



Transboundary Climate Change Adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin

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Mekong CC Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP): 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.



Mainstreaming Climate Change into the Basin Development Strategy (BDS)

- **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

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

Lessons learned

- Strong leadership to address climate impact at regional level
- Inclusion consultation process with both internal and external stakeholders
- Challenge of defining what transboundary adaptation is and of identifying relevant and feasible actions
- Challenge of convincing countries about the added value of the regional level, on top of existing national levels
- Multiplicity of initiatives and actors in the field of climate change adaptation

Thank you



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