Mekong Adaptation Strategy
funding basin-wide adaptation through planning and mainstreaming

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SIXTH WORKSHOP ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS

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The Lower Mekong Basin (LMB)

- Encompasses the territory, ecosystems, people, economies and politics of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam
- Makes up 76% of the total Mekong Basin area.
- Home to >60 million people and with high population growth rate
- By length and water quantity one of the largest river basins world wide
- Acceleration of large scale investments in recent years.
Over 25% of the population of Cambodia and Lao PDR has an income below the poverty line, with much higher percentages in many rural areas.

Agriculture is the dominant water-related sector in the basin, intensively developed in Vietnam and Thailand.

LMB has a hydropower potential of about 30,000 MW, of which 10% is already developed.

The world largest freshwater capture fishery of 2.3 million tons per year. Fish is the main source of protein.

85% of population still live in rural areas but urban population is expected to increase to 25-30% by 2025.

Sediment transport and sea level rise affect livelihoods (recessing shore line and marine intrusion)
Mekong River Commission (MRC)

- Established in 1995 by the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam
- Regionally mandated to “promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries’ mutual benefit and the people’s well-being”
Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)

- Aim at mainstreaming adaptation into planning process and development plans
- Focuses on:
  1. climate change impact and vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning and implementation in priority locations within the LMB;
  2. building knowledge and capacity on different aspects (institutional, technical and managerial capacity);
  3. regional adaptation strategy supporting national frameworks; and
  4. regional partnership and collaboration.
- Key outputs: the Basin-Wide Assessment and the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP)
Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)

- Climate change information, scenarios, uncertainties
  - Assessment of impacts on flow regime
  - Roundtable discussions and study visits
  - Compilation of experiences from other international river basins
  - Country-run demonstration projects

- Assessment of changes in climate and hydrological extremes
  - Mekong climate change forum
  - Capacity needs assessment
  - Report on status of CC and adaptation in the LMB

- Basin-wide assessments
  - Ecosystem
  - Food security
  - Floods
  - Droughts
  - Hydropower

- Capacity building activities
  - Policy review
  - Literature review
  - Database and monitoring system

Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP)

- The two main building blocks of the MASAP:
  - the **Policy Review** provides the policy context of development and implementation of the adaptation strategy and identifies gaps and potential hindrances posed by differences in policy, legal and institutional settings between the riparian countries.
  - The **Basin Wide Assessment (BWA)** analyzes the impacts of climate change on water resources and water related resources and sectors of the LMB and potential transboundary adaptation options.
    - It is structured along 7 components: hydrology/flow, eco-system and biodiversity, flood, drought, food security including agriculture and fisheries, hydropower and socio-economics
Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

- The 7 strategic priorities, the pillars of the MASAP, to be agreed by Member Countries:

  1. **Mainstreaming** CC into regional and national policies, programs and plans;
  2. Enhancing regional and international **cooperation and partnership** on adaptation;
  3. Enabling **implementation** of transboundary, gender sensitive adaptation options;
  4. Supporting access to adaptation **finance**;
  5. Enhancing **monitoring**, data collection and sharing;
  6. Strengthening **capacity** for climate change adaptation strategies and plans;
  7. Improving **outreach** of MRC products on climate change and adaptation.
Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Roadmap for MASAP’s key priority n#3: enabling implementation of transboundary adaptation measures

- Pre-identification of relevant ‘sectoral’ adaptation measures in each of the BWA components and potential ‘ecosystem-based’ adaptation measures
- Stakeholders dialogue and debates initiated through the MASAP consultation for further development of the measures into bankable projects and programmes
- Mainstreaming of adaptation measures into national planning
- Selection of adaptation measures of transboundary nature and
- Identification of funding opportunities for these transboundary measures
The Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Roadmap for MASAP’s key priority n#4 : supporting access to climate finance

- Identify mechanisms of access to adaptation finance by the MCs and MRC; and
- Support the mobilization of funding, including access to adaptation finance, for the implementation of identified projects (PINs) described under strategic priority # 3;
The Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

In brief:

- A tool to address transboundary adaptation using IWRM-based approach
- A tool to mainstream adaptation planning at national and regional level
- An opportunity to seek additional funding for adaptation measures at the regional scale but also at national scale
- An orientation (through the BWA) for the identification of concrete relevant adaptation measures
- A strategy aligned to but complementing the already existing national strategy and plans as well as the Nationally Determined Contribution on adaptation
Thank you for your attention!