

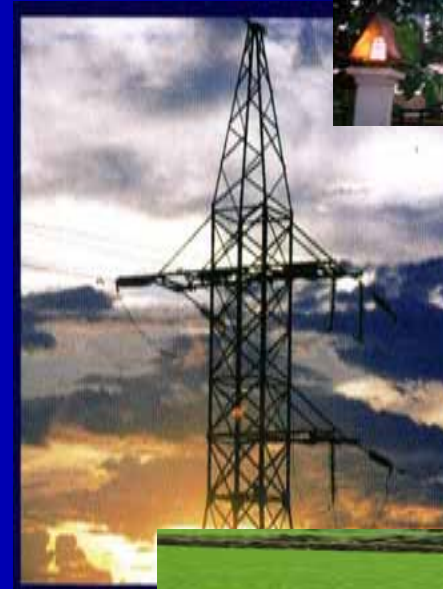
6.2 - Summary of countries hydropower consultations



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Key messages from Countries members

1. Multi-track approach for MRC Hydropower Programme
2. MRC supports sustainable hydropower development
3. MRC mandate and regional knowledge
4. MRC as Dialogue Facilitator



Opportunities and Issues raised

1. Hydropower development planning in the Mekong Basin
2. Mainstream dams
3. Cost Benefit Analysis and benefit sharing
4. Sector Environment Assessment and Cumulative Impact Assessment
5. Capacity building
6. Information Exchange
7. Formulation of MRC Hydropower Programme



1. Planning on Hydropower development in the Mekong Basin

1. Development must be equitable and sustainable
2. Hydropower development in the Basin should be seen in context of the regional energy sector, in particular realistic future energy demands.
3. Dialogue with China is important; A possible arena can be the GMS.
4. Fisheries and navigation are integral elements of hydropower dams, it is necessary to find optimal solution to conjunctive hydropower generation, navigation lock operation and fish migration.



2. Mainstream dams

1. GOL Optimization Study – To include Environment Consideration in the Process
2. While 1995 Mekong Agreement does not preclude mainstream dams, their impacts must be environmentally and sociologically acceptable.
3. MRC should act as main dialogue facilitator to promote cooperation and best practices.
4. Agreement to prioritize mainstream dams and fisheries issues.
5. There is already Inter-government consultation on mainstream projects.
6. Difficulties in dialogue and cooperation with private sector developers were noted.
7. In view of complexities involved, scale of projects, trans-border implications, social and environmental risks involved – The use of past experiences in the basin will be very helpful.



3) Cost-benefit analysis and benefit sharing

1. The content of the Hydropower Programme should address on Cost - benefit analyses, project impacts and opportunities for benefit sharing
2. The cost-benefit analyses should address issues related to flood damage limitation, drought prevention, resettlement, loss of forest, biodiversity corridors, impact of climate change, and potential for multipurpose development



4) Sector Environment Assessment and Cumulative Impact Assessment

1. Public consultation is an essential tool to understand critical aspects of projects
2. SEA and CIA are new concepts – But are essential
3. Hydropower SEA are important for the Basin Development Planning process.
 4. Hydropower SEA should take SEA guidelines of the Countries members into account.
 5. SEA should identify options for environmental and social mitigation measures.
 6. MRC as a regional organisation is well placed to carry out a SEA for mainstream dams; an early start of this SEA would be



5) Capacity building



1. Agreed with all capacity building programme as proposed
2. In addition to the above to include capacity building for:
 - social safeguards (resettlement and rehabilitation)
 - lock operators.





6) Information exchange

Information flow between riparian countries is an important element of cooperation, particularly **hydropower database** and **environmental baseline information** for hydropower planning.



7) Formulation of MRC Hydropower Programme (HP)

1. To give priority to the focus on mainstream hydropower development.
2. “SUSTAINABILITY” is Key aspect in framing the HP
3. Process and timing of drafting of the HP.
4. Opportunities, objectives, milestones and outputs for national agencies to cooperate with MRC on HP.
5. To identify all tasks capable to promoting the implementation of dams in a sustainable manner
6. Voluminous portfolio of fast-tracked activities
7. Role of HP and the implementation of PNPCA and other agreements



**Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the MRC Hydropower Programme
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Thank you