

BDP Transboundary Process: Contribution to flood mediation

Annual Flood Forum

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. The BDP planning cycle and transboundary process
3. Transboundary process in the BDP context and link to FMM
4. Example of a joint project related to flood mediation
5. Lessons learned
6. Strengths and weaknesses
7. Challenges
8. Conclusion
9. Summary

1. Introduction

What is BDP?

- The general planning tool and process that the Joint Committee would use to identify, categorize and **prioritize the projects and programs to seek assistance for and to implement the plan at the basin level.**
- One component of the Basin Development Plan (BDP) approach is that analysis of transboundary issues is integrated in the planning process.

1.1. Framework for dealing with transboundary issues in BDP

Principle: focuses on *cooperation for shared benefits* in terms of economic, environmental and social needs.

Approach: *uses information from sub-area analysis* to identify transboundary issues, which are then addressed by developing frameworks for cooperation, including 'joint development opportunities.

Who? the transboundary issues are analyzed and addressed by *involving extensive key stakeholders to provide their views*

1.2. Concept of transboundary issues

Development opportunities, issues of interest to more than one country.

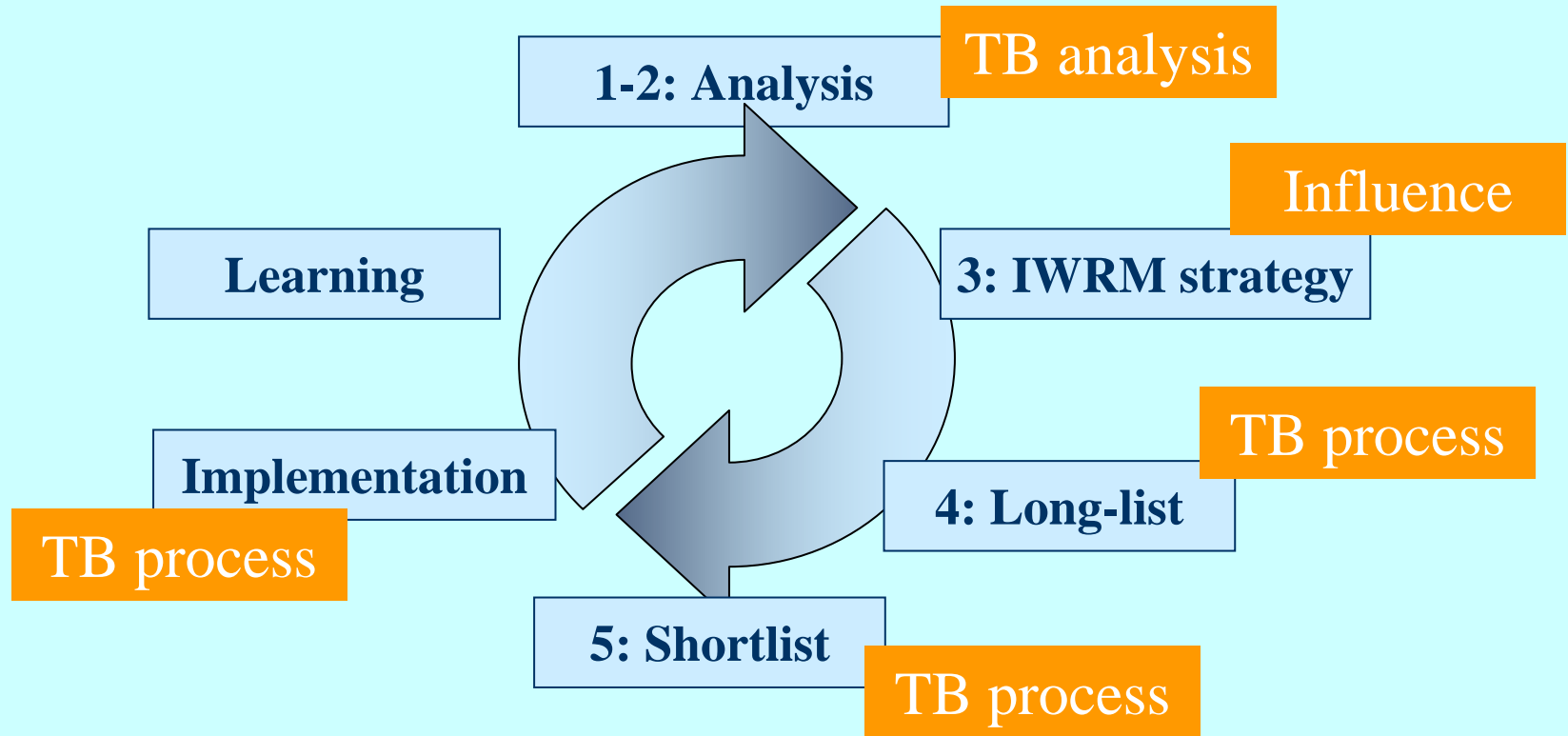
Issues affecting or involving more than one country.

(Agreed by 4 countries during the regional Meeting in Oct.04)

Examples:

- Flood
- Wetlands conservation
- Loss and decline of fishery resources
- Water resource sharing

2. The BDP Planning cycle and transboundary process

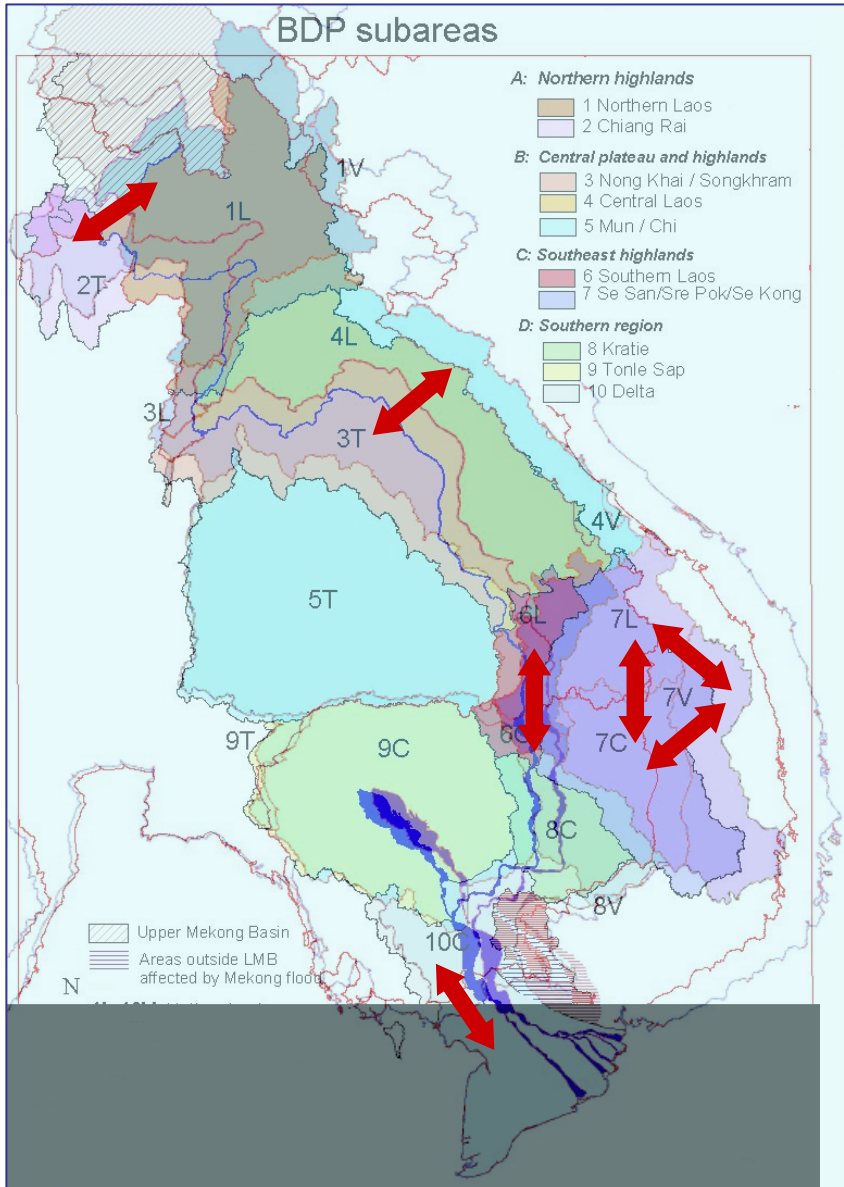


BDP Planning Cycle

3. Transboundary process in the BDP context and link to FMM

- **At sub-area level**: through participatory approach in SA review, and Stakeholders Forums within each country. *Issues of floods and impacts are analysed at individual SA.*
- **At TB SA level**: through SA TB meetings (Between countries). *Issues of floods and impacts are analysed between transboundary SAs (countries).*
- **At basin-wide level**: Basin Forum (Between 4 countries). *Issues of floods and impacts are analysed between 4 countries.*

3.1. Sub-area transboundary meetings



Transboundary sub-areas

SAs that share the main stream river:

- SA Northern Laos and Northern Thailand (1L & 2T)
- SA Central Laos and Songkram River/Upper Northeast Thailand (4L, 3L, 3T).

SAs that share the catchment:

- SA Southern Laos/Northern Cambodia (6LC)
- SA Se San/Sre Pok/Se Kong (7CLV)
- SA Delta (10CV)

3.2. TB Process in SA TB Meetings

Linking to FMM

Step 3. Exploring opportunities for transboundary water cooperation

- 7 joint projects on flood
- PIN preparation using LGF
- Coop. framework dev.
- TB process on-going

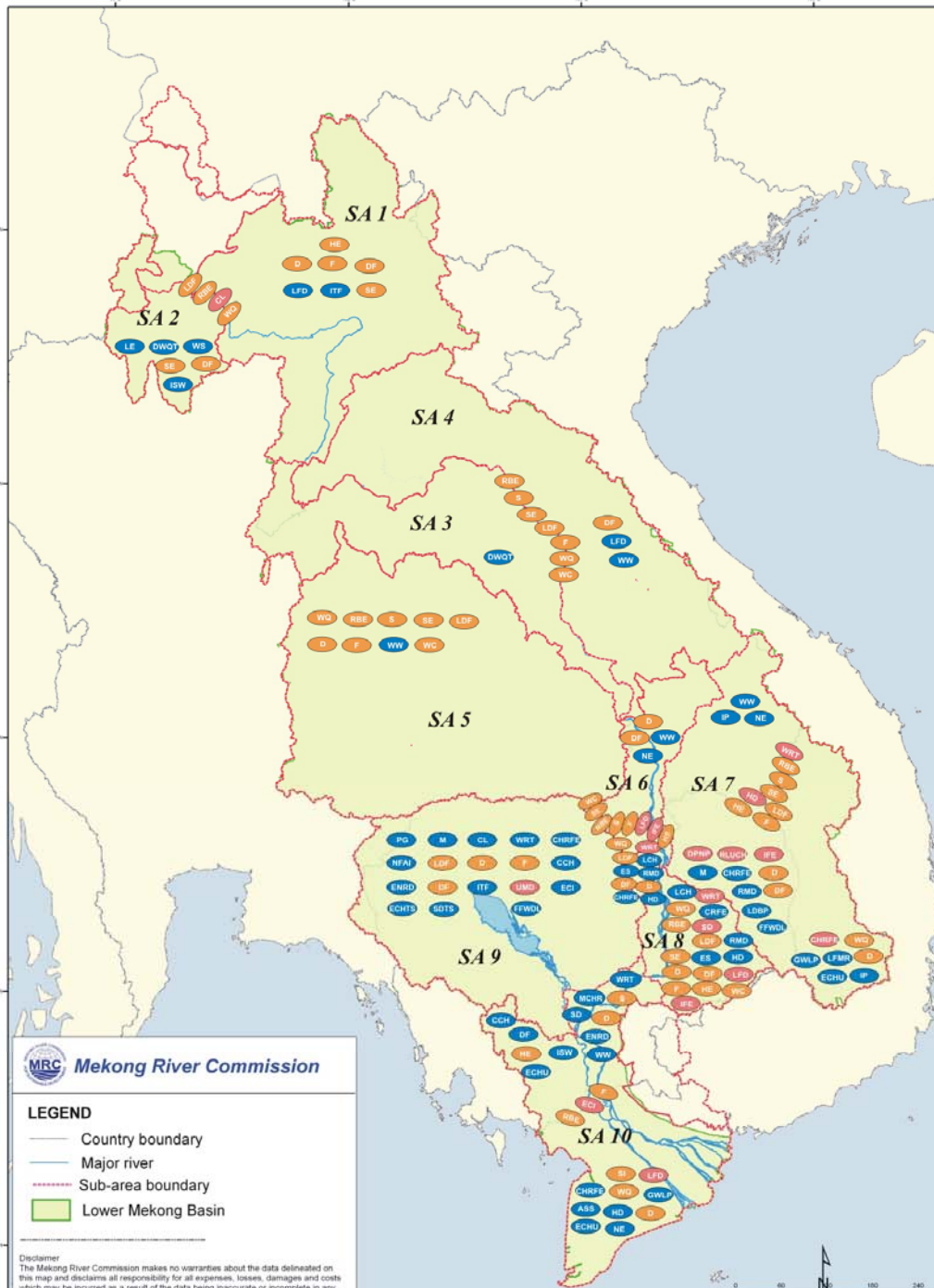
Step 2. Integrating transboundary issues

Commonalities and differences

Step 1. Common understanding of transboundary issues

Flood is identified as one of the key TB issues for BDP.

Potential environmental concerns by sub-area



Population growth

- CL Culture, livelihood of the community along the Mekong River and within the Basin
- DPNP Demographic pressure -> pressure on natural resources
- LE Land encroachment
- M Illegal or legal migration into the area
- PG Population growth
- RLUCH Rapid and large change in land use due to population pressure

Water resources

- DWQT Decreasing water quantity (due to monoculture & deforestation)
- GWLP Ground water table lowered , pollution
- WQ Water quality : pollution, eutrophication
- WRT Water resources threatened (quantity and quality)
- WS Water shortage in dry season-competing demand for water

Physical changes of the river system

- ASS Acid sulfate soils
- CHRFE Change of river flow and river ecology
- MCHR Morphological change of the river, streams, and lakes
- RBE River bank erosion
- S Sedimentation
- SE Soil erosion
- SD Soil degradation
- SI Salinity intrusion

Fisheries

- ES Endangered species
- HD Habitats degradation (for fish and Dolphin)
- LFMR Loss of fish migration routes
- LDF Loss/decline of fish species/fisheries
- NFAI Natural capture fisheries and aquaculture intensification
- RMD Reduction of Mekong Dolphin number

Climatologic variance

- CCH Climate change
- D Drought
- ENRD Environment and natural resources threatened/degradation
- F Flood

Wetlands, biodiversities and protected areas

- ECHTS Ecological change of the Tonle Sap Lake, loss of wetland and floodplains
- FFWLD Flood forest/wetlands degradation and loss
- LDBP Loss, decline of biodiversities and protected areas
- NIBE Negative impacts on biodiversities and ecological balance
- SDTS Siltation and degradation of Tonle Sap Lake, rivers and its tributaries
- WC Wetland conservation

Forestry

- DF Deforestation
- IFE Illegal exploration of forest resources along border lines
- ITF Intrusion to forest
- LFD Land and forest degradation

Waste

- ISW Increasing solid waste
- WW Waste water

Effect from sector development

- ECHU Effects from chemical use/overuse in agriculture
- ECI Effects/problems from infrastructure conservation, e.g flood control system along the border, and others
- HE Effects/problems related to hydropower plants/dam
- IP Problems from irrigation work
- NE Effects from navigation
- UMD Upstream Mekong River development

- Trans-boundary concern
- Local concern
- Most important environmental concerns for BDP

Mekong River Commission

- LEGEND**
- Country boundary
 - Major river
 - Sub-area boundary
 - Lower Mekong Basin

Disclaimer:
The Mekong River Commission makes no warranties about the data delineated on this map and disclaims all responsibility for all expenses, losses, damages and costs which may be incurred as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way or for any reason. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the



4. Example of a joint project related to flood mediation

Project title: Development of the Long Terms Flood and Drought Control Plans for the Mekong Delta

Objective: *To improve living conditions of the people and agricultural production*

FMM can join BDP team and NMCs in the project PIN preparation (LGF) and at the later stage “project implementation” if there is opportunity.

4. Example of a joint project related to flood mediation

Process (Outputs 1, 3, 4 of FMM)

- NMCs will develop PIN for joint projects for short-listing through collaborative LGF approach. Along this process, the engagement between NMCs will enable them to come up with outcome on flood mediation.
- Framework for cooperation will be enhanced.

Flood mediation measures (Outputs 5, 6 of FMM)

Through the TB analysis (Step 1 and 2), can come up with:

- Understanding of problems/ impacts
- Mechanism to address flood problems/impacts
- Methods to address flood problems
- Networking: knowledge and information sharing

5. Lessons learned

- The participants could raise their issues and interests in friendly way. This means that everyone was clear about the rule, and they were determined to achieve the outcome.
- It was possible to engage the participants in the discussion, and to make commitment for achieving the objectives and expected outputs of the meeting. This means that cooperation among sub-areas was possible, if we try to engage people in the process with good preparation and clear objectives and intended outcome.
- Orientation, good preparation and commitment from all riparian countries contributed to the success of the transboundary meeting.
- When there are opportunities for countries to engage with each other in collaborative planning process, there will be continuous actions and commitments made.

6. Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths:

- Countries' initiative
- Powerful collaborative planning process on-going
- Framework for cooperation to address the transboundary issues enhanced and developed

Weaknesses:

- Lack of data and information for PIN development
- Negotiation protocol is difficult and time consuming

7. Challenges

- How to deal with high differences of interest, and negative impacts
- How to keep the BDP transboundary process on-going after BDP phase 1 ends
- How to deal with TB issues from the upstream countries

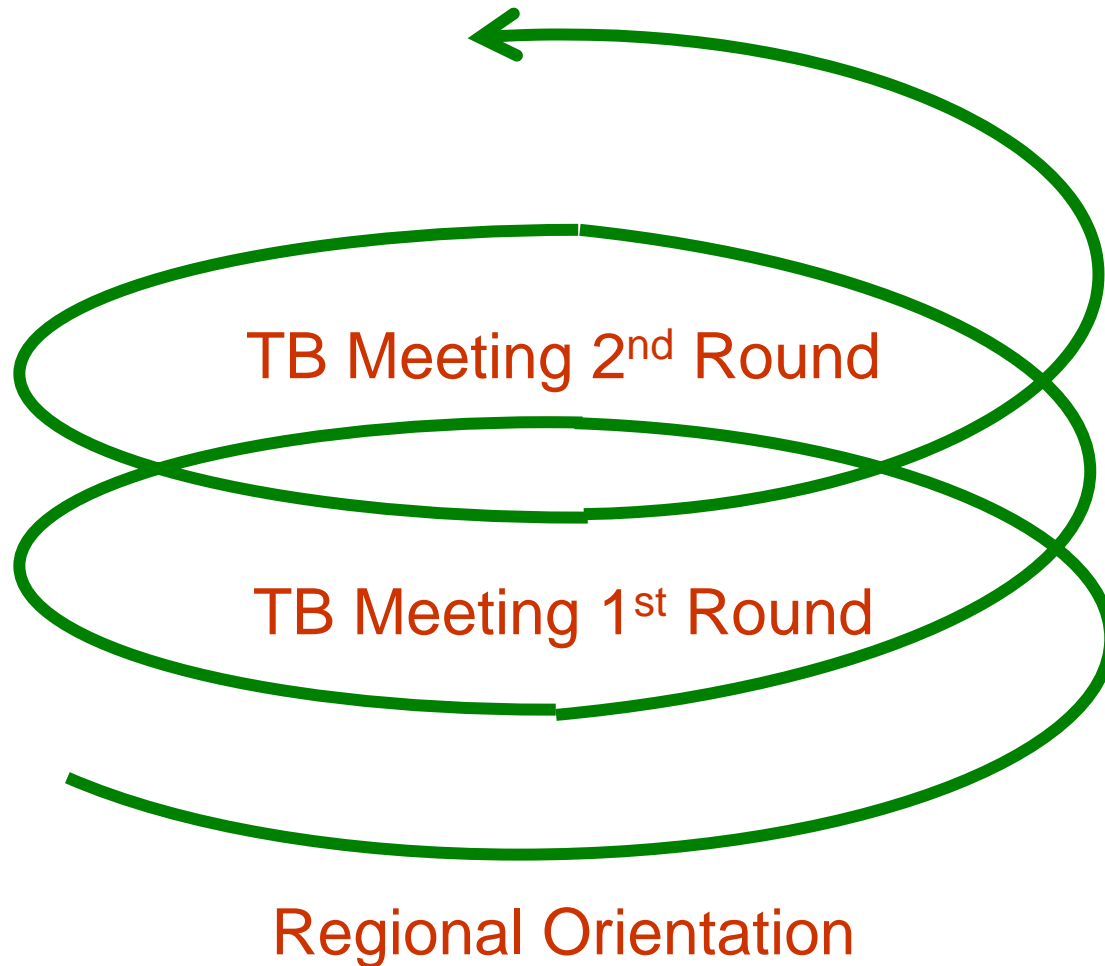
8. Conclusions

The BDP TB process is very useful and powerful planning process for MRC in two senses:

- The national and sub-area working groups are engaged in the process of identifying and agreement of transboundary issues and responsive measures, and joint projects to be implemented without conflicts;
- Framework for cooperation, actions and commitments are continuously enhanced and succeeded.

As the riparian countries will implement the projects together in the future (if opportunities for financial support exists), *this process of collaborative planning will be continued*. Therefore, it is important that MRC continues to support and create more opportunities for the continuous engagement of this collaborative planning process.

9. Summary



High priority JP
PIN Preparation
Framework for coop.
3rd round TB Meeting

TB Issues and JP
identified
Framework for coop.
2nd round TB Meeting

Agreement on concept
of TB issues and
Framework →
1st round TB Meeting

Thanks for your kind attention!