

Regional Exchange on IWRM Experiences in Mekong
15-16 Oct 2014
Vientiane, Laos



Basin development planning: bringing regional and national planning closer together

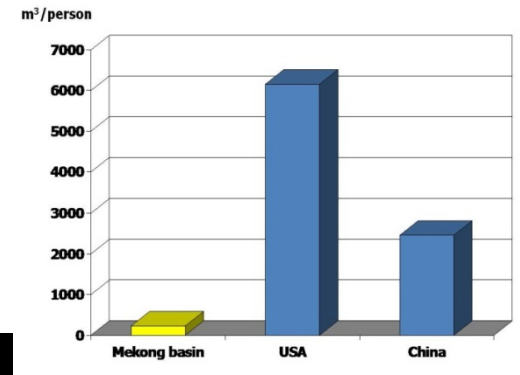
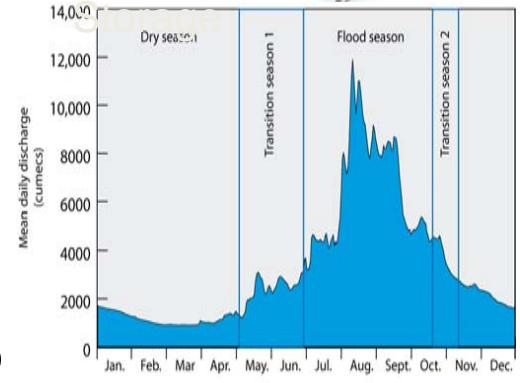


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Mekong development: meeting the needs, keeping the balance



- Difficult hydrology (wet and dry seasons) and limited water infrastructure
- Six riparian countries (four MRC members), each with national plan for water resources development and management (parts of the basin had been developed, while others under-developed)
- Despite impressive economic growth over the last decade, much of the lower Basin remains poor - malnutrition poses great challenges
- Increasing demand for water resources development to reduce poverty, support an increasing population
- The 1995 Mekong Agreement supports meeting the needs as well as keeping the balance



MRC has clear mandate in 1995

Agreement: basin-wide planning, cooperation, mutual benefits, joint development

Article 1: to cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management & conservation of water and related resources of Mekong..... to optimize multiple-use & mutual benefits of all riparians...

Article 2: ...with emphasis & preference on joint &/or basin-wide development through formulation of basin development plan, that would be used to identify, categorise & prioritise the projects & programmes... to implement at basin level





Different phases of the MRC Basin Development Planning

BDP Phase 1 (2001-2006): Established participatory planning process, tools and initial studies and capacity building

BDP Phase 2 (2007-2011): Produced a comprehensive assessment and a basin-wide strategy

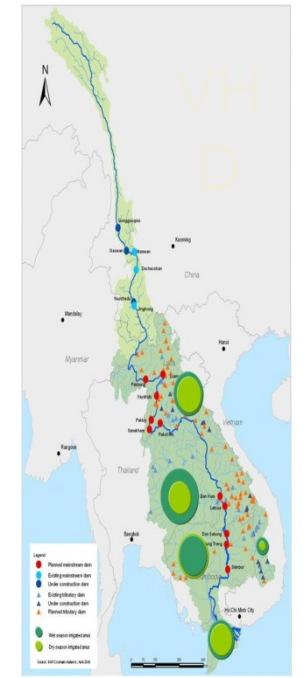
- Basin-wide development scenarios
- Basin Development Strategy

BDP 2011-2015: Implementing and updating the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy

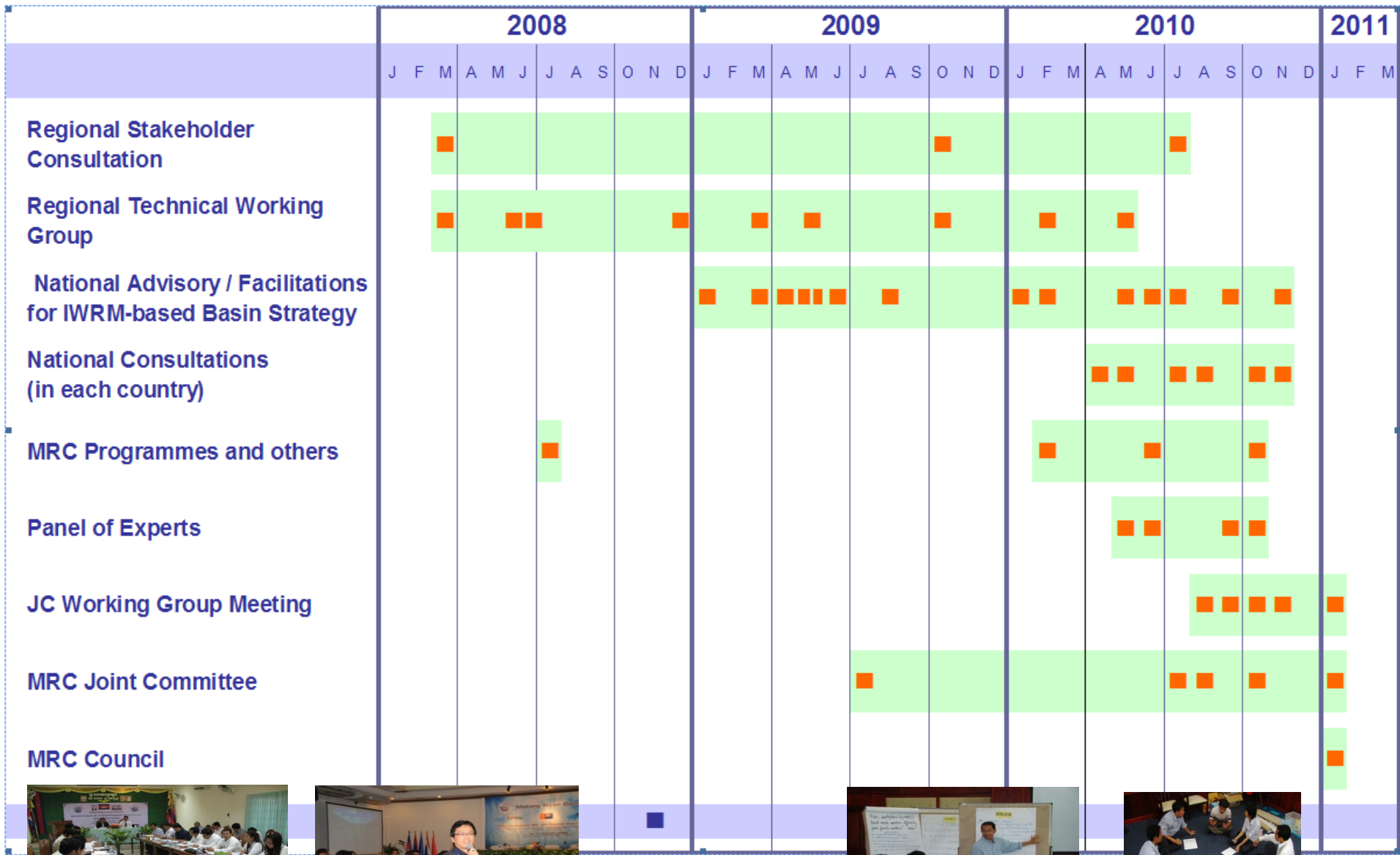
- Basin Action Plan = 1 Regional Action Plan + 4 National Indicative Plans

BDP2 (2007-2011)

- **Conducted a basin-wide cumulative impact assessment of the basin countries' national plans** (formulated in basin-wide development scenarios)
- We know the benefits and risks of plans in all major water and related sectors, including hydropower and irrigation (in 5 yrs, 20 yrs, and 50 yrs time)
- with and without climate change impacts (reported in 14 volumes)

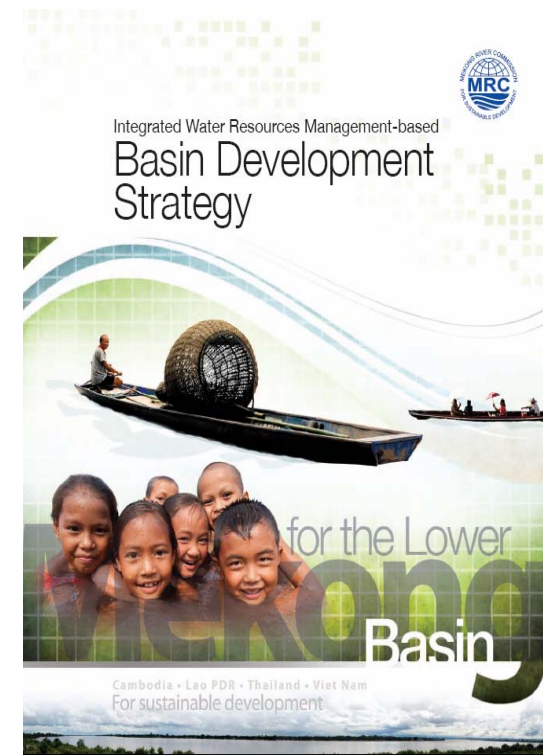


Wide stakeholder engagement: over \$2 million



The Basin Development Strategy

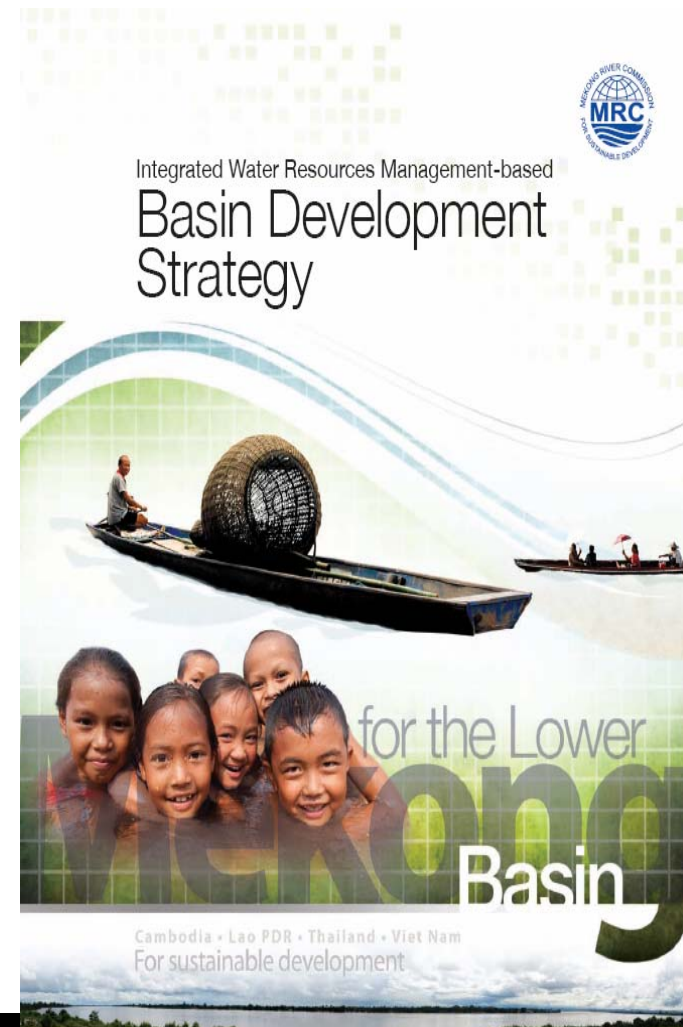
- Based on basin-wide assessment and consultations, the Basin Development Strategy was approved by the MRC Council of ministers in 2011
- How the MRC member countries will share, utilize, manage and conserve the water and related resources of the Mekong
- **Development opportunities**
 - *Irrigated agriculture*
 - *Hydropower (tributary and some mainstream)*
 - *Other water-related sectors (fisheries, navigation, flood & drought, watershed, tourism and environment, etc)*
- **15 Strategic Priorities** for basin development and basin management



The Basin Development Strategy recognizes



- Development Opportunity Space:
- *Irrigated agriculture*
- *Hydropower (tributary and some mainstream)*
- *Other water-related sectors (fisheries, navigation, flood & drought, watershed, tourism and environment, etc)*
- Maximize the opportunities but manage the risks
- How? - 15 Strategic Priorities
 - ✓ For Basin Development
 - ✓ For Basin Management



15 Strategic Priorities

For Basin Development

- ✓ Address opportunities & consequences of on-going developments incl. in Upper Mekong Basin
- ✓ Expand and intensify irrigated agriculture
- ✓ Sustainability of hydropower development
- ✓ Essential knowledge to address uncertainties and risk
- ✓ Options for sharing the potential benefits and costs of development
- ✓ Climate change adaptation
- ✓ Integration of basin development planning into national systems

For Basin Management

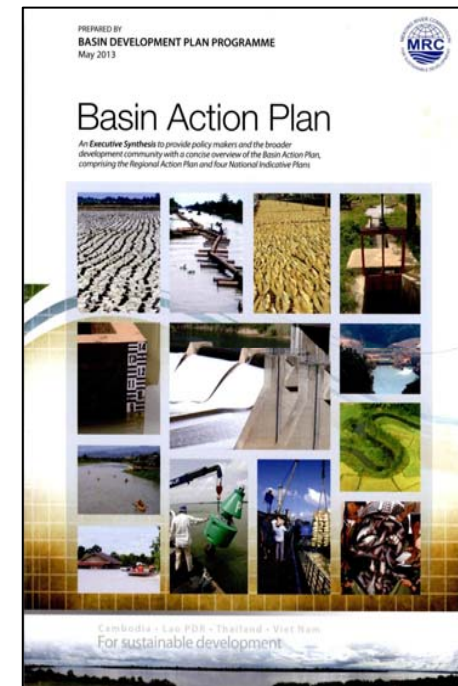
- ✓ Basin management strategies for water-related sectors
- ✓ Strengthen national level water resources management processes
- ✓ Strengthen basin management processes
- ✓ Environmental and social objectives and baseline indicators
- ✓ IWRM capacity building programme
- ✓ Studies and Guidelines

Basin Action Plan - investments leveraged by transboundary cooperation under the Mekong River Commission



The Basin Action Plan 2011-2015 to implement the Basin development Strategy comprises

- *4 National Indicative Plans: some 110 national structural and non-structural 'projects of basin-wide significance', valued at about US\$ 900 million (40% ongoing)*
- *1 Regional Action Plan (=MRC Strategic Plan): regional studies and projects with a value of US\$ 100 million (75% ongoing)*



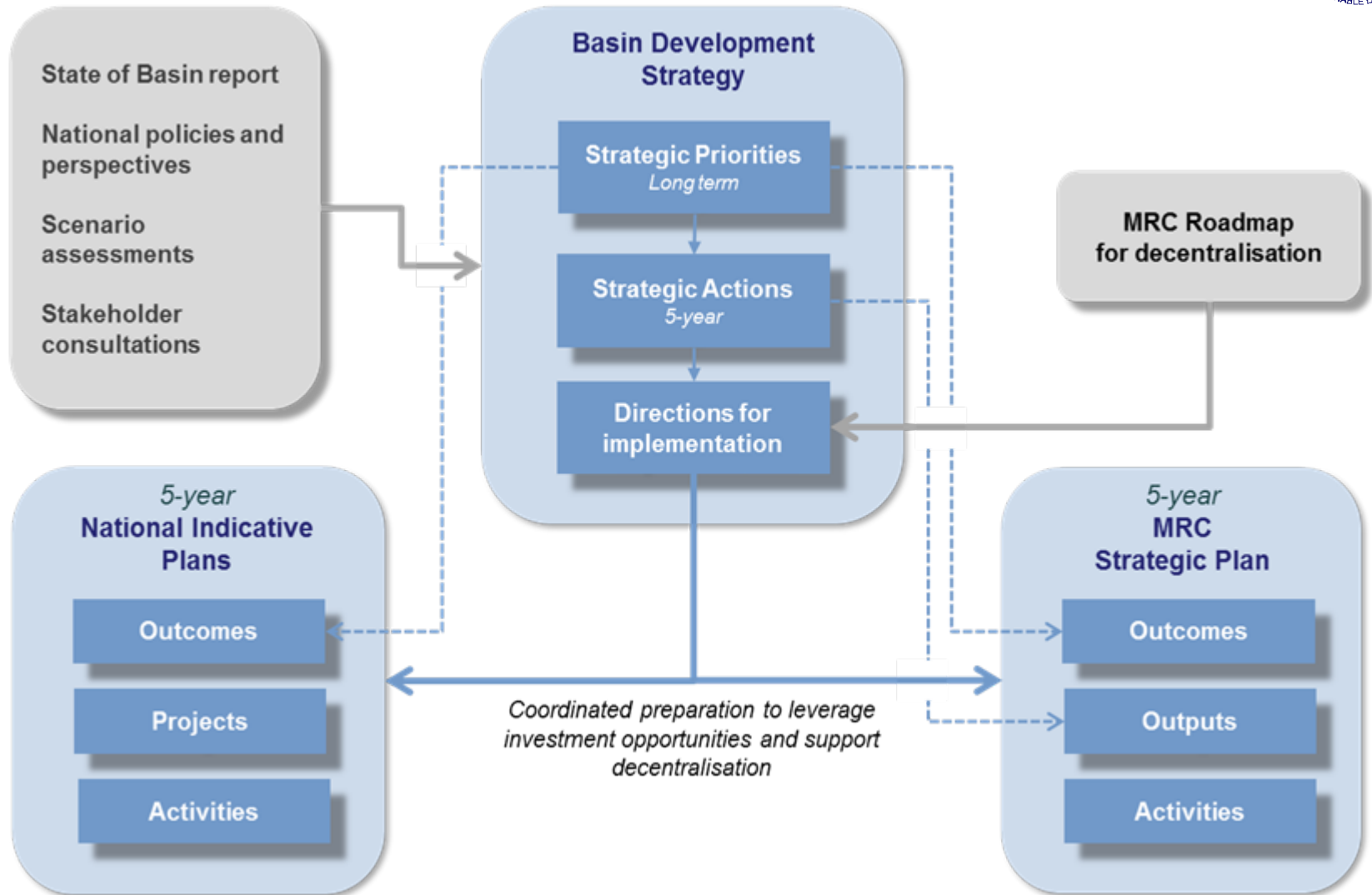
Updating of the BDS for 2016-2020



The Strategy is being updated this year (every five year cycle, as agreed by the Council) to take into account:

- Impact and experiences of implementation
- Any additional or recent information and knowledge
- Review of national policies and plans
- Review of scenario assessment and other studies
- Emerging regional trends in cooperation and integration (GMS, ASEAN, etc)
- The transition of the MRC towards focusing on core river basin management functions and re-structuring of the MRC secretariat

STREAMLINED APPROACH TO MRC STRATEGIC PLANNING



4th MRC Regional Forum on Basin Development

20-22th November 2014, Siem Reap



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- ❑ *Impact* of the current Basin Development Strategy?
- ❑ *Latest assessment* of development trends, opportunities and risks in the water and related sectors across economic, social, environment, and climate change dimensions?
- ❑ *Contributing to strategic basin planning* work, including updating of the Basin Development Strategy?

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THANK YOU

