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For sustainable development



MRC – Mekong-Lancang Cooperation engagement

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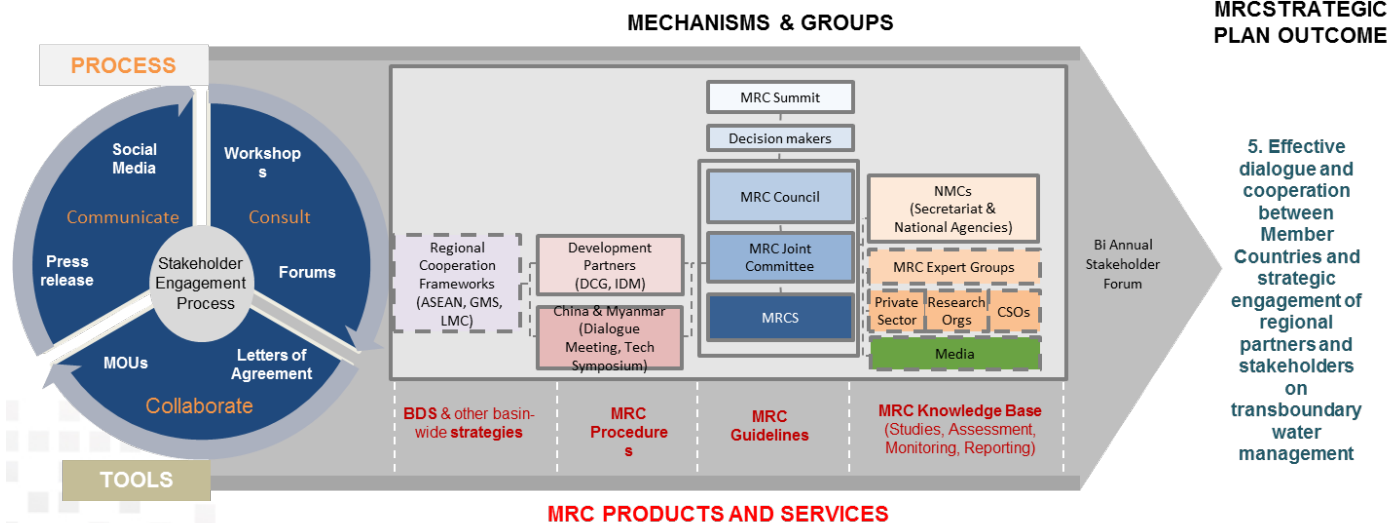


MRC is the only River Basin Organization in the Mekong

- Established by international treaty – the 1995 Mekong Agreement
- Highest level of commitments from Prime Ministers (2010 & 2014 Summits), yearly ministerial meetings (MRC Council), heads of departments meetings twice yearly (JC), regular technical meetings and
- broader stakeholder forums (basin planning, climate change, fisheries, etc)



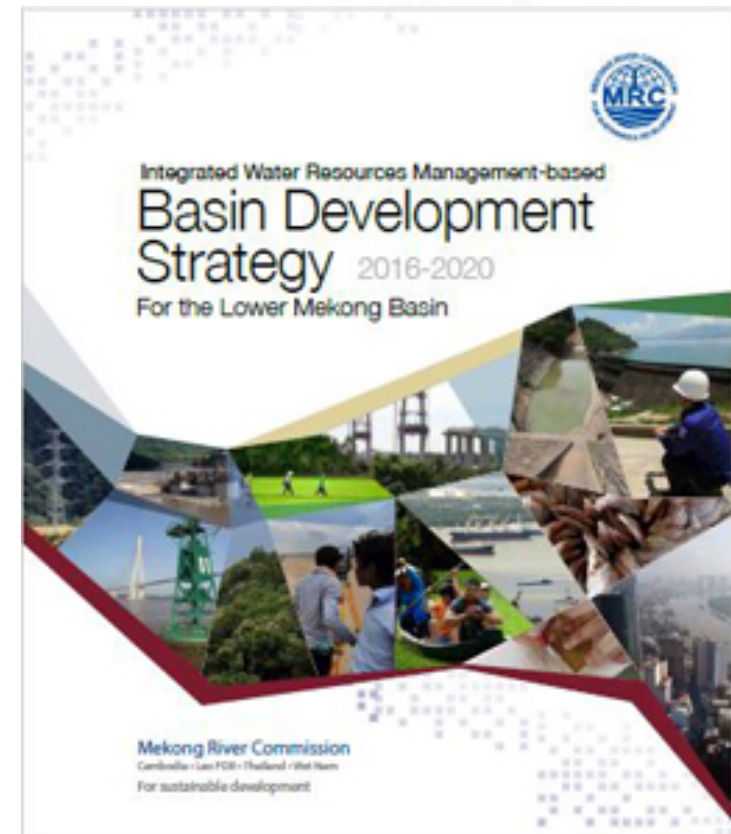
MRC Partners and Stakeholder Engagement Platform



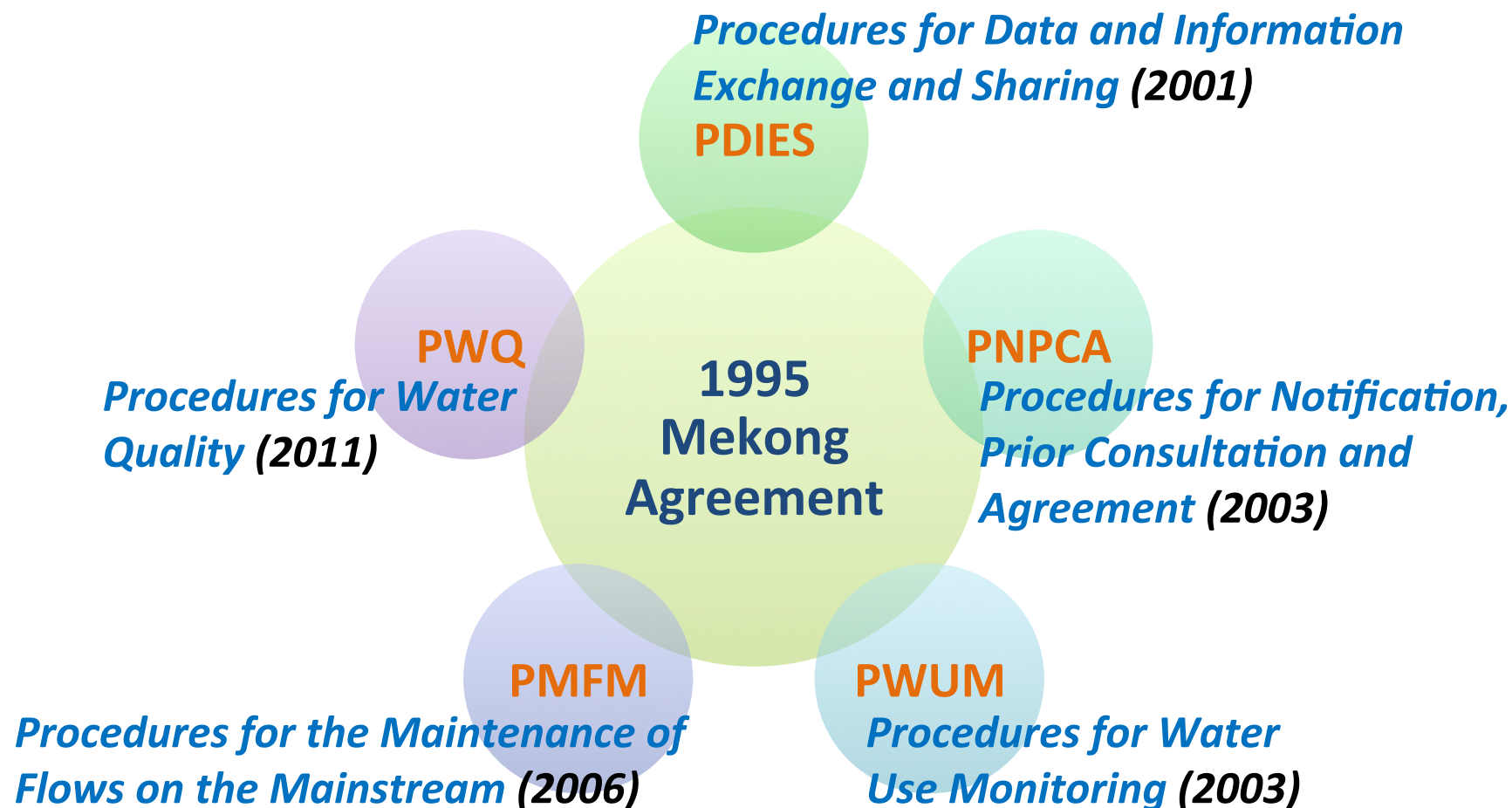
MRC is only one with agreed basin-wide Basin Development Strategy and forthcoming basin strategies for climate change, fisheries, navigation, hydropower, environment, etc



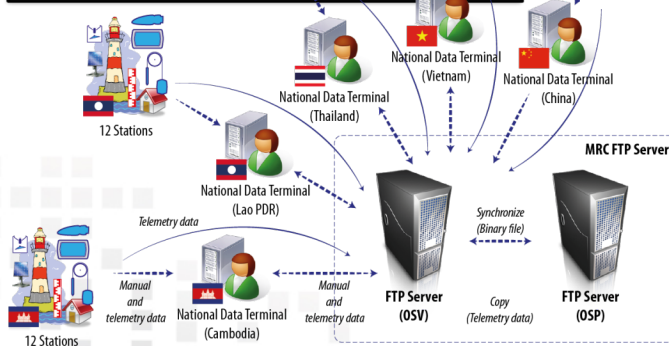
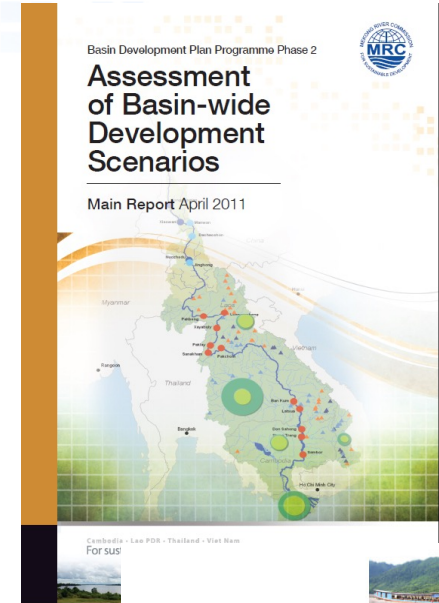
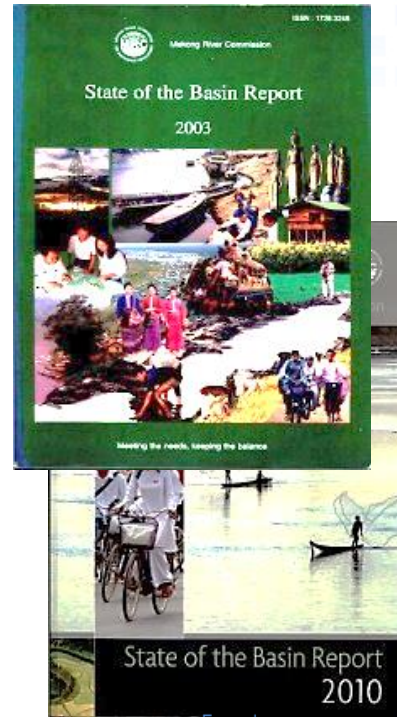
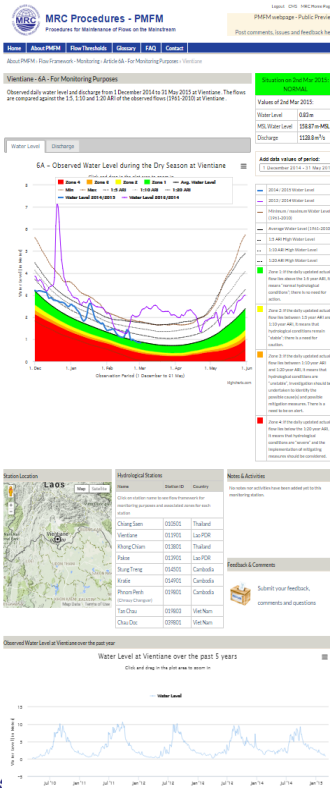
- identifies development opportunities, risks, and
- priorities for development and management of water resources in the region through joint actions and projects



MRC is the only one with comprehensive Procedures framework for managing the basin



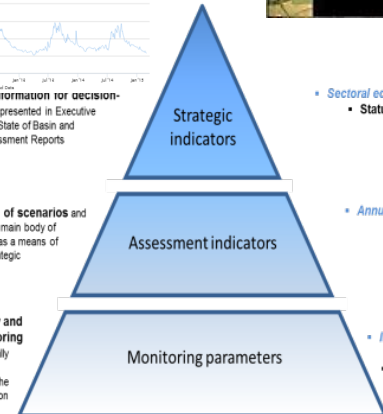
MRC has the most extensive and sound knowledge base about the Mekong: monitoring, assessments, guidelines since 1957...



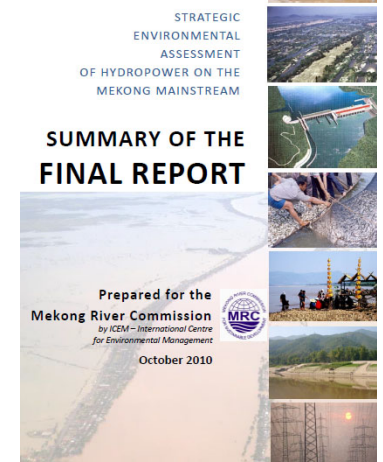
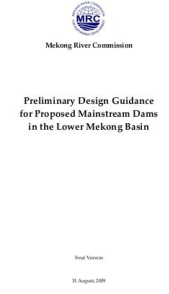
high-level information for decision-takers, eg as presented in Executive Summaries of State of Basin and Scenario Assessment Reports

Comparison of scenarios and sections in the main body of the SoB, both as a means of generating strategic indicators

Field survey and other monitoring data periodically collected and maintained in the MRC information system

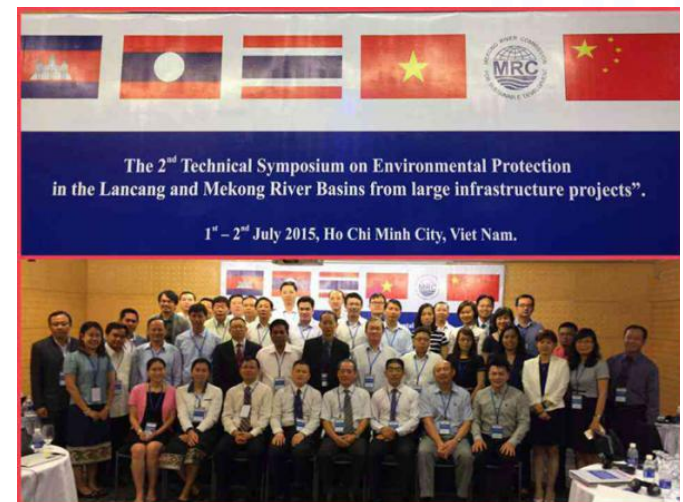


- **Sectoral economic performance**
 - Status of river-dependant livelihoods
- **Annual sectoral economic output and exports**
 - Employment and incomes in fisheries
- **Installed capacity and irrigated area**
 - Per capita incomes obtained from census and SIMVA records



MRC has long standing cooperation with China

- Participates in **MRC Summits** at ministerial level
- Hold annual **Dialogue Partners Meeting**
- Hold regular **joint technical symposiums**
- Participates in MRC activities such as basin development planning
- **Shares data and information** during the flood season
- Released “water supplement” during drought and conducted joint observation and prepared joint report
- Will conduct **Joint Assessment** of past extreme events



Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework



Background

- Established by China & five lower Mekong riparians: Foreign Ministers Meeting (Nov 2015) and Leaders Meeting (Mar 2016)
- **Joint Communique of Foreign Ministers:** “LMC will adhere to the spirit of openness and inclusiveness and complement and work in tandem **with other sub-regional frameworks** such as GMS, ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) and **Mekong River Commission (MRC)**...”
- **Sanya Declaration:** “follow the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, tally with the priority areas of ASEAN Community building and ASEAN-China cooperation, and complement and develop in **synergy with existing sub-regional cooperation mechanisms.**”

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework



- 3 pillars of cooperation: (1) political and security issues, (2) economic and sustainable development, and (3) social, cultural and people-to-people exchanges
- 5 priority areas: 1) connectivity, 2) production capacity, 3) cross-border economic cooperation, 4) **water resources**, 5) agriculture and poverty reduction
- China's MOFA (Mar 2016): *“**water resource cooperation** will be proactively carried out. We will develop hydroelectric resources of Lancang-Mekong River in a scientific manner, establish Lancang-Mekong water resource cooperation center, share information and data of the River, and jointly protect the ecological resources along the River, to provide better life for the residents living by the River.”*

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework



Sanya Declaration:

- “Support efficient operation of AIIB... and seek support from AIIB in addressing the financing gap in infrastructure development”
- “Establish a LMC Fund, provide concessional loans and special loans”
- List of “early harvest” projects
- Joint working groups.. to develop and implement LMC projects

Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework



MRC-MLC engagement

Current:

- Management level of National Mekong Committee Secretariats represent Mekong countries in WG on water resources

Possible future actions:

- Relating to sharing of engagement information from countries at MRC governance meetings, MRCS role in supporting WG meetings & LMC projects, and future collaboration with LMC Water Resources Cooperation Center