

*2nd Regional Stakeholder Forum on Basin Development Plan
15-16 October 2009
Chiang Rai, Thailand*



Basin Development Planning for Lower Mekong Basin – Progress and 2nd Regional Forum

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Recap – The Essence of Basin Development Planning

Rationale and Aim



- The shared goal for “*Water and related resources in the Mekong River Basin managed and developed in an integrated, sustainable and equitable manner for the mutual benefit of the riparian states*”
- The need for a joint planning process by riparian countries to
 - Bring nationally proposed developments into an integrated basin-wide assessment framework to ensure a balance between economic, environmental, and social outcomes, and mutual benefits to the LMB countries
 - Provide basin perspective to guide national planning, influence decision making and leverage cooperation opportunities



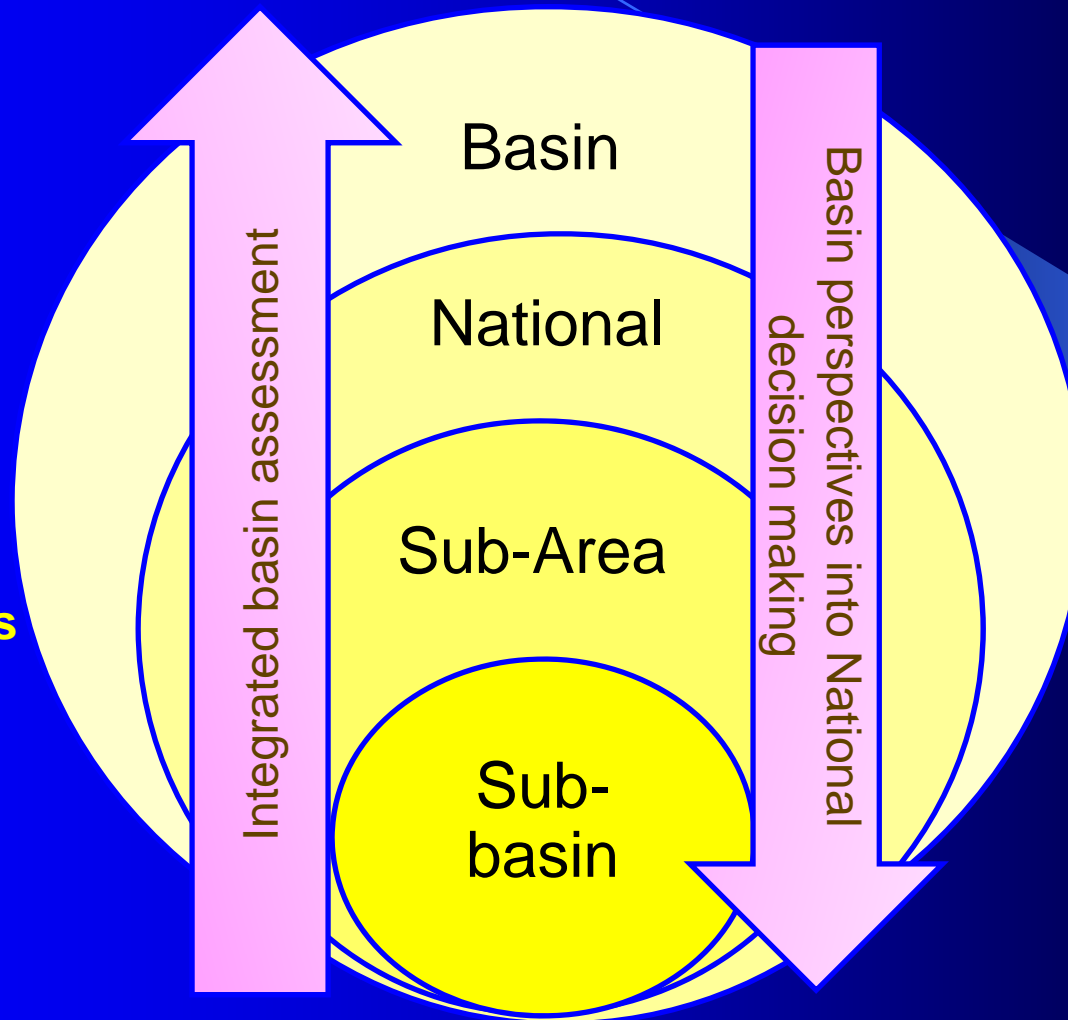
Approach

Basin-wide development scenarios

SEA of mainstream dams

Sector reviews

Sub-area analysis



IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy

IWRM Strategies for Sub-areas

Participatory rolling planning process, with all relevant stakeholders

Benefits for the Basin



- A framework to guide how nationally proposed developments can be achieved in a sustainable and equitable manner
- Leverage transboundary cooperation
- Provide incentives for the implementation of the agreed procedures under the 1995 Mekong Agreement, including the notification, prior consultation and agreement



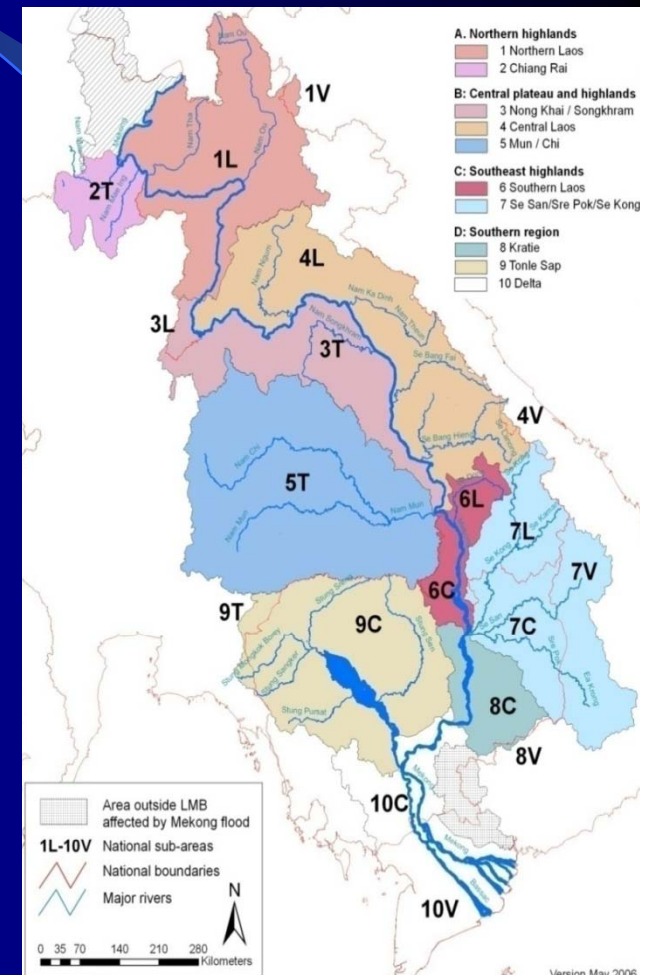
**AGREEMENT
ON THE
COOPERATION
FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF
THE MEKONG
RIVER BASIN
5 APRIL 1995**

MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

Benefits for the countries



- Facilitate national plans and projects that are assessed from basin perspectives
- Coherent framework of IWRM planning at sub-basin and national levels in harmony with basin level



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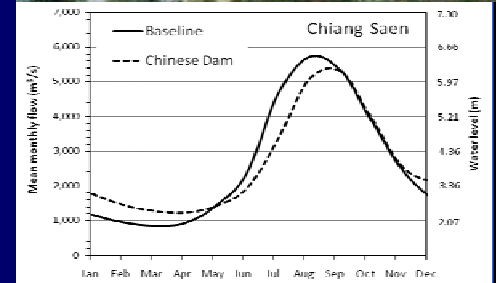


From the 1st Stakeholder Consultation...

Ensure relevance of the MRC and BDP



- MRC's shift toward facilitating more effective use of water resources is relevant to support country efforts
- Ensure continued relevance:
 - Define water availability in the new context (Upper and Lower Mekong developments, climate change)
 - Addressing global challenges (food security, energy price fluctuation)
- ***The basin-wide development scenarios and other analyses***



Understanding IWRM Challenges



- Discussions and building a common understanding on IWRM challenges in the Lower Mekong Basin
- Review of national policies for IWRM
- Analysis of main transboundary issues in water and related resource development in LMB
- Harmonization of national sovereignty issues and a Basin strategy
- ***In good progress demonstrated through BDP process and other MRC activities***

Importance of participatory process



- BDP Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan
- Sub-basin IWRM planning through RBCs and local agencies
- Various participation mechanisms: Regional Technical Working Group, peer review, sub-basin and national consultations
- Participatory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposed mainstream dams



Sub-basin



National



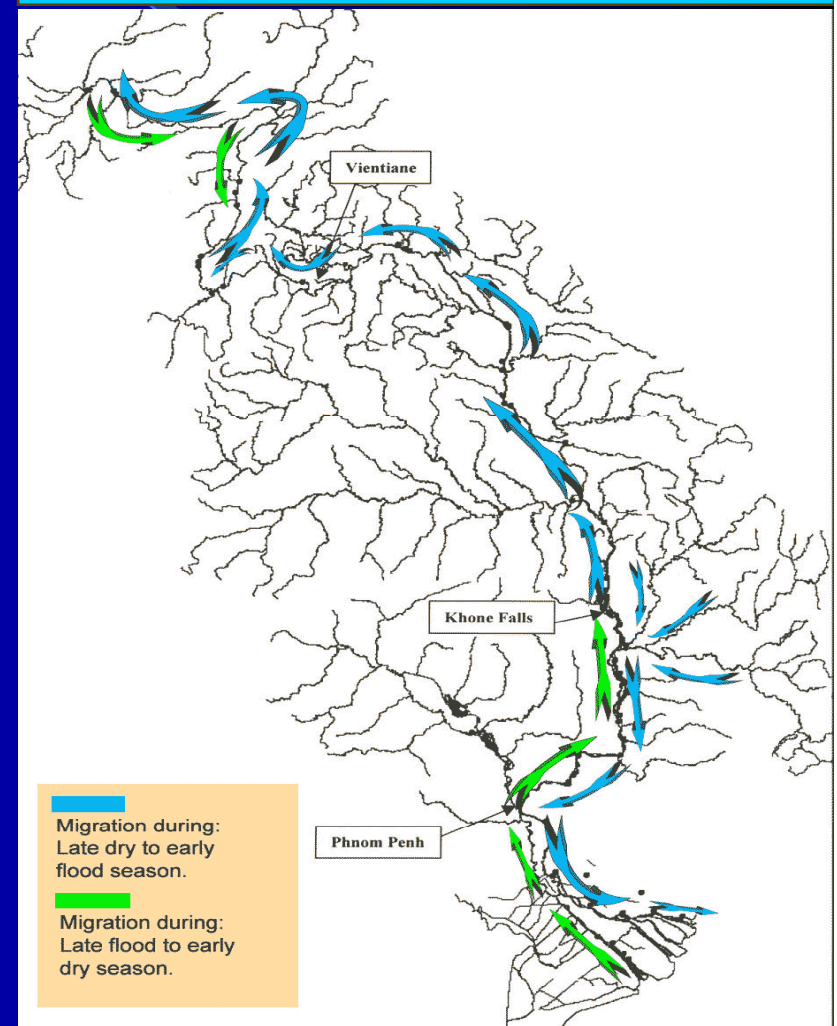
Regional

Sound knowledge



- Modelling of impacts of hydropower development on fish migration and fish valuation
- Update sector knowledge (irrigated agriculture, hydropower, flood control, navigation, etc) and socio-economic information
- Vulnerability assessment and social impact monitoring
- Others...

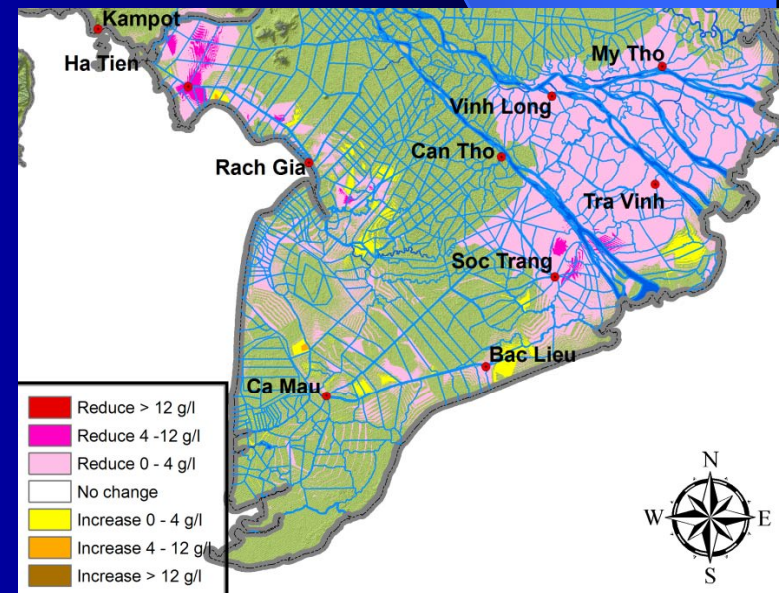
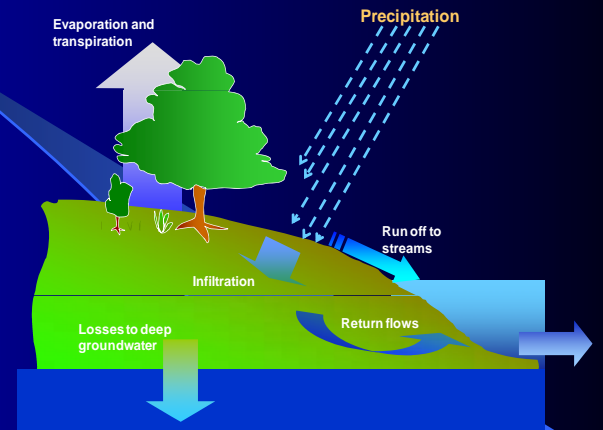
Migration Information for 40 Important Fish Species



Credible tools



- Quality assurance of data for improved modelling
- Impact assessment methodologies and other tools
- Improving monitoring systems including Vulnerability assessment and Social monitoring



Stakeholder engagement



- How stakeholders will engage in BDP i.e. scenario assessment?
- Moving beyond bureaucratic governance to reach communities
 - *Stakeholder Analysis*
 - *BDP activities at national and sub-basin levels, involving communities*
 - *Sub-area, national and regional forums*
 - *RBO network*



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...To this 2nd Stakeholder Forum

Objectives



- To share emerging knowledge and promote a better understanding of water and related resources issues in the Mekong River Basin
- To seek stakeholders' inputs to the proposed approach for the cumulative assessment of the economic, environment and social impacts of water resources development in LMB
- To facilitate dialogues on opportunities and challenges and what would be acceptable options for sustainable water resources development in the LMB
- To strengthen partnerships



**Thank you for being with us
Together we can make a change!**