intervention started in 2006 and is now in its second phase of two years, yet some critical results can already be seen at different levels. At policy level, the combination of study-tour and technical workshops changed the awareness of decision-makers on the fragility of the lagoon system, pushing the Government to issue a new regulation for a controlled exploitation of the lagoon. At institutional level, the intervention invested in strengthening local Fishery Associations which passed from 12 to 32. They are now recognised by the local authorities and have become the forum for discussion between local authorities and farmers. Finally, a total of 6204 people benefited from theoretical and practical trainings on aquaculture.

### Critical factors leading to successful capacity development practices

The critical factors contributing to the success of this intervention were:

- Government's interest. The central and provincial Government of Vietnam were highly motivated in improving the lagoon management system.
- Early involvement of national actors. Representatives of local institutions were actively involved since the project formulation phase.
- Creation of boards at local level. Project management and advisory boards filled the institutional gap at local level.
- Use of different capacity building modalities. A combination of several modalities of intervention e.g. study tour, workshops, training programmes, GIS technology were very effective in stimulating ownership and commitment.
- Training programmes with appropriate pedagogy. The good mix of theory and practice enhanced capacities at individual level.
- Empowerment. Fisheries Associations were strengthened at local level.

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