



Mekong River Commission: Regional Planning and Implementation of IRBM

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Mekong – River of Opportunity & Challenge



- 06 countries shared rich resources of a great river.
- One of the most productive and diverse ecosystems in the world.
- Biodiversity is particularly exceptional in upper reaches, in Tonle Sap, Plain of Reeds, and Mekong estuary.
- River is relatively healthy, but challenges are here.



Lower Mekong River Co-operation - Spanning Almost Half a Century



- As early as 1947, the need for an international organisation to coordinate activities and promote cooperation in the Mekong River Basin was recognised.

- In 1957 “The Mekong Committee”
- 1978 -94 Interim Mekong Committee.
- 1995 – present, MRC Commission

1957 - 1977

1978 - 1994

Since 1995

Sustainable Development

Goal of 95 Agreement is to promote

- “Cooperation in all fields of sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Basin.”
- To contribute to balanced development, while preserving the environmental integrity of the Basin.

A photograph of a wide river with a yellow text box overlaid. In the background, there are log rafts on the water and a structure on the right bank.

Legal ground for integrated river basin
management

Sustainable Development & Equitable use



This means to pursue equity, social and economic development and environmental protection



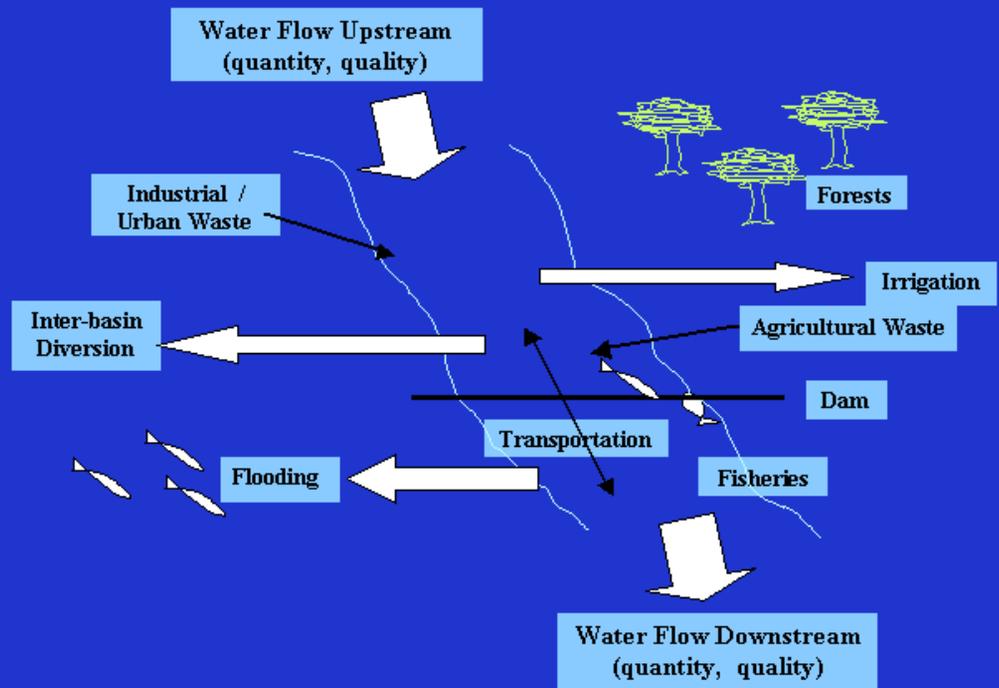
- Through dialogue at all appropriate levels
- Consensus building, scientifically informed decision making
- Effective dispute prevention and resolution

Regional planning

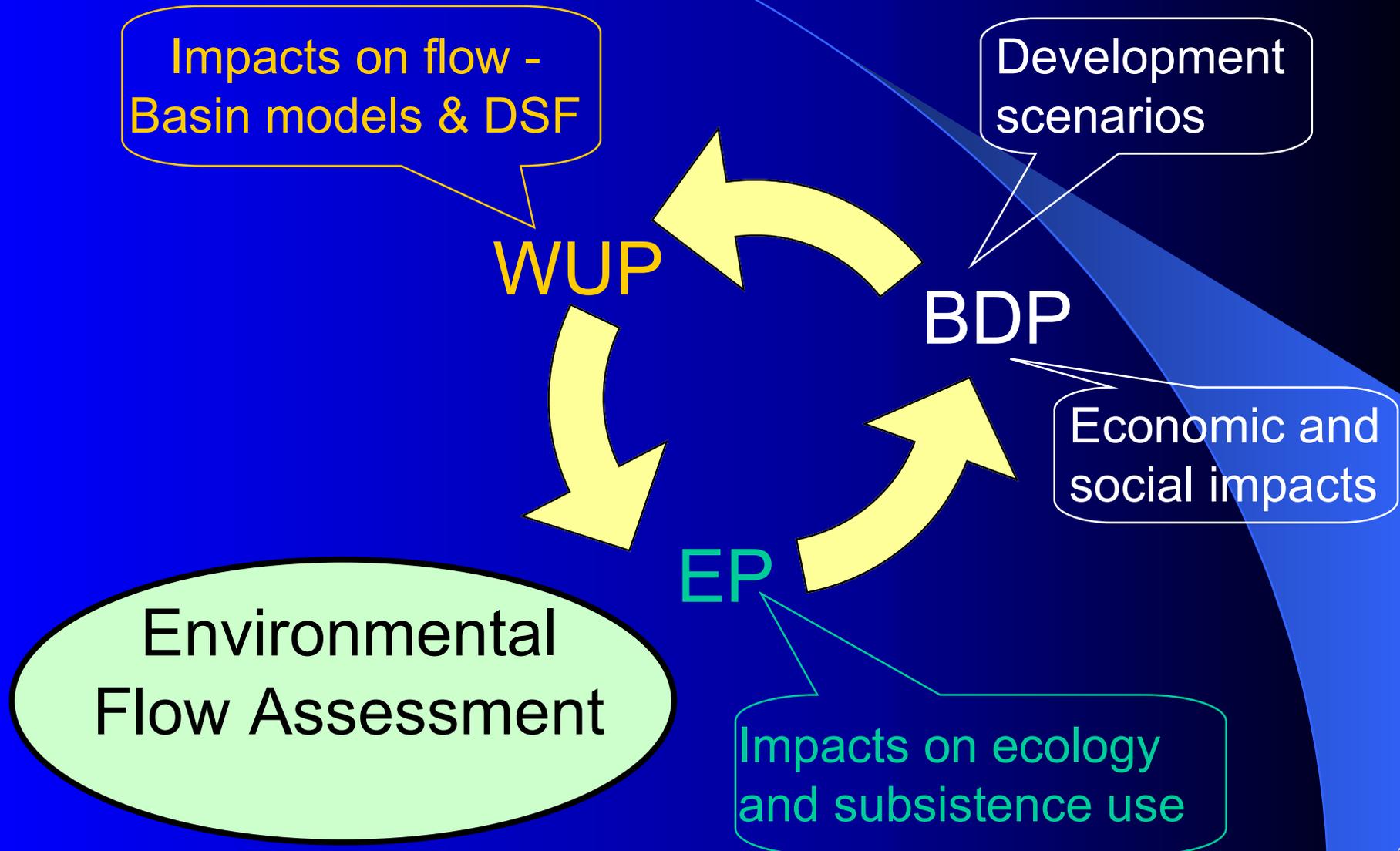
- Rules for Water Sharing (quantity & quality)
- BDP - coordinating water resources development at national and regional levels

- Coordination with regional initiatives
- Dialogue with China and Myanmar on issues relating to the Upper Basin

Elements in the Mekong River Basin Eco-System



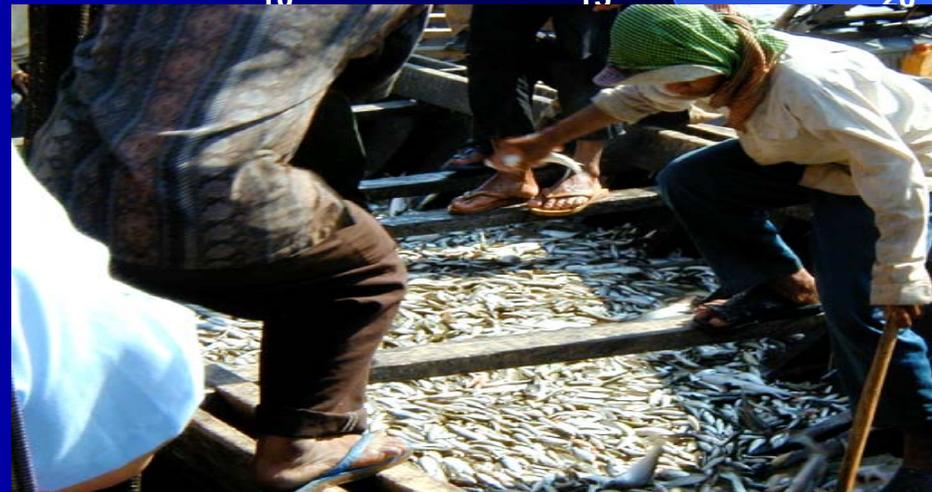
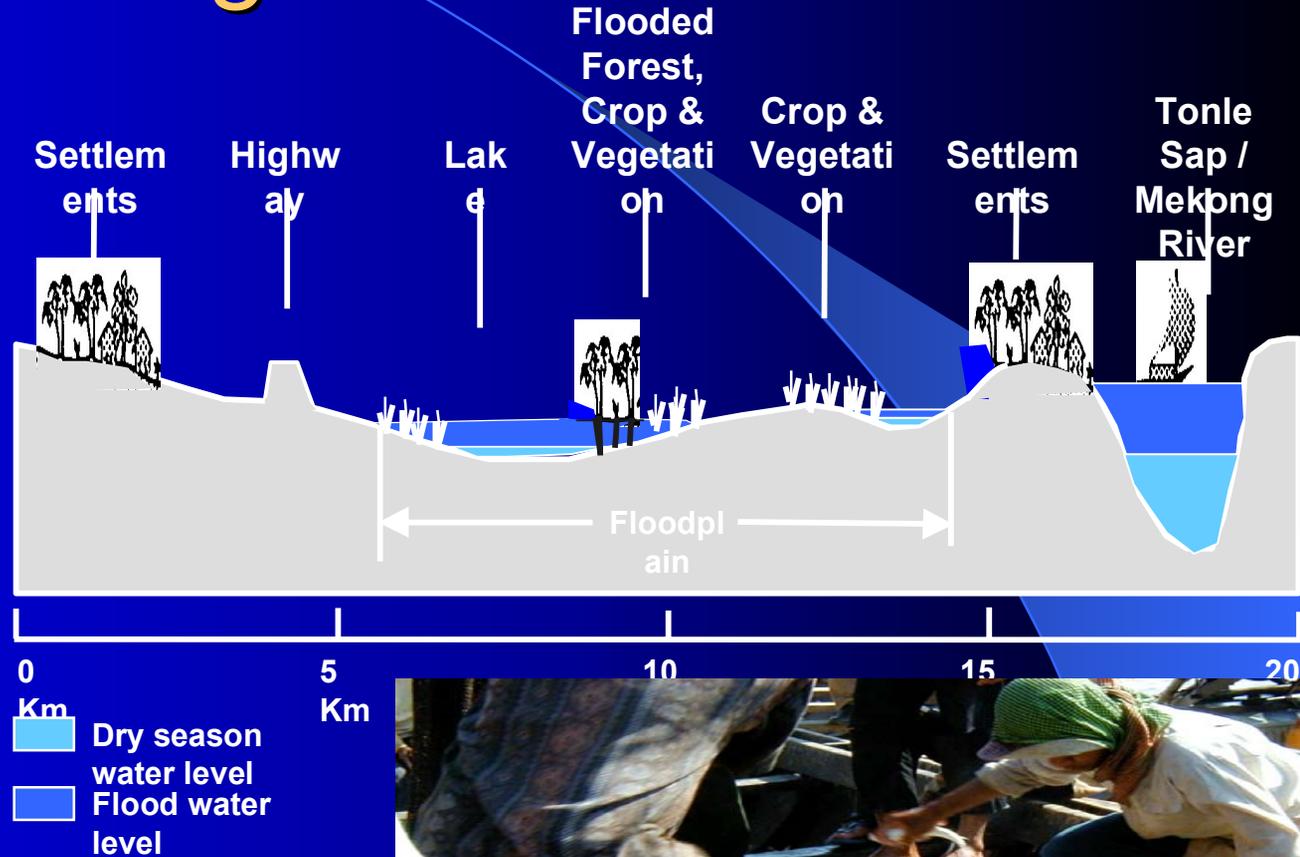
MRC Core Programs



Integrated Basin Flow Management

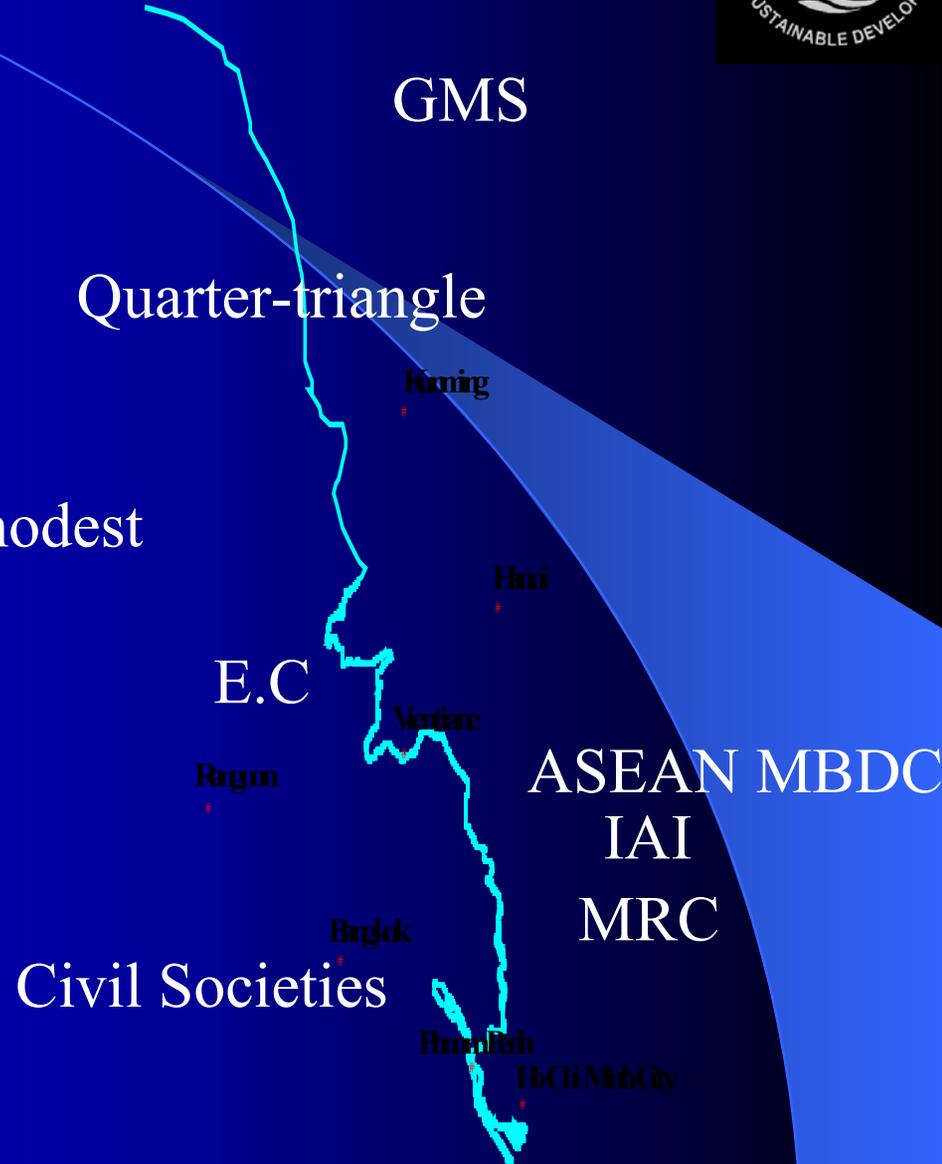


- How to determine “acceptable” flows – ref. Article 6.
- *Mekong IBFM* to provide guidelines for flow maintenance for each critical month.



Who hold the stakes?

- 06 Governments
- 70 million populations
- Various institutions & fora
- Public participation tradition is modest



Improved Governance Challenge

- ❖ Increase political weight of MRC (Relevant)
- ❖ Succeed with a very ambitious time-frame for development of framework to support sharing of benefit.
- ❖ Improve capacity at national levels to deal with basin-wide issues.
- ❖ Regional Governance & Public Participation.
- ❖ Create stronger sense of mutual trust and mutual benefits.

