



MRC Programmes Relating to Sustainable Hydropower

**Toward Research Coordination and Research Priorities
Part 2: Defining the opportunity space**

SPLASH

**European EUWI-ERNET Sponsored Meeting
14-15 August, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

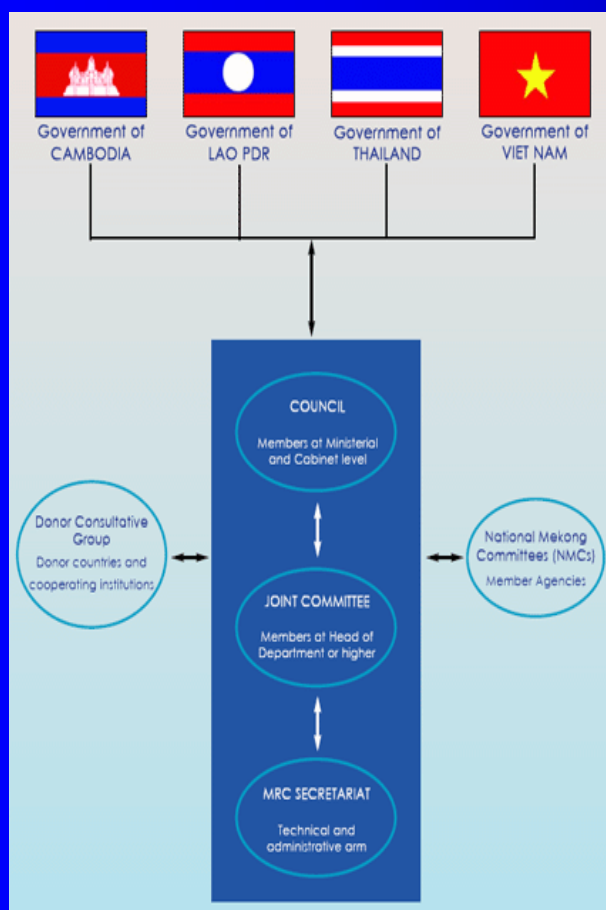
**Presentation by
Lawrence J.M. Haas**

MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH)

MRC Governance and Programme Structure



Governance



Mekong Programme

- Basin Development Plan
- Environment
- Flood Management and Mitigation
- Fisheries
- Navigation
- Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower
- Agriculture, Irrigation
- Climate Change and Climate Adaptation Initiative
- Integrated Knowledge Management
- Integrated Capacity Building

5 Approved and Draft MRC Procedures

1. **PDIES** (2001); Guidelines (2002) Procedures for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing
2. **PWUM** (2003); Guidelines (2006) Procedures for Water Use Monitoring
3. **PNPCA** (2003); Guidelines (2005)
Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement
4. **PMFM** (2006) Procedures for Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream
5. **PWQ** (JC endorsed draft) Procedures for Water Quality

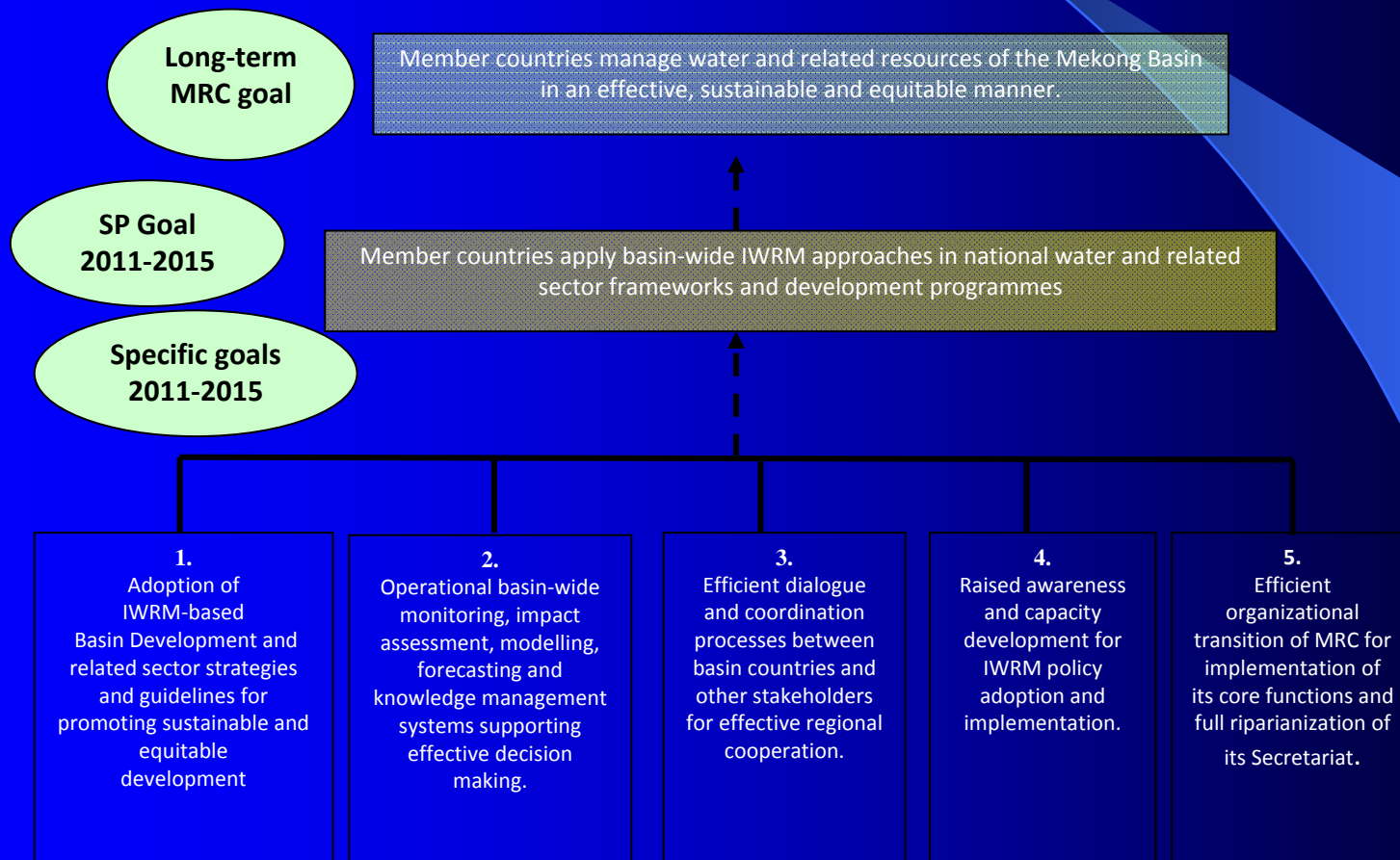
PNPCA most relevant to proposed dams



*1995 Mekong Agreement
and Procedural Rules*



The Goal Hierarchy of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 (provisional)



MRC Core Functions

Four Core Functions. Number (ii) is River Basin Management Functions

Functions of the MRC through which it routinely engages in water resources development and management issues at different scales in the Mekong Basin

- Data acquisition, exchange and monitoring
- Analysis, modelling and assessment
- Planning support
- Forecasting, warning and emergency response
- Implementing MRC Procedures
- Promoting Dialogue and Coordination
- Reporting and Dissemination



MRC Hydropower Related Activities

delivered through the MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower

- The Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) was formulated as a cross-cutting Initiative working with and through other MRC Programmes
- The ISH was formulated in 2008-2009 in national and regional multi-stakeholder process
- The ISH works with national and regional partners cooperating with MRC Bodies

The 2-part objective

Of the Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower

1. “Decisions on management and development of hydropower are placed in a river basin planning and management perspectives by applying IWRM principles.
2. MRC and key stakeholders cooperate to bring sustainable hydropower considerations into planning systems and regulatory frameworks, and into project-level hydropower planning, preparation, design, implementation and operation practices.”



Hydropower Related Research Priorities

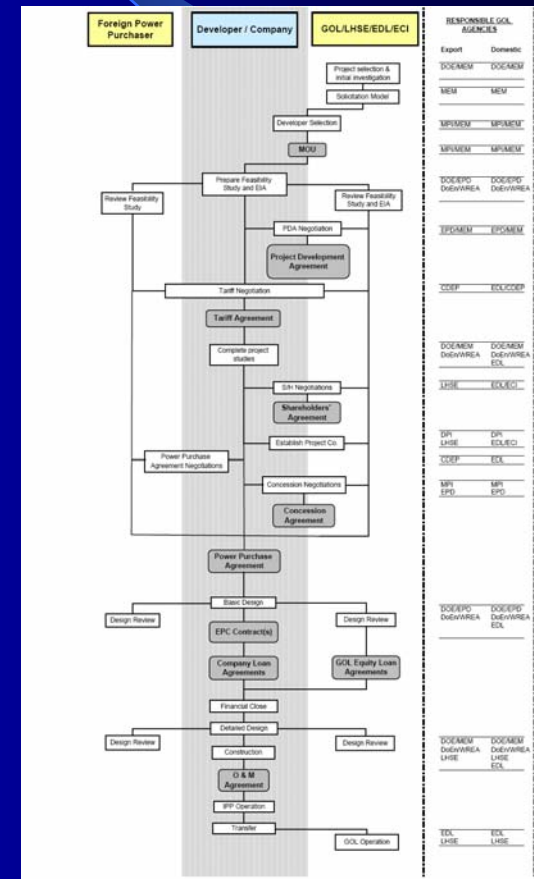
MRC Perspective of Needs:

- Relevant to all MRC Programme work and Areas (advancing sustainable hydropower is cross-cutting. Multi disciplinary and multi-sector challenge)
- Areas outside the MRC Programme that impacting on MRC role
- Advocacy-centred research to address needs is most helpful when backed by multi-stakeholder peer review – we are all advocates!

Relevance to sustainable hydropower – in terms of Focus

Relevant

- to improving both policy and practice
- to all stages of the planning and project cycle
- to all stakeholder interests and expectations
- to linking research to practice from more dialogue between academia and practitioners – currently missing



Defining the Opportunity Space ?

Topics of Research Coordination for Sustainable Hydropower

Strategic Communication?

Other?

Modelling tools?

Environment flow assessment
and provision?

Benefit sharing?

Regulatory systems incorporating
sustainable considerations?

Electricity-poverty linkages ?

Impact Mitigation
effectiveness?

Sediment-nutrient topics?

Translation of Existing
Research (e.g. Chinese) ?

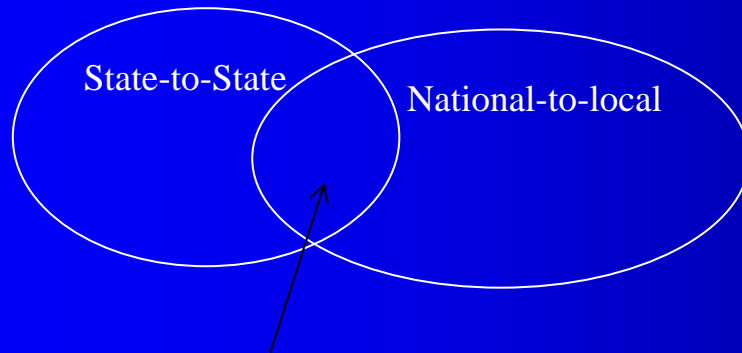
Fisheries cumulative
impacts?

Food security and energy security
synergies and tradeoffs?

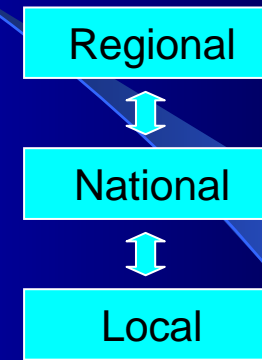
New hydro technologies
for instream use?

Opportunity space for benefit sharing

Transboundary > National > Local chain of benefit sharing



Transition / Overlap
LMB Mainstream Schemes & Significant Tributary Scheme



Mechanisms for benefit sharing

- Between States (1995 Mekong Agreement > Mekong Fund?)
- National to local (national legislation)
- Financed by tariff mechanism (user pay principle) primarily, plus other



Thank you

