Despite their importance to economies and to coastal stability, mangrove forests have been destroyed worldwide at alarming rates in recent decades. It is estimated that global mangrove forests are being lost three to four times faster than land-based forests. Shrimp aquaculture, one of the world’s fastest growing food sources, is a major driver of mangrove loss, particularly in Asia. However, mangroves also help to increase the productivity of shrimp farms, as well as protect them from storms and sea level rise.

SNV is working with the shrimp aquaculture sector to support sustainable farming models, which generate more benefits to local farmers while reducing the pressure on the mangrove ecosystem. This includes integrated shrimp-mangrove farming models where the mangroves form a critical part of the farming system necessary for shrimp reproduction and food. SNV is also working across the wider landscape to support farmers’ and businesses in more intensive sustainable practices, situated away from critical mangrove areas. Currently the focus of our work is in Vietnam, one of the world’s largest exporters of shrimp. We aim to replicate activities in Indonesia and Myanmar in 2015.

**Integrated shrimp-mangrove farming models: the organic coast**

Ca Mau province, at the southern tip of Vietnam, is home to half of the country’s mangroves and is where half of its shrimp farming area is situated. Over the past two decades the establishment of shrimp ponds has been a leading cause of mangrove loss.

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To address these often competing priorities, SNV, with IUCN and Ca Mau province have been supporting integrated shrimp-mangrove farming models following the Naturland organic standard. This standard requires that each farm has 50% mangrove coverage, which is checked as part of regular third-party audits. SNV is also helping farmers to plant mangroves in their ponds in order to reach the certification requirements. Minh Phu seafood company has committed to buy all the certified organic shrimp at a 10% price premium. Given the success of this scheme the Ca Mau provincial government wishes to scale up organic integrated mangrove-shrimp certification to 20,000 hectares by 2020. Their vision is to establish a sustainable mangrove-shrimp model that both, produces high-value certified shrimp and protects against rising sea level and stronger storms.

**Providing incentives for mangrove protection across the landscape**

To balance the needs of shrimp production with mangrove protection across a landscape, SNV is applying its siting tool to help better understand which areas are suitable for shrimp production and in which areas mangroves must be strictly protected. This allows for a multi-pronged approach working with industry on both sustainable intensive production and integrated shrimp-mangrove in appropriate areas; as well as working with local authorities on the protection of critical mangrove areas. For mangrove protection, SNV is looking to tap into carbon finance from reductions in GHG emissions, which result from reduced pressure on the mangroves from switching to higher shrimp production standards and the planting and rehabilitation of abandoned shrimp farms. We are also working with local authorities to establish a payment for ecological services scheme.

**What does SNV offer in its integrated mangrove and shrimp landscape programme?**

- **Landscape zoning for sustainable shrimp expansion:** SNV has developed a siting tool; its application which provides strategic information for investors, companies and governments on areas most suitable for shrimp production while mitigating the impact on mangroves. This supports integrated coastal land use planning for shrimp aquaculture development and mangrove protection.

- **Supporting practices that improve product quality and sustainability in the shrimp aquaculture sector**

SNV has considerable experience in training farmers to improve productivity while ensuring sustainable farming practices. We work towards various sustainability standards, including Naturland (organic shrimp) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council (intensive shrimp).

- **Farmer group organisation and development:**

SNV has experience organising, often highly disbursed smallholder shrimp farmers, both so that they can more effectively meet any sustainability requirements and also to facilitate communications along the supply chain to ensure greater capture of benefits for farmers while raising their awareness on the importance of mangrove protection.

- **Strengthening the relationships between the supply chain and the shrimp industry,**

SNVs Inclusive Business team have expertise to introduce inclusive business tools to support the development of transparency and communication mechanisms that will ensure fair and efficient productive alliances along commodity supply chains. This includes working with groups to ensure no deforestation in supply chains.

- **Carbon/REDD+ financing for reduced GHG emissions land use practices,**

SNV has a body of experts to support companies, government and/or local communities to be able to access carbon/REDD+ and climate financing to support low emissions practices in coastal areas.

- **Waste to energy toolkit:**

SNV has developed a toolkit to address the importance, challenges and opportunities of electricity generation from agricultural and aquaculture residues. The toolkit summarises the range of technological options with respect to specific feed-stocks.

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