



Lao National Mekong Committee



**Mekong River Commission
Basin Development Plan Programme**



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The 1st - BDP 7L Sub-Area Meeting (Sekong Basin)

Stakeholder Participation, Identifying Key Issues and Opportunities

Date: February 25-26, 2010

Venue: Champasak Grand Hotel, Champasak Province, Lao PDR

Draft Version: As of February 22, 2010

Summary: Under the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Basin Development Plan Programme Phase 2 (BDP2), series of Sub-area activities is one of the most prominent means to promote stakeholder participation and decentralized basin planning process. Sub-area activities includes a host of planned activities at the sub-area¹ level such as development of tributary profiles, participatory assessment of significant projects, transboundary and sub-area meetings which conducted, led and jointly operated by the MRC and with stakeholders in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB).

Sub-area meetings are planned to be held within each of the sub-areas in the LMB - for which objectives of the meetings will be slightly different by the sub-area's socio-political, social and environment context. Nevertheless, the prominent aim of the meetings is to develop a participatory process and mechanism of the basin planning from the national tributaries to the regional LMB. In implementing IWRM, sharing concerns and different values in the use of water resources from a wide range of key stakeholders, as well as development of social knowledge will be spotlighted within dialogues and debates activities held in the meetings.

The 1st – BDP 7L Sub-area Meeting of the Upper Sekong Basin will be held at Champasak Grand Hotel in Champasak Province on February 25-26, 2010. The Meeting expects around 100 participants from a wide range of local, provincial, the Upper Sekong tributary, non-state groups and national agency stakeholders. The objective of the 1st Sub-area Meeting in Sekong Basin is 3 folds,

- i) to introduce the MRC BDP2 planned activities process to stakeholders in the Sekong Basin and collect feedback,
- ii) to promote stakeholder participation in river basin planning in LMB at the national tributary level,
- iii) and to dialogue and identify current situation, issues and opportunities for strengthening management and development within the aim of sustainable use of resources and poverty reduction in the 7L - Sekong Basin sub-area.

¹ MRC defines its administration boundaries of the LMB into 10 sub-areas which the sub-area demarcation was sketched by the mixed rationale between the LMB sub-watershed regimes and national district authorities. *Please see Annex 1 for the sub-area map.*

I. Background and rationale

Basin Development Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin

The 1995 Mekong Agreement demands the Joint Committee of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) with the formulation of a “Basin Development Plan to promote, support, co-operate and coordinate in the development of the full potential of sustainable benefits to all riparian States and the prevention of wasteful use of the Mekong River Basin waters. The BDP would be used to identify, categorize and prioritize the projects and programmes to seek assistance for and to implement at the basin level”.

The Basin Development Plan Programme (BDP), the overarching programme of the MRC is established to serve the operation of the Basin Development Plan. During BDP Phase 1 (2001-2006), processes were created for state agencies and national stakeholders’ participation in the basin planning. Nevertheless, these processes require further consolidation to wider groups and especially the local stakeholders and civil society organizations. BDP Phase 2 (2006 – 2010) will improve these efforts.

Planning for the development of the Mekong Basin requires a meaningful participatory process and the forging strong partnership with the basin’s stakeholders. The Planning process in BDP2 is implemented from sub-basin through regional levels. To improve decision making in the Basin, the process is taking pro-active effort to setting up a mechanism for diverse stakeholders to collaborate, dialogue and discuss about the current situation of water resources, management and development opportunities in the Lower Mekong Basin - in all bottom up, vertical and top down approaches.

MRC being an IWRM based organization, it is essential for its organization to mainstream IWRM principles through its planning and implementation process. The principles prioritize effective multi-stakeholder facilitation, transparency and openness - and promote sustainable use of resources and poverty alleviation. The poor and marginalized groups must be recognized in the BDP process as the priority.

In synergy with all MRC activities, all the sub area meetings aim to;

- Promote meaningful stakeholder participation in river basin planning of the LMB at the sub-area and national tributary levels,
- Facilitate dialogue on water resource issues in the sub-area and national tributaries that link to regional LMB

- Build social knowledge on the state and analysis of trends of natural resources, problems and opportunities for water and related resources development, and classification of sub-basin in the sub-area
- Develop a participatory mechanism for a bottom up river basin planning in the LMB

II. Tentative Agenda

Day 1, February 25th, 2010

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
08.00 – 08.30	Registration	Administration
08:30 - 08:40	Welcome remarks	Chair (Vice governor of the Champasak province TBD)
08:40 - 08:50	Opening remarks	Mr. Sisavath Vithaxay, Deputy Head of Water Resources and Environment Administration
08:50- 09:00	Brief Speech	Mr. Sourasay Phoumavong, Director of Planning Division, MRCS
09:00 - 09:10	Break	Facilitator
09:10 – 09:30	Ice braking activities	Facilitator /Participants
09:30 – 10:00	Brief introduction of MRC, BDP and 7L sub-area activities and meeting	Mr. Aloune Sayavong, Lao National BDP Coordinator
10:00-10:30	Questions and Answers	Facilitators/Participants
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	Administration
11:00 -11:30	Presentation of initial findings of natural resources inventories, key development, and analysis of the sub-area team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use change overtime in development Sekong River Basin 	Dr. Khamla Phanvilay and Sub-area consultant team

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and livelihoods • Current status and key development • Provincial plans 	
11:30-12:00	Questions and Answers	Facilitator/Participants
12:00-14:00	Lunch	Administration
14:00-14:15	Presentation on land use management and utilization of natural resource	Dr. Palikone Thalongsengchanh, Land Use Authority
14:15 – 14:30	Presentation on Land use change in development in Sekong River basin	Mr. Dot Lao-ounmuang, Global Associations for People and the Environment (GAPE)
14:30 – 14:45	Presentation on fisheries and rural livelihood in the Sekong River basin	Mr. Chanthaphone Thammavong, Project Officer, World Wide Life Fund (WWF)
14:45 – 15:00	Questions and Answers	Facilitator/Participants
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	Administration
15:30 – 16:00	Conclusion and first day feedback from participants	Mr. Aloune Sayavong, National BDP Coordinator and Facilitator
18:30	Reception Dinner	Administration

Day 2, February 26^h, 2010

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
08:30-09:00	Recap from Day 1	Mr. Aloune Sayavong, National BDP Coordinator and Facilitator
09:00-10:30	Panel discussion on issues challenges, opportunities for sustainable development in the 7L that need to be prioritized and inform decision making. Perspectives in “ Poverty ”, “ Food	<p>Panel</p> <p>Remark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 person from government: each

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
	Security” and “Land Use” issues in 7L (about 6 people- 2 from government, 2 from non-state and 2 from community representatives)	from Sekong, Attapeu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 persons from non-state : CAPE, WWF, or any local organizations • 2 persons from communities: 1 from upper part and 1 from lower part of the Sekong River basin
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	Administration
11:00-11:45	Conclusion and ways forward - and feedback from participants	Mr. Aloune, LNMC Coordinator and BDP MRCS
11:45-12:00	Closing remarks	Mr. Sisavath Vithaxay, Deputy Head of Water Resources and Environment Administration
12:00	Lunch	Administration

III. Logistic and Financial Arrangement

The organizer will cover travel expenses, food and accommodation in Champasak province to national and local participants. Participants from outside Lao PDR are requested to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. The MRC will arrange a bus for participants from Vientiane to Champasak province at 8 am on February 24 - and back from Champasak province to Vientiane. All participants who wish to attend a bus is required to bus station at Lao National Mekong Committee Office before 8.am.

Please fill out the registration form and send back to Ms. Channaly Chandalasane at channaly@lnmc.gov.la

The meeting will be conducted in Lao language. Spontaneous translation from Lao – English languages may be provided in case there are a considerable number of non-Lao speaker participants.

- For technical information please contact

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- For international and regional coordination please contact:

Ms. Chitlatda Keomuongchanh

National Junior Sociologist/Socio-economist

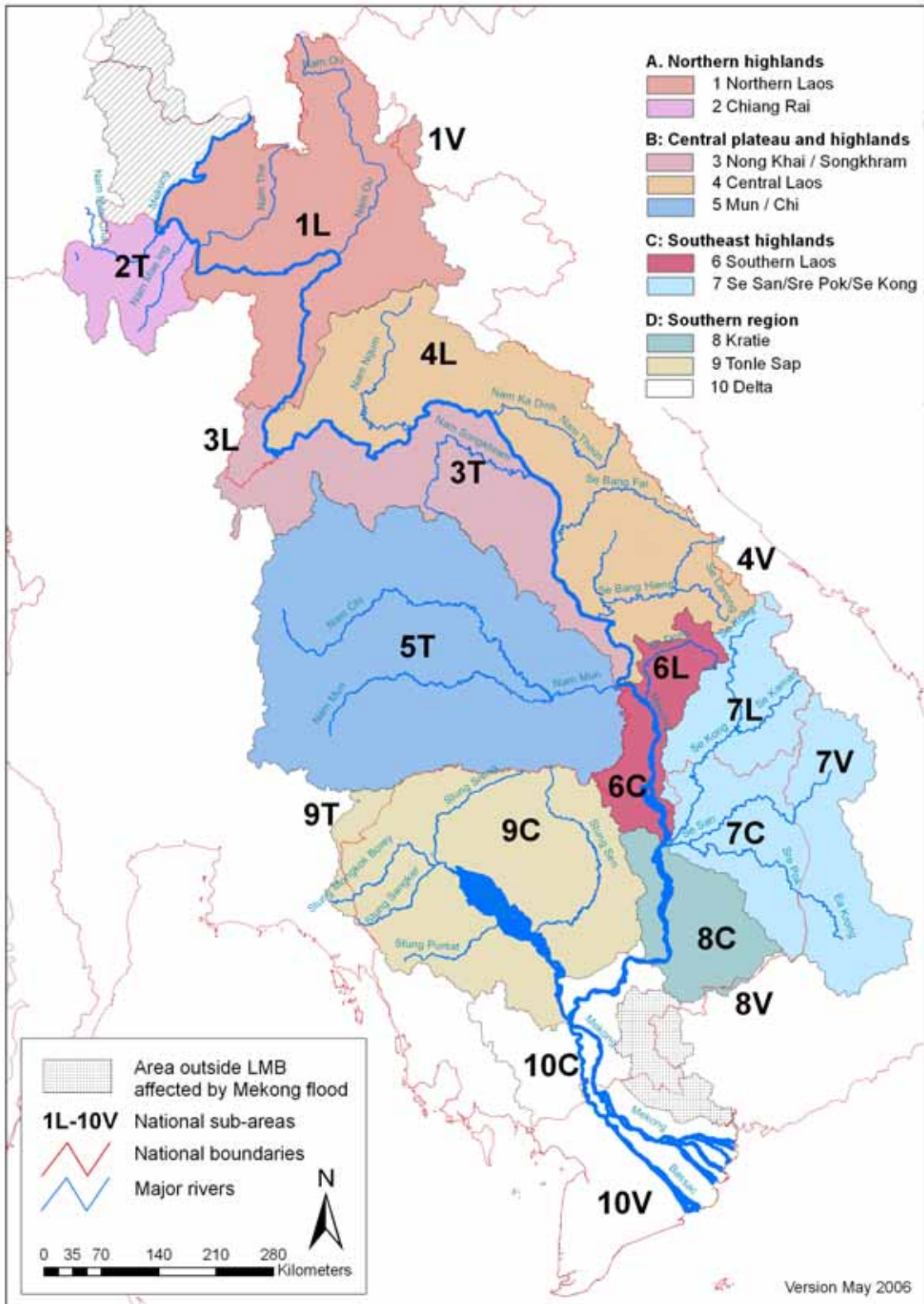
Basin Development Plan Programme

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Annex I: BDP Sub-area



Registration of Interest:

**The 1st 7L Sub-area Forum,
Champasak Grand Hotel, Champasak Province, Lao PDR, February 25-26, 2010**

Name:

Organization/association:

Type of your organization/association:

Address:

Tel/Fax:

Email:

Request for a simultaneous translation/language?:

Area of particular interests:

Suggestions for topics:

Indicate if reservation for hotel room in Champasack is needed (yes/no):

Please fill out the registration form and send back to Ms. Channaly Chandalasane at channaly@lnmc.gov.la

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