



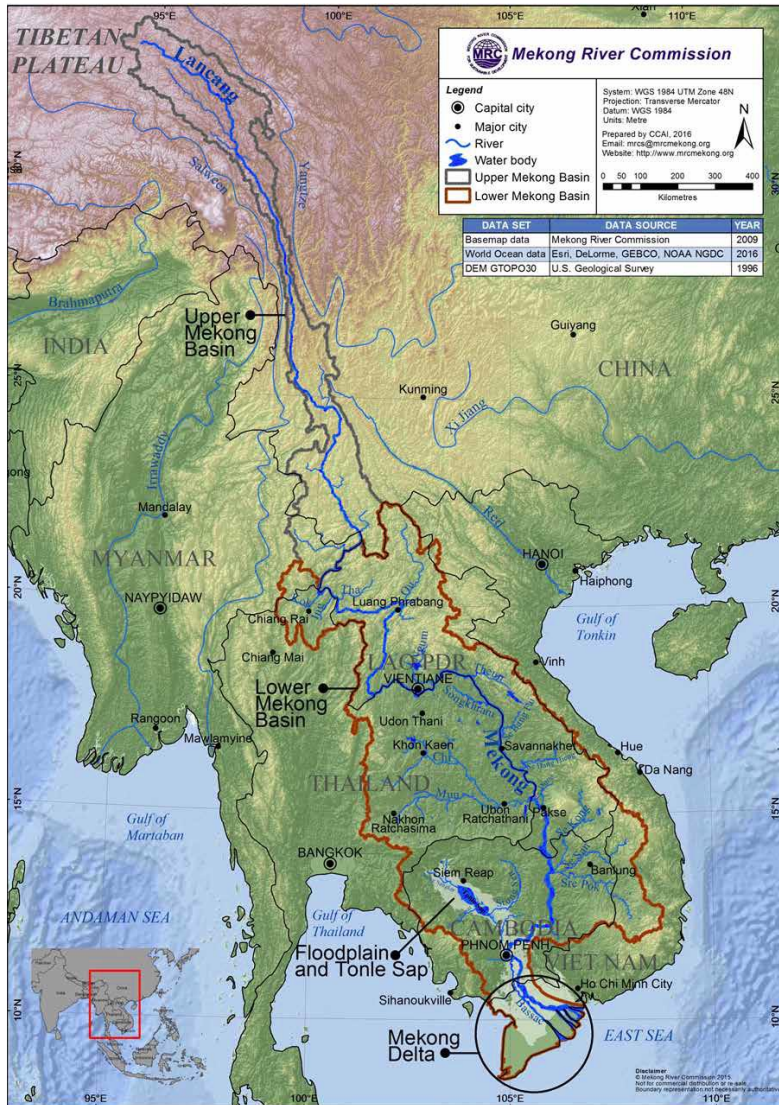
IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE MEKONG BASIN THROUGH BASIN AND NATIONAL ACTIONS

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Outline

- Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP)
- **Mainstreaming CCA into Basin Development Strategy**
- Mainstreaming CCA into regional sector strategies
- Monitoring system on CCA
- Preparation of transboundary adaptation projects
- **Financing for CCA implementation**
- Mainstreaming regional CCA into national actions/ activities, including **NDCs**



MASAP Strategic Priorities

MASAP is a Statement of the LMB countries of strategic priorities and actions at basin level to *address CC risks and strengthen basin-wide resilience.*

Strategic priorities:

1. **Mainstreaming** CC into regional and national policies/programs/ plans
2. Regional and international **cooperation and partnership** on adaptation
3. Preparation of **transboundary**, gender sensitive adaptation options
4. Access to adaptation **finance**
5. **Monitoring**, data collection and sharing
6. **Capacity development** for CC adaptation strategies/ plans
7. **Outreach** of MRC products on CC and adaptation.

Key Adaptation Strategies for Basin Development

1. *Enabling additional dry season flows*

- Use of storages above hydropower cascades
- Clear operating rules and protocols for extreme conditions

2. *Enhancing flood mitigation and management*

- Coordinating upstream storages to control flood releases
- Coordinating spatial planning on the floodplain so that floodplain storage is in synergy with biodiversity benefits
- Agreements on connected floodways, flood protection measures and development constraints

3. *Protecting watersheds upstream of hydropower operations and settlements*

- Mitigate the effect of increased runoff including additional sediment into reservoirs, damaging flash floods and species migration to higher altitudes

4. *Implementing transboundary biodiversity corridors*

- Landscape scale protection of remaining environmental assets allowing species migration
- Connecting existing protected area network through regulatory and planning measures

Mainstreaming Climate Change into the BDS (1)

- **Reflecting current knowledge** of basin condition, trends and outlook with regard to potential impacts of climate change
 - Drawing on basin-wide studies undertaken by MRC
- **Incorporating within the Basin Vision and goals** by considering what is possible under a changing climate
 - Decisions taken on infrastructure with 50+ year lifespans will need to consider climate change in design and operations
- **A proactive regional planning approach** requires consideration of climate change impacts and the role of basin infrastructure and non-infrastructure measures to help mitigate the impacts
 - Alternative development pathways considering the size and location of projects as they relate to multiple objectives
 - Updated scenarios and projections
- Emphasising the need for **enhanced coordination of operational management** especially between upper and lower Mekong Basin
 - Enhanced data and information sharing between all riparian countries, improved forecasting and early warning systems, the development and communication of clear operating protocols, and a deeper institutionalisation of regional cooperating platforms will support this effort

Mainstreaming Climate Change into the BDS (2)

- **Enhanced data and information management systems** in line with the recently agreed Mekong Basin Indicator Framework, including the climate change dimension and the establishment of the MRC climate change monitoring and reporting system
- **Facilitate implementing agencies to work together to:**
 - reduce the remaining uncertainties and raise awareness
 - provide guidance on assessing vulnerability
 - enhance flood forecasting systems, tools and communication protocols
 - support infrastructure design and operation that is resilient to future climate impacts
- Facilitating the development of ***joint projects*** and ***national projects of basin-wide significance*** that support regional climate change adaptation

Road map for MRC to become a regional accredited entity to AF and GCF

- Transboundary adaptation project
- Accreditation process: MRC become regional accredited entity to AF and GCF
- MRCS gap assessment and development of a work plan: done
- Closing gap (2021-2022)
- Prepare readiness support proposal (GCF)
- Prepare and submit accreditation application (2021)
- Follow up with the funds (2021 - 2022): respond to comment/ request

Mainstreaming to Adaptation Communications (1)

National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

- **Regional institutional arrangements** and legal frameworks: **1995 Mekong Agreement**, the **BDS** and the **MASAP** guiding regional cooperation in addressing CCA on water-related issues in the Mekong River Basin
- Describe the **national circumstances** in relation to **water resources** development and management throughout the **Mekong River Basin** and the risks and opportunities from that development and management in relation to CC

Mainstreaming to Adaptation Communications (2)

Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, as appropriate

- Use the **MRC's BWA of CC impact** to inform an assessment of potential impacts, risks and vulnerabilities in key water related sectors including water resources, fisheries, forestry and land-use change, ecosystem services and agriculture
- Participate in and facilitate to improve **gender disaggregated data collection** and **vulnerability mapping** throughout the Mekong River Basin to better inform national policies and measures aimed at reducing gender inequality and CC vulnerability
- Institutionalise the implementation of the **regional CC monitoring and reporting system**: collection, processing and sharing of existing datasets that inform an assessment of CC conditions, trends and impacts

Mainstreaming to Adaptation Communications (3)

National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions

- Consider **regional needs and opportunities** in determining priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions.
 - **Flood and drought risk mitigation and management** including through the coordinated operations of water resources infrastructure and improved forecasting, monitoring and disaster response
 - Planning, design and implementation of **multi-purpose reservoirs** that provide basin-wide benefits including for irrigation, power generation, flood control and environmental flows
 - **Transboundary biodiversity corridors and protected areas** including improved landscape management in and around priority environmental assets of regional importance

Mainstreaming to Adaptation Communications (4)

Implementation and support needs

- Identify potential **country-to-country capacity building opportunities** with other MCs – i.e. what each country can learn from other countries in the region and also what each country has to offer the other countries in terms of its relative strengths
- **Link database and decision support tools** related to climate change between national and regional levels
- Identify the **budgetary resource needs** to implement the conditional mitigation and adaptation components of NIPs and help facilitate the MRC's efforts to **achieve accreditation** under the global climate change funds to streamline access to international climate finance

Suggestions for Adaptation Communications

- Consider providing greater specificity as to its legal, institutional, technology and capacity needs and gaps, and to link these clearly to its adaptation priorities and intended actions.
- Opportunities for regional cooperation (joint projects, regional capacity building, data and information sharing, joint systems, tools and processes, and the national application of regional frameworks and guidelines) - focus on:
 - a. Enhancing **flood and drought** forecasting, early warning, monitoring and management
 - b. Identifying, assessing, negotiating and implementing significant **joint projects** aimed at addressing floods and droughts
 - c. Identifying, agreeing, building capacity and implementing joint projects and measures to address **biodiversity loss, deforestation and land degradation** in transboundary areas (both wetlands and watersheds) in order to increase resilience
 - d. Institutionalising **data and information sharing** related to CC including through regional and nationally-linked databases and decision-support systems

SUMMARY

- Projected future CC and the resulting impacts are extreme.
- Mainstreaming CC into Basin Development Strategy 2021-2030
- Mainstreaming CC into national policies/programs/ plans, including NDCs, Adaptation Communication
- Transboundary adaptation projects and access to climate funds – very important
- Road map for MRC become accredited entity to AF and GCF
- MASAP implementation needs stakeholder engagement and efficient coordination



THANK YOU

One Mekong. One Spirit.