

V

MRC SEA FOR HYDROPOWER ON THE MEKONG MAINSTREAM

INCEPTION REPORT

VOL V

COMMUNICATIONS, CONSULTATION & CAPACITY BUILDING (CCC) PLAN

13 DECEMBER 2009

The MRC SEA of Hydropower on the Mekong mainstream comprises 4 main phases: (i) scoping, (ii) baseline assessment, (iii) opportunities & risks assessment, and (iv) avoidance, enhancement and mitigation assessment.

This Inception report formally concludes the scoping phase of the SEA and reports on the outcomes of the scoping consultations as well as the methodology and design of the SEA for the subsequent phases.

The Inception report has five volumes including supporting materials and reports:

VOLUME I: Main Inception Report

VOLUME II: Mainstream project profile summaries

VOLUME III: National scoping consultation summaries

VOLUME IV: SEA Theme papers and additional studies proposals

VOLUME V: The SEA Communications, Consultations and Capacity Building Plan



ICEM – International Centre for Environmental Management

Disclaimer

This document was prepared for the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) by a consultant team engaged to facilitate preparation of a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of proposals for mainstream dams in the Lower Mekong Basin in the 2009-2010 timeframe.

This document was prepared to assist the Secretariat as part of the information gathering activity. The views, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the document are not to be taken to represent the views of the MRC. Any and all of the MRC views, conclusions, and recommendations will be set forth solely in the MRC reports.

This document is a record of a meeting. All stakeholders whether at the meeting or not are invited to submit written contributions via the MRC website.

For further information on the MRC initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) and the implementation of the SEA of proposed mainstream developments can be found on the MRC website:
<http://www.mrcmekong.org/ish/ish.htm> and <http://www.mrcmekong.org/ish/SEA.htm>

The following position on mainstream dams is provided on the MRC website in 2009.

MRC position on the proposed mainstream hydropower dams in the Lower Mekong Basin

More than eleven hydropower dams are currently being studied by private sector developers for the mainstream of the Mekong. The 1995 Mekong Agreement requires that such projects are discussed extensively among all four countries prior to any decision being taken. That discussion, facilitated by MRC, will consider the full range of social, environmental and cross-sector development impacts within the Lower Mekong Basin. So far, none of the prospective developers have reached the stage of notification and prior consultation required under the Mekong Agreement. MRC has already carried out extensive studies on the consequences for fisheries and peoples livelihoods and this information is widely available, see for example report of an expert group meeting on dams and fisheries. MRC is undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposed mainstream dams to provide a broader understanding of the opportunities and risks of such development. Dialogue on these planned projects with governments, civil society and the private sector is being facilitated by MRC and all comments received will be considered.

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About the MRC SEA of Hydropower on the Mekong mainstream

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) is an international, country-driven river basin organisation that provides the institutional framework to promote regional cooperation in order to implement the 1995 Agreement. The MRC serves its member states by supporting decisions and promoting action on sustainable development and poverty alleviation as a contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals.

In a region undergoing rapid change and economic growth, the MRC considers the development of hydropower on the Mekong mainstream as one of the most important strategic issues facing the Lower Mekong region. Through the knowledge embedded in all MRC programs and coordinated through the new MRC Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower (ISH), the MRC seeks to assist Member states to work together and make the best decisions for the basin.

Eleven hydropower schemes have been proposed for the Lao, Lao-Thai and Cambodian reaches of the Mekong mainstream. Implementation of any or all of the proposed mainstream projects in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) could have profound and wide-ranging socio-economic and environmental impacts in all four riparian countries (Cambodia, Thailand, Thailand, Vietnam). The LMB governments decided that MRC ISH should conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all the proposed projects to fully assess their potential cumulative and multiplier effects.

The Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) is a cross-cutting program working with all MRC programmes, focussing on balancing social, environmental and economic considerations of potential energy futures for the Lower Mekong Basin. The MRC recognises that there are two main decision-making spheres in the LMB; the IWRM sphere (where integrated basin planning is undertaken) and the Power sector and industry sphere (where decisions on hydropower are taken). The ISH, through its projects and activities, aims to bring these two decision-making worlds together.

This MRC ISH SEA seeks to identify the potential opportunities and risks, as well as contribution of hydropower to regional development, by assessing alternative mainstream Mekong hydropower development strategies. In particular the SEA focuses on regional distribution of costs and benefits with respect to economic development, social equity and environmental protection. The SEA began in May 2009 and is scheduled to complete the final report and recommendations by mid-2010.

This document is one of a series of documents arising from an intensive program of consultations in the Lower Mekong Basin and detailed expert analysis of the issues associated with developing hydropower on the Mekong mainstream. The intention is to consolidate SEA activities and progressively make conclusions and outputs available for public and critical review, so that stakeholder engagement can contribute to the SEA in a meaningful way. A full list of documents is available on the MRC SEA website.

The context and aims of the MRC SEA of Proposed Hydropower Schemes on the lower Mekong mainstream

MRC GOALS (2006 - 2010)

1. To promote and support coordinated, sustainable, and pro-poor development
2. To enhance effective regional cooperation
3. To strengthen basin-wide environmental monitoring and impact assessment
4. To strengthen the Integrated Water Resources Management capacity and knowledge base of the MRC bodies, National Mekong Committees, Line Agencies, and other stakeholders

MRC PROGRAMMES

- 1 Basin Development Plan and IWRM Strategy
2. Facilitate effective dialogue and communication to reinforce multi-disciplinary cooperation, and functional partnering with regard to hydropower and the PNPCA process
3. Support technical knowledge sharing and capacity building within MRCS, NMCs, line agencies, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders
4. Embed sustainable hydropower into the regional planning processes of Member States

SEA

1. Helps to integrate energy and power sector into the BDP
2. Understand development risks and opportunities of mainstream developments and their regional distribution
3. Contributes to the framework for project-specific evaluation
4. Strengthen the respective analytical SEA capabilities in the concerned line agencies of the MRC Member States

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	6
2	the SEA Communications, Consultations and Capacity building (CCC) plan.....	6
2.1	CCC Plan goal and objectives	6
2.2	Guiding Principles	7
3	Stakeholder Identification	7
4	Communications	10
4.1	reporting as the backbone of the SEA CCC plan	12
4.2	Communications needs of key stakeholder groups.....	12
4.2.1	Government – Oversight & line agencies	12
4.2.2	Government - MRC Council and joint committee.....	14
4.2.3	Government - MRCS and NMcs	15
4.2.4	Civil society and other non-Governmental stakeholders	16
4.2.5	Developer and other private sector.....	17
4.2.6	Development partners, international organisation & interested observers	18
4.3	MRC – internal communications.....	19
4.4	Key Messages for different stakeholder roles and interests	21
4.5	Communication tools.....	21
4.5.1	WEBSITE	22
4.5.2	Visual Media.....	23
4.5.3	Printed Media	24
4.5.4	Summary of the Communications Tools.....	25
5	Stakeholder Participation	25
5.1	Linking up with existing MRC consultative initiatives.....	26
5.2	Rapid appraisals	26
5.3	National consultations	26
5.4	Regional technical workshops at each SEA stage	27
5.5	Regional Multi-stakeholder workshop.....	27
5.6	Developers network.....	28
5.7	Summary Framework of Consultative Events	28
6	Capacity building.....	28
7	APPENDIX 1: SEA Stakeholder Map.....	31

1 INTRODUCTION

In November 2008, the countries of the Lower Mekong Basin directed the MRCS to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the twelve hydropower projects proposed for the mainstream Mekong River to assist in the planning and decision making process. The SEA is to be conducted over 14 months from May 2009 and involve government line agencies, the developers, and the non government community.

This paper sets out the stakeholders involved in the SEA, the methods to be used in communicating and consulting with them, and the approach to capacity building in SEA as a development planning tool. Apart from interactions with the National Mekong Committee Secretariats and line agencies, the SEA workshops, the consultation meetings in the four countries and dialogue with China, the MRCS website has been a principle tool for ensuring stakeholders or their representatives have access to all the SEA reports as they are produced.

2 THE SEA COMMUNICATIONS, CONSULTATIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING (CCC) PLAN

The success of the SEA is dependent on the participation of stakeholders and on an effective communication flow between MRC bodies, stakeholders and the SEA team as well as the various MRC Programmes. Communications will be enhance by understanding who the stakeholders are, their expectations of the SEA and by effectively involving them in the SEA process. In addition, it is important to build capacity in the use of the SEA tool. This Communications, Consultation and Capacity Building (CCC) Plan is intended to guide the process of engagement and information sharing as the backbone of SEA implementation and ultimately the value added use of the outputs. The Plan builds on and draws from the overall Communications Strategy being developed for MRC as a whole and the evolving communication strategies for the concerned MRC programmes.

2.1 CCC PLAN GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the SEA CCC Plan is to maximize cooperation and have stakeholders genuinely accept that the SEA is an open and technically sound and credible assessment in which they have been effectively involved, their voices have been heard, and which has led to well-founded findings and recommendations, where divergent views are also noted to inform the decisions that governments will ultimately take. This is accomplished by ensuring stakeholders expectations are measured, recorded and addressed in the SEA process. It recognizes the SEA is not a decision-making process itself and that there are highly divergent views in considering the mainstream dam proposals.

The SEA CCC plan has three objectives relating to its three main thrusts – communications, consultation and capacity building. The Plan’s objectives are to:

- (i) Establish a dynamic two way flow of information, views and analysis in ways best suited to the special needs of each main stakeholder group and to the technical requirements of the SEA
- (ii) Provide a wide range of platforms for consultation and participation accessible to the main stakeholder groups and which effectively facilitate their involvement in the SEA process

- (iii) Provide a core group of line agency and other stakeholder representatives with on-the-job capacity building at each main stage of the SEA in its use as a tool to enhance development planning.

2.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES¹

The SEA Communications, Consultation and Capacity building plan is guided by:

- (i) The need for the SEA process to remain transparent, balanced and objective
- (ii) The need for fast, effective interactions with a complex stakeholder base
- (iii) The intention to improve accessibility of information relating to mainstream hydropower
- (iv) The intention of being responsive and sensitive to a wide variety of viewpoints and information
- (v) Ensuring the SEA purpose and objectives are clear and well communicated and understood by stakeholders (Box 1)

Box1: Purpose and objectives of the SEA

The purpose of the SEA is to identify the potential opportunities and risks as well as contribution of the proposed LMB hydropower schemes to Mekong regional development by assessing:

- alternative mainstream Mekong hydropower development strategies,
- the regional distribution of costs and benefits with respect to economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

In realizing that purpose the SEA has two sets of objectives – one relating to the substantial issue of hydropower development on the mainstream Mekong River, and the other concerned with capacity building in SEA as a tool:

Hydropower focus:

1. Provide an understanding of the implications of mainstream hydropower development
2. Provide an understanding of the specific policy-level issues for decision-making processes on whether and how those hydropower projects should best be pursued;
3. Provide an initial baseline and assessment framework for individual mainstream project EIAs, thereby supporting implementation of the relevant MRC Procedures, notably the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement

SEA as a tool in development planning:

1. Serve as a methodological framework for sub-basin hydropower SEAs in the LMB, which will be carried out as input to MRC's Basin Development Plan; and
2. Include capacity building to strengthen the respective analytical SEA capabilities in the concerned line agencies of the MRC Member States.

3 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

¹ Building on the MRC Draft Communications Strategy (March, 2009)

During February to May 2009, an initial stakeholder analysis was conducted under Phase 1 of the SEA which helped define the issues to be addressed in the assessment. The outcome was a background scoping paper that was circulated to all NMCS and concerned line agencies and placed on the MRC website for all stakeholders or their representatives to view. In addition, the Basin Development Plan (BDP2) process of the MRCS included a Stakeholder Analysis carried out over a period of a year or more in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam as well as regionally, and leading to an inventory of government and non-government stakeholders. National and regional stakeholder consultations were also carried out as part of the process to develop the cross-cutting Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower, under which the SEA of proposed mainstream dams is carried out guided by a multi-Programme SEA Working Group chaired by the CEO of the MRCS.

The SEA builds on that initial analysis and inventory work. A large number of stakeholders have already been identified, and the list is by no means closed or static. The SEA may identify additional stakeholders during the consultation and research process.

Stakeholders may be divided into five main categories, each with sub-groupings (Table 1).

The first category is **Government Stakeholders**. This category includes:

- (i) **Government oversight agencies:** the line agencies responsible for overall policies, regulation and management of hydropower development, including the regulatory arms of energy and power sector development agencies and environment agencies involved in environmental assessment, safeguards and performance monitoring.
- (ii) **Line agencies in development sectors affected by hydropower:** those with no formal role in hydropower planning and implementation but whose sector may be affected (e.g. line agencies responsible for fisheries, navigation, agriculture and irrigation, ethnic minorities, gender issues, health, water and sanitation).
- (iii) **MRC Bodies:** As an inter-governmental organization, with the SEA focusing cooperation with the NMCSs and MRCS, but supporting MRCS briefing of the Joint Committee and MRC Council

The second stakeholder category is local, national and regional **civil society and other non-Government stakeholders**. This category includes representatives of:

- (i) **Directly affected communities:** those directly affected by policies or processes involving consideration of mainstream dam construction and operations, such as those with land, resource access and livelihoods both positively and adversely affected;
- (ii) **Communities indirectly affected:** those indirectly affected by construction and operation of dams, such as those providing goods and services to affected stakeholders (e.g. market traders, small business); and
- (iii) **Special interest groups,** such as local, national and regional advocacy NGO's, civil society interested in wider water resource development, electricity alternatives, and hydropower issues, including academics and research institutions, and international institutions and development partners.

The third category is **developers and private sector stakeholders**. In this category falls:

- (i) **Hydropower Developers:** Public or private sector entities involved in project preparation planning, design, negotiation, financing, implementation, the management, operation and maintenance of proposed hydropower operations under the regulator systems established by governments; and
- (ii) **Other Private Sector:** those directly involved or with a stake in decisions concerning the proposed mainstream hydropower schemes including service providers, contactors, construction companies, and equipment suppliers.
- (iii) **Power Utilities:** those directly involved or with a stake in the generation, transmission and distribution of power according to their respective mandates and policies and for power export/import arrangements.

The fourth category is international **development partners** (Non-Mekong) countries in the region, **international organizations and interested observers**: In this category falls:

- (i) **Donors and development partners:** Bilateral and those directly supporting the MRC and the Mekong countries in development programmes with an interest in the consideration of mainstream hydropower proposals,
- (ii) **International and finance organizations:** regional and international investors and financial institutions (non-public sector).
- (iii) **Other interested international observers:** those involved in sustainable water resource and energy development and a range of development fields, studies and capacity building work that have an interest, or can offer relevant technical advice based on international experience to MRCS for the consideration of mainstream hydropower proposals.

Finally the fifth category is **General Public and Media**

- (i) **Public:** the general public including electricity consumers who will broadly be concerned about the national investments and implications for power services and the countries development;
- (ii) **Media:** of all types and at all levels (local, national, regional and international)

Stakeholders in the SEA process thus may be local, regional, national or international. They vary from one country and area to the next. Within the limits of the SEA resources and considering the strategic nature of the SEA exercise itself (e.g. as distinct from a project-specific environment and social impact assessment (SEIA) or a project-specific PNPCA process of the MRC), each of those stakeholder groups requires special consultative and communications approaches to effectively engage them in the SEA process; ensure their positions and interests are heard and their information is integrated into the assessment and the divergent views captured.

4 COMMUNICATIONS

In an SEA with limited time and resources but a broad scope and wide range of stakeholders the communications effort needs to be finely tuned to the main issues of concern, well targeted and tailored to meet the needs of the main stakeholders and precisely timed to achieve analytical and reporting requirements of each stage of the SEA.

Figure 1 and 2 provides a summary of the scheduling of SEA phases, consultations events, reporting requirements and how the SEA overall relates to decision making in the hydropower project planning process.

This section of the Plan shows how the reporting stages provides the backbone of the SEA communications activities. It reviews the key stakeholder groups, their expectations of the SEA, special communications needs and how those will be addressed by the SEA. It then describes the communications tools and the stages in the SEA when they will be applied.

Figure 1: SEA Consultative & reporting process

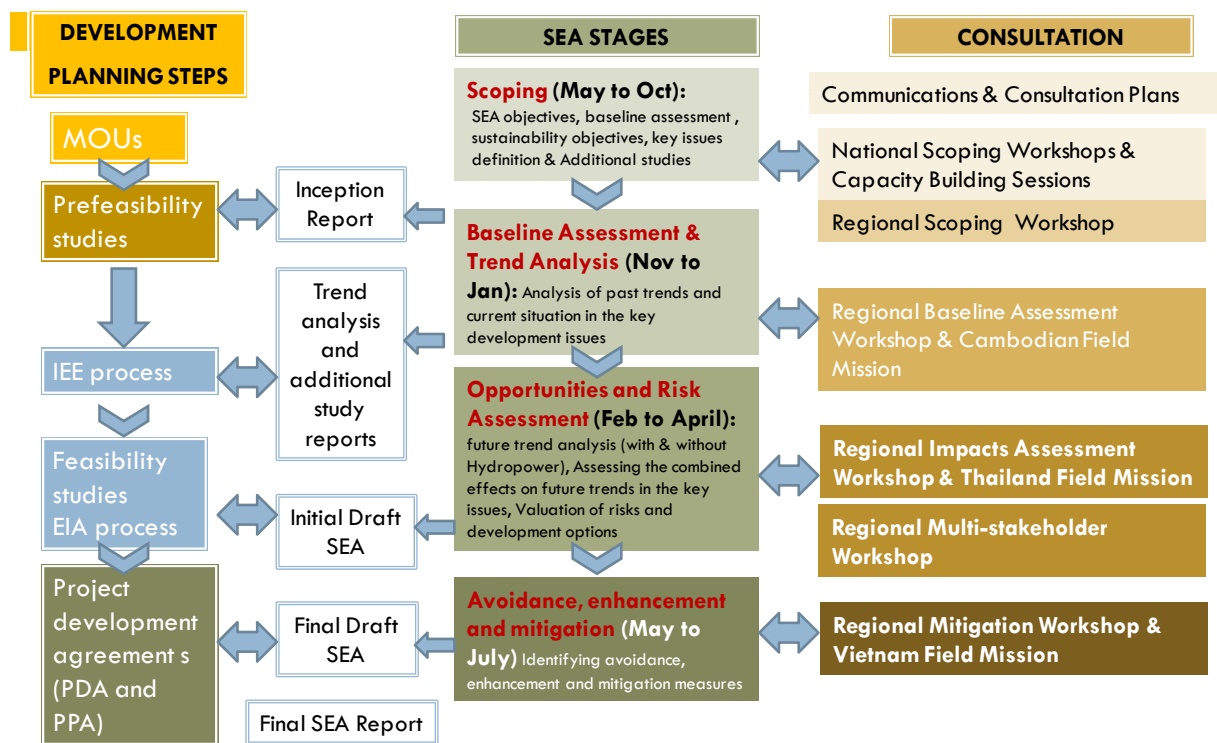
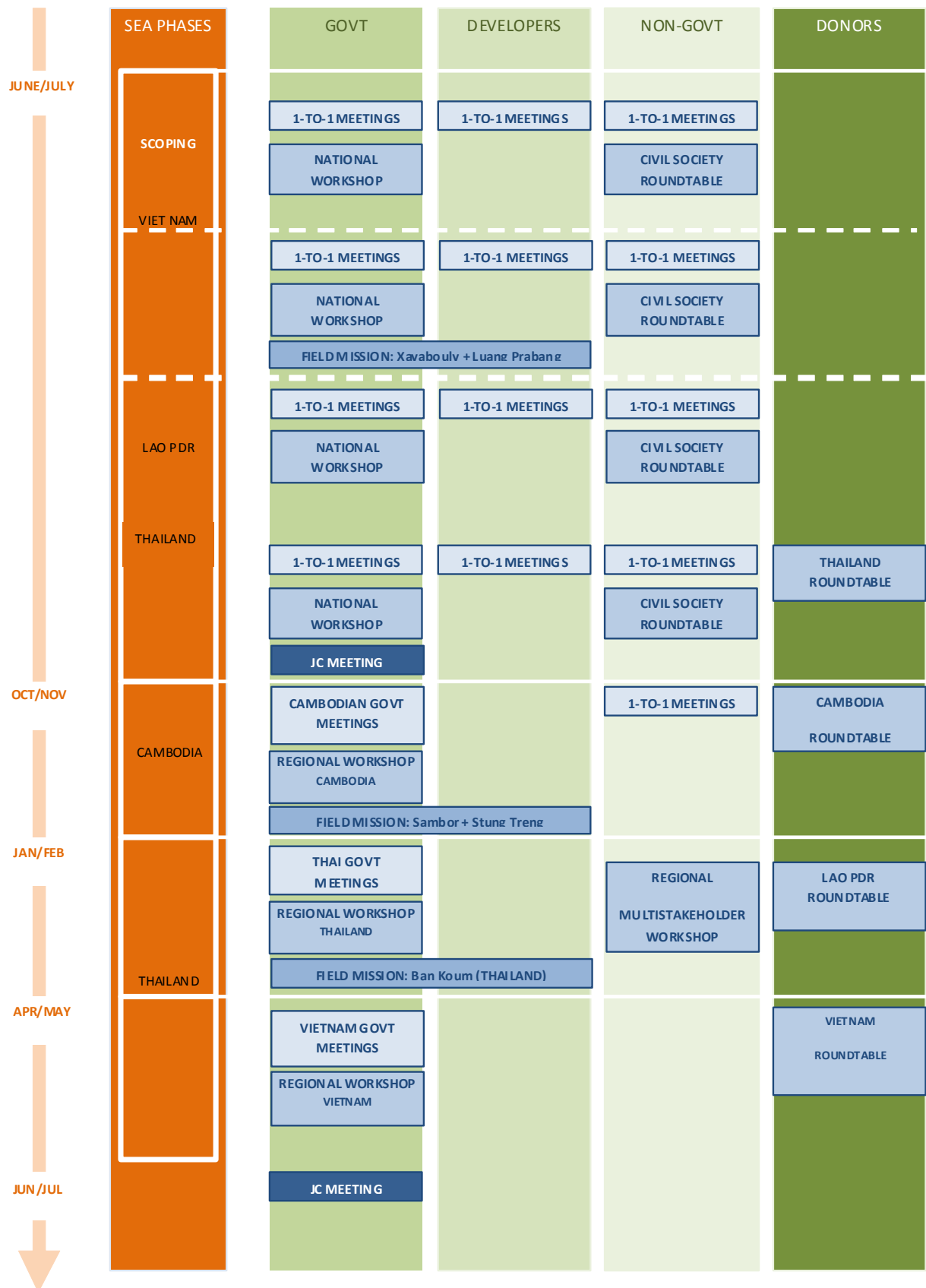


Figure 2: Main consultative events and stakeholder involvement at each stage of the SEA



4.1 REPORTING AS THE BACKBONE OF THE SEA CCC PLAN

The SEA has been designed to allow for progressive reporting at each of the main stages in the assessment:

1. Scoping
2. Baseline assessment
3. Impact assessment
4. Avoidance, mitigation and enhancement

The findings and analysis drawn together at each of those stages will be reported to the MRC and LMB countries and review, comment and clarification. This review and correction feedback is especially important in the early stages of the SEA when the evidence base for the later assessments is being built. The factual basis for presenting past trends, the current status and future government plans and targets relating to the key issues of concern needs to be confirmed by the core group of government line ministry participants, by the MRC programs and initiatives, and by other knowledgeable stakeholders. In that way the SEA can move forward on a sure footing. This review and feedback process is illustrated in Figure 3.

4.2 COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Each stakeholder group has its distinctive characteristics and expectations of the SEA. Those attributes need to be fully understood and appreciated so that the SEA team and the MRC can do their best to communicate effectively with each group. Communication is about the exchange of views and information to the satisfaction of all parties involved and in ways which are open and influence the process.

In this section, the attributes of each of the main stakeholder groups and the kinds of communication tools and information concerns associated with them are summarized.

4.2.1 GOVERNMENT – OVERSIGHT & LINE AGENCIES

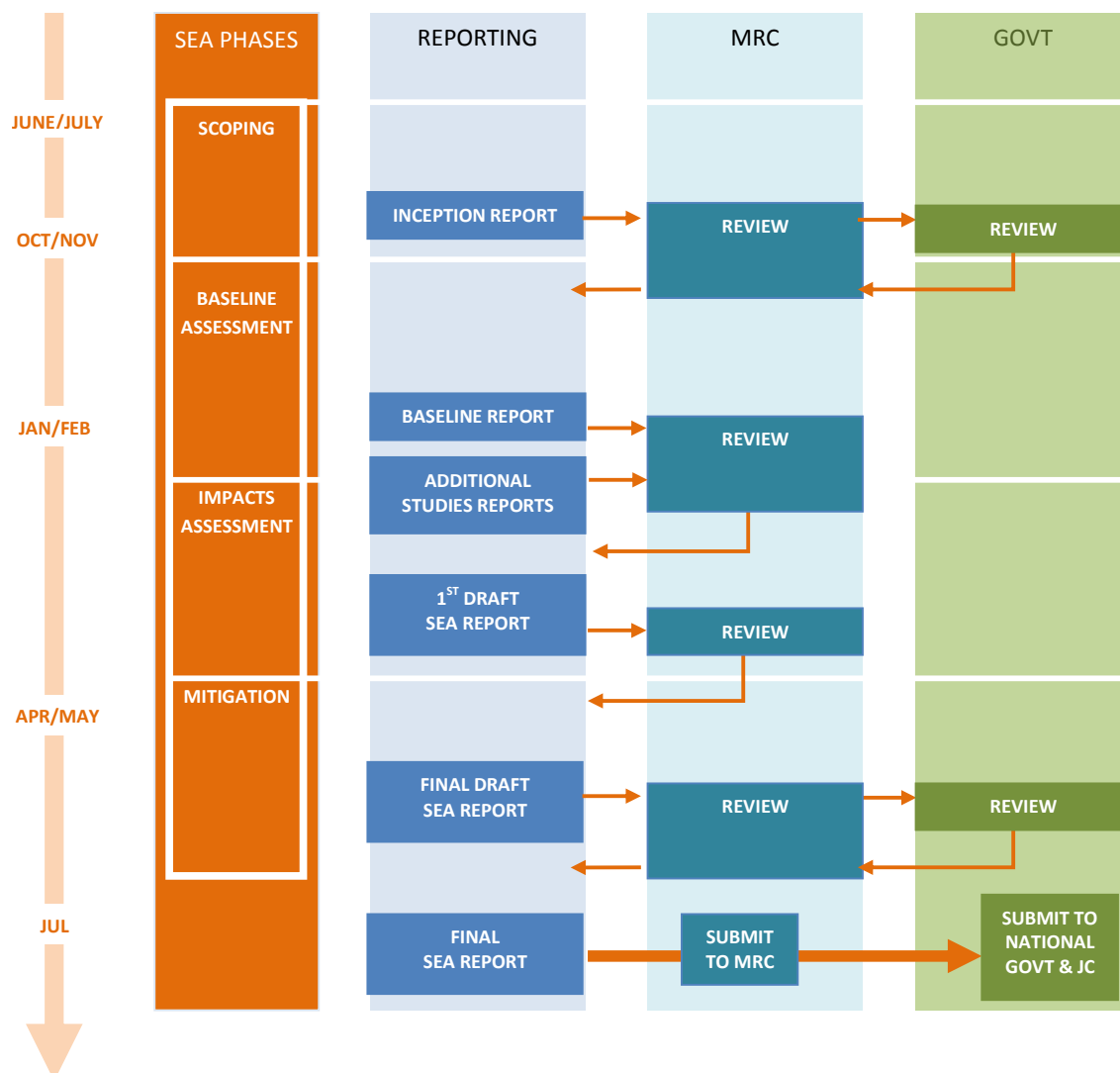
The four LMB governments are the main partners and beneficiaries of the SEA. Each country has its own needs and expectation of the SEA. Some aspects of the SEA is focus Laos and Cambodia where the propose projects are planned (as well Thailand to a lesser extent). Thailand and Vietnam are the main electricity consumers – their companies are also involved in developing the projects. Therefore the SEA communications plan will need to be sensitive to the distinctive mix of interests and concerns of each LMB government.

Table 2 summarises government expectations and the communications approach to be adopted by the SEA.

Table 2: The communications needs of governments

Government	
Expectations and important features/demographics	<p>Expectations of the SEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhanced understating of the cumulative effects of the proposed projects ▪ Enhanced understanding of the upstream-downstream transboundary effects of the 12 projects ▪ Further clarification on how the SEA will inform implementation of the PNPCA and MRC S support to the Joint Committee ▪ Enhanced capacity in conducting SEAs ▪ Definition and analysis of the trade-offs involved in the decision making ▪ Accurate information on all proposed projects
	<p>Key features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laos and Cambodia are both producers and downstream countries impacted by hydropower ▪ Vietnam and Thailand have commercial interests in the projects, are potential consumers but also have downstream effects to consider ▪ Limited capacity and procedures for spatial planning and cumulative/strategic impact assessment
Key messages (and advocacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SEA supports national process where each NMC is coordinating bodies for MRC implementing procedures ▪ There are critical strategic trade-offs that need to be considered in the decisions ▪ The strategic issues require consultation at national level involving line agencies and other stakeholders ▪ SEA assesses collective impact of the 12 projects including the upstream/downstream effects ▪ SEA considers the benefits as well as the costs of the projects ▪ It considers the long term implications of the projects (i.e. over a 20-25 period) ▪ Provides the framework for project specific consultations by identifying: (i) the kinds of issues which need to be considered and (ii) how best to involve multi-stackers (SEA piloting the processes and contributing to the analysis/information) ▪ Provides capacity building supports ▪ Will require strong support from governments in terms of information and views of line agencies
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National scoping workshops ▪ Regional technical workshops ▪ Regular progress reports and briefings ▪ Opportunity to review baseline assessment and impact assessment reports and draft final SEA report ▪ Core group of technical specialists involved in on-the-job training

Figure 3: SEA reporting & review process



4.2.2 GOVERNMENT - MRC COUNCIL AND JOINT COMMITTEE

In November 2008, the MRC Council and Joint Committee endorsed the SEA as a key element in the Initiative of Sustainable Hydropower. The Joint Committee will be provided with regular briefings on the SEA, its progress and findings. It will also receive the SEA report and its recommendations for consideration and adoption as guidance for hydro decision-making for the mainstream Mekong. Table 3 summarises the expectations of the JC for the SEA and the special arrangements to be made to meet its communications needs.

Table 3: the communications needs of MRC Council and Joint Committee

MRC	
Expectations and important features/demographics	Expectations of the SEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a comprehensive analysis of the cumulative effects of the 12 mainstream project proposals and the strategic issues at stake A technical assessment of the costs and benefits and trade-offs involved A clear set of recommendations for avoiding and mitigating the negative effects and enhancing the benefits.
	Key features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SEA is being conducted on the authority of the JC and Council It reports to them and its implementation will depend on JC endorsement The JC has many issues on the agenda – SEA needs to communicate clearly and sharply
Key messages (and advocacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have authorised the SEA They will need to authorize the mainstream projects before they can proceed It wishes to have prior and informed consent from each country The Council needs to take a position on these mainstream dams at some point It needs strategic and technical inputs to that decision How do the mainstream dams contribute to cooperation on sustainable development (as specified in the 1995 agreement)
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings to be provided on progress and findings Videos of project sites, GIS maps and analysis and graphical interpretation of results

4.2.3 GOVERNMENT - MRCS AND NMCS

The SEA is a significant undertaking for the Secretariat in terms of funding and the time inputs of technical staff. It can only be implemented effectively if MRC programs provide the information and analysis from their past activities and guidance on how it might be applied in the assessment. In each country, the national consultations will depend on the support, good will and cooperation of the NMCs – without balanced support in each country, the assessment will have gaps and lack buy in from line agencies.

The special working linkages between the MRC programs – and especially with the BDP, are considered in the next section. Here, Table 4 sets out the expectations and communications approach to ensuring strong backing and involvement of the MRC programs and NMCs in the process.

Table 4: the communications needs of MRCS and NMCs

MRCS and NMCs	
Expectations and important features/demographics	<p>Expectations of the SEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will apply existing knowledge base in a new integrated way to a critical development concern ▪ Will give practical application to the notification and prior consent process ▪ Will involve key staff and promote the role of MRC as an objective, neutral technical support body providing advice to the Joint Committee ▪ Will provide convincing analysis and recommendations in support of decision making relating to mainstream hydro projects. ▪ It will bring credit to MRC and the NMCs as an important and unique regional contribution to resolving a controversial concern of LMB countries.
	<p>Key features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very busy with staff fully occupied – need to be certain that SEA provides value added ▪ Concern needs to be addressed to avoid the SEA creating confusion among stakeholders relating to the difference between it and the BDP scenario assessment process ▪ Some NMCs may be uncertain of the role of the SEA, especially its distinction from existing EIAs and CIAs being conducted on the projects
Key messages (and advocacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be effective it will require strong support from each NMC in facilitating national consultations ▪ Role of MRCS programs in feeding information and analysis to the SEA ▪ SEA provides (i) synthesis of knowledge, (ii) new information and (ii) new strategic analysis ▪ SEA adds value to the BDP and applies information from other MRC programs to the assessment of hydropower in a fresh integrated way. ▪ What is coming out will benefit the programs ▪ Will require strong support and contributions of staff time and information
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement of staff in SEA events as team members and observers ▪ Regular briefings and round table discussions with the MRCS SEA Technical Working Group of senior staff ▪ Intensive involvement of ISH staff in oversight and implementation of the SEA ▪ Bi-monthly progress reports ▪ Reporting at each stage of the SEA for review, comment and input ▪ Regular one to one meetings with individual programs

4.2.4 CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

Non government and civil society organizations have a special role to play in the SEA, bringing fresh information, views and perspectives on the proposed developments and presenting the interests of local communities and groups which they work with. They are an important resource for the SEA, complementing and expanding the flow of information from governments and the MRC to the assessment. Table 5 summarises their special qualities and information needs to effectively become involved in the SEA.

Table 5: The communication needs of non government and civil society groups

NGOs	
Expectations and important features/demographics	<p>Expectations – the SEA will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide access to information on the proposed projects ▪ Influence national planning processes and dam decisions ▪ Opportunity to build networks and support ▪ Help in mobilization of advocacy work ▪ Contribute to generating new analysis and research ▪ Enhance dialogue between parties ▪ Provide an opportunity to feed new technical information into the decision making
	<p>Key features and attitudes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uncertainty regarding MRC’s position (e.g. is it a pro-dam or a neutral technical organization) ▪ High levels of knowledge about the issues ▪ Great variety of structures and constituents
Key messages (and advocacy)	<p>The SEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is not a decision process - it is a sustainability analysis to inform decision makers and decisions processes at all levels ▪ Is to inform the on-going MRC programs ▪ Is a neutral balanced process in terms of the dam debate and national interest ▪ Takes a regional and transboundary perspective ▪ Is intended to be open and transparent – and to create opportunities for two way dialogue ▪ Seeks to support government in identifying the critical issues and trade-offs that need to be taken into account ▪ Brings together the extensive information and knowledge of MRC programs – e.g. on fisheries, sediment and river morphology, navigation and hydrology ▪ Supports multi-stakeholders involvement ▪ Contributes to the hydropower project notification and disclosure process set out in the 1995 Agreement ▪ Will facilitate the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders <p>Will provide access to new analysis and Information</p>
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagram of consultation events linked to the SEA process ▪ Use of MRC website for sharing of information ▪ Other internet networks – e.g. Mekong info ▪ Radio and television news and programs ▪ Press releases prior to and after each event ▪ NGO and multi-stakeholder events

4.2.5 DEVELOPER AND OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR

Developers include both enterprises investing in the proposed projects and all the consulting service and technical support companies which study, assess, design, build and operate the projects – including those providing environmental assessment services in response to government requirements. Table 6 summarises their attributes, expectations and communications needs.

Table 6: The communications needs of developers & other private sector

Developers	
Expectations and important features/demographics	<p>Expectations of the SEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The process will facilitate planning and decision making for their project (s) ▪ Enhance their awareness of the regulatory and procedural requirements ▪ Provide additional information to aid in the design of the project (s) ▪ Enhance understanding of the relationships between the projects and stakeholder expectations of their projects
	<p>Key features and attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To profit from the projects in the short to medium term ▪ To build the most economically feasible and secure investment ▪ Wary of sharing information with competitors ▪ Understanding that each project will influence operation of the others ▪ Minimize and manage risks
Key messages (and advocacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The multi-sectoral nature of the dams, the need to optimize dams and development interventions and the trade-offs involved ▪ MRC is providing guidance to bring a consistent approach to mainstream dams and their sustainability ▪ The SEA is a framework and guidance for individual EIAs of projects ▪ The SEA is a regional advisory tool – it is not a decision making process – it feeds the governments’ consultation and assessment process ▪ To identify and raise issues which need to be considered in the governments planning and assessment process <p>The MRC and SEA team want developers to be actively involved in the assessment</p>
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An E-list to facilitate regular exchange with developers ▪ Field missions with developers ▪ Regular one-to-one meetings with developers ▪ Preparation of key fact sheets with developers ▪ MRC developers workshops

4.2.6 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION & INTERESTED OBSERVERS

The donor community with a special interest in mainstream Mekong River sustainable development and wise use include multi-lateral and bilateral organization (Table 1 provides a listing of donors with interests in the Mekong and the MRC). They are important for the SEA because of their potential involvement in funding and following up of recommendations and for their technical contributions during the assessment. In the SEA process the donors will come together in country by country

rounds tables building on existing partnerships. They will also be invited to participate in the regional multi-stakeholder workshop in the later stages of the SEA. Table 7 summarises the donor communication needs and approaches.

Table 7: The communications needs of donors

Donors	
Expectations and important features/demographics	<p>Expectations of the SEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute balanced and objective information and analysis to support informed decision-making by Mekong governments ▪ Enrich and enhance decision-making concerning hydropower on the mainstream ▪ Provide a platform for dialogue and informed debate between stakeholders ▪ Provide an opportunity for MRC to define its role as an facilitator of decisions on critical development concerns affecting all LMB countries ▪ Contribute to other MRC programs and initiatives ▪ Provide cumulative assessment of the 12 proposed projects ▪ Test SEA as a development planning tool at regional level for regular application by MRC
	<p>Key features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long time supporters of the MRC with a keen interest in it as an effective and influential regional organization ▪ The World Bank and ADB are both investing in hydropower in the region and have an interest in ensuring environmental and social concerns are considered ▪ Companies and credit agencies from donor countries are investing in hydropower in the region or provide services and technical support in its sustainable development
Key messages (and advocacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SEA is an open and inclusive process ▪ A special opportunity will be provided for donor discussion and inputs ▪ The MRC is testing SEA as a potentially important tool in realizing its role in the region ▪ The SEA will define the trade-offs involved in mainstream hydro development ▪ It will provide an economic analysis of the 12 projects and their sectoral costs and benefits
Engagement strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donor round tables in each country ▪ Regular one to one meetings ▪ Involvement in regional multi-stakeholder workshop ▪

4.3 MRC – INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

As well as the outreach communications and consultation activities of the SEA, a special inward looking communications effort is required focusing on MRC programs and initiatives. The SEA will need extensive information, advice and staffing inputs from them as summarized in Table 8. They will need to see clear and well communicated benefits from that collaboration.

A special relationship is needed with the BDP. There is potential for confusion among staff and stakeholders about the differences between the BDP and SEA focus, methods and process. The BDP team needs to feel comfortable with the SEA as part of and contributing to its broader planning objectives. Table 9 begins to explain those distinctions and relationships as the basis for settling on a common conception and language.

Table 8: Relationship of the SEA to the MRC programs

MRC Programme	Contributions of the SEA	Contributions to the SEA
ICCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA informs implementation of the PNPCA for mainstream dams SEA provides information and materials for communications and the MRC website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PNPCA process Preliminary notifications of dams Communication strategy Website
Integrated Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies and contributions to modules for SEA training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs to capacity building on SEA
Environment Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Transboundary EIA process Testing SEA tools for applications within MRC Provides the strategic context for appraising EIAs of individual dams on the mainstream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change inputs IBFM data Water quality Habitat assessments Inputs to capacity building on SEA
Planning Division		
1. BDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA provides strategic inputs for the BDP on the mainstream dams Brings regional power and energy parameters into sharper focus Integrates with the BDP Development Space and emerging IWRM Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BDP Scenarios as a basis Shared Hydropower database analysis Irrigation database SEA methodology linkage with the BDP Assessment Cooperation between ISH /BDP/IKMP on engagement with China in the SEA
2. Water Utilisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic context of non-consumptive use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Technical Support Division		
3. IKMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and analysis of strategic issues used in the assessment to feed into the DSF and other models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DSF Hydrological model Sediment issues MRC datasets Special modelling exercises
4. Flood Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA presents strategic story on changes in flood risks as a result of the mainstream dams 	
5. Drought Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
Operations Division		
6. Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA presents strategic story on land use changes, and opportunities for irrigation as relevant to proposed mainstream dams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water requirements for irrigation Watershed management
7. Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA presents the strategic story of future navigation on Mekong relevant to proposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstream channel hydrographic maps Linking to the NP Programme

	mainstream dams	navigation vision and specifications for navigation locks
8. Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA presents the strategic story of impacts on aquatic habitats, fish migration and catches relevant to proposed mainstream dams and influence of Chinese dams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications and data on fish passage Information on fish larvae and spawning grounds Fish catch data Deep pools and migration
9. Hydropower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA provides a fundamental assessment of many development opportunities and risks of mainstream proposals Feedback on the applicability of the technical guidance for mainstream dams Provides directional information for the MRC ISH and stakeholder expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main “host” for the SEA within MRCS Coordination and support Links and information on the developers Technical advice on strategic and economic issues
10. Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

4.4 KEY MESSAGES FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDER ROLES AND INTERESTS

A separate document to expand on the key messages will be prepared in the SEA baseline phase. At the moment the key messages are provided on the MRCS website (see <http://www.mrcmekong.org/ish/ish.htm> and <http://www.mrcmekong.org/ish/SEA.htm>)

The key message at this stage is encapsulated in the MRC position on proposed mainstream dams, noted as follows:

MRC position on proposed mainstream hydropower dams:

“A total of 12 hydropower dams are currently being studied by private sector developers for the mainstream of the Mekong. The 1995 Mekong Agreement requires that such projects are discussed extensively among all four countries prior to any decision being taken. That discussion, facilitated by MRC, will consider the full range of social, environmental and cross-sector development impacts within the Lower Mekong Basin. So far, none of the prospective developers have reached the stage of notification and prior consultation required under the Mekong Agreement. MRC's position is that it supports sustainable hydropower development implemented within the framework of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and which serves the joint interests of its member countries. MRC has already carried out extensive studies on the consequences for fisheries and peoples livelihoods and this information is widely available, see for example a report of an expert group meeting on dams and fisheries. MRC is undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposed mainstream dams to provide a broader understanding of the risks and opportunities of such development. Dialogue on these planned projects with governments, civil society and the private sector is being facilitated by MRC and all comments received will be considered. “

4.5 COMMUNICATION TOOLS

An important feature of a communications plan is to build trust amongst stakeholders, so that the SEA process is as collaborative as possible. The communications tools identified below have been

selected and designed to build trust and cooperation with stakeholders, fully utilizing available resources. The tools are each aimed at different stakeholder groups and facilitate varying levels of interaction

Based on discussions held with MRC ISH and ICCS programs it was agreed that MRC ICCS (communication unit) will have an important role in packaging the end communications products. In order to facilitate this, the communications tools identified below have been chosen to utilize existing communications tools of the MRCS where possible.

Figure 4 identifies the flow of information leading up to the creation of a communications product.

In general, the SEA team will provide the following written outputs to the ISH and ICCS:

- (i) written deliverables and reports of the SEA process: includes the Inception Report, three additional studies reports, the final SEA report;
- (ii) A progress summary report, submitted every two months (see below): details the activities of the SEA during the past two months, provides a status update as well as any key/newsworthy findings and supporting media (photographs, video, diagrams).
- (iii) For items identified as newsworthy by the ICCS, the SEA team will provide more detailed information following the format of the MRC *“Replies to some Frequently Asked Questions”*. That is:
 - a. Identification of the Core Concept
 - b. Short paragraph describing the finding
 - c. Standard paragraph describing the finding
 - d. Long paragraph describing the finding.

4.5.1 WEBSITE

OBJECTIVES

The MRC website will facilitate the majority of communications between the SEA and stakeholders. It is considered the most accessible of all the communications methods, and therefore, has the capacity to reach the widest spectrum of stakeholders. The communications objectives of the website are to:

- (i) Provide a transparent , public and up-to-date record of the activities of and activities undertaken as part of the SEA process;
- (ii) Inform all stakeholders on the strategic development concerns relevant to mainstream hydropower;
- (iii) Provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the strategic development concerns, and;
- (iv) Act as a hub through which other methods of communications (press releases, videos, presentations) are archived and disseminated to a wider public audience;

KEY FEATURES

It is understood that the MRC website is currently undergoing a major overhaul. The SEA website provides the perfect opportunity for new tools to be tested. It is anticipated that the SEA website

will be hosted on the MRC site with links from the ICEM website, and will have the following features:

- (i) *SEA TIMELINE*: An interactive, scrolling feature which identifies the phases and dates of the SEA and tracks progress against these. The timeline will be updated periodically with summary text, maps, issues discussion, field mission photos, workshop presentations and summary outcomes, press releases and video content;
- (ii) *SEA FAQs*: an interactive list of FAQs with answers provided by the SEA team. The questions will be collated from website response as well as from other stakeholder consultation activities;
- (iii) *ISSUES BLOG*: The SEA has identified 10 Strategic themes for the SEA. Each theme will have a running blog, updated at each of the main phases of the SEA (inception, baseline, impacts assessment and mitigation). The content will be updated by the SEA Team or the ICCS on their behalf, however, users will have the option of commenting on official posts, without being able to alter the content of the posts;
- (iv) *"THE HYDROPOWER PLAN"*: will identify the most up-to-date information on the 12 hydropower project that the developers and national governments have agreed to make public. It is anticipated that this component will function in a similar manner to the Lao PDR Ministry of Energy and Mines website, which currently lists and provides details for all the tributary dams existing or planned throughout the country;
- (v) *MULTISTAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP COMMENTS & RESPONSES*: This component is designed to archive important contributions from civil society stakeholders and provide accountability for the SEA that issues raised are properly resolved or integrated into the SEA process. It centres on the Regional Multistakeholder Workshop in December 2009. During the Multistakeholder workshop comments will be collected, processed and answered by the SEA team via this web component;
- (vi) *FORMAL WRITTEN PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS*: Civil society representatives involved in the four national roundtable meeting to be held in July 2009 will be invited to prepare formal submissions (see below) to the SEA, which will be managed via this component. An interactive series of boxes (with max word limits) will also be provided to facilitate meaningful public submissions. Submissions will need to conform to a set of criteria to be determined by the SEA Team and ICCS (for example, must be addressing one of the key themes, must provide author details etc);
- (vii) *RELATED LINKS*: connect the SEA process with links to other relevant sites (for example, the Lao PDR Ministry of Energy and Mines and other Mekong resource networks).

4.5.2 VISUAL MEDIA

OBJECTIVES

The MRCS Draft Communications Strategy (2009) has recognized visual media as a corporate weakness which needs to be addressed. The SEA Team views the SEA an MRC project which is well suited to visual media, because of the diverse stakeholder mix. The communications objectives of the visual media component are:

- (i) Improve understanding of the strategic development concerns related to mainstream hydropower;
- (ii) Facilitate stakeholder input from the widest range of identified stakeholders as possible.

KEY FEATURES

The exact nature of the visual content currently remains at the conceptual level. The following two features have been identified, however further internal discussions with MRC ICCS and ISH will allow this medium to be explored further:

- (i) *“THE HYDROPOWER PLAN FLYOVER”*: Depending on the availability of resources, the SEA intends to produce either an Erdas Virtual Model of the 12 mainstream dams or a simpler Google Flyover. The optimal choice would involve inputting more detailed elevation data, project plans, as well as digitized inundation zones into the Erdas software. With changing camera angles, the video would also be able to simulate rising and falling water levels in the reservoirs, as well as contextualise the dam site infrastructure (e.g. dam wall, bridges, roads etc).
- (ii) *FIELD MISSION PHOTO STORIES*: an archive of video and photographs taken during the four field missions in Lao PDR, Thailand and Cambodia. Packaged as photo stories, this component aims to understand riverine communities and provide a qualitative context for the strategic development themes which forms the backbone of the SEA process.
- (iii) *COMMUNITY VIDEO*: Civil society members of the four national roundtable meetings will be encouraged to provide formal submissions to the SEA team. One suggested component would be the production of a video recording interviews with various stakeholders who will be directly affected by the projects in “The Hydropower Plan”. It is intended that these videos will either form part of, or complement, the Rapid Appraisal consultations (see Section 4.2)
- (iv) *ARCHIVING OF EXISTING VIDEOS*: Where permission has been granted, this component of the website will also provide links to other visual media, including maps, developers videos, and spatial presentations of the trend analysis

4.5.3 PRINTED MEDIA

OBJECTIVES

The printed media component of SEA communications plan forms the backbone of all official correspondence from the SEA team, or the MRCS in relation to the SEA. The communications objectives of the printed media components are to:

- (i) officially release important outcomes of the SEA;
- (ii) or respond to debate specifically related to the SEA;

KEY FEATURES

The key features of the printed media component are:

- (i) *PRESS RELEASE*: Press releases are likely to be issued in response to an emerging issue or when the SEA had uncovered a newsworthy story. Therefore, it is anticipated that press releases are likely to be sent out at the time of completion of each major phase in the SEA;
- (ii) *PRESS CONFERENCE*: It is anticipated that a press conference will be an important event of the Regional Impacts Assessment Workshop to be held in December 2009. This will be an opportunity for the MRC to present some substantive, preliminary findings of the SEA to the regional public;
- (iii) *PRESS INTERVIEWS*: Opportunities will be sought for the MRC CEO, the ISH Program Coordinator and the SEA Team Leader to undertake interviews for press, but also radio and television programmes, with intention of raising the profile of the SEA as well as the status of the MRC as the facilitator of regional cooperation;
- (iv) *FINAL SEA REPORT*: The Final SEA report is the primary written output of the SEA. It is intended that this document will be made public.

4.5.4 SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

Figure 4 provides a chronological summary of the main communications tools, differentiated by the type of media.

5 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

"Stakeholder participation" in the SEA does not just mean facilitating discussions with government and financing agencies. It means identifying, involving, consulting with and informing different interest groups and potentially affected persons at different levels of mainstream river use and impact. Figure 1 identifies the main consultative events and the national stakeholder involvement at each stage of the SEA.

The objective of the SEA team is to ensure an open and transparent consultation process. Yet, the process needs to be shaped to suite the strategic nature of the assessment. It covers four countries and some three thousand miles of river. With such a large number of stakeholders with different interest levels, it is important to identify appropriate levels of consultation, as compared to a project-specific EIA. There are not the resources or time for comprehensive community consultation which is more appropriately conducted by EIA teams for specific dam proposals. The SEA may draw on EIAs and include organizations that have intensive involvement in local concerns, but does not have the capacity to enter the same level of detailed community consultation. In recognising this limitation, the SEA proposes to overcome it by undertaking rapid appraisals in each of the proposed 12 dam impact areas, as well as to establish round table forums in each MRC member country with selected representatives of national NGO and civil society forums.

Also, the SEA does not seek to duplicate extensive consultations that have already taken place or on-going, for example, through the BDP process. As the SEA is under the auspices of the MRC, it seems appropriate to build on previous initiatives and not seek to replicate initiatives already well established and understood by MRC member countries and their constituent partners.

After initial identification, an **SEA consultation and communications process** with different stakeholders in each of the four countries is proposed as follows:

5.1 LINKING UP WITH EXISTING MRC CONSULTATIVE INITIATIVES

Link-up with existing MRC consultation initiatives under (i) the MRC's BDP2 Stakeholder Participation & Communication Plan and the (ii) Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower

- participate in ongoing country and regional workshops and discussions as observers and presenters (eg the ISH consultative workshops with developers)
- connect with the existing networks of stakeholders established by the BDP and ISH for information and views

Key Outputs:

- (i) Integration into the MRC's overall consultative initiatives
- (ii) Consistency of approach with MRC's SPCP Key Principles
- (iii) Networks of contacts for input to the SEA – for example, ISH network of developers
- (iv) Individual one to one meetings and information requests to network members
- (v) An initial long list of key development issues of concern to the mainstream Mekong

5.2 RAPID APPRAISALS

Rapid Appraisals of the proposed mainstream hydropower sites, consisting of:

- secondary data gathering and analysis
- local key informant interviews representing community interests in areas most likely to be affected
- consultation with authorities from potentially affected districts and provinces

Key Outputs:

- (i) Baseline assessment of areas most likely to be affected, including definition of key issues and trends
- (ii) Refining of impact assessment methodology
- (iii) Integrating local issues and concerns into overall assessment methodology
- (iv) Improved understanding of on-site stakeholder priorities and concerns
- (v) Integrating sub-national consultations in areas most likely to be affected

5.3 NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

National consultations, through country National Mekong Committees, taking into account country-specific structures and processes for consultation, and taking the form of:

- Individual discussions with line agencies and key informants representing stakeholder and sectoral interests
- Establishment of national consultative groups in each country with selected representatives of national NGO Forums, with specific interest in social, economic and environmental concerns of relevant to the SEA

- National technical workshops of line agencies to shortlist key strategic issues and discuss suggested ways forward.
- Round table discussions with the development assistance community in each country

Key Outputs:

- (i) Shortlist of key strategic issues and proposed strategies to inform trend analysis and assessment
- (ii) Detailed information on national policies, plans and targets of concerned sectors and specific information on past trends and current status in key issues
- (iii) Integration of multi-stakeholder views and concerns into the overall SEA process
- (iv) Development of stakeholder maps, indicating location of interest groups
- (v) Evaluation of different stakeholder levels of importance to success and ability to influence processes and outcomes.

5.4 REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS AT EACH SEA STAGE

The SEA includes four main stages: (i) scoping of issues and coverage, (ii) baseline assessment of trends and current status in key issues, (iii) impact assessment and (iv) avoidance, mitigation and enhancement. A regional workshop of line agencies from all four countries will be conducted at each SEA stage. Selected members of the national civil society consultative groups will also be invited to participate in these technical workshops to move the SEA analysis forward. Each regional technical workshop will involve:

- Presentations by national government representatives on results of national consultations
- Comments on reporting from last phase of the SEA by government agencies
- Participatory working sessions to define regional synthesis positions on key concerns
- Capacity building sessions on SEA as a tool in development planning

Key Outputs:

- (i) The definition and confirmation of key issues, trends, impacts and mitigation measures through participatory discussion and working sessions at each stage of the SEA
- (ii) The definition of national and regional consensus positions on key issues and strategies
- (iii) A core group of line agency representatives from the four LMB countries with enhanced capacity in conducting SEAs
- (iv) Confirmation and amendment of the report content and analysis at each stage of the SEA

5.5 REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Because of the large number of civil society stakeholders to be involved in the national consultative groups, a special regional multi-stakeholder workshop will be conducted towards the final stages of the SEA.

The regional multi-stakeholder workshop will present findings and solicit feedback for draft SEA report:

- Presentation of key findings to obtain stakeholder feedback
- Review of draft SEA impact assessment and mitigation recommendations

Key Outputs:

- (i) Feedback on findings and recommendations
- (ii) SEA revised based on final feedback

5.6 DEVELOPERS NETWORK

A network is being established of the developers involved financing, planning or developing the 12 hydropower projects on the mainstream Mekong. Their involvement will be facilitated through:

- An E-list to facilitate regular exchange with developers
- Field missions with developers
- Regular one-to-one meetings with developers
- Preparation of key fact sheets with developers
- MRC developers workshops

Key Outputs:

- (i) Regular updates on the most important factual attributes of the 12 project
- (ii) Expert technical opinion on the feasibility of project and options for mitigation
- (iii) An exchange of viewpoints and information between developers and other stakeholders
- (iv) Expert interpretation during field trips to the project sites and opportunity for exchange on key issues
- (v) Greater commitment by developers to implement the recommendations of the SEA

5.7 SUMMARY FRAMEWORK OF CONSULTATIVE EVENTS

The consultation events involve all four of the main categories identified in the stakeholder analysis: (i) government, (ii) private sector/developers, (iii) NGOs/civil society and (iv) donors. Figure 1 provides a chronological summary of the main consultative events, differentiated by stakeholder type. The concentration of events for government stakeholders is in recognition of their unique position as the main authority in the decision making process and the main partner in the SEA.

6 CAPACITY BUILDING

The SEA is a pilot and model for strategic assessments in the LMB and as a planning tool for MRC. A growing number of SEAs have been carried out in the region with prominent examples concerned with the energy and hydropower sector. SEA is emerging as tool accepted by all four Lower Mekong countries as an important part of the development planning process. There is no definitive way of undertaking SEAs - it is an evolving tool world wide. This SEA on mainstream hydropower will help

develop the methodology and provide an important demonstration of good practice. It will establish a precedent for the role of MRC in conducting SEAs as its crucial contribution to development planning in the LMB. Also, it will provide an important input into the MRC's Basin Development Plan.

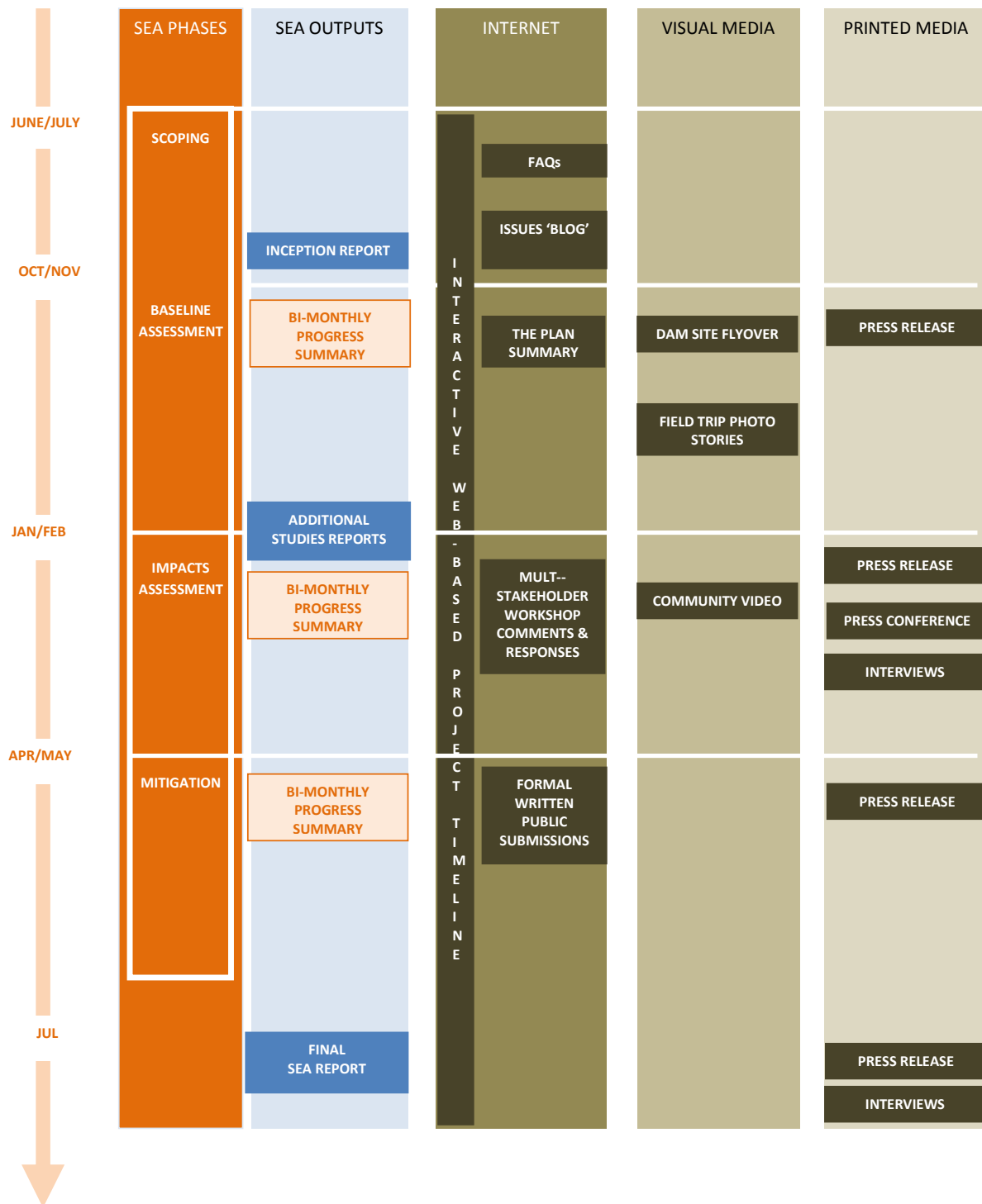
For those reasons, capacity building is an essential component of this SEA. As with all such planning initiatives undertaken by the MRC, it is understood that there will be a strong element of training and capacity building in the process of the SEA through (i) the use of a strong team of national consultants, (ii) the provision of specific capacity building activities and on-the-job learning, and (iii) through the consultative process and interaction with the National Mekong Committees and line agencies in each LMB country.

Integration of Capacity Building within the SEA: The general approach to capacity building will involve the active participation of the core group of line agency technical representatives in each step of the assessment. The SEA core group members will be provided with essential training on the SEA process and will be encouraged to develop their capacities through on-the-job-training by effectively becoming part of the SEA team at each main stage. This will include supporting the participation of core group members in:

- (i) Scoping the pilot SEA and identifying key issues for consideration;
- (ii) Identifying and assessing environmental trends and baseline conditions;
- (iii) Assessing cumulative impacts and developing alternative scenarios; and
- (iv) Presenting findings and recommendations to key stakeholders.

The process will involve a capacity building units at each of the national and regional technical workshops at each SEA stage and small group working sessions on specific aspects of the SEA such as defining criteria of significance for environmental impacts.

Figure 4 Communications tools & when they are applied



7 APPENDIX 1: SEA STAKEHOLDER MAP				
	CAMBODIA	LAO PDR	THAILAND	VIETNAM
GOVERNMENT	<p>CNMC</p> <p>Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy</p> <p>Council for the Development of Cambodia</p> <p>Ministry of Water Resources & Meteorology</p>	<p>LNMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISH Counterpart • FMMP <p>WREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources Department • Department of Meteorology and Hydrology • ESIA Department • Living Aquatic Resources and Research Centre (LARReC) • Provincial WREA rep from province upstream of dam site • Provincial WREA rep from province with dam site • Provincial WREA rep from province downstream of dam <p>MINISTRY ENERGY & MINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Electricity. • Depart. Mining <p>MAF (Agriculture & Forestry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Forestry • Department of Irrigation <p>MPWT</p>	<p>TNMC</p> <p>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC)</p> <p>Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Bureau of the Budget (BB), the Prime Minister's Office</p> <p>Office of the National Economics and Social Development Board (NESDB)</p> <p>Ministry of Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE), • Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) • Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs 	<p>VNMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISH Counterpart • FMMP <p>MONRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources Department • Meteorology and Hydrology Institute • General Department of Environment • EIA/SEA Department <p>MPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI DSI • Department of Natural Resources and Environment <p>MARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Water supply and sanitary program • National Committee for flooding and typhoon prevention • National Directorate of Aquatic Resources Exploitation and protection (NADAREP) • Forest Protection Department (FPD) • Department of Irrigation • Department for agro-forestry processing, trading

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dep. Waterways • Statistics & Information Centre, Dept. of Planning, <p>MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health and Sanitation <p>MINISTRY OF PLANNING & INVESTMENT</p> <p>CPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Statistic Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department Livestock and Fishery • National Tourist Authority • Rural Development Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of International Organizations • Royal Irrigation Department (RID) • Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) • Department of Fisheries • Marine Department (MD) • Pollution Control Department (PCD) • Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) • Department of Water Resources (DWR) • Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Institute for Water Resource Planning (SWIRP) • Institute for Marine & Coastal Hydrology <p>VIETNAM ACADEMY OF SCIENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources Management Division, Vietnam Academy for Water Resources <p>MOST (Science & Technology?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Institute for Aquaculture No. 2 (RIA2), HCM City • Division of Environmental and Natural Resources Economics • Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development • Vietnam Inland Waterway Administration <p>MOF (Forestry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Forestry (DOF) <p>MOC (Construction)</p> <p>MOIT (Industry & Trade)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Promotion Department • Office of Environment <p>MSCT (Culture &</p>
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				<p>Tourism)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam national Administration Tourism Authority <p>MOLISA (Labour & Social Affairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee for ethnic Minority <p>MOH (Health)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Health and Reproduction <p>PPC (People’s Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can Tho provincial rep • Tra Vinh provincial rep • Central highlands provincial rep
DEVELOPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Joint Stock Co. Bureyagesstroy • China Southern Power Grid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Datang International Power Generation • Petrovietnam Power Corporation • SEAN & Ch. Karnchang Public Co Ltd • CEIEC and Sino-Hydro • Charoen Energy and Water Asia Co Ltd • Mega First • EVN Consulting Group 1 • TEAM Consulting Engineering and Management Co., Ltd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian Thai Asia Corp. Holdings • <i>Ratchaburi Electric Generating Holding Public Company Limited, Thailand</i> • <i>GMS Power Public Company Limited, Thailand</i> • <i>Charoen Energy and Water Asia (CEWA) Co., Ltd Thailand</i> • ATT Consultants Co., Ltd. 	<p>EVN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Division • Consulting Company 1
NON-GOVERNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Forum on Cambodia • Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) • Greater Mekong Regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARE International • Community Development and Environment Association (CDEA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenan Institute Asia • Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University • Foundation for Ecological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Resource Centre • Vietnam river network • WWF Vietnam • Institute of Ecology and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office (WorldFish Center) • WildAid • Wildlife Conservation Society • WWF Greater Mekong (The Conservation Organization) • IUCN – International Union For Conservation of Nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern Worldwide Lao PDR • CUSO Lao PDR • Wlthungerhilfe/German Agro Action (DWHH/GAA) • World Conservation Union (IUCN) • Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) • World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery (FER) • Thai Environment Institute (TEI) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological Resources/ VAST • Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural development • Institute for Strategy and Policy on natural resources and environment • Southern Branch of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources in Ho Chi Minh City/VAST • Mekong Delta Development Institute • Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Association (VUSTA) • Rural Development and Service Center (RDSC) • Consultancy on Development (CODE) • Centre of Resource Development and Environment / VUSTA • Vietnam Environment and SD Institute
DONORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danida, • UNDP • The Word Bank • ADB • AusAid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AusAID ▪ The World Bank ▪ ADB ▪ Finnida ▪ JICA ▪ UNDP 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AusAID • The World Bank • Danida • The Netherlands • Sida • CIDA