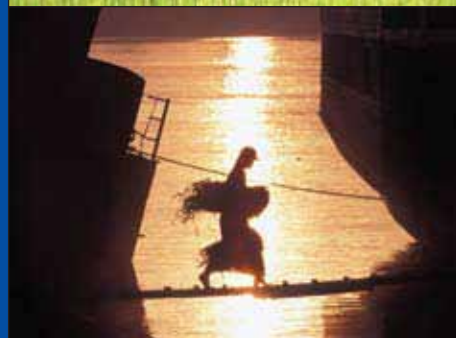




Mekong River Commission

MRC Work Programme 2012



MRC Work Programme 2012

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FOREWORD

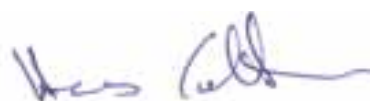
On behalf of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), I have the pleasure to present the MRC Work Programme for the year 2011 to our Member Countries, development partners, agencies, and friends of the Mekong River Commission.

The structure of the programme is based on the new MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. All MRC activities and programmes support the Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development of Integrated Water Resources in the Mekong River Basin - the Mekong Programme, owned by the Mekong Countries. The MRC Work Programme 2012 describes the supporting outputs MRC will produce in the course of the year to further the Mekong Programme.

The MRC is entering to a second year implementing its Strategic Plan 2011-2015, all MRC programmes became more result-oriented structure. With this, programmes will be in line with the implementation of the river basin management core functions activities and decentralisation. Some MRC programmes and projects recently have their new phases for 2011-2015 approved, namely Basin Development Plan, Flood Management and Mitigation, Drought Management, Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative. Other programmes and Initiatives are forging ahead with their workplan.

The basic structure of the Work Programme 2012 follows that of last year's Work Programme. The result-oriented presentation is maintained and more linkages and improved coordination across programmes are presented. The Work Programme 2012 starts with a general introduction to the MRC. The second part of the Work Programme then presents the MRC integrated programme structure, with an overview of the programmes and their active agreements and funding sources. The third part provides the reader with concise information on the structure and goals for each programme. It provides the progress of implementation per programme in 2011 with a chart on budget status and description of its output achievements. Planned outputs and activities per programme for the year 2012 are also described. In addition, a graphical illustration on the achieved outputs for 2011 and planned outputs for 2012 is provided for those Programmes that have already been funded.

Successful implementation of the Work Programme 2012 requires participation of the international development partner community, stakeholders and continued contributions from the MRC Member Countries. I should therefore like to take the opportunity to thank our development partners and colleagues for the continued support to MRC's work for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin.



Hans Guttman
Chief Executive Officer
MRC Secretariat

PREFACE

The Work Programme 2012 contains brief descriptions of MRC programmes and explains how they are contributing to the newly approved MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. It includes an activity plan for 2012 including a list of the active Programme and their budget. The Work Programme presents the status of activities carried out in 2011 including graphic presentations of output achievement indicators. In line with the new Strategic Plan 2011-2015, and incorporating recent developments, the integrated programme structure of the MRC is composed of the following programmes¹:

- Agriculture and Irrigation Programme;
- Basin Development Plan Programme;
- Drought Management Programme;
- Environment Programme;
- Fisheries Programme;
- Flood Management and Mitigation Programme;
- Information and Knowledge Management Programme;
- Integrated Capacity Building Programme;
- Navigation Programme;
- Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative;
- Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower;
- Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project; And
- Watershed Management Project.

The MRC Work Programme is built around the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), defined as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

A summary overview of the programmes is given below:

Agriculture and Irrigation Programme

The MRC's Agriculture Strategy was approved by the MRC Council in 2009. The strategy recommended two immediate actions to move towards the development of a more detailed work programme, which have not yet been undertaken: (1) An institutional mapping exercise to identify key stakeholders and resources in agricultural planning and management in each country, and to understand in more detail their mandates and programmes; (2) Partnering with a selection of key stakeholders to complete a needs analysis for the agricultural sector in each country with particular focus on the strategic planning and regional coordination mandate of MRC.

Taking into account the objectives and outcomes of the MRC Strategy Plan 2011-15, AIP programme document for 2011-15 has been under development, in which the main activities would focus on IWRM-based agricultural water management and development.

¹ 'Programme' with a lower case 'p' is used to denote all MRC Programmes, Projects, and Initiatives.

Basin Development Plan Programme

A key part of 1995 Mekong Agreement is the need for the four riparian countries to cooperate in “the formulation of a Basin Development Plan (BDP) that would be used to identify, categorize and prioritize the projects and programmes to seek assistance for and to implement at the Basin level” (Article 2). Further, the countries have agreed to undertake this planning to achieve “the full potential of sustainable benefits to all riparian countries and the prevention of wasteful use of Mekong River Basin waters, with emphasis and preference on joint and/or basin-wide development projects and basin programs”.

The Basin Development Plan Programme works to achieve this aim by facilitating a collaborative basin development planning process among MRC Member Countries and stakeholders to prepare, implement and regularly update a Basin Development Plan based on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Transparent access to information and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders are fundamental for this planning process, which is supported by regular update of the knowledge base, improved assessment tools, strengthened IWRM planning capacity of line agencies, River Basin Organizations (RBOs), NMCSs and MRCS.

Two phases of the BDP Programme have been completed. Phase 1 (2001-2006) developed the participatory 7-stage rolling basin planning process that provides the necessary interplay between national and basin planning. Phase 2 (2007-2010) built on the planning process to prepare the first Basin Development Plan that comprises an assessment of basin-wide development scenarios and an adopted IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy for the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), which provides directions for basin development and management, and the harmonization of national and regional planning.

In the rolling planning cycle, the next five years (2011-2015) should see the BDP, in particular the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy implemented and updated, taking into account new knowledge and development dynamics in the basin. At the same time, as the MRC is moving towards core river basin management functions, basin development planning should be institutionalized as part of national planning systems.

Drought Management Programme

The MRC Drought Management Programme 2011-2015 is a result of a series of national and regional consultations with MRC Member Countries and stakeholders, dating back to 2006, and inspired by high level decisions of the Member Countries' Heads of Government (1st MRC Summit), Council, and the Joint Committee. The DMP 2011-2015 is a progressive development of the DMP document (dated 23 March 2007), DMP Start-Up Project 2008, Initial Drought Management Project 2010-2011, and the decision of the 2nd Regional Meeting which took place in Ho Chi Minh City on March 4th, 2011.

Environment Programme

The MRC Environment Programme is based on the scope, guidance and framework provided by the 1995 Mekong Agreement. It furthermore responds to the MRC vision of sustainable development, contribution to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for the Member Countries and the decision by the MRC Member Countries to use IWRM based approaches for basin planning and management. Implicit and explicit references in the 1995 Mekong Agreement to environment and related issues are in Article 3 - Protection of the Environment and Ecological Balance; Article 7 - Prevention and Cessation of Harmful Effects; Article 10 -

Emergency Situations; and Article 24 - Functions of the Joint Committee.

The Environment Programme 2011-2015 has been formulated in conjunction with the development of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and aligned with the MRC Core River Basin Management Functions. Implementation of the MRC River Basin Management Functions warrants integration of the implementation with other key MRC programmes which has been reflected by means of shared outputs and/or activities.

Fisheries Programme

The Fisheries Programme 2011-2015 was initiated in January 2011. It builds on the achievements of two earlier phases of the Programme (FP1, 2001 – 2005 and FP2, 2006-2010), specifically in the areas of facilitation of the development of a sound scientific understanding of LMB fisheries by riparian stakeholders, and supporting its communication; monitoring of status and trends of Mekong fisheries, and mitigation of the impacts of developments and climate change; support to regional dialogue on LMB fisheries management and development; fisheries management and governance, and aquaculture of indigenous species. The primary focus of activities is on trans-boundary issues affecting fisheries, so that appropriate fisheries information is available for other MRC programmes. Information produced by the Fisheries Programme 2011-2015 is incorporated into national and regional management and development plans, with a view to continuously increase fisheries productivity and maintain a healthy ecosystem.

FP11/15 has in-built flexibility that enables it to adapt to emerging issues. It is expected, that such emerging issues will be identified during the Programme's Inception Phase (January - June 2011), in accordance with the current emphasis on hydropower development in the LMB, as well as impacts from climate change, and the associated risks to the existing fisheries.

The Programme operates within one shared system of support functions and infrastructure. Activities, counterparts and support staff are maintained in each of the riparian countries, building an excellent network with line agencies and research institutes. Virtually all field-based activities of the Programme are conducted through fisheries line agencies and fisher organizations, although national consultants are also used when necessary for particular activities. Work Agreements are developed with counterpart organizations at the start of the year, which outline the work content, outputs and respective responsibilities, and funds available. Capacity development, formal and informal training, and gender awareness are inherent elements of the Programme. The Programme places a high priority on reporting its work not only in English but riparian languages as well, in many different formats (technical and non-technical publications, postings on web sites, films, books, brochures, posters, and a regular, widely-circulated newsletter).

Flood Management and Mitigation Programme

The FMMP 2004-2010 has been instrumental to establishing a "fully operational" RFMMC as one of its major outputs. At present the RFMMC is a formally established regional centre for flood management and mitigation of the MRC Member Countries. The FMMP 2011-2015 is no longer the overarching programme providing flood management and mitigation support to the MRC Member Countries, is from 2011 onwards a "support programme" to the RFMMC. The role of the RFMMC is to provide products & services to the MRC Member Countries. One of its key services is to provide Mekong mainstream flood forecasting and dry season flow monitoring, basin-wide flash flood guidance, as well as to provide related training & capacity building, as well as to report, document and disseminate related developments and findings.

The design of FMMP 2011-2015 has been completed; the programme document was approved during the 33rd Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee on 25-26 March 2011 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The structure of the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme 2011-2015 follows the MRC format; it has 5 outcomes and 15 outputs. A large number of activities and sub-activities are designed to achieve the outputs. The outcomes support the FMMP Objective 2011-2015, which contributes to the MRC Strategic Goal 2011-2015.

The FMMP 2011-2015 during the period 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011 is implementing the Bridging Period funded by the Netherlands. The funding is linked to specific outputs, thereby facilitating not only the consolidation of FMMP 2004-2010 uptake of products, but also the RFMMC key functions. Besides it provides conditions to support ICCS and other MRC programmes to promote FMMP 2011-2015 and engage development partners into the funding of FMMP 2011-2015.

Information and Knowledge Management Programme

Under the management of the Technical Support Division, IKMP provides data, information and knowledge services. This follows from the Mission of the MRC defined in the Strategic Plan for 2011-15: to promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being and from the Strategic Plan definition of the MRC as a knowledge-based organisation.

IKMP provides base data and integrated information and knowledge products, services, systems and tools. Access to and use of the data, information and decision support tools are necessary to promote and co-ordinate sustainable development of water and related resources in the Mekong Basin in corporation with international and regional agencies on data, information and knowledge sharing.

IKMP was formulated in December 2006 and has been supported by funding from Australia, Finland, and France.

Integrated Capacity Building Programme

In 2008, the ICBP was established as a cross cutting programme to support building MRC capacities needed for achieving the mandate set out in the Agreement. 'Capacity-building' is widely regarded as an important strategy in ensuring sustainable water sector development. In 1991 during a UNDP symposium, the Delft Declaration was agreed. It established three elements of water sector capacity building:

- Human resources development and the strengthening of managerial systems;
- Institutional development, including community participation; and
- The creation of an enabling environment with the appropriate policy and legal frameworks.

The Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) countries have set the first two elements as priorities for the ICBP, while other MRC Programmes support improvements in policy and legal frameworks within target sectors. ICBP phase 2 will focus its effort on the achievement of the Goal 4 and 5 of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 with a specific focus on the support to MRC to better implement the MRC procedures. Improving the capacity for the Member Countries to better implement the MRC Procedures is the primary focus for the MRC to achieve the Mekong Agreement's objective which is also ICBP's objective set in the ICBP Programme Document 2009-2013. By empowering the Member Countries through a coherent capacity building process, the identified and prioritized riparian professionals from Line Agencies will be able to implement more effectively activities set and required by the MRC Procedures.

Navigation Programme

The NAP went through its preparatory phase in 2005 and started full implementation in August 2006. The NAP's objective is to promote freedom of navigation and increase international trade opportunities for the MRC Member Countries' mutual benefit, and to assist in coordination and cooperation in developing effective and safe waterborne transport in a sustainable and protective manner for the waterway environment. The Programme addresses issues as diverse as regional transport planning and the comparative advantages of waterborne transport, a new legal framework for Mekong navigation, measures to strengthen safety and environmental protection, improved information and coordination systems and institutional development through capacity and partnership building within the navigation sector. In addition, the Programme seeks to develop national and regional management capacities; not only to ensure that the Programme as such is implemented, but also to strengthen the voice and role of the navigation sector in national and regional development planning. Broadly speaking, the NAP focuses on three main areas: navigation safety and efficiency, legal framework for cross-border transport (trade facilitation), and environmental sustainability.

The Navigation Strategy is not a rolling plan but a blueprint for LMB inland navigation development and coordination. The current Navigation Programme will run until December 2012 but planned activities which have not been implemented but considered priority will continue beyond 2012 and will be implemented under the next phase of the NAP which will be aligned with the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative

The Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) was formulated in response to a call by the MRC Council at its 14th Meeting. The CCAI serves as a long-term collaborative regional initiative to assist the Member Countries in adapting to the new challenges posed by climate change, by building a systematic process of adaptation planning, implementation and learning. The comprehensive CCAI Framework Document was approved by the MRC Council at its 17th meeting in January 2011 and was used as the basis for the implementation of priority activities during the 18-month interim period 2009-2010. The CCAI Programme Document 2011-2015 to guide CCAI implementation in the first 5-year phase was approved by MRC Joint Committee in August 2011.

Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower

The 2-part objective of the ISH is that: decisions concerning the management and development of hydropower in the Lower Mekong are placed in a river basin planning and management perspective by applying IWRM principles. MRC and key stakeholders actively cooperate to bring sustainable hydropower considerations into the planning systems and regulatory frameworks of Member Countries, and into project-level hydropower planning, preparation, design, implementation and operation practices.

The Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) thus recognizes that the challenge ahead is not only about informing decisions about possible new hydropower schemes, or their design features. It is also to clarify thinking about the sort of cooperation that is needed among Mekong countries to sustainably manage the growing number of existing hydropower assets in the lower Mekong basin, as the cumulative and transboundary impacts of these projects are increasingly felt. Such considerations need to be linked also to wider strategies for sustainable development of the regional power sector.

The operational strategy for the ISH in 2012 is to continue to scale-up activities detailed in the ISH plan for 2011-2015 to an optimal level consistent with the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The ISH is implemented as a cross-cutting initiative, working closely with and through other MRC Programs. This approach enables the MRC to help Member Countries handle the full range of multi-disciplinary issues that are integral to the sustainability challenge for hydropower in the Mekong context.

Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) Council approved the Project Document of the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRMP) in November 2009. The project is designed as a follow-up of the previous Water Utilization Programme (WUP). It builds on the MRC's work to implement the water utilization procedures and finalise their technical guidelines and promote the use of water resources management tools. Further, through its three tiered approach the project supports the LMB countries to strengthen IWRM at the basin-wide and national levels while promoting transboundary cooperation through IWRM-based specific pro-poor water and related resources management projects. As such, the project addresses IWRM with its three interlinked regional, national and transboundary components.

As accepted by the donor funding, AusAID agreed to provide a grant of AUS\$ 7 million for the MRC to implement the regional component. It is planned that the World Bank (WB) will also provide grant of \$US7.8 million to the M-IWRMP as negotiated in March 2011; however the pending of WB Board approval delays the funding to all the three components of the M-IWRMP. Currently, the project is run by the full support from the AusAID fund to the regional component of the M-IWRMP. In addition and in order to enable the drafting of transboundary project proposals in the delayed of WB fund, AusAID provided US\$ 50,000 to trigger the formulation of transboundary project proposals, and the implementation of the transboundary projects will only be possible when the World Bank Grant to the MRCS would be available.

Watershed Management Project

MRC-GIZ Watershed Management Project (WSMP) ended in May 2011. Building on the long and important work of MRC-GIZ WSMP, MRC has cooperated with KfW to continue its effort to develop a model for watersheds in the Lower Mekong Basin to: a) secure watershed functions of the Nam Ton watersheds, and b) improve livelihoods in the Nam Ton Project area. The Project has been appraised and formulated since 2005, with a commitment of up to 5.11 million EUR, in which it will be channeled to two partners, 4,612,918.81 EUR will be disbursed directly to the Project-Executing Agency (GoL - WREA/LNMCs and MAF) and 500,000 EUR will be disbursed directly to the Recipient (Mekong River Commission). The Project has two parts: Project Part I covers all Project measures within the Project area, and is carried out by the Lao Government and the local people. With output 1, communities are assisted to establish and execute sustainable village based land use planning. Through output 2, farmers are supported to use appropriate farming systems. With Project Part II, MRC facilitates regional water resources development and pilots replicable development solutions through support to regional analysis and up-scaling. Project Part I became operational in October 2010, Project Part II started in March 2010.

Contact Details

Additional copies of the MRC Work Programme 2011 can be made available to interested agencies upon request. It is also possible to provide copies of detailed comprehensive programme proposals upon request. Further information is provided in the MRC website. For this purpose, kindly contact the MRC Secretariat's International Cooperation and Communication Section, at the following address:

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Interested readers are invited to visit the MRC home page at <http://www.mrcmekong.org>

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Agence Française du Développement (French Agency for Development)
AIP	Agriculture and Irrigation Programme
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BDP	Basin Development Plan – Basin Development Plan Programme
CNMC	Cambodia National Mekong Committee
CPWF	Challenge Programme on Water and Food
CCAI	Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative
DMP	Drought Management Project
DSF	Decision Support Framework
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EP	Environment Programme
FAS	Finance and Administration Section
FP	Fisheries Programme
FMMP	Flood Management and Mitigation Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-Region
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IBFM	Integrated Basin Flow Management
IWQM	Integrated Water Quality Management
ICBP	Integrated Capacity Building Programme
ICCS	International Cooperation and Communication Section
ICLARM	International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
IKMP	Information and Knowledge Management Programme
ISH	Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower
JRP	Junior Riparian Professional
LMB	Lower Mekong Basin
LNMC	Lao National Mekong Committee
MDBC	Murray-Darling Basin Commission
M-IWRMP	Mekong- Integrated Water Resources Management Project
MRB	Mekong River Basin
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MRCS	Mekong River Commission Secretariat
NAP	Navigation Programme
NMC	National Mekong Committee
PDIES	Procedures for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing
PMFM	Procedures for Maintenance of Flows in the Mainstream
PNPCA	Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation, and Agreement
PWUM	Procedures for Water Use Monitoring
PWQ	Procedures for Water Quality

RBO	River Basin Organization
RC	Research Coordination
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TACT	Technical Assistance and Coordination Team
TNMC	Thai National Mekong Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNMC	Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
WG	Working Group



Figure 1: Map of the Mekong River Basin

1 Introduction to the Mekong River Commission

1.1 Background

On the 5th of April 1995, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, signed the “Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin”. This agreement formed the Mekong River Commission (MRC) which replaced the Committee for Coordination of Investigation of the Lower Mekong Basin (the Mekong Committee) and the Interim Mekong Committee, which were established in 1957 and 1978 respectively. The MRC also holds an official dialogue with the two other countries of the Mekong River Basin, China and Myanmar, which are not signatories to the 1995 Agreement.

The purpose of the 1995 Agreement is to optimize the multiple-use and mutual benefits of all riparians and to minimize the harmful effects that might result from natural occurrences and man-made activities.

1.2 Areas of Cooperation

Article 1 in the 1995 Agreement obliges the signatories "To cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilization, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin..."

Article 2 stipulates the promotion of sustainable development of the full potential and prevention of wasteful uses of the Mekong River Basins waters for the benefit of all riparian states.

Article 3 charges the signatories with protection of the environment, ecological balance and natural resources from harmful effects from the development of the basin's water and related resources.

These three articles set the scope for the work of the Commission. Further details of the cooperation and its implementation framework are set out in the ensuing articles of the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

1.3 Structure

The MRC enjoys the status of an international body. The Commission has formal agreements for cooperation with a range of regional and international organisations. The MRC consists of three permanent bodies: Council, Joint Committee and Secretariat (see Figure 2). The National Mekong Committee Secretariats (NMCSs) are the focal points for the Commission in each of the Member Countries.

The MRC Secretariat as the technical and administrative arm of the MRC works closely with the NMCSs of the MRC Member Countries. The structure of the Secretariat is presented in the diagram below (Figure 3). The structure was introduced in December 2005 and updated in May 2009 to align it with newly established initiatives. The budget of the Commission consists of contributions from its Member States and the Development Partner community. Formal consultations with the Development Partners are undertaken through the annual Donor Consultative Group meeting and other regular meetings.

Figure 2: MRC Organisational Structure

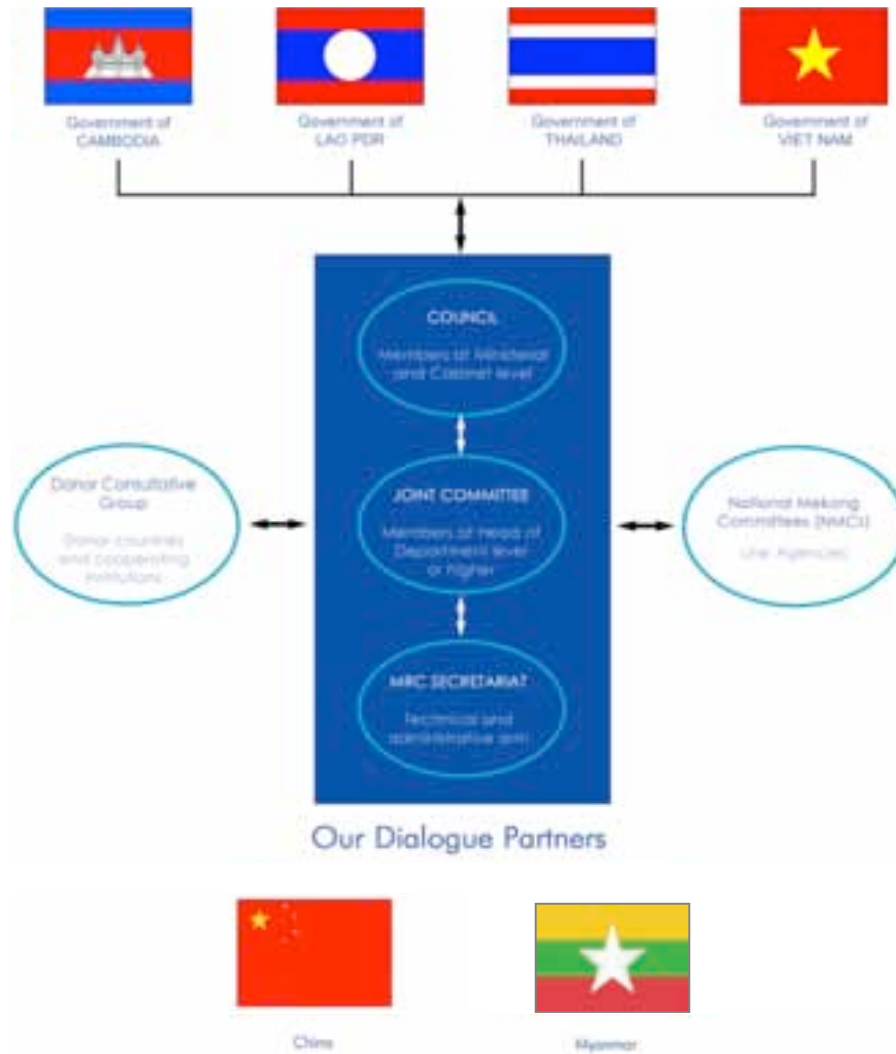


Figure 3: MRC Secretariat Organisational Structure



Global and regional trends and hydropower developments in the Lancang-Upper Mekong Basin offer both opportunities and threats in the LMB. At the same time, there are many priority issues within the LMB, and within each of the four countries, that influence how and when land and water resources could be developed.

Global Developments

Fluctuating oil and natural gas prices, an emphasis on renewable and non-fossil fuel generation, and the availability of private finance, are making hydropower increasingly attractive and accelerating its development in the Mekong Basin. Global food shortages and rising prices can make irrigation more profitable in the LMB, while irrigation development may attract investors from foreign entities that seek more diversified food types. These trends need to be considered in the light of global climate change, which might change future water availability. Climate change models predict a wetter wet season and a largely unaffected dry season in the Basin; the Delta is highly vulnerable to sea level rise.

Basin and National Level Developments

Despite impressive economic growth over the past decade within the basin countries, much of the Mekong Basin itself remains among the world's poorest areas. Many parts of the basin have various levels of poverty affecting up to 40 percent of the population. Governments of the basin countries increasingly recognize that developing the economic potential of the Mekong river system in a sustainable way can alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods.

In the Lancang-Upper Mekong Basin, China is completing its hydropower cascade on the Lancang, which, if operated to maximise electricity generation, may cause over the next few years a very significant seasonal redistribution of flow from the wet season to the dry season. This would provide an opportunity for expansion of irrigation in LMB but the dams will also cause sediment and nutrient trapping, which could result in reduction in wetland productivity and capture fisheries and consequent social implications.

In the LMB, the predicted population growth will increase demand for electricity and food resources, and thus increase pressures on the basin's scarce water resources in the dry season. Also, higher living standards bring changes in attitudes to flooding and land use, which require innovative approaches and policies to both flood protection and irrigation expansion on the delta flood plains. Climate change will further increase the growing pressures from land development and sea level rise.

All four LMB countries have targeted poverty reduction strategies within their national socio-economic and sector plans, and these all include the development of water resources for irrigation, flood management, hydropower, domestic water supply, fisheries and other uses. In particular the ambitious irrigation and hydropower development plans will significantly impact on how the basin's resources are used and consumed. Dry season irrigation is planned to increase by 50% and hydropower capacity by 400% in the next 20 years.

Development plans of this size and scope bring with them both "synergies", or complementary effects between projects, and "trade-offs", where benefits for one area or sector create impacts for another. The challenge is to optimize

the synergies and prevent, mitigate, and/or compensate the impacts within a basin perspective, taking into account the foreseeable impacts of the developments in the Lancang-Upper Mekong Basin and climate change. This requires strong IWRM understanding and capabilities across the Basin and across institutions, and time for consultation, to develop preferred negotiating positions.

Poverty

Millions of people living in different geographical areas of the LMB depend on the river system for their livelihoods. Many of them live in poor conditions with limited access to clean water and sanitation, employment or even sufficient food. Many of the population face uncertainties, such as flooding and other disasters, lack of land ownership and consequences from global economic failure. There are limited channels that allow them to take part in decisions on issues concerning water resource management, impacts of development or access to common goods such as lands and flooded forests. National economic development, supporting infrastructure and welfare are still sparse. Such factors further contribute to the conditions of poverty and vulnerability.

The water and aquatic resources of the Mekong Basin, such as fish, other aquatic animals and plants, are virtually free and play a vital role in ensuring food, income and livelihood security for many people across the LMB. In rural areas, particularly, poverty and food security are strongly linked.

Population Growth

About 60 million people live in the Lower Mekong Basin, according to national population statistics of the four LMB countries. The figures indicate that the overall population has increased by about 12 per cent since the figures were reported in 2003 (55 million) although the trends vary between countries. The LMB population has increased by 25 per cent in Cambodia, by about six per cent in Lao PDR, has remained the same in Thailand and increased by about 10 per cent in Viet Nam. The percentage of population and territory within the basin varies between countries. Cambodia and Lao PDR lie largely within the basin but together comprise only 30 per cent of the basin population. The basin territory in Thailand is only 37 per cent of the country and comprises about 39 per cent of the basin's population. In Viet Nam, the Mekong Delta and Central Highlands comprise only 20 per cent of the country but contain 31 per cent of the basin's population.

Agricultural Livelihoods

Agricultural production in the LMB has been shaped by a drive towards modernisation and trade expansion as well as the sector's continued importance for food security and as a source of income. Crops are grown in both upland and lowland (floodplain) areas of the basin. Forms of upland agriculture vary considerably depending on cultural practices and local soil and topographic conditions. Major upland farming systems include shifting and semi-shifting cultivation and rainfed crops with little irrigation. A significant trend is the spread of plantations for commercial production of rubber and energy crops, both as a result of a rise in energy prices (and related demand for biofuels) as well as increased demand for agricultural commodities more generally. Expansion of agriculture often encroaches into forest areas.

Agriculture across the basin involves a mix of subsistence and commercialised production. In general, farming households focus first on production to meet household needs and then sell whatever surplus they produce. Although there are large regional differences, it is mainly lowland households that have gradually made a transition into more commercialised

modes of agricultural production, especially in northeast Thailand and the Viet Nam delta.

A strategic focus in all national agricultural development plans is emerging, although some are long term (to 2050 and beyond) and not necessarily explicit (such as the likelihood that Vietnam will source rice from Cambodia in 2030, when its own population has expanded and industry and urbanization have encroached on its available agricultural land, which may be further reduced by the sea level rise impacts of climate change). Some consideration of these longer-term questions of what agriculture and the host economies will be like in 30-50 years would be instructive at many levels.

Drought

Drought periods in the basin can occur at any time of the year to a differing extent. Through their impacts on agriculture and fisheries, droughts impose significant costs on people of the basin but, unlike floods, they provide no apparent benefits. The likelihood of a 'drought year' is highest in Lao PDR and Thailand (two years in five) and declines as one moves down the basin through Cambodia and Viet Nam (one year in three).

The severity of a drought depends upon its intensity (i.e. water deficit, water use deficit or yield deficit), its timing and duration, and its socio-economic impact (e.g. effects on land use, infrastructure and society). In the LMB, the main structural measure for reducing the risk of drought is the provision of irrigation, local storage and conjunctive use of groundwater with surface water. In addition, drought forecasting and drought-resistant crops are also expected to play an increasing role in future risk management in the LMB.

During the past decade, drought events in the Mekong River basin (MRB) have increased in frequency and severity. Now considered a common phenomenon in the region, periodic drought inflicts significant socio-economic impacts on the basin's population that is highly dependent on the MRB's water supply, natural resources and food production systems. The MRC's recent attention to drought management originated with the drought events of 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, when unusually low flows in the MRB and seasonal deficiencies in regional rainfall led to severe agricultural losses in north-eastern Thailand and Cambodia, and critical levels of saline intrusion in the Mekong Delta. These impacts resulted in calls for national and regional action at the highest political levels within the MRC.

Adapting to Climate Change

The main issues related to climate change in the LMB are the possible impacts and adaptation to the changes that may occur. The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) and the IPCC Technical Paper on Climate and Water (Bates et al. 2008) outline current understanding of the climate change impacts on water resources. Many of the impacts envisaged by the IPCC can be expected to affect the Mekong Basin. The projected weather pattern changes point to increasing variability, e.g. less rain during the dry season and more rain during the wet season and more frequent extreme weather events, although with regional differences within the basin (Eastham et al. 2008). Seasonal water shortages and floods may become worse, as may saltwater intrusion into the Mekong Delta due to storm surges and sea level rise (Carew-Reid 2007; SIWRP 2008). Impacts of such changes are expected to affect natural ecosystems and agriculture, and exacerbate the challenges of satisfying increasing food demands from growing populations (Hoanh et al. 2003).

Planned developments in the LMB over the next 20 years in combination with climate change will affect the hydrology, the environment and people's

livelihoods. In some areas this will exacerbate the challenges of dealing with climate change and in other areas developments can counteract climate change impacts. Climate change adaptation has to be seen in this context, ensuring cost-efficient solutions.

Sustainable Hydropower

Hydropower is an important energy resource for all people living in the Mekong Basin – both now and for the future. The Mekong region has considerable hydroelectric potential at all scales from larger scale schemes of up to 2,000 MW installed capacity, or more, to small, mini and micro scale hydropower for decentralized grids and isolated supply down to the household level. Slightly over 10 percent (3,235 MW) of the LMB estimated large scale hydroelectric potential of 30,000 MW is now utilized on Mekong tributaries. Most of this is from projects completed in the past two decades.

A further 3,209 MW are currently under construction on LMB tributary systems. A significant shift of recent is the active consideration up to 12 mainstream hydropower schemes on Lao, Lao–Thailand and Cambodian reaches of the mainstream. These have a potential installed capacity of up to 14,000 MW and generate up to 65,000 GWh/yr. For comparison purpose this amount of energy generation is equivalent to slightly more than 10 Nam Theun 2 schemes.

China is actively proceeding with a series of medium and high dam storage projects in the Upper Mekong basin (UMB), on the Lancang Mekong mainstream. Of the seven UMB mainstream projects that are in operation, under construction or actively planned in Yunnan, the two major storage schemes (Xiaowan and Nozahadu) are expected to be operational by 2015. Xiaowan (which was visited by MRCS in June 2010) is impounding. It is expected to be operational later in 2010-11.

The evolution of MRC support to Member Countries in the hydropower sector is characterized by a gradual shift in emphasis away from the sole promotion of hydropower development as a means to underpin economic growth, towards promoting sustainable forms of hydropower management and development. From a sustainability perspective, hydropower projects can no longer be seen only as infrastructure investments that produce electricity and water services. Rather they must be seen as wider development interventions in the river basin setting, where a range of natural resource management and socio-economic considerations come into play.

One overarching consideration in sustainable development of the Mekong is to have clear links between sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin on one hand, and sustainable development of the regional power sector, on the other. While MRC is a river basin organization, not an energy planning body, the strategic outlook for the energy and power sectors of the LMB is a challenge for the MRC.

Navigation

The Mekong is a source of valuable natural resources and has extensive natural navigation potential. Waterborne transport along the Mekong has served as one of the main modes of transportation between communities in the riparian countries since they first settled along its embankments, many centuries ago. While governments and investment banks are directing their regional infrastructure funding towards road and rail transport, the Mekong River Commission continues to stress the importance of investing in the waterborne transport sector. The objective of this support is to attract investments and realise regional trade potential thereby creating better

livelihoods for future generations living in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the region.

For centuries, local people have depended on the Mekong River for trade and transport, both within their own countries and beyond their borders. Economic growth is an important common goal for the four MRC countries and they are all aware that regional and international trade is critical in achieving this result. There is much focus on reducing poverty levels and creating a positive environment for investment and income generation in all four countries. Efficient and cheap transport is a crucial underlying requirement for growth strategies throughout the region and the main justification for national and regional attention to navigation development. As the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) economies grow, river trade between them will increase and shipping beyond the basin will expand as well.

Another reason for the MRC to engage in improving and promoting regional navigation is the reference to sustainable development in Article 3 of the 1995 agreement: *“to protect the environment, natural resources, aquatic life and conditions, and ecological balance of the Mekong River Basin from pollution or other harmful effects resulting from any development plans and uses of water and related resources in the Basin”*.

Environmental-protection measures are lacking in the Mekong region. Only a few rules – which are not properly implemented or enforced – serve to prevent operational pollution. Large-scale oil spills are a threat to the entire ecosystem and to the livelihoods of the people who depend on the river as their main source of nutrition. The MRC is prepared to address this challenge to ensure sustainable use of natural resources in and along the Mekong waterways in order to preserve it as one of the cleanest rivers in the world. The MRC has to ensure that promotion of water transportation is carried out in an environmentally-sustainable way with particular attention paid to the trans-boundary issues involved.

Flooding

The Mekong River is different from most other major rivers by its extreme seasonal discharge fluctuations: very low flows in the dry season and vast flooding in the wet season which nourishes the basin’s extensive wetlands such as the world famous Tonle Sap in Cambodia. Much of the annual flood pulse along the river downstream comprises imported water from upstream, so that disruptive flooding in Cambodia may occur while nearby fields at the same time are unproductive because of shortage of the water for a long period of time.

Floods can occur anywhere in the LMB. Each year, the nature, location and severity of flooding differs across the basin, depending on the underlying characteristics of flood-producing rainfalls and other causative factors. This can best be demonstrated by four examples: the Floods of 2000, 2006, 2008 and the flash flooding of 2009.

Floods disrupt the life and well-being of affected peoples in the LMB, reducing agricultural production (typically rice), curtailing income, fostering sickness and disease, damaging public infrastructure and private assets, interfering with schooling and generally sustaining poverty. Despite these adverse effects, people continue to live in flood-prone areas because of the fertility of the floodplain and population pressure (population density in the Cuu Long Delta is some 450 persons/km²). Over time, the flood-prone peoples of the basin have learned (and in more recent years have been assisted by national governments) to ‘live with floods’.

Productive Fisheries

The inland fisheries of the LMB are among the world's largest, with surveys indicating that the total production is now in the order of 3.6 million tonnes. It is estimated that about 2.1 million tonnes is from capture fisheries and 1.5 million tonnes from aquaculture, of which about one million tonnes is exported. Commercial fishing and aquaculture employ several million people, and the LMB's fisheries are of particular importance for the millions of rural people for whom fishing is a secondary occupation that provides food security and supplementary income.

Fisheries depend on the availability of water and habitat and often compete for these resources with other sectors. The annual 'flood pulse' through a diverse range of natural habitats as well as the artificial habitats of rice fields and reservoirs favours natural fisheries production. The flood pulse inundates foods and liberates nutrients from sediment, supporting high primary productivity, and in turn the food chains that fish depend upon. Most fish and other aquatic species migrate between feeding, spawning and resting habitats. Capture fisheries can be conserved and enhanced by maintaining the annual flood pulse, by conserving key habitats (such as spawning grounds, deep pools and floodplains) and by maintaining connectivity along key migration routes. The total LMB catch comes mainly from the major flood zone and rainfed habitats (primarily rice fields) in about equal quantities. Large water bodies contribute a smaller but significant proportion of the total yield.

Official statistics show that aquaculture production and value have increased dramatically over recent years in Thailand and the Viet Nam delta, with much of the increase due to the culture of tilapia, catfishes and shrimp. Limited data also suggest that commercial catches overall may be stable, increasing slightly in Thailand and declining in Viet Nam. Cultured fishes now dominating sales (by weight) in city markets in Thailand and Lao PDR, are of equal importance to capture fisheries in the markets in the Mekong delta (Viet Nam), but in Phnom Penh as elsewhere in Cambodia capture fish comprise the bulk of sales. However, capture fish are typically more expensive than cultured fish, so the total value of sales of capture fish is comparable to or greater than the value of culture fish in city markets in all four countries. The continuing importance of capture fisheries is apparent despite little investment in their management and enhancement.

Water Supply and Sanitation

Millions of people in the LMB, especially in rural areas, lack access to one of the most basic human needs, safe drinking water and sanitation. About 80 per cent of the LMB population have access to safe drinking water and about 60 per cent have access to hygienic sanitation facilities. The Millennium Development Goals target a reduction by half in the proportion of people without access to safe water by 2015. At the national level, all LMB countries are on-track to achieving these targets (UNICEF and WHO 2008) and Thailand has already achieved the target. Cambodia's progress towards access to safe water indicates the likelihood of achieving more than the 2015 target as the country has achieved a much higher rate of access by 2006 compared with the targets set for 2005 (30 per cent and 68 per cent for rural and urban populations respectively). The same trend was observed for rural populations' access to improved sanitation (19 per cent in 2006 compared to the target of 12 per cent in 2005). Progress in urban areas, however, was much slower and below the target, a position that could be partly explained by the large influx of the rural poor into urban areas.

Lao PDR has made significant progress from a situation where 28 per cent of the population had access to a safe water source and less than one in three households had access to some kind of latrine in the 1990s (Government of Lao PDR and UN 2008), although disparities exist and remote provinces and districts with poor access tend to have lower coverage.

In Viet Nam, the lower progress among disadvantaged households compared to the national average creates a major challenge for the country to achieve its target of 80 per cent of households accessing clean water and 70 per cent accessing standard latrines. National surveys show that 40 per cent of households in the most disadvantaged target areas depend on unsafe water from rivers, lakes and ponds for cooking and only 13 per cent use hygienic latrines. Among the Kinh and Hoa ethnic groups, only six per cent lack access to safe drinking water whereas the rate is 57 per cent for other ethnic groups (Ministry of Planning and Investment, Viet Nam 2008).

Water quality

The Mekong River is still regarded as a fairly unpolluted river with generally good water quality, although some areas near urban centres, or with intensive agriculture and aquaculture, can experience elevated levels of nutrients and organic matter. Data on toxic micro-pollutants, such as organochlorines and heavy metals, are scarce but available data do not raise any specific concerns. Overall, the concentrations of nutrients at all mainstream stations in the Mekong River are low compared with values known to cause eutrophication and algal blooms (Voss et al. 2006; MRC 2008a).

There is no strong evidence for trans-boundary pollution within the Mekong Basin (i.e. between Lao PDR and Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia, and Cambodia and Viet Nam) (MRC 2008a), although elevated nitrogen levels in the upper part of the river indicate some trans-boundary transmission of pollutants from the Upper Mekong Basin into the LMB (MRC 2008a). The rapid development of the Lancang Basin in China and increasing pollution in Chinese rivers may raise some concerns in future about the quality of incoming water from the Lancang Basin.

Biodiversity

The biodiversity of the Mekong River Basin is of global significance, surpassed only by the Amazon and Congo systems. The diverse ecosystems of the Mekong Basin are exceptional in their productivity, as are the benefits its people derive from this. The maintenance of high biodiversity represents not only the biological integrity of the ecosystems but also the range of natural resources and products available to both urban and rural populations; and is therefore of high priority.

Wetlands

The biodiversity and productivity of the Mekong Basin is in large part represented by its wetlands, which are associated with the Mekong mainstream itself, as well as its tributaries from the mountains of southern China, Lao PDR and the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, the broad plateau of northeast Thailand; and the great floodplains of Cambodia and the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam. These wetlands provide unique habitats for both aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. Some wetland species, such as mammals and birds, may spend only part of their lives in wetland habitats whereas others, such as amphibians and fish, may depend entirely on wetlands for their survival. Important species associated with wetlands are those that are seen as a resource, either because they are rare and therefore have a special conservation value or because they are seen as an important resource for people's livelihoods.

Trans-boundary Cooperation for Water Resource Management

The trans-boundary issues that need to be addressed to assess the sustainability of the scale and scope of basin development are numerous. Some of the key issues include water availability for use, fisheries production, floodplain management, navigation, wetland management, river bank erosion and sediment movement for example.

There are, however, a range of trans-boundary benefits of the water resources of the Mekong Basin that are shared amongst riparian countries. This puts the six countries that share the basin in a unique position to focus on the sharing of water benefits, rather than simple volumetric allocation of water.

Examples of this could include the beneficial effect of floods on agriculture; the benefit of alluvial silt deposits; and the importance of the Tonle Sap reverse flow on the cycle of fish breeding. Far from being a point of conflict; in this environment, trans-boundary water-use in the Mekong is an opportunity for cooperation and improved development across the region.

1.5 The MRC Strategic Planning Process

In order to better fulfil its role, MRC developed a first Strategic Plan for the period 1999-2003. Although considerable progress had already been made, many areas of MRC's work still needed improvement. Consequently, the first Strategic Plan was reviewed in a participatory process in late 2000 and a new Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 was formulated. The programme approach launched with the Work Programme for 2001 meant that the objectives of four core programmes, five sector programmes, and one support programme needed to be better reflected in the Strategic Plan. Consequently the Strategic Goals, supported by the objectives, required updating.

Since late 2009, the MRC had progressed with the preparation for the Strategic Plan 2011-2015. Extensive consultation with Member Countries, Development Partners and stakeholders were carried out in 2010. There was also a general recognition that the discussion on MRC Core Functions Categories as well as the seven River Basin Management Functions needs to be linked with and informed by the wider discussions on formulation of MRC's Strategic Plan. In addition, there was general discussion on the long term funding of the MRC Secretariat, recognizing that there will be a gradual shift from external funding to a significantly higher proportion of funds coming from Member Countries.

With this Work Programme 2012, the MRC enters into the second year of its five-year strategic planning cycle. The Strategic Plan 2011-2015 retained the fundamental strategic direction of MRC, and its vision statements remained relevant. The Strategic Plan 2011-2015 provides for an updated programme structure in a sector and cross-cutting programmes matrix, underpinned by a basin development planning process. This will allow the MRC to address the development opportunities of the Mekong Basin in a more balanced and sustainable manner.

Figure 4: MRC Vision



1.6 Towards the Strategic Plan 2011-2015²

The formulation of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 underwent extensive consultations with Member Countries and their agencies, MRC Dialogue Partners and Development Partners, and other stakeholders including NGOs, civil society organisations and representatives of riparian communities.

The overall direction of the Plan reflects the Hua Hin commitment on the continued implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement and on the priority areas of action. This Strategic Plan of the MRC for 2011-2015 centers on a comprehensive implementation of the IWRM principles at regional and national levels, and has a strong emphasis on improved alignment of the MRC operations with its mandated core functions, and improved organisational strategies to ensure an efficient organizational transition of the MRC towards a decentralised implementation model of its selected core functions.

The framework of this Strategic Plan 2011-2015 comprises a long-term goal supported by an overarching five-year Goal, four Specific Goals and one Organisational Goal for achievement in the next five years.

The long-term Goal of the MRC is that Member Countries manage water and related resources of the Mekong Basin in an effective, equitable and sustainable manner. The five-year Goal for 2011-2015 is Member Countries implement basin-wide IWRM approaches in national water and related sector frameworks and development programmes for sustainable and equitable development. The Organisational Goal for 2011-2015 is the efficient organisational transition of MRC for implementation of its core functions and full riparianisation of its Secretariat.

Four Specific Goals have been identified that MRC should strive to achieve progressively from 2011 to 2015. The four goals established for MRC for 2011 to 2015 are shown below:

Specific Goal 1

Application of IWRM-based basin development and related sector strategies and guidance

Outcomes

- 1.1 The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy is applied in planning and decision making on Mekong water and related sector development in the LMB countries through an institutionalised basin development planning process.
- 1.2 The required management plans, sector strategies, guidance and guidelines are developed to support the implementation of sector-specific elements of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy in relation to the mainstream and significant tributary systems.
- 1.3 Sector and cross-sector strategies and plans incorporate climate change adaptation planning and implementation at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin.
- 1.4 National, sub-basin and basin planning and management systems incorporate economic, environmental and social implications of on-

² The Strategic Plan 2011-2015 is being submitted for consideration at the Seventeenth Meeting of the MRC Council on 25-26 January 2011.

going and proposed developments in the Basin and considerations of sustainability and equitable development.

Specific Goal 2

Operational systems for basin-wide monitoring, impact assessment, modelling, forecasting and knowledge management to support effective decision making

Outcomes

- 2.1 Information and data on the full range of water and related resources parameters are systematically monitored and used in basin and sub-basin planning and management, and the state and developments in the Basin are reported.
- 2.2 MRC analysis, modelling and assessment tools are effectively used at appropriate levels of planning, decision-making and operational management.
- 2.3 Strengthened and improved forecasting, warning and emergency response systems provide timely information on short and medium term regional forecasts, and increasingly assist the Basin countries in flood and drought forecasting, operational forecasts for shipping and contingency planning for pollution incidents.
- 2.4 Key water and water use parameters, trans-boundary impacts and other sustainability issues of water utilisation and management, and threats to livelihoods posed by climate change and other emerging environmental issues are researched, analysed, and assessed for national and regional responses.
- 2.5 Knowledge management systems and processes are developed, applied, and effectively shared with MRC partner agencies via sustainable knowledge networks.

Specific Goal 3

Efficient dialogue and coordination processes between basin countries and other stakeholders for effective regional cooperation

Outcomes

- 3.1 Strengthened implementation of MRC Procedures by MRC and Member Countries in an open and transparent manner.
- 3.2 Enhanced dialogue and coordination between MRC, Government agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector in basin planning and management, and decision-making on Mekong water related resources.
- 3.3 Enhanced cooperation with upstream riparian countries and other regional initiatives for an integrated approach to the sustainable management of the Basin.
- 3.4 Resolution of trans-boundary issues at sub-basin level is effectively facilitated by MRC.
- 3.5 Knowledge of the basin is available and accessible for more informed decision-making processes.
- 3.6 MRC is a responsive organisation providing objective, independent and timely information to Member Countries and the general public.

Specific Goal 4

Capacity developed for IWRM policy adoption and implementation within the framework of the MRC mandate

Outcomes

- 4.1 Organisational and institutional capabilities are strengthened at relevant levels in Member Countries and MRC for the adoption and implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, related sector strategies and guidance, and the overall management of the basin's water and related resources.
- 4.2 Sound leadership and strengthened management capacities for effective IWRM policy adoption and implementation in Member Countries and MRC.
- 4.3 Staff capabilities in Member Countries and the MRC for the adoption, integration and application of MRC Procedures and IWRM-related policies and strategies at national, trans-boundary and regional levels are improved.
- 4.4 Capacity for knowledge sharing on IWRM principles, MRC Procedures and MRC products is enhanced and relevant to groups involved in the utilisation and management of the basin's water and related resources in Member Countries.

Organisational Goal 5

Efficient organisational transition of the MRC for implementation of its core functions and full riparianisation of its Secretariat

Outcomes

- 5.1 The transition of the MRC to a decentralised modality of core functions is well prepared and effectively starts during the Strategic Plan period of 2011-2015.
- 5.2 Operational, transparent performance management system is in place.
- 5.3 The MRC Secretariat is staffed with qualified riparian professional staff.
- 5.4 Improved organisational management and reporting systems and functional mechanism for coordinated programme planning and management of the MRC are in place.
- 5.5 Member Countries, prioritised line agencies and designated stakeholders have sufficient capacity to carry out the selected core River Basin Management Functions within the agreed timeframe of the transition.

1.7 The MRC Performance Management System

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) has committed itself to being an efficient and effective organisation and needs to be able to demonstrate this to both its Member Countries and its Development Partners. It also needs to demonstrate that it is continually improving its performance.

It is important that the MRC is able to demonstrate and improve both the organisation's performance and the programmes' performance. It follows that it will be important that the individual programmes are able to demonstrate consistency with and contribution to the MRC's strategic plan objectives and its core functions.

The provision of readily available and reliable quantitative and qualitative data on performance builds mutual trust between the Secretariat, Member Countries and Development Partners. It provides a common understanding of the potential constraints and opportunities, and as such becomes a starting point for future joint action.

In establishing a performance management system the MRC is committing itself to a system which not only assesses evidence of results achieved, but also

- reviews the programming context to demonstrate the continued relevance and priority of its work;
- considers the likely sustainability of what has been achieved;
- assesses the efficiency of management arrangements; and
- recognises the need for feedback systems on the lessons learned about what is actually working in order to adapt to changing contexts and promote ongoing improvement by promptly applying this information.

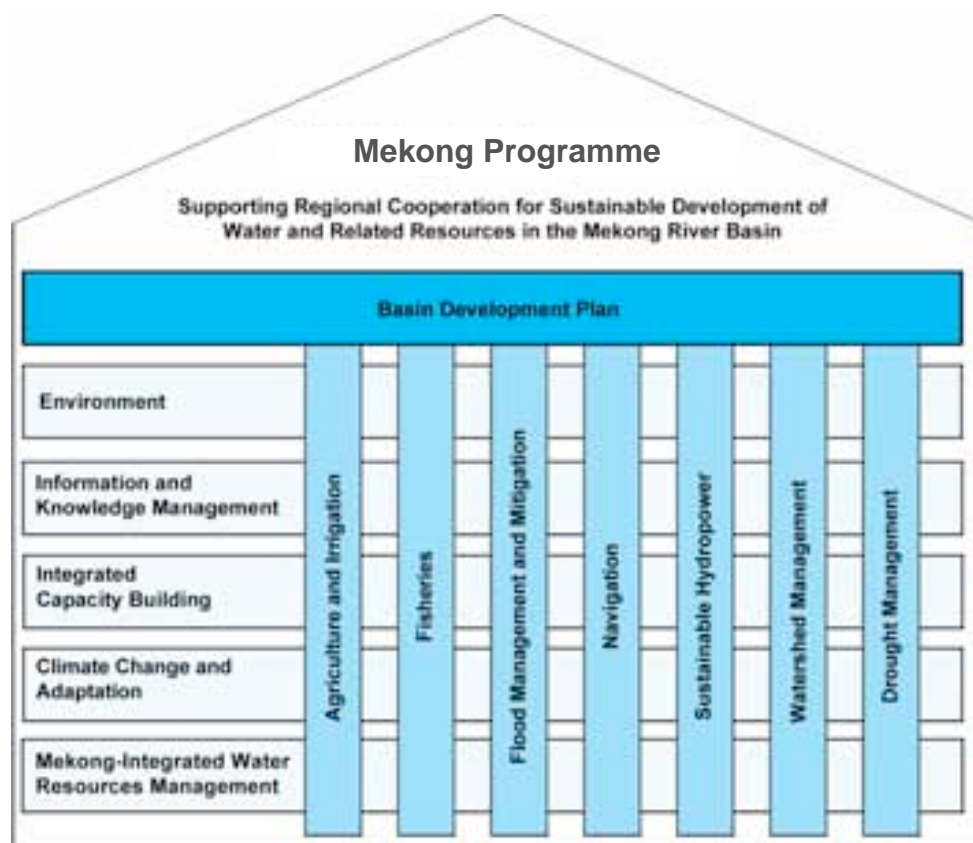
For 2012 MRC continues to develop Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) system as a small step towards the MRC Performance Management System based on the principles outlined above. Most programmes have incorporated RBME into their new phases for 2011-2015, which will enable them to clearly contribute to the goals of the SP 2011-2015.

2 The MRC Integrated Programme

2.1 Programme Structure

The portfolio of programmes implemented by the MRC covers the sectors Flood Management and Mitigation, Drought Management, Agriculture and Irrigation, Watershed Management, Navigation, Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower, Fisheries, and cross-cutting themes such as Basin Development Plan, Environment, Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative, Integrated Capacity Building, Information and Knowledge Management and Mekong IWRM.

Figure 5: MRC Programme Structure



2.2 Integration and Coordination of Programmes

Applying the principles of IWRM, the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 calls for a stronger integration of the various programmes within the Secretariat. Such integration requires increased communication and collaboration among the programmes and occurs at several levels:

- *Basin-wide planning.* The most obvious level of integration and coordination occurs at the level of basin-wide planning, where the BDP uses acquired knowledge and services of the MRC programmes to build a basin-wide perspective of sustainable development options. Important elements for MRC are: developing a common understanding of development needs; crafting a planning framework and setting of procedures within which cumulative and trans-boundary aspects of individual projects can be assessed.

- *Cross-sector collaboration.* Coordination mechanisms are in place to ensure complementarities and synchronised delivery of contributions of MRC programmes to joint initiatives across sectors, for instance under the ‘MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative’ or joint work relating to sustainable hydropower development. BDP and EP also share some common outputs and discussed how human and financial resources could be shared.
- *Information and knowledge management.* The MRC is a knowledge based organisation, it undertakes important, and often applied research on many subjects of direct relevance to water resources and their development. Much of this research is interdisciplinary by its nature, requiring collaboration across sectors and integration at the Secretariat level, resulting in a joint research agenda and publication pipeline.

To improve the coordination between the MRC Secretariat programmes and Member Country agencies and prepare for decentralisation, the MRC will work to further enhance coordination within the MRC Secretariat among its various programmes and between the MRC Secretariat and Member Country agencies to achieve the identified goals for Strategy Plan 2011-2015. Building on the recommendations already implemented from the MRC Independent Organisational Review, MRC will strengthen coordination and communication arrangements across programmes to ensure consistency in programme governance.

The new Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 is more integrated and all programmes are being aligned with the Plan. The Technical Coordination Unit (TCU) will continue working with MRC programmes on Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure that the planned Outcomes of each individual programme contribute to the Goals of the SP 2011-2015.

Regular programme coordination and management meetings, currently convened every 3 months by TCU under the Office of the CEO, will be an important mechanism for the MRC programmes to discuss joint activities and any obstacles in delivering the agreed services, and to find solutions.

2.3 Programme Costs and Funding

The Work Programme for 2012 provides a table on MRC programmes costs and funding. The presentation covers the total budget, funding needs and funded agreement or funding pledged for each programme and their components. Therefore, activities which are currently being developed, such as the Drought Management Project does not yet indicate funded/pledged amounts³.

The multi-year total budget for MRC Programmes amounts to US\$ 154.55 million. The total funding, either signed or committed stands at US\$ 74.83 million in addition to US\$ 38.59 million associated technical cooperation (GIZ, KfW). The total funding needs thus are US\$ 79.72 million.

³ The Drought Management Project is the subject of a scoping phase under IKMP. Activities related to tourism are being integrated into a range of MRC Programmes, EP, BDP, NAP.

Table 1: MRC Programmes, Programme Costs and Funding - Multi-Year

Programmes	Programme Duration	Total Budget	Funds Committed	Funding Needs	Associated Development Project Funding
Agriculture and Irrigation Programme (AIP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	5.1	1.5	3.6	
	1) Integration of knowledge and information on agriculture	2.4	0.8	1.6	
	2) Synergy between national agricultural planning and MRC Strategic Plan implementation developed and harmonized	1.54	0.7	0.84	
	3) Capacity developed among Member Country agencies and staff for integrating IWRM	1.24	0	1.24	
Basin Development Plan (BDP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	15.3	6.0	7.8	
	1) Report on and update the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	4.8	2.4	3.1	
	2) Agreement on basin environmental and social objectives	2.4	1.2	1.3	
	3) Development of appropriate institutional arrangements	2.4	1.2	1.3	
	4) Capacity to implement the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	2.4	1.2	1.3	
Drought Management Programme (DMP)	Three Years (2011-2013)*	3.8	1.3	2.5	
	1) Monitoring and Forecasting	1.6	0.8	0.8	
	2) Impact Assessment	0.6	0.3	0.3	
	3) Selected pilot areas for technical tests	0.5	0.2	0.3	
	4) National guidelines on mitigation measure	0.4	0.4	0.4	
	5) Human capacity of NMCs	0.7	0.7	0.7	
Environment Programme (EP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	11	5.9	5.1	
	1) Environmental and Social Monitoring and Assessment	3.2	1.5	1.7	
	2) Environmental management mechanisms and tools	2.1	1.6	0.5	
	3) Timely response to emerging environmental issues	2.7	1.3	1.4	
	4) Capacity building and environmental awareness	2.8	1.5	1.4	
Fisheries Programme (FP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	12.5	4.5	8.0	
	1) Science-based understanding of the situation of fisheries	2.8	1.0	1.8	
	2) Riparian planning agencies monitor the status and trends in fisheries	4.8	1.7	3.1	
	3) High level of reg. and nat. dialogue within a basin-wide IWRM framework	2.4	0.8	1.6	
	4) Capacity for improving fisheries management	2.3	0.8	1.5	
Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	15	3.21	11.79	
	1) Basin planning and Strategy incorporating IWRM principles	5.33	0.74	4.59	
	2) Basin-wide flood forecasting, impact assessment,	3.92	1.00	2.92	
	3) Efficient dialogue and coordination	2.15	0.41	1.74	
	4) Awareness raised, capacities and skills developed	2.77	0.83	1.94	
	5) Transition to financially sustainable and professionally capable RFMMC	0.83	0.23	0.60	
Integrated Capacity Building Programme (ICBP)	Three Years (2011-2013)	9.6	5.4	4.2	
	1) Technical competencies to integrate IWRM principles	4.4	2.6	1.8	
	2) Organisational development	3.4	1.4	2.0	
	3) Gender mainstreaming in all IWRM works	0.8	0.5	0.3	
	4) Effective integrated and sustainable capacity building mechanism	1	0.9	0.1	
Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP)	Five Years (2011-2015)	15.4	10.1	5.3	
	1) River Monitoring Network	4.3	2.2	2.1	
	2) MRC Toolbox	4.9	3.9	1	
	3) MRC-IS	2.9	1.5	1.3	
	4) Tools and Modelling services provision	1.6	1.6	0	
	5) Learning centre and Knowledge hub	1.7	0.85	0.85	
Navigation Programme (NAP)	Four Years (2009-2012)				
	1) Socio-economic Analysis & Transport Planning				
	2) Legal Framework for Cross-Border Navigation				
	3) Traffic Safety and Environmental Sustainability				
	4) Information, Promotion and Coordination				
	5) Institutional Development				
Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)	Five Years (2011-2015)	15.90	15.90		1.3
	1) Adaptation Planning and Implementation	7.07	7.07		
	2) Improved Capacity to Manage and Adapt	2.35	2.35		
	3) Strategies and Plans for Adaptation	1.93	1.93		
	4) Regional Exchange, Collaboration and Learning	2.97	2.97		
Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH)	Five Years (2011-2015)	12.5	7.4	5.1	0.78
	1) Awareness raising and dialogue and communication	3.26	2.96	0.3	
	2) Knowledge base support and capacity building	1.55	1.31	0.24	
	3) Regional planning support	4.35	1.53	2.82	
	4) Sustainability assessment and financing	3.35	1.61	1.74	
Mekong IWRM Project (M-IWRM P)	Eight Years (2009-2016)	13.1	5.7	7.4	25.98
	Regional Component	10.5	5.7	4.8	
	Trans-boundary Component	2.6	0	2.6	
Watershed Management Project (WSMP)	Seven Years (2009-2015)	0.65	0.65	0	10.53
	MRC-GTZ Watershed Management Project (2009-2011)	0.65	0.65	0	
	MRC-KfW Watershed Management Project(2009-2015)			0	
Performance Management System (PMS) - Five Years (2011-2015)		1.9	0.2	1.77	
Water Management Trust Fund (WMTF) - Three Years (2011-2013)		3	1.4		
TOTAL		154.55	74.83	79.72	38.59

3. The MRC Programmes

This section provides a brief account of each programme on the progress of their activities in 2011 and the planned activities for 2012. A comprehensive progress report for each programme can be found in periodic progress reports of the individual programme. Gantt charts are presented in this section to provide an overview on major planned activities and outputs for 2012.

The planned activities reported under this section can be found in more detail in the individual workplan for 2012 available for each programme.

This section provides the following information for each programme.

1. Programme Overview

- Purpose: information on the development opportunities and challenges addressed by the programme; and reflected through its Goal.
- Approach: information on how the programme contributes to the implementation of an IWRM approach in the Mekong Basin, within its Objective.
- Strategy: information on the overall strategy of the programme.
- Structure: description of the Outcomes of the programme.
- Implementation arrangements: brief description of international partners, and main national partners network.
- Main outputs: main outputs expected from the programme.
- List of projects: active projects and projects in preparation under the programme.

2. Progress for 2011

- Funding status graph, providing the reader with funding and expenditures information for 2011 and an inclusion of the planned expenditure for 2012⁴;
- Planned outputs and achieved outputs for 2011;
- Significant problems encountered and corrective actions taken;
- Development Partner review or appraisals carried out in 2011;
- Relevant JC and Council decisions taken in 2011.

⁴ The Financial data included in these graphs present the best estimate on programme implementation at the time of the preparation of the Work Programme. Expenditure data will change as implementation progresses and are recorded in MRC Programme Progress Report.

3. Workplan for 2012

- Planned outputs and activities for 2012: including the prerequisites and risks for output achievement; and the projects in preparation.
- Planned Development Partner reviews or appraisals in 2012.
- Gantt Charts, presenting by programmes planned outputs and activities for 2012.

3.1. Agriculture and Irrigation Programme (AIP)

3.1.1. Programme Overview

Balanced and efficient land and water use is essential to long-term food security in the LMB. Agriculture is the most important sector that relies on the water resources of the Basin. Agriculture provides livelihoods for more than 70% of the Mekong Basin's population, with 24% of the regional population considered to be below the poverty line. Agriculture is commonly the first point of intervention in raising living standards, improving livelihoods and mitigating poverty. Although population growth rates are still high in Cambodia and Lao PDR (>1.68%), significant, and varied demographic changes are taking place and more are expected in terms of migration away from rural areas.

In general, agricultural productivity is low in the Thai, Lao and Cambodian parts of the basin, although agriculture is extensively developed, diversified and intensive in the Mekong Delta, with significant areas of fruit trees and a substitution of rice by aquaculture. Diversification in enterprises has been plagued by extreme price volatility, exemplified in catfish aquaculture in the upper Mekong Delta, where it initially expanded as a very profitable alternative to rice cultivation. Shrimp culture in coastal production systems has experienced similar unpredictability, although overall it has been spectacularly profitable in a regional economic sense

Irrigation development will play an important role for increasing food production to meet the increased demand in future. While the share of the irrigated area to the total arable land is quite small, particularly in Cambodia and Lao PDR, productivity in irrigated agriculture is much higher than rainfed. In case of rice, which is staple food in the Region, planted area in dry season in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand is less than 7% of annual total planted area. However, the share of dry season cropping in annual total production is more than 10% due to the higher yields in irrigated paddy. Yields in irrigated paddy in dry season and wet season are higher than those in rainfed paddy by 35-65 % and 20% respectively.

Throughout the basin there is evidence of a rising tide of commercial agriculture in addition to traditional, small-scale subsistence cultivation. Until the re-emergence of a "global food crisis" in 2007, in the wake of rising commodity prices, livelihood strategies and export earnings have been the complementary ends of the agricultural policy agenda in the region. The revival of a food security agenda, and to an extent, concerns about the likely impacts of global climate change, has re-ignited interest in larger interventions in public and private irrigation and agricultural development. The recent parliamentary approval of the proposed water grid in Thailand and similar proposals for large-scale irrigation development in Cambodia are obvious examples of intended large-scale water engineering. Food security interests are likely also driving alternative "private sector" investment in contract farming and both corporate and foreign direct investment into irrigation development, with strong interest in both Lao PDR and Cambodia.

A draft Agricultural Strategy for the MRC was prepared in 2009 to identify the added value of the MRC's role in the sector. On the basis of the draft strategy prepared, a concept of AIP 2011-15 was developed. The formulation of the Programme Document for 2011-15 takes into account the recent MRC achievements in IWRM-based basin development planning to contribute to

the goals of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The objective of Agriculture and Irrigation Programme 2011-15 (AIP 2011-15)¹ is to provide national planners with detailed and nuanced analyses of the likely consequences of agricultural development and resources management based on improved knowledge on agriculture and irrigation in the LMB.

List of agreements

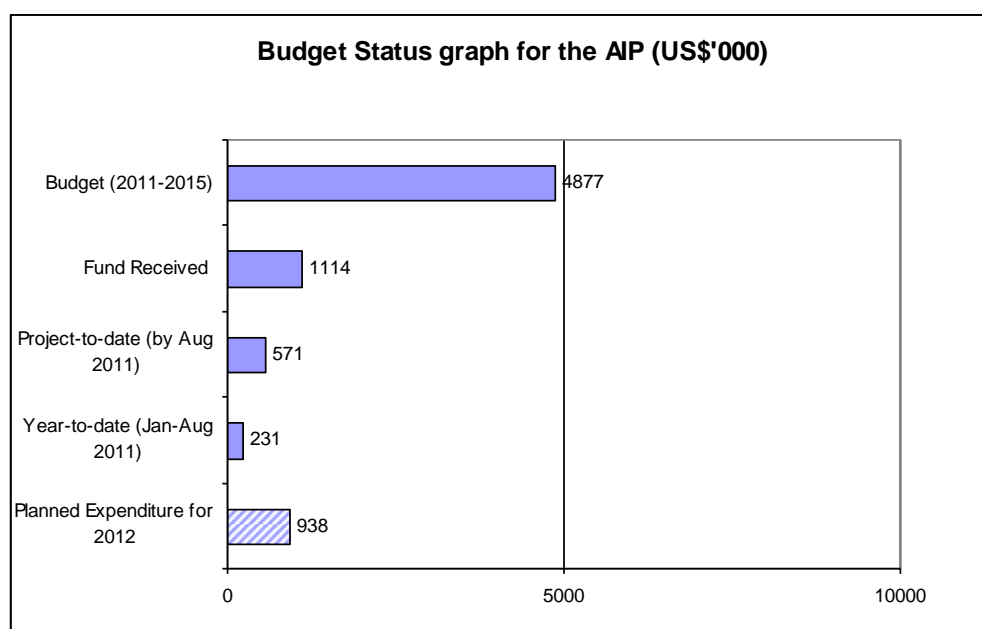
(US\$ 1,000)

	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2010 (*)	Donors
Agreements					
Japan Contribution to Sustainable and Efficient Water Use in the LMB	Jul/08	Jun/11	896	30	Japan
Challenge Program on Water and Food	Jan/03	Dec/08	901	0	CGIAR
Projects in preparation					
Formulation of a new AIFP	N/A	N/A	340	?	
IWRM-based Agricultural Water Management	Jul/11	Jun/14	1,50	519	Japan

(*) Balance as per end Aug 2011

3.1.2. Progress of AIP for 2011

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the Programme for the year 2011 which includes budget for the Programme period, total funds received and expenses on the Project-to-date and Year-to-date.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

AIP 2.4.3, 5 Based on the results of field survey, water use assessment and development of WUE improvement plan at pilot site, the country reports have been finalized by designated line agencies of each country members and reports produced on May 2011.

AIP 2.4.5 Socio-economic impacts assessment of hydrological changes, irrigation development and other factors in the LMB has been completed by country members and reports produced in May 2011.

AIP 2.4.6 Based on the results of country reports analysis and discussion with Member Countries. AIP is now finalizing the SEWU project report which contains all the outputs of SEWU Project. Aside from this one technical report on SEWU has been finished and being editing by ICCS. It is expecting that the final version of technical report can be published soon.

Formulation of AIP Programme Document 2011-2015 and identifying priority activities are underway.

AIP 1.1.1 The AIP Programme 2011-2015 is being formulated based on AIP strategy that was approved by MRC council in 2009 and the recent MRC achievements in IWRM-based basin development planning, as well as the goals of MRC Strategy Plan 2011-15. The first draft of programme document AIP 2011-2015 has been completed and presented to national consultation meeting in each country members. The programme document has been revised and all comments from country members have been incorporated into the final draft version. A regional consultation meeting on the final draft version held in the third week of October 2011.

AIP 1.2.1 The major focus of AIP 2011-2015 will be undertaken to integrate IWRM planning considerations into MRCS agriculture activities and assist Member Countries in implementing their plans for agriculture development and integration on expansion in synergy with the recently approved MRC IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Action Taken

No significant problems reported during the course of implementation

Development Partner reviews or appraisals planned in 2011

A regular donor review through an annual consultation meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan took place in February 2011

Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken in 2011

The draft Programme Document for 2011-2015 is being submitted for consideration at the Preparatory Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee for the Eighteenth Meeting of the MRC Council.

3.1.3. AIP Workplan for 2012

Based on the draft programme document of AIP 2011-2015, below is the workplan for 2012

Outcome 1: Knowledge and information on the current status and trends of the agriculture and irrigation sectors and related basin-wide issues integrated into MRC and Member Country Planning Systems, with priority given to better dissemination of existing but underutilized knowledge.

- Output 1.1 Priority issues in agricultural development and in agricultural water management analyzed in each of the countries in the LMB
- Output 1.2 Land use across the basin collated and described in a uniform system and changes routinely monitored
- Output 1.3 Current trends and forecasts in agriculture and irrigation in the basin documented
- Output 1.4 Agricultural water use in the basin determined and monitored

Outcome 2: Synergy between national agricultural planning and MRC Strategic Plan implementation developed and harmonized – introduction of IWRM-based agricultural sector planning in Member Countries and more focus on pro-poor development in the implementation MRC's Strategic Plan.

- Output 2.1 Sound feasibility assessment and coordination across the basin realized in agriculture sector and irrigation planning
- Output 2.2 Strong two-way links developed between agricultural planning norms and procedures and regional planning.

Outcome 3: Capacity developed among Member Country agencies and staff for integrating IWRM considerations into agricultural planning and management

- Output 3.1 Tangible capacity to implement IWRM in the agriculture sector built
- Output 3.2 Experience of developing a trans-boundary agricultural water regulation shared between MCs at selected pilot areas.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

A regular donor review through an annual consultation meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan is planned for February 2012.

Agriculture and Irrigation Programme

ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1				Outcome 1 : Knowledge and information on the current status and trends of the agriculture and irrigation sectors												
2				output 1.1 : Priority issues in agricultural development and in agricultural water management analyzed in each of the countries in the LMB												
3	121AIP03		1.1.1	Complete institutional mapping in each of the member countries	1.1.1											
4	121AIP03		1.1.2	Organize country by country consultation	1.1.2											
5				output 1.2 : Land use map across the basin												
6	212AIP04		1.2.1	Conduct mapping of agro-ecological zones												
7	212AIP04		1.2.2	In collaboration with IKMP, develop land use mapping in the basin												
8	212AIP04		1.2.3	In collaboration with IKMP, conduct soil mapping in selected locations												
9				output 1.3 : Current trends and forecasts in agriculture and irrigation in the basin												
10	112ALL01		1.3.1	Analyse and update country sector plans on a regular basis.												
11	121AIP02; 121AIP03		1.3.2	Identify trends of rural poverty	1.3.2											
12	121AIP03; 121AIP02		1.3.3	Compile the long-term plans and projection of food security in MCs and assess their soundness												
13				output 1.4 : Agricultural water use in the basin												
14	121AIP03		1.4.1	Improve the irrigation database												
15	121AIP01; 215AIP01		1.4.2	Conduct rapid appraisal of agricultural groundwater use												
16	212AIP04		1.4.3	Conduct rapid assessment of existing irrigation weirs												
17				Outcome 2 : Synergy between national agricultural planning and MRC IWRM based Basin Development Strategy implementation developed and harmonized												
18				output 2.1 : Sound feasibility assessment and coordination across the basin realized in agriculture sector and irrigation planning												
19	121AIP03		2.1.1	Prepare and analyse inventory of irrigation projects												
20	212AIP04		2.1.2	Interpret the BDP scenario outputs												
21	121AIP03		2.1.3	Assess the needs and impacts of technical harmonization in irrigatio												
22	212AIP04		2.1.4	Develop a proposal for bulk water monitoring												

3.2. Basin Development Plan Programme 2011-2015

3.2.1. Programme Overview

The MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 sets an overall goal that “Member Countries implement basin-wide IWRM approaches in national water and related frameworks and development programmes”. The BDP 2011-2015 responds directly to this Goal with its objective: “Planning and decision making on Mekong water and related sector development in LMB countries apply the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy through an institutionalized basin development planning process, resulting in increased knowledge and capability to produce a much strengthened and integrated approach to basin planning and management”.

The objective of the BDP 2011-2015 highlights the two inter-linked purposes of basin planning during 2011-2015 that are: 1) to implement and update the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, demonstrating real impacts and benefits of BDP to Member Countries and 2) to build necessary foundations to transition from a BDP Programme to a core planning support function of the MRC with the basin planning process embedded in the national planning systems. The latter is critical in the context of the BDP process getting matured and the MRC moving towards core function implementation and self-financing by 2030.

In January 2011 the MRC Council adopted the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. An early action for the implementation of the Strategy is the preparation of national and regional action plans to ensure that the agreed basin-wide opportunities and strategic priorities of the Strategy are effectively addressed by the MRC countries together with the MRC Programmes over the course of the next five years. The action planning will result in defined sets of activities and projects, each with a completed Project Identification Note or PIN, which together form the Project Portfolio.

The monitoring of the implementation and impact of the Basin Development Strategy will be based on the prepared PINs. Implementation progress will be measured against the indicators milestones established for each activity and project and held in the PINs. The PINs, the progress reports and the annual impact assessments will together form a management information system underpinning monitoring of implementation the Strategy, including alignment of the implementation of the identified activities and projects with national sector planning cycles and workplans. This will be an electronic system with web-based entry of progress information and access to progress reports.

It is expected that the implementation of the Strategy will result in growing networks in each country with wide understanding and ownership of the regional perspectives of the Strategy, as well as the MRC and its procedures and processes. Progress monitoring of national activities and projects will be coordinated by NMCs and will feed into the MRC Performance Management System (PMS), with reporting links to the Joint Committee and Council levels. All of this will increase the effectiveness of Strategy implementation and bring national perspectives into future updates of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, creating a “loop of ownership” between MRC and its Member Countries.

List of agreements

(US\$ 1,000)

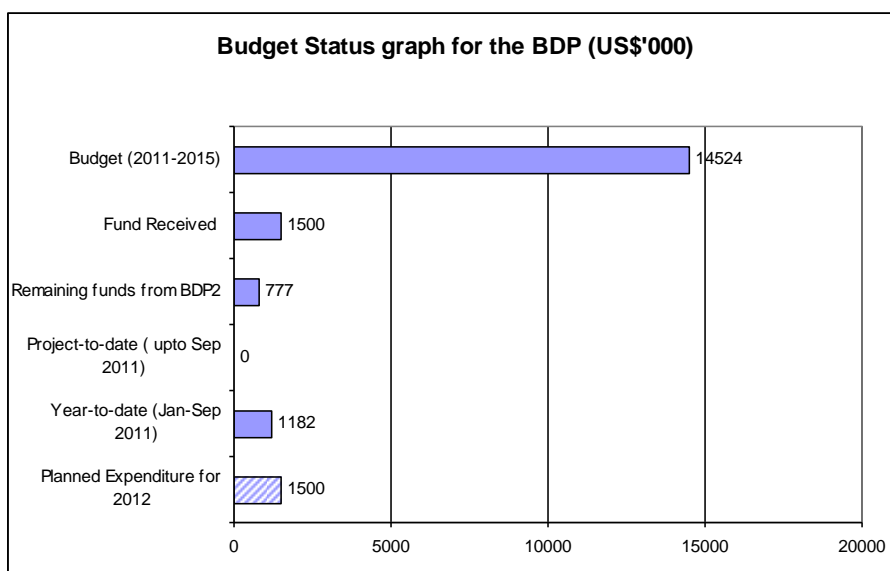
	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance Sep 2011	Donor(s)
Agreements					
Danish contribution to the Basin Development Plan (2006-2010)	12/2006	04/2011	7,720	777	Denmark
Swedish contribution to the Basin Development Plan Phase 2	01/2007	12/2009	1,000	0	Sweden
Australian contribution to the Basin Development Plan Phase 2 (2006-2010)	02/2008	12/2009	450	0	Australia
Japan contribution to Basin Planning	06/2006	05/2008	In kind from Japan Water Agency -JWA dispatched an expert	-	Japan
Swiss Contribution to BDP 2011-2015	11/2011	12/2013	1,500	1,500	Switzerland

3.2.2. Progress of BDP Programme in 2011

The year 2011 is 'bridging period' for the BDP Programme, as it covers both the completion of outstanding BDP2 activities as well as the commencement of activities under the new BDP 2011-2015 Programme. This arrangement has been made possible by Danida's agreement to utilise the balance of BDP2 funds within this period.

By the end of 2011, BDP2 achieved most of its planned outputs and outcomes, the most important outcome being the production of the first Basin Development Plan including: 1) the assessment of basin-wide development scenarios with its final report widely disseminated and discussed, 2) the approved IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, and 3) the concept of the Project Portfolio.

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the BDP Programme. It shows the budget, funds available and expenditures to date. The required budget for BDP 2011-2015 is estimated at US\$ 14.5 million with US\$ 2.2 million being available including those carried forward from BDP2.



Planned and Achieved Outputs of BDP by the End of 2011

The BDP2 resulted in 20 outputs. Several key reports are being prepared by a graphic designer to be published and disseminated widely in the last quarter of 2011. These include:

- The Main Report of the Assessment of Basin-wide Scenarios;
- The Planning Atlas;
- The Mekong IWRM Training Manual;
- The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy in the national languages of the MRC Member Countries; and
- Mekong Basin Planning: the story behind the Basin Development Plan.

The following outputs/milestones of BDP 2011-2015 were achieved in 2011:

- Approved BDP 2011-2015 Programme Document;
- Approved principles and detailed guidelines and outlines for the preparation of the regional and national action plans to implement the Basin Development Strategy;
- Draft Regional Action Plan and four National Indicative Plans;
- The PMFM implemented, regularly reported on, and a supplementary information report prepared.
- Agreed concept note for an exchange visit to the Danube River Basin.

Significant Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions Taken

No significant problems were encountered during 2011. Emerging problems were well managed.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals in 2011

Denmark (Danida) appraised the draft BDP 2011-2015 Programme Document in the last quarter of 2010. Sweden (Sida) and Switzerland (SDC), a new development partner for the BDP, reviewed the finalized 2011-2015

Programme Document in the second half of 2011, with a view to making a decision on their support to the BDP Programme.

Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken in 2011

At its Thirty-third Meeting (March 2011), the JC endorsed a 'bridging period' for the BDP Programme from May 2011 to April 2012. The Thirty-fourth JC Meeting (August 2011) approved the BDP 2011-2015 Programme Document.

3.2.3. BDP Programme Workplan for 2012

The following outputs/milestones of BDP Programme are planned for 2012:

Outcome 1: Improved integrated basin planning to reduce uncertainties and risks of developments, as a result of the implementation, report and update of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy by Member Countries and stakeholders.

- BDP 1.1 The regional and national action plans, summarized in a Basin Action Plan to implement the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, prepared through a participatory process and approved at national and regional levels for implementation.
- BDP 1.2 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms of the Basin Development Strategy prepared, which feed into the MRC State-of-Basin monitoring and MPCC monitoring and reporting.
- BDP 1.3 The PMFM Technical Guidelines effectively implemented and regularly reported on, and progress made regarding the pending issue.
- BDP 1.4 The Project Portfolio of basin-wide significant activities and projects prepared.
- BDP 1.5 Training provided on alternative ways to formulate and assess scenarios.

Outcome 2: Socio-economic assessments to support basin development planning and the implementation of MRC Procedures strengthened, based on agreed well-defined and realistic basin environmental and social objectives and indicators.

- BDP 2.2 Approach and preliminary methodology prepared and discussed for socio-economic assessments for basin planning.
- BDP 2.3 Concept note prepared and discussed for the development of environmental and social baseline indicators.

Outcome 3: Appropriate institutional arrangements developed by Member Countries to implement the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, sustain the BDP process, and agree on a roadmap for the decentralization of selected core basin planning functions.

- BDP 3.1 The BDP Regional Working Group established.
- BDP 3.1 Plan for the operation of multi-country networks of RBOs and resource management agencies prepared and discussed.
- BDP 3.2 Review of BDP2 stakeholder analysis.

Outcome 4: The necessary capacity to implement the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and to carry out the selected core basin

planning functions within the agreed road map for decentralisation available with relevant national agencies, RBOs, NMCSs and stakeholders.

- BDP 4.1 Target beneficiaries defined and capacity development needs updated (linked with BDP 3.2).
- BDP 4.1 Training provided to line agencies and RBOs to support the implementation of the Basin Development Strategy, scenario formulation and assessment, and the PMFM process.
- BDP 4.2 The BDP 2011-2015 Inception Report prepared, based on the Programme Document, the regional and national action plans for the implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, and the provided guidance by Member Countries and development partners.
- BDP 4.2 The BDP Performance Management System (PMS) developed and aligned to the overall MRC PMS.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

An Inception Review by Danida is planned for the 2nd half of March 2012 to review how the suggestions outlined in Danida desk appraisal of draft BDP 2011-2015 Programme Document (October 2010) have been addressed to take the implementation of BDP 2011-2015 forward in close alignment with the implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. It is expected this will be a joint review with SDC and Sida.

BDP Programme

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012														
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
			Outcome 1: Improved integrated basin planning to reduce uncertainties and risks of developments, as a result of the implementation and update of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy by Member Countries and stakeholders															
			Output 1.1: Regional and National Action plans to implement IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy prepared and endorsed by relevant authorities															
111BDP01		1.1.1	Prepare the National Indicative Plans and endorsement by relevant authorities	02 Jan														
111BDP01		1.1.2	Prepare the Regional Action Plans together with MRC Programmes, Member Countries and other stakeholders	02 Jan													01 Oct	
111BDP01		1.1.3	Prepare summary document overviewing the Regional Action Plan and the National Indicative Plans								29 Jun	06 Jul						
111BDP01		1.1.4	Endorse and approve the Basin Action Plan								04 Jul	06 Jul						
			Output 1.2 The implementation of the Strategy's Action Plans supported and adequately monitored, evaluated and reported															
		1.2.1	As part of the Regional Action Plan, develop the scope, detailed TOR, budget and plan for the implementation of the studies, prepare the priority water resources management and sector guidelines, and reach consensus with MRC Programmes and relevant nation	02 Jan														
411BDP13		1.2.2	Prepare monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms of the Basin Development Strategy which feed into the MRC State of Basin monitoring and MPCC monitory and reporting							01 Jun								
			Output 1.3: PMFM effectively implemented and regularly reported on in close synergies with other MRC Procedures															
214MIWRM01		1.3.1	Facilitate agreement by the countries on the outstanding issue and finalize the Technical Guidelines of PMFM	02 Jan														
312MIWRM03		1.3.2	Implement, report on and update the approved Technical Guidelines	02 Jan														
		1.3.3	Prepare the PMFM Story for non-specialists			05 Mar						29 Jun						
		1.3.4	Provide on the job training for the TRG members							01 Jun								
			Outcome 2: Socio-economic assessments to support basin development planning and the implementation of MRC Procedures strengthened, based on agreed well-defined and realistic basin environmental and social objectives and indicators															
			Output 2.1: Socio-economic database and assessments strengthened and disseminated for use by countries and in all MRC activities															
		2.2.1	Based on the defined socio-economic data and information needs, draft TOR for the establishment of the socio-economic database	02 Jan		01 Feb												
		2.2.2	Recruitment of a team of consultants and implementation		01 Feb		15 Mar											
		2.2.3	Develop database		02 Feb													
			Output 2.2: Basin environmental and social objectives and indicators developed and consensus built															
112BDP02		2.3.1	In close collaboration with EP, facilitate the process within MRC to consolidate the existing objectives and indicators							06 Jun								
		2.3.2	Carry out wide consultation process within Member Countries and with wider stakeholders for common understanding and acceptance and prepare a concept note for discussion									02 Aug						

3.3. Drought Management Programme 2011-2015

3.3.1. Programme Overview

The Drought Management Programme 2011-2015 was formulated in 2011 and approved by the Joint Committee at its 34th Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 31st August 2011. The programme is initiated with the aim of helping Member Countries reduce the impact of drought on vulnerable people in terms of water resources use and management.

The DMP 2011-2015 is well-aligned with the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015, which calls for an effective regional framework for integrated and comprehensive drought mitigation and management.

The present DMP Document provides a framework for presenting, monitoring and evaluating progress against time-bound milestones and impact of the DMP through clearly prescribing of:

- The development results - outcome or impact, results or causal relationship with the outputs of a development intervention, utility of programme outputs by targeted user-groups, observed changes and sustainability; and
- The development intervention framework - inputs of budget, time and people, tools, data or techniques, implementation processes/activity sequences, produce value-added “outputs”.

The purpose of the DMP 2011-2015 is to establish effective strategy and time-bound action plan for drought awareness, preparedness, planning and management in the Lower Mekong Basin supported by a comprehensive assessment and “best” available strategy, tools and know-how and facilitating the implementation of high priority national and regional programmes and multi-purpose projects. This is designed to contribute to achieving the long term objective of the DMP that the MRC Member Countries develop technical capabilities and institutional capacity to manage drought in the MRB in an effective, sustainable and equitable manner. The DMP 2011-2015 will achieve and set the right conditions for achieving this long-term objective through the provision of support to the MRC Member Countries.

The outcomes of the DMP 2011-15 are fully aligned with the MRC Strategy Plan 2011-15 and contributing to the implementation of the MRC Core Functions particularly the 7 Core River Basin Management Functions. The MRC’s basin development planning cycle recently adopted by Member Countries includes rolling steps of Scenario analysis, IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and Project Portfolio. DMP will conduct water resource analysis by using IWRM based strategy for future demand in the field of agriculture in order to develop adaptation planning

In particular, outcome 1 is planned to contribute to the achievement of the Specific Goal 1 of the 2011-2015 MRC Strategic Plan through developing and implementing an integrated drought risk management approach, a drought strategy and guidelines for promoting sustainable and equitable development. The drought vulnerability assessment in Outcome 2, and capacity need assessment and development in Outcome 4 will be fed into the development of a bankable and action-able Regional Drought Management and Mitigation Strategy.

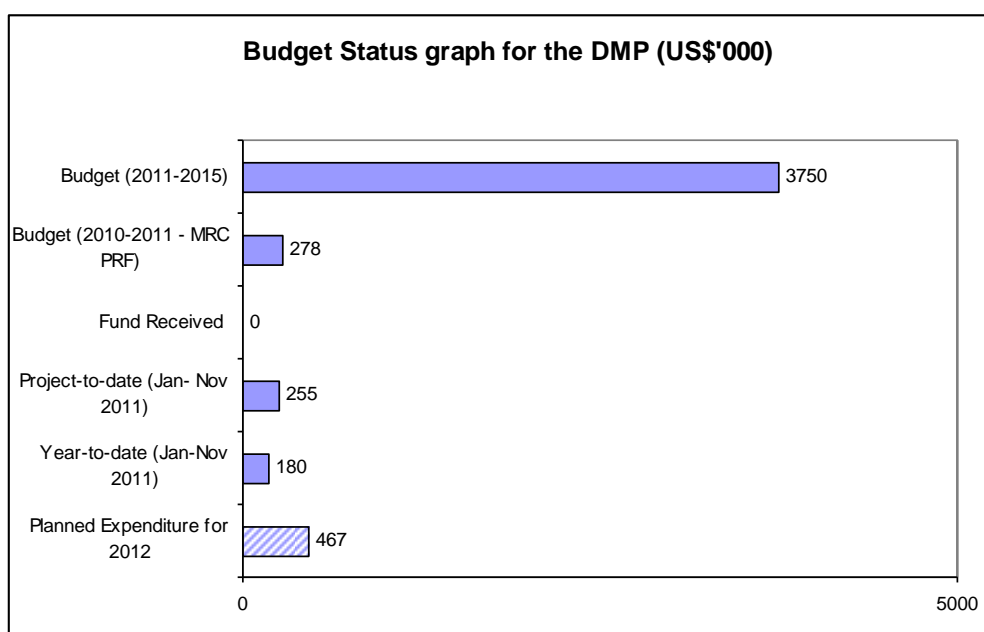
The Strategy will support the drought planning process, and will provide an opportunity to involve numerous stakeholders. All of these actions can help improve public awareness of the importance of water resources management and drought management and mitigation in the LMB carried out under Outcome 3. This outcome process will enable drought preparedness and mitigation strategies to be formulated addressing economic, socio-political and environmental impacts to vulnerable people and water related resource systems.

3.3.2. **Progress of DMP in 2011**

The overall progress of the Initial DMP 2010-2011 was DMP 2011-2015 document formulation for fund raising. At its second Regional Consultation Meeting taking place in Ho Chi Minh City in March 2011, all MRC Member Countries agreed to allow the DMP team to develop two different programme documents, the Drought Management Project 2011-2013 and the Drought Management Programme (DMP) 2011-2015, in response to the requests by development partners.

Since the DMP 2011-2015 document was formulated and approved by the JC in August 2011, the programme is still waiting for development donors to fund for actual implementation. At the meantime, DMP team formulation is taking place. TORs for DMP personnel, steering committee as well as the criteria for pilot sites selection have been developed to be ready for implementation.

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the Initial DMP 2010-2011 using MRC Reserve Fund as well as the DMP 2011-2015. The Project-to-date and year-to-date expenditures of the Initial Drought Management project are highlighted and the package planned for 2012 of the DMP 2011-2015 is also addressed.



Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken

At its Thirty-third Meeting (March 2011), the JC approved the Drought Management Project 2011-2013 document to be submitted to Japan for funding support. While at Thirty-fourth Meeting (August 2011), the JC approved the Drought Management Programme 2011-2015 document for other funding opportunities.

3.3.3. DMP Workplan for 2012

The following outputs/milestones of Drought Management Programme are planned for 2012:

Outcome 1: A regional integrated and comprehensive drought management and mitigation strategy

- 1.1. Inventory of drought management policies and mitigation strategy of the Member Countries developed for the future development of the Regional Integrated and Comprehensive Drought Management and Mitigation Strategy
- 1.3. Lessons learned from drought-prone regions on drought vulnerability management acquired

Outcome 2: Drought risk/vulnerability assessment, and land suitability and social economics analyses

- 2.1 Underlying causes and effects of droughts in the region investigated

Outcome 3: Coordination in data/information sharing, and cooperation with UMB countries

- 3.1. Drought-related data with Upper Mekong Basin acquired
- 3.2. Cooperation with upstream Countries, China and Myanmar, strengthened
- 3.3. Hydro-meteorological monitoring sustained and upgraded
- 3.4. Drought risk and vulnerability communicated

Outcome 4: Capacity development for drought preparedness, planning and management

- 4.1. Capacity needs on drought management assessed and capacity development plan developed
- 4.2. Lessons learned on drought management from other regions disseminated
- 4.3. Capacity development of Member Countries (training and on-the-job training) conducted

Outcome 5: Drought vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation planning pilot studies

- 5.1. Hot spots for pilot projects identified and activities start implemented in selected areas; and
- 5.2. Drought impact at selected pilot areas assessed

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

None is planned.

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
			Outcome 1	\$60,000.00											
			Output 1.1 Inventory of drought management policies and mitigation strategy of the member Countries developed for the future development of the Regional Integrated and Comprehensive Drought Management and Mitigation Strategy	02 Apr → 02 Jul											
131DMP01; 133DMP01;		1.1.1	Meeting with National DMP Consultants	02 Apr → 09 Apr											
131DMP01; 133DMP01;		1.1.2	Conduct inventory of drought management policies and mitigation strategy at country level	11 Apr → 02 Jul											
			Output 1.3 Lessons learned from drought-prone regions on drought vulnerability management acquired	02 Apr → 02 Jul											
131DMP01; 133DMP01;		1.3.1	National consultation meetings on drought impact and vulnerability management	02 Apr → 04 Jun											
131DMP01; 133DMP01; 232DMP01;		1.3.2	Ground survey/field visit to the most drought prone areas of the member Countries	05 Jun → 04 Oct											
131DMP01; 133DMP01; 232DMP01;		1.3.3	Regional consultation meeting on drought impact and vulnerability management	05 Oct → 05 Oct											
			Outcome 2	\$161,200.00											
			Output 2.1 Underlying causes and effects of droughts in the region investigated	02 Apr → 02 Jul											
		2.1.1	Literature review on drought impact and causes of the LMB including previous reports	02 Apr → 15 May											
		2.1.2	Prepare concept note for ground survey	16 May → 04 Jun											
		2.1.3	Ground survey to the drought prone areas for varification (including detailed report)	04 Jun → 02 Jul											
			Output 2.2 Indicators to define vulnerability, severity and impact of drought developed	03 Jul → 03 Jul											
		2.2.1	Conduct literature review on drought indicator and indices in the region including previous Country report and BDP and IKMP reports	02 Jul → 03 Sep											
		2.2.2	Prepare concept note for ground survey	04 Sep → 17 Sep											
		2.2.3	Ground survey to the drought prone areas for varification (including detailed report)	18 Sep → 18 Sep											
			Outcome 3	\$13,800.00											
			Output 3.1 Drought-related data with Upper Mekong Basin acquired	04 Jun → 04 Jun											
		3.1.1	Develop concept note for drought data exchange with UMB	04 Jun → 15 Jun											
		3.1.2	Develop MOU with UMB Countries, China and Myanmar	18 Jun → 17 Jul											
		3.1.3	Coduct exchange visit with China and Myanmar to drought prone areas and some hydro-met stations	10 Sep → 13 Sep											
		3.1.4	Exchange drought data related, water level, precipitation, soil moisture, etc.	14 Sep → 14 Sep											
			Output 3.2 Cooperation with upstream Countries, China and Myanmar, strengthened	04 Jun → 04 Jun											
			Output 3.3 Hydro-meteorological monitoring sustained and upgraded	02 Jul → 02 Jul											
		3.3.1	Develop concept note for Hydro-met station with MRC Countries	02 Jul → 13 Jul											

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
		3.3.2	Develop MOU with MRC Countries regarding Hydro-met station maintainance and upgrade						14 Jul						13 Aug
		3.3.3	Order Hydro-met statins and install in member Countries											14 Aug	05 Oct
		3.3.4	Monitor the operation of the stations											08 Oct	
			Output 3.4 Drought risk and vulnerability communicated											08 Oct	
		3.4.1	Workshops with local communities and authorities on drought risk and vulnerability and communication											08 Oct	
			Outcome 4											\$29,200.00	
			Output 4.1 Capacity needs on drought management assessed and capacity development plan developed						04 Jun						03 Sep
		4.1.1	Conduct consultation meetings with Countries on drought management capacity						04 Jun						04 Jul
		4.1.2	Develop capacity development plan for member Countries											05 Jul	03 Sep
			Output 4.3 Capacity development of member Countries (training and on-the-job training) conducted						02 Apr						
		4.3.1	Develop concept note for JRP and start recruitment						02 Apr						02 May
		4.3.2	First batch of JRP on drought management											15 Jun	
		4.3.3	Second batch of JRP on drought management											16 Jul	
		4.3.4	Trainning for government staff on drought impact and causes												15 Oct 17 Oct
			Outcome 5											\$156,800.00	
			Output 5.1 Hot spots for pilot projects identified												02 Apr
		5.1.1	Circulate site-selection criteria to NMCs for comments												
		5.1.2	Consultation meetins with NMCs for sites selection												02 Apr
			Output 5.3 Drought impact at selected pilot areas assessed												03 Apr
		5.3.1	Plan activities to be conducted in pilot areas												03 Apr 16 Apr
		5.3.2	Circulate the planned activities to NMCs and get team prepared												17 Apr 30 Apr
		5.3.3	Survey on historical drought impact on vulnerable people on socio economics												01 May 02 Jul
		5.3.4	Survey on historical drought impact on vulnerable people on indicators and indicator thresholds												03 Jul 03 Sep
		5.3.5	Survey on the root causes of the drought events in the past												03 Sep 03 Oct
		5.3.6	Analyze the survey and prepare detailed report by Countries												04 Oct

3.4. Environment Programme (EP)

3.4.1. Programme Overview

The productivity and quality of the living natural resources are vital to the livelihoods of the Basin's people. Environmental degradation induces lasting changes in the Basin resources, and represents a major threat for the Basin's people who rely on the river for their food and water. The Mekong River system faces several major environmental challenges over coming decades. Planned hydropower developments, expansion of irrigation and waterway transport together with the impacts of climate change will have major implications for the river environment and, in some cases, threaten the biodiversity of the Basin's aquatic systems and the livelihoods of the people that depend on them.

The overall goal of the Environment Programme 2011-2015 is the MRC Strategic Plan Goal: "Member Countries implement basin-wide IWRM approaches in national water and related sector frameworks and development programmes for sustainable and equitable development". The Environment Programme responds to this Goal by providing environmental and social data and knowledge and efficient environmental cooperation mechanisms as necessary supporting instruments for the application of basin-wide IWRM approaches at national and regional level.

The Lower Mekong Basin is in a fortunate position compared with similar river basins. Both the water quality and the environmental conditions are relatively good and the current development of the Mekong River is still very limited compared to most other large international rivers. With generally low levels of industrial activity in the Basin at present, the two immediate concerns regarding water quality are diffuse pollution due to poor catchment land management, and the potential for water quality emergencies arising from spillages or shipping accidents. Also in the Mekong Delta nutrient levels in the water are high and rising due to intensive agriculture and aquaculture and the wastewater produced by areas of high population density.

The objective of the programme is "Basin management and development in the Lower Mekong Basin is guided by up to date environmental and social knowledge and efficient environmental management cooperation mechanisms".

The 2011-2015 Environment Programme implementation will fully align with the MRC Strategic Plan (2011-2015). The approach will be a move towards support and contribution of the Programme to implement the MRC Core Functions especially the Core River Basin Management Functions. A shift of programme focus from data, information and particularly tools development to application, implementation and use of information and tools is stressed. A gradual transfer in responsibility from regional to national level will initiate some environment activities with a vision of long-term sustainability for implementation by the Member Countries. This will be supported by increased and enhanced capacity building and awareness raising. Lastly, integration across relevant MRC programmes will be enhanced by shared tangible outcomes and outputs.

List of agreements

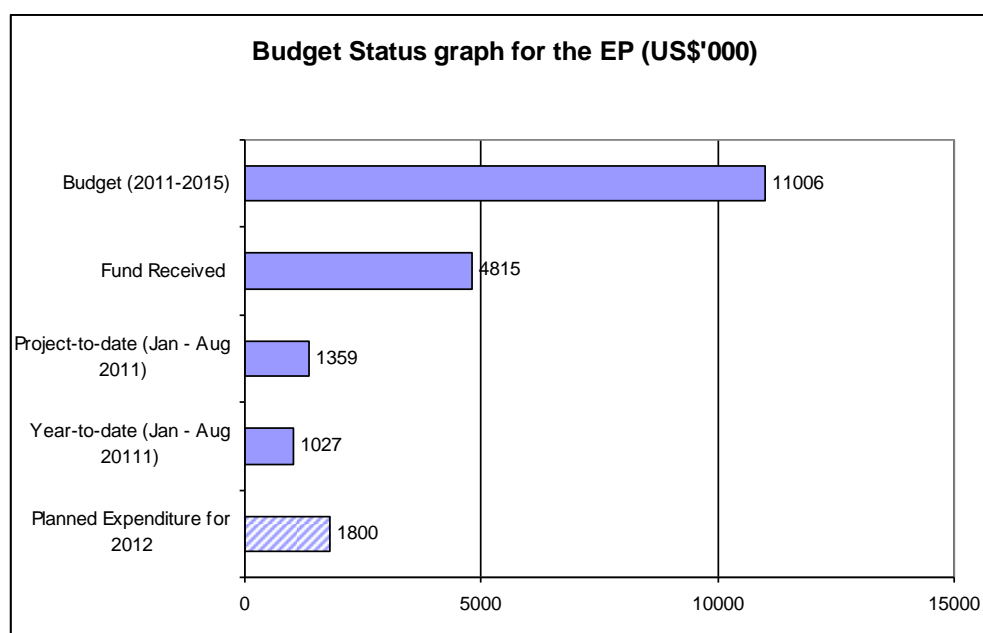
(US\$ 1,000)

	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2011*	Donors
Agreements					
Swedish contribution to EP 2007-2010	01/01/07	30/6/11	605	190	Sweden
Swedish contribution to CC related activities of EP	1/12/09	30/6/11	1,095	633	Sweden
Danish contribution 2011-2015	1/1/11	31/12/15	1,875	1,857	Denmark
France contribution to EP 2009-2012	11/09/09	31/12/12	680	443	France
MRC Water Management Trust Fund for 2008-2010	01/08/08	31/12/10	231	8	Finland and France
Total value of current agreements	2006	2015	4,486	3,131	All

(*) Balance by the end of August 2011

3.4.2. Progress of EP for 2011

The following graph (Figure 1) provides an overview of the budget status of the Environment Programme which includes the budget for the Programme period of 2011-2015, total funds received so far and expenses on the Project-to-date (January 2011 – August 2011) and Year-to-date (January - August 2011). The expected expenditure for 2012 is planned for US\$ 1,800,000. The Figure 2 shows the budget plan for 2011-2015.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

Outcome 1 Operational environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

Output 1.1 Monitoring the environmental quality and ecological balance of the Mekong River

National reports on water quality monitoring 2010 were received from the Member Countries. Water Quality Monitoring activities for 2011 resumed through contract arrangements with NMCs and national teams during February-March 2011. Member Countries were to perform water sampling and analysis for the period of 2011 starting the 1st sampling period in February and every two months until December 2011. The quality control and assurance (QA/QC) for laboratory proficiency testing resumed and planned for the end of 2011.

The ecological health monitoring survey and activities for 2011 were planned and finalised at the Regional Preparatory Workshop in February 2011. The total number of sampling sites proposed was 35 sites for three different modules of monitoring. Detailed country proposals were further finalised and contract arrangements for national expert teams completed. The ecological health monitoring survey 2011 was completed in the four Member Countries during April-May 2011. This large sampling campaign will provide an update on the status of Mekong ecological health. A total of 35 sampling locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin were sampled for four groups of bio-indicators for ecological health assessment and status for 2011. Translated Bio-monitoring Handbooks in Vietnamese, Khmer and Thai were published and national workshops and training on bio-monitoring methodology were held in the respective countries.

Finalisation of the TOR and contract with LNMC for wetland inventory methodology development and wetland inventory implementation at 10 priority sites in Lao PDR included engagement with IUCN Lao. Preparation of the TOR and contract for wetland inventory implementation in the three remaining countries (Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam) is progressing. Development of the wetland inventory methodology, which is to be applied for the whole LMB after testing in Lao PDR, was in progress through 2011. A national workshop to discuss the method for Lao PDR was delayed due to changes in the Government structure. A regional workshop is planned to follow the national workshop.

Output 1.2 Socio-economic monitoring of development impacts on people's livelihoods and poverty reduction

A regional workshop for preparation of a baseline study on Social Impact Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment (SIMVA) was held. The study by national expert teams in different locations in the Member Countries began by applying developed SIMVA methodology and questionnaires. Field surveys were completed in March-April 2011 including interviews at 2,720 households in a 15 kilometre corridor either side of the mainstream Mekong in the four Member Countries. Four national teams continued to work on secondary data collection, data entry, analysis and reporting to share with the regional team. The initial findings of the study was shared and discussed at regional technical workshop in September 2011. The national consultation workshop was convened to share the results with National Mekong Committees and national stakeholders in the 4th quarter of 2011 aiming to finalize the national, regional synthesis report and its Technical Guidelines in early 2012.

Outcome 2 Decision making on basin developments is based on the use of agreed management tools.

Output 2.1 Implementation of Procedures for Water Quality

The Procedures for Water Quality (PWQ) were successfully approved at the 17th MRC Council Meeting in January 2011. The four Ministries of the Member Countries joined the signing ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The PWQ officially confirms a commitment for maintaining Mekong water quality in a good/acceptable condition. The 6th TBWQ meeting was held in February 2011 to continue Member Countries' efforts to discuss chapter 3 and 4 of the technical guidelines. At the 33rd JC Meeting later in March 2011, a roadmap for implementation of the PWQ was agreed by Member Countries, aiming to complete four chapters of the technical guidelines to support implementation by the end of 2011. National consultation workshops on the contents of chapter 3; Technical Guideline for Water Quality Emergency Management and Response were completed. A number of suggestions emerged and guided further consideration at the 7th and 8th TBWQ meeting and led to a report of a progress at the 34th and 35th JC meeting in August and November 2011 respectively.

Output 2.2 Implementation of Transboundary Environmental Impact assessment guidelines

The TbEIA Framework version of October 2010 was reported to the MRC JC at the Preparatory Meeting of 17th MRC Council Meeting in January 2011. The JC considered the Framework and suggested with the Environment Division to further consult with line agencies of Member Countries to improve common understanding. A national consultation with Lao PDR was organised in March 2011, but those for others had not been held. The roadmap and progress for completion of the TbEIA Guidelines was reported again at the 33rd JC meeting in March 2011. The JC advised the Secretariat to hold more national consultations to share issues on the documents with the Member Countries. In response to this guidance, national consultative workshops on the MRC Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Framework were held during April – June 2011, with considerable participation by relevant line agencies in each Member Country. The national workshops achieved better common understanding of the MRC Transboundary Impact Assessment in a broader group of line agencies in the Member Countries. The Member Countries' positions were clearly stated towards the current draft of the Framework. Additionally, a number of valuable comments were made to improve the Framework and its technical guidelines. The progress was reported to the 34th JC meeting in August 2011 and JC guidance was received to how to move forward on development of TbEIA guidelines through 2011 and beyond.

Output 2.3 Development and implementation of additional tools and mechanisms for regional environmental cooperation (beyond PWQ and TbEIA)

The Environment Programme contributed to the PNPCA process through provision of a review on submitted documents on the Xayaburi Hydropower development project, particularly on water quality, ecological health, ecosystem integrity and environmental flows. The relevant section of comments on these environmental aspects, with focus on transboundary issues, was submitted in the first quarter of 2011. The Environment Programme facilitated the discussion and comments at national consultation meetings with regards to the proposed Xayaburi hydropower project, leading to the decision and discussion at the Special session of the JC in March 2011. The data, information and knowledge on water quality and ecological health monitoring activities were used as a baseline to assess potential transboundary environmental impacts of this proposed project. Gaps in

relevant environmental data and knowledge for the project were identified by the Environment Programme.

Outcome 3 Timely response to emerging issues is enabled through research and outreach activities engaging national and regional stakeholders.

Output 3.1 The MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative addresses environmental and social sustainability in adaptation planning and implementation

The 1st regional workshop on technical input and methodology for the climate change and wetlands study: 'A basin-wide climate change impact assessment on Mekong wetlands and biodiversity' was held to discuss selection of wetland sites under the study in the Member Countries. A team of international and national experts were contracted by MRCS through a tender process to conduct the study. Wetland case studies for climate change impact and vulnerability assessment were implemented by national teams, the consultant team and one case (Thailand) by local stakeholder working group to promote public involvement and engagement. A total of 7 wetland case study sites of Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand were selected. The activities of the case studies included data collection on wetland characteristics, potential climate risks and impacts on wetlands. The initial results were shared at the 2nd regional workshop in July 2011 aiming to finalize the study by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

Output 3.2 Early warning of negative environmental trends and identified issues addressed

Sampling design and methodology on pollution source identification of the multimedia study on toxin contamination in the lower Mekong River and its tributaries were reviewed. The 1st workshop on the sampling design plan and pollution source identification methodology for the multimedia monitoring of toxin contamination study was held in January. The study started a sampling survey in the Member Countries conducted by the Consultant with logistical support by the Member Countries. The surveys covered 28 sampling locations for surface water and sediment and 20 sampling locations for biota and took place during March to July 2011 in collaboration with the National Mekong Committees. The last sampling campaign will be completed by July 2011. A total of 85 parameters are analysed: 41 in surface water, 24 in sediment and 20 in biota. Fish samplings were completed in all four countries before the end of May. Water and sediment sampling commenced from May and will be finalised in July.

Outcome 4 Improved capacity and awareness of environmental issues and cooperation is established, supporting a longer-term sustainability strategy

The MRC Technical Paper No 28 on An Assessment of Environmental Impacts of Tourism in the Lower Mekong Basin was published in 2011 and made available on the MRC website under the Environment Division for the general public in the Member Countries and other stakeholders to review. Awareness-raising on regulation of environmental protection for Khong district officials has been completed in Champasak province. Garbage bins and life jackets were handed over to Khong District Governor to manage solid waste and promote tourism activities in Khong District, Champasak Province. Training on environmental protection for Vang Vieng district staff was completed. Training on solid waste management for staff of the Department of Environment and Water Resources and provincial tourism authority and

teachers was completed in Luang Prabang Province. Awareness raising on environmental impacts of tourism was not conducted in Kratie, Takeo and Siem Reap provinces, Cambodia, due to delays in preparing the training materials

The MRC Technical Paper No 30 on Social Impact Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment; Report on a Regional Pilot Study for the Mekong Corridor was available in 2011. Drafts of several publications are under preparation for publication in late 2011 and early 2012.

Output 4.4 Long-term sustainability strategy for MRC environment activities

The Environment Programme contributed to the MRC's overall efforts to develop a roadmap for transfer of core functions to the Member Countries. Inputs were provided to a concept note outlining the activities under the core functions, as well as the concept for transfer of activities and sub-activities. Examples and ideas from the Environment Programme were shared with other programmes and Member Country representatives at a regional meeting in June 2011. Programme provided inputs and relevant support information to ICCS on decentralization process of high EP priority activities for transfer to Member Countries by September 2011.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Action Taken

None of significance, but there was only minor problem on some staff members who completed their term of services in mid of 2011 causing to a period of staff vacancy and on-recruitment for some months. But, corrective actions were taken; 1) timely recruitment successfully; 2) engaging short-term consultancy.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Undertaken in 2011

Sida appraisal review on programme proposal for a new agreement to support the Programme was in July and October 2011.

Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken in 2011

The Seventeenth Meeting of the MRC Council approved of the Procedures for Water Quality, and the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Meetings of the MRC Joint Committee provided guidance on a progress on development of Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and development of technical guidelines to support the Procedures for Water Quality.

3.4.3. EP Workplan for 2012

Outcome 1 Operational environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting

Output 1.1 Monitoring of the Environmental quality and ecological balance of the Mekong River

EP 1.1.1 Water quality monitoring will continue as routine activity throughout 2011. Methodology and sampling frequency will be reviewed based on the results of 2010. Designated water laboratories and line agencies will implement with its capacity with a gradual lesser support as targeted both financially and technically by MRCS.

- EP 1.1.2 Ecological health monitoring results of 2010 survey will complete as a status report and disseminate to wider stakeholders in Member Countries. Biomonitoring Handbook in riparian language version will be further promoted by provincial, local and sub-basin river organizations. The data and information will be published as MRC Technical Paper. River Card on ecological health status of Mekong River will be updated and published National workshop to identify national partners to implement the activity will be convened.
 - EP 1.1.3 Further development and refinement of biodiversity indicators expressing key elements of halting the loss and gain of biodiversity will continue from initial progress in 2010. A set of Mekong Bioindicators will be provisionally agreed by Member Countries. A clear concept of biodiversity monitoring and assessment will be established. Field survey to test bioindicators will be exercised in some locations.
 - EP 1.1.5 Wetland inventory framework and methodology will be finalized for lower Mekong River Basin in 2012 through regional consultation workshop in collaboration with NMCs, line agencies and relevant regional organizations.
 - EP 1.1.6 Existing Mekong wetland classification and maps will be reported. An implementation of an update on wetland classification and maps will start in 2012. Wetland mapping will be updated in collaboration with IKMP. Inventory and assessment of change will be finalized for important wetland sites across the basin.
- Output 1.2 Socio-economic monitoring of development impacts on people's livelihoods and poverty reduction
- EP 1.2.1 The 1st basin-wide baseline survey (2010-2011) of social impact and vulnerability assessment including aspects on climate change will be finalized covering the mainstream corridor delivering the national and regional reports in 2012.
 - EP 1.2.2 Technical Guideline for social impact monitoring and vulnerability assessment for lower Mekong Basin will be consulted with Member Countries aiming to agree for its use in long-term monitoring. A package of socio-economic activities will be defined in collaboration with BDP, FP and CCAI with the aim to strengthen the social assessments of MRC.
- Output 1.3 Regional assessment and reporting of environmental and socio-economic status and trends published regularly
- EP 1.3.1 Design of outline, layout and format of indicator based monitoring reports will be finalized, agreed and applied by Member Countries for MRC based on initial progress in 2011. Regional assessment and reporting of water quality and ecological health monitoring activities will be undertaken based on national reports by the end of 2012. Annual indicators-based report will be prepared.
- Output 1.4 Environmental and social impact assessments of basin developments undertaken

- EP 1.4.1 Needs for support to assessment of basin developments with potential basin-wide or transboundary environmental and social impacts will be identified. This will be in collaboration with MRC programmes particularly the BDP, ISH, FP, M-IWRMP and ICCS and in consultation with Member Countries.
- EP 1.4.2 Start conducting high priority needed assessment of basin development by applying technical guidelines addressing transboundary environmental impacts at least for a particular proposed development in 2012.
- EP 1.4.3 Apply environmental flows assessment approaches and methodologies to support assessment of basin developments with, if necessary, a refinement of its application based on lessons learnt elsewhere. This shall demonstrate how environmental flows concept can be applicable for Mekong basin development.

Output 1.5 Environmental and socio-economic monitoring systems updated to reflect the information needs for environmental cooperation and capacity of the Member Countries

- EP 1.5.1 and 1.5.2 Clear description and documentation of the water quality and ecological health monitoring and social impact monitoring systems will be prepared facilitating future reviews and revisions annually.

Outcome 2 Implementation and use of environmental management mechanisms and tools

Output 2.1 Implementation of Procedures for Water Quality

- EP 2.1.1 A capacity needs assessment for implementation of the PWQ will be finalized early 2012 based on Capacity Development Action Plan for Procedures which M-IWRMP initiated in 2011 by extensive consultations with relevant line agencies and NMCs.
- EP 2.1.2 Establish and update water quality monitoring and analytical laboratory capacity of designated laboratories to strengthen an implementation of Technical Guidelines for an implementation of Procedure for Water Quality. This includes physical and human resources capacities in 2012.
- EP 2.1.3 Gradually strengthen the capacity for cooperation on water quality emergency management by starting a support to the establishment and testing of the water quality emergency response and management system throughout 2012.
- EP 2.1.4 Perform an annual review on an adequacy and currency of the technical guidelines for an implementation of the PWQ by the 4th Quarter of 2012, using the results of annual water quality report 2011 and 2012 as a base to identify actions for strengthening its implementation.
- EP 2.1.5 Prepare and disseminate annual report on an implementation of the PWQ by the 4th Quarter and reporting to the MRC Joint

Committee. The annual report shall combine annual water quality data from all national water quality reports.

Output 2.2 Implementation of Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines

EP 2.2.1 Continue developing the technical guidelines for addressing transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed projects aiming to reach a consensus and agreement at the regional working group and MRC JC approval in 2012.

EP 2.2.2 Create a parallel mechanism and track II platform for exchange information and building lessons learnt in handling potential transboundary environmental impacts of development projects in Mekong basin. This includes training, and brainstorming and exchange visit among Member Countries.

Output 2.3 Development and Implementation of additional tools and mechanisms for regional environmental cooperation (beyond PWQ and TbEIA)

EP 2.3.1 Support will be provided upon request to Regional PNPCA Working Group and MRCS Task Group according to needs for the PNPCA process.

EP 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 2.3.5 Support will be provided to testing and any further developments of hydropower sustainability assessment tools; Environmental Considerations for Sustainable Hydropower Development, Improvement of Preliminary Design Guidance to Hydropower Development in Mekong Mainstream, Special studies for establishing environmental baseline for hydropower sector. Technical studies to improve Mekong environmental and social knowledge for hydropower development will be initiated.

Outcome 3 Timely response to emerging environmental issues

Output 3.1 The MRC Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative addresses environmental and social sustainability in adaptation planning

EP 3.1.1 A basin-wide pilot on climate change impact and vulnerability assessment for wetlands and biodiversity will be finalized in the 1st quarter of 2012. Adaptation planning for lower Mekong wetlands ecosystems will be established and recommended. Methods and tools for climate change impact and vulnerability assessment of key Mekong natural systems particularly wetlands will be finalized for Member Countries. These will be promoted and applied from 2013 and beyond.

Output 3.2 Early Warning of negative environmental trends and identified issues addressed

EP 3.2.1 A diagnostic study on water quality focusing on heavy metals and persistent organic chemicals will be finalized and published in 2012 based on the study during 2010-2011. The results including most updated pollution status in water, sediment and biota of lower Mekong basin will be disseminated and published as MRC Technical Papers and reports by 2012.

Output 3.3 Understanding of the Mekong River Ecosystems and environmental outlooks is improved to support impact assessment of basin developments

EP 3.3.1 Indicators to illustrate cause-effect relationships for social and environmental impacts in the basin will be developed using the DPSIR framework.

EP 3.3.2 Selected valuation studies of wetland and biodiversity values will be undertaken. Description of knowledge gaps identified during the SEA of mainstream dams and the BDP scenario assessment will be used to design a programme of action to fill those gaps. An initial prioritisation according to needs and funding availability would be attached to the action plan supporting the future implementation.

EP 3.3.3 A methodology for establishment of environmental outlooks will be developed in 2012.

Output 3.4 Outreach to stakeholders and engagement in relevant national, regional and international fora

EP 3.4.1 Collaborate with other MRC Programmes to hold Mekong Forum in 2012. Disseminate and update all Environment Programme data/information/knowledge to stakeholders and the public at large.

EP 3.4.2 Regularly present and share programme activities, progress, data and knowledge with other national, regional fora when be invited and/or be necessary to raise awareness and to improve understanding of stakeholders.

Outcome 4 Capacity and awareness of environmental issues and cooperation

Output 4.1 A capacity needs assessment will be undertaken for key activities of the EP to strengthen the capacity for regional environmental cooperation. This includes monitoring as well as assessment related activities.

Output 4.3 An EP communication plan will be finalized and aligned with the MRC communication strategy and disclosure policy. The website will be continuously updated and publication of technical papers as well as easy to read booklets and report cards will continue.

Output 4.4 In collaboration with ICCS and OCEO, a decentralization of high priority programme activities which are identified for the period of 2011-2015 will be supported. It will describe the level of gradual transfer, shared responsibility of the activities to be undertaken by line agencies in Member Countries, NMCS and those to be undertaken by MRCS as well as a strategy and plan for the gradual transfer of activities will be prepared.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

None is planned.

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012											
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
			Outcome 1: Operational environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting												
			Output 1.1: Monitoring of the environmental quality												
2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11; 2.1.2.EP12; 2.1.3.EP12; 2.1.6.EP12; 3.5.5.EP12		1.1.1	Water quality monitoring of agreed parameters, at agreed locations and frequency/time following specified QA/QC procedures												
2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11; 2.1.2.EP12; 2.1.3.EP12; 2.1.6.EP12; 3.5.5.EP12		1.1.2	Ecological health monitoring using agreed methods including fish, at agreed locations and frequency/time following specified QA/QC procedures												
1.3.2.EP08; 2.1.1.EP08; 2.1.2.EP08; 2.4.3.EP08		1.1.3	Development of biodiversity indicators expressing key elements of halting the loss of biodiversity in the LMB including methodologies for data collection and establishment of baseline	20 Apr											
1.3.2.EP08; 2.1.1.EP08; 2.1.2.EP08; 2.4.3.EP08		1.1.4	Monitoring status and trends of biodiversity using developed indicators and assessment methods	02 Jul											
1.3.2.EP06		1.1.5	Establish methodology to evaluate change in wetland quality with regards to supporting biodiversity, production and livelihoods, establish baseline for selected key wetland sites and develop extrapolation methodologies to evaluate changes in wetland	02 Jan											
	EP06		Milestone: Climate change impact and vulnerability assessment tools developed for biophysical and social systems												
2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11; 2.1.2.EP12; 2.1.3.EP12; 2.1.6.EP12; 3.5.5.EP12		1.1.6	Monitor changes in wetland area and quality using mapping techniques to estimate change in area and the established methodology to evaluate changes in wetland quality	02 Jan											
			Output 1.2 Socio-economic monitoring												
1.4.3.EP10; 2.1.1.EP10		1.2.1	Complete the 1st full survey of the social impact monitoring and adjust the monitoring programme based on the survey results	30 Mar											
1.4.3.EP10; 2.1.1.EP10		1.2.2	Finalise the documentation and methodology description of the social impact monitoring and vulnerability assessment programme	02 Apr 11 May											
	EP10		Milestone: Study report on social and livelihood impacts in the mainstream corridor, Tonle Sap, and 3S system	14 May											
1.1.2.BDP02; 2.1.2.BDP02; 1.2.3.FP03		1.2.3	Establish and test methodologies to estimate values of selected socio-economic indicators (output 3.3) based on survey data and secondary socio-economic data from data sources in the MRC Member Countries in collaboration with BDP and FP	02 Apr											
			Output 1.3: Regional assessment and reporting of environmental and socio-economic status and trends published regularly												

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012													
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2.1.2.EP12; 2.1.3.EP12; 2.1.6.EP12; 3.5.5.EP12		1.3.1	Design the outline, format and layout of the annual indicator based environmental monitoring and assessment report					06 Apr									
2.1.2.EP12; 2.1.3.EP12; 2.1.6.EP12; 3.5.5.EP12		1.3.2	Prepare the annual indicator based environmental monitoring and assessment report					09 Apr									
			Output 1.4: Environmental and social impact assessments of basin developments undertaken														
1.2.1.ALL01		1.4.1	Identify the needs for support to assessment of basin developments with potential basin wide or transboundary implications in cooperation with other MRC programmes and stakeholders in the Member Countries	02 Jan								29 Jun					
1.2.1.ALL01		1.4.2	Conduct selected assessments of basin developments with potential basin wide or transboundary implications													05 Nov	
1.2.1.ALL01		1.4.3	Further develop environmental flows assessment approaches and methodologies supporting assessments of basin developments with potential basin wide and transboundary implications								25 Jun						
			Output 1.5: Environmental and social monitoring systems updated to reflect information needed and capacity of member countries														
2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11		1.5.1	Clear description of the environmental and social impact monitoring systems are established covering methodologies, location, frequency/time and QA/QC procedures								18 Jun						
2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11		1.5.2	The environmental and social monitoring systems are reviewed and if necessary revised based on experiences of implementation, newly established knowledge, experiences with implementation of environmental cooperation mechanisms and basin development								18 Jun						
			Outcome 2: Implementation and use of environmental management mechanism/tools														
			Output 2.1: Implementation of Procedures for Water Quality														
2.1.4.MIWRM01 3.1.1.MIWRM01		2.1.1	Review the current state of preparedness for implementation of the PWQ and identify actions needed to overcome technical and policy related constraints in transfer of implementation of PWQ and its Technical Guidelines to Member Countries													03 Aug	
	MIWRM01		Milestone: Technical Guidelines of the PWQ prepared and approved for implementation													03 Aug	
3.1.2.MIWRM03 3.1.3.MIWRM03 3.1.5.MIWRM03 3.2.2.MIWRM03		2.1.2	Strengthen the water quality sampling, testing and measurements to bring it in line with the provision of the Technical Guidelines for Protection of human health and aquatic life	02 Jan													
3.1.2.MIWRM03 3.1.3.MIWRM03 3.1.5.MIWRM03 3.2.2.MIWRM03		2.1.3	Strengthen the capacity for cooperation on water quality emergency management	02 Jan													

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012															
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
3.1.2.MIWRM03 3.1.3.MIWRM03 3.1.5.MIWRM03 3.2.2.MIWRM03		2.1.4	Implement identified actions to support implementation of the PWQ										03 Sep						
3.1.2.MIWRM03 3.1.3.MIWRM03 3.1.5.MIWRM03 3.2.2.MIWRM03		2.1.5	Establish and implement appropriate measures for managing the PWQ including updating mechanisms										03 Sep						
Output 2.2: Implementation of TbEIA guidelines																			
1.2.1.BDP06		2.2.1	Review the current state of preparedness for implementation of the TbEIA Guidelines and identify actions needed to overcome technical and policy related constraints in transfer of implementation to Member Countries																
1.2.1.BDP06		2.2.2	Implement identified actions to support implementation of the TbEIA	02 Jan															
Output 2.3: Development and implementation of additional tools and mechanisms																			
1.1.3.MIWRM04		2.3.1	Support to implementation of the PNPCA																
1.2.1.BDP06; 1.3.5.EP09		2.3.2	Review and asses performance of existing tools and guidelines for socio economic and environmental impact assessment	02 Jan															
	EP09		Milestone: Guide to integrate climate change into SEA and EIA processes developed																
Outcome 3: Timely response to emerging environmental issues																			
Output 3.1: Environmental and social sustainability in CCAI																			
1.3.2.EP06		3.1.1	Methods and tools are identified/developed for climate change impact assessment of biophysical systems															28 Sep	
	EP06		Milestone: Climate change impact and vulnerability assessment tools developed for biophysical and social systems															01 Oct	
1.3.2.EP07		3.1.3	Basin-wide adaptation planning process for selected natural systems	02 Jan															
	EP07		Milestone: Basin-wide climate change adaptation planning process developed for ecosystems and biodiversity in pilot areas															22 Jun	
Output 3.2: Early warning of negative environmental trends																			
2.4.3.EP14		3.2.1	Diagnostic studies on water quality focusing on e.g. persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals; nutrient dynamics; hot spot pollution will by conducted timely																
	EP14		Milestone: Diagnostic study for toxic contaminants in the Mekong riverine environments																30 Mar
Output 3.3: Understanding of the Mekong River ecosystems and environmental outlooks is improved																			
3.6.3.EP16		3.3.1	Development of environmental and social indicators including indicators for gender responsiveness using the DPSIR framework to strengthen capacity and increasing the understanding of the cause-effect relationships for Mekong River Basin developments	02 Jan															

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012															
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
3.6.3.EP16		3.3.2	Valuation studies of environmental assets and estimation of losses caused by environmental degradation											10 Sep					
3.6.3.EP16		3.3.3	Development and publication of environmental outlooks for key issues											10 Sep					
			Output 3.4: Outreach to stakeholders and engagement in relevant national, regional and international fora																
		3.4.1	Organization of annual technical meeting and/or MRC Forum				01 Mar		30 Mar										
		3.4.2	Presentation of EP results at national, regional and international conferences and workshops			23 Feb													19
		3.4.3	Support to and engagement with graduate, postgraduate, interns and trainees	02 Jan															
			Outcome 4: Capacity and awareness of environmental issues and cooperation																
			Output 4.1: Capacity needs assessed and institutional and national capacity strengthened for regional environmental policy making and cooperation for environmental cooperation																
		4.1.1	Following capacity needs assessment, conducting a series of training sessions and workshops															05 Oct	
		4.1.2	Quality assurance and quality control mechanisms implemented for all monitoring activities											15 Jul					
		4.1.3	Implementation of the institutional support component of transboundary impact assessment guidelines									02 Jul							
		4.1.4	Dessemination of key messages on environmental and social issues of the LMB																
			Output 4.2: Environmental education plan prepared and implemented																
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.2.1	Preparation of environmental education plan											17 Sep					
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.2.2	Implementation of environmental education plan including support to university curricula											17 Sep					
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.2.3	Preparation and dissemination of learning material based on methodology and results from EP implementation											17 Sep					
			Output 4.3: Communication plan prepared and implemented																
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.3.1	Preparation and updating of the EP communication plan																30 Mar
			Milestone: Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plans prepared, reviewed and updated by individual MRC programmes																30 Mar
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.3.2	Regularly updating the EP website in line with MRC website policies																

Environment Programme

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012												
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.3.3	Publication of key results in the MRC Technical paper series	02 Jan												
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.3.4	Publication of easy-to-read booklets, brochures and translated into riparian languages to support awareness raising	02 Jan												
Ouput 4.4 : Long-term strategy for MRC environment activities																
5.1.2.ALL03		4.4.1	Development of a roadmap for gradual transfer of environment activities to member countries							29 Jun						
5.1.2.ALL03		4.4.2	Preparation of a plan to transfer activities including capacity needs assessment							02 Jul						
5.1.2.ALL03		4.4.3	Implementation of activity transfer plan including training and capacity buidling													
5.1.2.ALL03		4.4.4	Adapt the EP outputs and activities to continued focus on MRC core functions						01 Jun							
5.1.2.ALL03		4.4.5	Regularly updating the road map										01 Nov	...	02 Dec	
Output 4.5: Partnerships, institutional arrangements and staffing																
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.5.1	Inception report detailing partnership arrangements, feasibility of inclusion of new partners, review of programme performance management													
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.5.2	Establishing and maintaining partnerships, working relations and joint activities with key regional partner organizations			15 Feb										
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02;		4.5.3	Establishing and maintaining partnerships and working relations and joint activities with private sector partners			15 Feb										
1.4.5.ICBP02		4.5.4	Development and implementation of a roadmap to improve gender responsiveness in environment programme activities						15 May							
5.3.1.ICBP15; 5.3.4.ICBP16		4.5.5	Efficient and adaptive management of the EP team and resources													
5.4.4.TCU06; 5.4.5.TCU07		4.5.6	Coordination with MRC programmes providing cross-cutting support on environmental and social issues										02 Sep			
5.2.4.TCU04		4.5.7	Establishing and implementing a harmonized system of monitoring and reporting in line with MRC Procedures					06 Apr								

3.5. Fisheries Programme (FP)

3.5.1. Programme Overview

The Fisheries Programme 2011-2015 was initiated in January 2011. It builds on the achievements of two earlier phases of the Programme (FP1 from 2001 to 2005 and FP2, from 2006 to 2010), specifically in facilitating the development of a sound scientific understanding of LMB fisheries by riparian stakeholders, and supporting its communication; monitoring the status and trends of Mekong fisheries, and mitigating the impacts of developments and climate change; supporting regional dialogue on LMB fisheries management and development; improving fisheries management and governance, and aquaculture of indigenous species.

The Lower Mekong fishery is the world's largest single freshwater fishery, with an estimated yield of 3.9 million tonnes per year and a total value of US\$ 3.9 – billion (in 2008; see MRC, State of the Basin Report 2010). Up to 40 million people (two-thirds of the population of the LMB) across the LMB are actively involved, at least part-time, in fisheries. Fishery is one of the few sources of income for an increasingly young, often landless rural population. Fisheries products also supply essential micro-nutrients (especially Vitamin A and calcium) and between 50-80% of the animal protein for the basin's population. Consequently, they are essential for food security, especially for the poorest people in the LMB.

The goal of the Fisheries Programme 2011-2015 is that 'Riparian governments and other stakeholders make sustainable and effective use of the Mekong's fisheries resources to alleviate poverty while protecting the environment'.

The programme objective is that "Regional and national organizations successfully implement measures for sustainable fisheries development and improved rural livelihoods'.

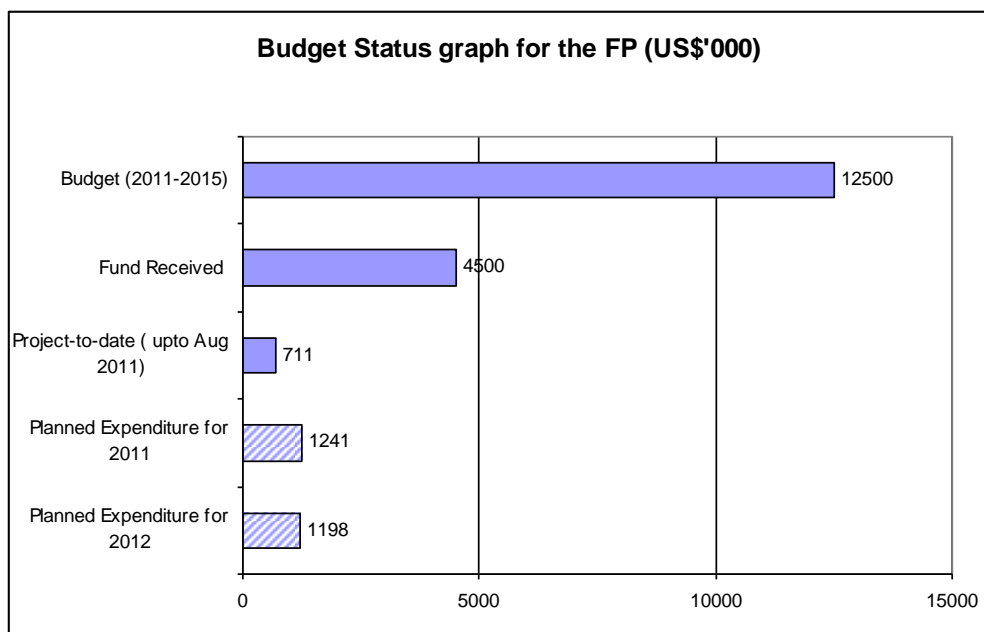
List of agreements

Agreements	Start date	End date	Budget (US\$ 1,000)	Balance 08/2011 (*)	Donors
Danida	01/01/2011	31/12/2015	4,562.877	3,851.335	Denmark
ISH	01/06/2011	31/12/2012	245.6	-	

3.5.2. Progress of FP in 2011

The progress reported here covers the 1st year of FP 2011-2015, which commenced in January 2011.

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the Fisheries Programme, which includes the overall estimated budget for the period 2011-2015, total funds received so far, expenses on the Programme-to-date (January 2011- August 2011), planned expenditures for 2011, as well as planned expenditure for 2012.



Planned and Achieved Outputs in 2011

Outcome 1: Riparian fisheries decision-makers have a good, science-based understanding of the situation of fisheries in the Region

- FP 1.1 An Inception Phase was implemented, and an Inception Report, which will guide FP 2011-2015 implementation, was submitted for endorsement by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC).
- FP 1.2 Technical and scientific information was routinely packaged; this included information produced by FP as well as other organizations.
- FP 1.3 The evaluation of 'Effectiveness of fisheries communication' was initiated.

Outcome 2: Riparian organizations monitor the status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

- FP 2.1 Information on fisheries and aquaculture status and trends and fisheries valuation was provided wherever requested; this included information from national as well as regional levels.
- FP 2.2 Improved information on capture fisheries and aquaculture was routinely made available, and disseminated to basin planners and other concerned agencies.
- FP 2.3 The description of 'Potential impacts on fisheries and aquaculture' and the 'Identification and evaluation of suitable mitigating measures' was initiated.
- FP 2.4 The 'Assessment of impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture' was initiated.

Outcome 3: Key stakeholders maintain a high level of regional and national dialogue, as well as dialogue between sectors and programmes relevant to fisheries within a basin-wide IWRM framework, and guide the implementation of suitable measures to maintain fisheries sustainability.

FP 3.1 Platforms for regional and international dialogue and consultation on sustainable Mekong fisheries management and development were maintained and are functioning well.

The Programme contributed to a number of regional events, such as 9th Asian Fisheries Forum in Shanghai, China, in April 2011; the FAO/APFIC Consultation on 'Fisheries and Climate Change', in Kathmandu, Nepal, in May 2011; the ASEAN/ SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, in June 2011; and a Consultation on Development Trends in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Asian Lakes and Reservoirs, in Wuhan, China, in September 2011.

The 12th annual meeting of the FP-supported Network for Gender and Women in Fisheries was organized in Luang Prabang, in Lao PDR, in May 2011. The meeting reviewed progress of the network in 2010/2011, and developed a workplan for the period 2011-2015.

FP 3.2 Preparatory arrangements were made for the 'Drafting of a regional cooperation framework for fisheries management and development will be drafted in close collaboration and interaction with the BDP'.

Major activities under this output deal with the identification and preparation of transboundary fisheries management and development between neighboring countries. During the period April – August 2011, a 'Pilot Project on Transboundary Fisheries Management in Bordering Province of Viet Nam and Cambodia' was approved and a MOU signed. Furthermore, discussions were held with the Mekong-IWRM Project on possible cooperation in several transboundary fisheries management projects (in particular in the border areas of Laos and Cambodia, and possibly in the Upper Mekong region of Thailand and Laos).

Outcome 4: National and local agencies and fishing communities have the capacity necessary for improving fisheries management and development.

FP 4.1 Technical and administrative skills and knowledge of fisheries managers were developed as planned.

FP 4.2 Fisheries management institutions were strengthened as needed.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Action Taken

Problems encountered were mainly in the context of moving the Fisheries Programme from OSV to OSP. Corrective action: To get settled down as quickly as possible.

Furthermore, the identification and recruitment of Programme Officers and riparian Technical Specialists took longer than anticipated. Corrective action:

Various rounds of vacancy announcements and screening of applications had to be effected.

The Chief technical Adviser left unexpectedly and suddenly. Corrective action: A vacancy announcement was issued and the recruitment process initiated.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals in 2011

None (as none were planned).

3.5.3. FP Workplan for 2012

Outcome 1: Riparian organizations have a good, science-based understanding of the situation of fisheries in the Region.

FP 1.1: The Fisheries Programme 2011-15 is implemented effectively

FP 1.2: Technical, Scientific and fisheries management information on LMB fisheries is packaged and disseminated effectively

Outcome 2: Riparian organizations monitor the status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture management and development.

FP 2.1: Information on Fisheries and Aquaculture Status and Trends (FST) and Fisheries Valuation (FV) is available regularly

FP 2.3: Potential impacts of infrastructure development on fisheries and aquaculture described, & mitigating measures identified and evaluated

FP 2.2: Improved information on capture fisheries and aquaculture is available

FP 2.4: Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture are assessed

Outcome 3: Key stakeholders maintain a high level of regional and national dialogue, as well as dialogue between sectors and programmes relevant to fisheries within a basin-wide IWRM framework, and guide the implementation of suitable measures to maintain fisheries sustainability.

FP 3.1: Platforms for regional and international dialogue and consultation on sustainable Mekong fisheries management and development are supported, maintained and functioning well

FP 3.2: A LMB-wide cooperation framework for fisheries management and development is prepared.

Outcome 4: National and local agencies and fishing communities have the capacity necessary for improving fisheries management and development.

FP 4.1: Technical and administrative skills and knowledge of fisheries managers are developed.

FP 4.2: Fisheries management institutions are strengthened

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2011

None are planned.

ID	SP-Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012																	
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
1			1	Outcome 1: Riparian fisheries decision-makers have a good, science-based understanding of the situation of fisheries in the LMB.																		
2			1.1	Output 1.1: The Fisheries Programme 2011-2015 is implemented effectively.																		
3			1.1.1	Implement an Inception Phase.																		
4			1.1.1.1	Review and refine the FP11/15 Programme Document in accordance with MRC Strategic Plan.																		
5			1.1.1.2	Review and align the Programme Performance Monitoring System with MRC PMS.																		
6	ALL02 ICCS02	1.1.4.ALL02 3.2.1.ALL02 3.3.3.ALL02 3.5.2.ALL02 1.1.4.ICCS02 3.2.1.ICCS02 3.3.3.ICCS02 3.5.2.ICCS02	1.1.1.3	Discuss and agree on approach to stakeholder analysis and participation, as required for the Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan (ALL03) [see 4.2.1].																		
7			1.1.1.4	Hold inception meetings and workshops.																		
8			1.1.1.5	Prepare Fisheries Programme Implementation Plan (F-PIP).																		
9			1.1.1.6	Approve Fisheries Programme Implementation Plan (F-PIP).																		
...			1.1.1.7	Prepare Draft Inception Report.																		
...			1.1.1.8	Approve Final Inception Report.																		
...	ALL03	5.1.2.ALL03	1.1.2	Implement routine administrative - managerial tasks of FP.																		
...			1.1.2.1	Prepare and administer budget.																		
...			1.1.2.2	Prepare and administer work agreements and consultant contracts.																		
...			1.1.2.3	Hire and manage staff.																		
...			1.1.2.4	Manage office equipment, IT and software and support services.																		
...			1.1.2.5	Organise and support FP meetings and events and travel administration.																		
...			1.1.2.6	Attend other MRC meetings, including programme coordination meetings, other programme's meetings and workshops, meetings with donors, discussions with external consultants, in-house MRC training and others.																		
...	TCU04	5.2.4.TCU04	1.1.2.7	Update F-PIP and other Programme routine MRC and FP programme reports.																		
...	TCU03	5.2.2.TCU03	1.1.2.8	Monitor and evaluate FP implementation.																		
...			1.1.2.9	Carry out Mid-term review of FP.																		
...			1.2	Output 1.2: Technical, Scientific and fisheries management information on LMB fisheries is packaged and disseminated effectively.																		
...	ALL02	1.1.4.ALL02 3.2.1.ALL02 3.3.3.ALL02 3.5.2.ALL02	1.2.1	Develop and implement a communication plan for the Fisheries Programme.																		
...			1.2.1.1	Outline communication plan at 1st regional inception meeting.																		
...			1.2.1.2	Prepare draft communication plan for country comment.																		
...			1.2.1.3	Draft report of FP Communication plan.																		
...			1.2.1.4	Review and comment on communication plan from countries.																		
...			1.2.1.5	Finalise and agree on communication plan, as input to Stakeholder Participation and Communication plan (ALL03) [see 4.2.1].																		
...			1.2.2	Compile and publish information on regionally significant issues of fisheries following the Communication Plan.																		
...			1.2.2.1	Assemble publication priority list according to the agreed communication Plan.																		
...			1.2.2.2	Allocate responsibilities for communication according to the plan.																		
...			1.2.2.3	Implement communication plan as outlined, this includes many kinds of tasks on the compilation of information which will be elaborated in updated versions of the F-PIP.																		
...			1.2.2.4	Prepare an updated LMB Fisheries Sector Report.																		
...	ALL01 EP12	1.1.2.ALL01 2.1.2.EP12 2.1.3.EP12 2.1.6.EP12 3.5.5.EP12	1.2.2.5	Contribute to State of the Basin Report 2015 (EP12).																		
...			1.2.3	Disseminate fisheries information following the Communication Plan.																		
...			1.2.3.1	Maintain/improve website, e-mail and address lists according to the plan.																		
...			1.2.3.2	Maintain/improve fisheries information databases according to the plan.																		
...			1.2.3.3	Establish lines of communication and responsibilities.																		
...			1.2.3.4	Carry out other tasks following the Communication Plan.																		
...			1.3	Output 1.3: Effectiveness of fisheries communication is evaluated																		
...			1.3.1	Survey stakeholders' opinion on usefulness of packaged and shared information and knowledge																		
...			1.3.1.1	Develop a plan for this survey based on discussions during programme meetings to form part of the Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan (ALL02)																		
...			1.3.1.2	Implement this plan and carry out other tasks which will be elaborated in updated versions of the F-PIP																		
...			1.3.1.3	Report.																		
...			1.3.2	Document the uptake of FP-originated information and knowledge into practical action																		
...			1.3.2.1	Develop an assessment plan (survey) based on discussions during programme meetings																		

ID	SP-Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012												
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1.3.2.2	Implement this plan and carry out other tasks which will be elaborated in updated versions of the F-PIP													
			1.3.2.3	Report.													
			2	Outcome 2: Riparian planning agencies monitor the status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture management and development.													
			2.1	Output 2.1: Information on Fisheries and Aquaculture Status and Trends (FST) and Fisheries Valuation (FV) is available regularly.													
			2.1.1	Develop a monitoring plan which includes transfer of responsibility for core monitoring activities to National Mekong Committees, fisheries agencies, others in MRCS or other agencies.													
			2.1.1.1	Outline this issue and core monitoring activities at a Regional Inception Meeting.													
			2.1.1.2	Draft a Plan to Transfer Fisheries Monitoring Activities (PTFMA) to the countries.													
			2.1.1.3	Discuss the draft PTFMA at national meetings and provide input to FP.													
			2.1.1.4	Prepare revised draft PTFMA and provide input to countries and others for final review.													
			2.1.1.5	Final comments and review of PTFMA.													
			2.1.1.6	Update PTFMA annually.													
			2.1.1.7	Provide programme transition plan (ALL03) [see also 4.2.1].													
			2.1.2	Describe the basin-wide status of fisheries.													
			2.1.2.1	Review the national censuses and surveys that are carried out in each LMB country.													
			2.1.2.2	Discuss and agree on appropriate 'fisheries questions' for censuses.													
			2.1.2.3	Discuss and agree with countries on what is needed for support to the process.													
			2.1.2.4	Meet with responsible agencies and incorporate fisheries questions.													
			2.1.2.5	Discuss and agree with NMCs and others on institutional arrangements and sustainability of fisheries elements in national surveys.													
			2.1.2.6	Follow up on implementation in national surveys and provide results to FP for other reporting.													
			2.1.2.7	Other activities to be elaborated in updated versions of this F-PIP.													
			2.1.3	Monitor trends in basin-wide fisheries indicators of yield and value.													
			2.1.3.1	Monitor dai fisheries in Cambodia.													
			2.1.3.2	Monitor lee trap and gill-net fisheries in southern Lao PDR.													
			2.1.3.3	Monitor drift of larvae and fry.													
			2.1.3.4	Monitor catches by fishers along the Mekong and tributaries.													
			2.1.3.5	Monitor market prices of key fishery species in each country.													
			2.1.3.6	Monitor indicators of fishery health in conjunction with EP (Fish catch monitoring in conjunction with EP bio-monitoring stations).													
			2.1.3.7	Monitor the trend in aquaculture.													
			2.1.3.8	Monitor others according to PTFMA and ongoing discussions.													
			2.2	Output 2.2: Improved information on capture fisheries and aquaculture is available.													
FP04	2.1.5.FP04		2.2.1	Implement additional capture fisheries studies.													
			2.2.1.1	Reviews of existing environmental or fisheries information, e.g. the impacts of dams on fisheries.													
			2.2.1.2	Surveys of fisheries yield at a landscape scale.													
			2.2.1.3	Surveys of yield and value of fisheries in particular habitats (i.e. over small-scales) such as rain-fed rice-fields, floodplain water-bodies, reservoirs, habitats in the Viet Nam delta and highlands.													
			2.2.1.4	Abundance and migration patterns of fish near dam sites and canals. While general patterns are known there is very limited specific information, particularly on tributaries													
EP01 EP03 FMMP04	1.2.1.EP01 1.2.1.EO03 2.1.2.EP03 1.2.1.FMMP04 1.3.1.FMMP04 2.3.1.FMMP04 2.3.3.FMMP04		2.2.1.5	Modelling to understand and predict relationships between fish catches and hydrology, nutrient flows and habitat													
FP04	2.1.5.FP04		2.2.1.6	Update report on classification of LMB habitats and their fisheries, threats and opportunities (FP04)													
			2.2.1.7	Others to be discussed, agreed and elaborated in updated versions of this F-PIP.													
			2.2.2	Implement additional aquaculture studies/activities.													
			2.2.2.1	Identification and agreement on priority species based on agreed criteria, e.g. that they are rare/endangered or are commercially promising.													
			2.2.2.2	Promote and propagate methods for culturing, raising and stocking indigenous fishery species.													
BDP09	1.4.4.BDP09	3	2.2.2.3	Develop and recommend protocols for fish stock enhancement and mitigation of impacts.													
			2.2.2.4	Describe and document issues of aquaculture economics and make recommendations for improvements.													
			2.2.2.5	Others according to ongoing discussions including the promotion of food safety system.													
MIWRM04	4.1.3.MIWRM 4.2.1.MIWRM		2.3	Output 2.3: Potential impacts of infrastructure development on fisheries and aquaculture described, & mitigating measures identified and evaluated.													
			2.3.1	Compile and synthesise information on infrastructure projects and mitigation.													
			2.3.1.1	Review existing information on impacts and mitigation.													
FP01	1.2.1.FP01 1.2.3.FP01		2.3.1.2	Carry out field visits of dam-sites or irrigation schemes as required to collect or validate information or to educate stakeholders.													
			2.3.1.3	Communicate with other MRC programmes on this issue.													
			2.3.1.4	Communicate with NMCs regarding required background information on WMPs and dams.													
			2.3.1.5	Receive, assemble, analyse information from NMCs, MRC and others.													

ID	SP-Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012												
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
...			2.3.1.6	Discuss and agree on approach for reporting and in line with FP Communication Plan.													
...			2.3.1.7	Implement reporting as agreed.													
...	ISH01	1.2.1.ISH01 2.1.2.ISH01 2.2.3.ISH01 2.2.5.ISH01	2.3.1.8	Identify key fish spawning locations and seasons along the Mekong mainstream.													
...			2.3.1.9	Review production of fish and other aquatic animals from hydropower reservoirs in the Mekong region.													
...			2.3.1.10	Develop standard methods for monitoring fisheries to quantify hydropower impacts.													
...	ISH03 ISH04 ISH06	1.2.1.ISH03 1.2.4.ISH03 1.4.6.ISH03 2.2.4.ISH03 1.2.1.ISH04 1.2.4.ISH04 1.2.4.ISH08 1.4.2.ISH08 1.4.6.ISH08 2.1.1.ISH08 2.4.3.ISH08	2.3.1.11	Prepare a primer on mitigation of impacts of hydropower dams.													
...			2.3.1.12	Carry out other activities.													
...			2.4	Output 2.4: Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture are assessed.													
...	CCAI05 EP05 EP15 FMMP05	1.3.5.CCAI05 2.5.4.CCAI05 3.5.1.CCAI05 1.3.1.EP03 1.3.1.EP03 1.3.2.EP03 1.3.3.EP03 2.4.2.EP03 2.4.4.EP03 2.4.5.EP03 2.4.5.EP15 1.2.2.FMMP05 1.3.1.FMMP05 1.3.3.FMMP05 1.4.2.FMMP05 1.4.3.FMMP05 2.1.5.FMMP05 2.4.2.FMMP05 2.4.4.FMMP05	2.4.1	Monitor and attempt to predict trends in fisheries resources and aquaculture production system in relation to climate change, such as temperature, precipitation, flood discharge and drought (in collaboration with EP and IKMP)													
...			2.4.1.1	Compile and review of information from other activities and other data including meteorology, hydrology etc.													
...			2.4.1.2	Modelling and analysis of relationships.													
...			2.4.1.3	Attend and presentation at regional/international workshops.													
...			2.4.1.4	Contribute to MRC Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI05).													
...			2.4.1.5	Other activities to be agreed in programme meetings.													
...			3	Outcome 3: Key stakeholders maintain a high level of regional and national dialogue, as well as dialogues between sectors and programmes relevant to fisheries within a basin-wide IWRM framework, and guide the implementation of suitable measures to maintain													
...			3.1	Output 3.1: Platforms for regional and international dialogue and consultation on sustainable Mekong fisheries management and development are supported, maintained and functioning well													
...			3.1.1	Prepare, deliver and/or support annual routine events to discuss Mekong fisheries management and development.													
...			3.1.1.1	Prepare and organise FP Annual Meetings, resp. participate in MRC Annual Meetings (agreement on venue, development of agenda, invitations, logistics, presentations by programme staff and counterparts, presentations by outside invitees, formulation of a me													
...			3.1.1.2	Prepare and organise annual Technical Symposia on Mekong Fisheries (agreement on venue, invitations, logistics, presentations by FP staff, counterparts and selected outside presenters, research workshop, field trip).													
...	ICBP02	1.4.5.ICBP02	3.1.1.3	Support the annual meetings of the Network on Gender and Fisheries - NGF (financial support to holding of the meeting, participation at the meeting).													
...			3.1.1.4	Prepare and organise meetings on regional networking by senior fisheries and water resources policy- and decision-makers in Mekong fisheries management and development (agreement on venue, development of agenda, invitations, logistics, preparation of meet													
...			3.1.1.5	Carry out others to be in line with the Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan (ALL02).													
...			3.1.2	Follow-up on decisions and proposals made at regional dialogues meetings (see Act. 3.1.1)													
...			3.1.2.1	The activity will be implemented through a number of tasks (sub-activities), depending on decisions made at meetings													
...	FP01	1.2.1.FP01 1.2.3.FP01	3.2	Output 3.2: A LMB-wide cooperation framework for fisheries management and development is prepared.													
...			3.2.1	Address fisheries-related issues important for Mekong water resources management and development.													
...	FP03 BDP02	1.4.3.FP03 1.4.5.FP03 2.1.1.FP03 2.2.5.FP03 1.1.2.BDP02 2.1.2.BDP02	3.2.1.1	Study socio-economic impacts and social implications from reduced capture fisheries (FP03).													
...			3.2.1.2	Address other issues.													

3.6. Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)

3.6.1. Programme Overview

The overall goal of the FMMP 2011-2015 is the same as the MRC Strategic Plan (SP) Goal: 'Member Countries apply basin-wide IWRM approaches in national water and related sector frameworks and development programmes'.

Integrated Flood Risk Management (IFRM) is an integral part of Integral Water Resource Management (IWRM). The objective of the FMMP programme responds to this goal by providing up-to-date flood risk management and mitigation practices aimed at reducing the negative impacts of floods, while maintaining the environmental benefits of floods. The Design Summary including program objective and outcomes, along with indicators used to monitor performance, provides a summary explanation of how this objective will be achieved.

Flood management is cross-sectoral in essence. Floodwaters can disrupt road transportation, affect farmer's crops, etc. In addition, floods disrupt the life and well-being of affected peoples in the LMB, reducing agricultural production (typically rice), curtailing income, triggering sickness and disease, damaging public infrastructure and private assets, interfering with schooling and generally perpetuating poverty. Despite these adverse effects, people continue to live in flood-prone areas because of the fertility of the floodplain and population pressure (population density in the Cuu Long Delta is some 450 persons/km²). Over time, the flood-prone peoples of the basin have learned (and in more recent years have been assisted by national governments) to 'live with floods'. Therefore flood management needs to be coordinated in an IWRM approach at a basin-wide scale. Improved flood management and mitigation remain indispensable and will in the future be more in demand than ever.

List of agreements

(US\$ 1,000)

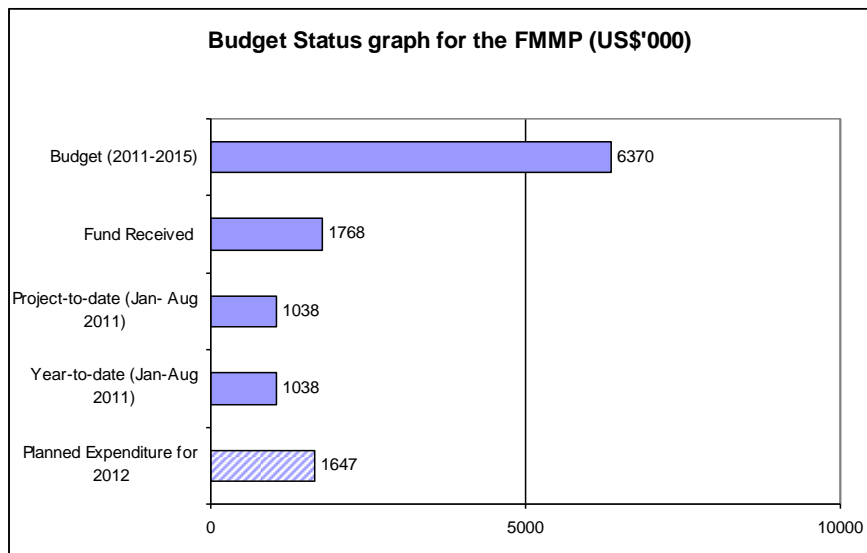
	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2011 (*)	Donors
Agreements					
Dutch contribution to Bridging Period agreement	2010	2011	<i>1870</i>	932	Netherlands
BMU-GIZ Project	2011	2015	<i>1200</i>		GIZ
Japan ASEAN Integration Fund	2012	2015	1500		JAIF
EU (EP/CCAI funds)	2012	2013	1800		EU
ADB-CAM/LAO PDR, 2012-2015	2012	2015	1500 (not confirmed yet)		ADB
SIDA Sweden 2011 - 2015	2011	2015	3500 (not confirmed yet)		SIDA

(*) Balance as per end August 2011

Note: Completed Agreements indicated in red Italics

3.6.2. Progress of Programme for 2011

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the programme. It should be noted that the figure on the total budget of US\$ 6.370 million, includes the support from the four Development Partners, but exclude ADB-CAM/LAO PDR arrangements and SIDA Sweden fund support FMMP as these are not confirmed yet.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

The FMMP Workplan 2011 will be a combination of the Netherlands funded Bridging Period and the extension of the GIZ funded Components 4 and 5. Apart from that there are some activities under the earlier components 1, 2 and 3 which have to be completed, e.g. translation and dissemination of approved reports.

Regarding the Bridging Period (BP) the following 9 Outputs will be accomplished during 2011:

- BP. 01 Daily flood forecasts during the flood season, and of the river monitoring during the dry season, through the MRC website and disseminated to a wide network of stakeholders FF and FW.
- BP. 02 Enhanced understanding and knowledge and skills of personnel of the National Centres in a) mainstream flood forecasting (URBS, ISIS and FEWS applications), b) in Flash Flood Guidance system.
- BP. 03 Enhanced knowledge and skills built of staffs of Line Agencies and Technical Centres in the MRC Member Countries on application of Integrated Flood Risk Management. The activity is to implement the Capacity Building Programme Phase 2 of Component 3. *(FMMP I related outputs)*
- BP. 04 A set of FMMP 2011-2015 formulation documents appropriate for further processing by MRCS (implementation documents for FMMP 2011-2015, like various project documents and Programme Implementation Plan).

- BP. 05 A series of documents specifying the planning and progress made during the Bridging Period (5 Quarterly progress reports, 3 biannual progress reports and a FMMP completions report)
- BP. 06 Annual Flood Report 2010 and Hydrology Report 2011 completed
- BP. 07 Enhanced Awareness, understanding, knowledge and skills built at dedicate personnel of National line agencies in the MRC Member Countries.
- BP. 08 A series of documents, describing dedicated outputs, activities and indicators, budget and planning to specify the FMMP contributions to other MRC programmes. The activity is to provide facilitation, support and inputs for the FMMP 2011-2015 formulation mission.
- BP. 09 Enhanced knowledge and skills built to strengthen cooperation in addressing trans-boundary flood issues. The activity is implementation of Capacity Building Programme Phase 2, Component 3, FMMP 2004-2010 through training workshops conducted.

The BMU-GIZ funding is available in the last quarter of 2011, as financial and implementation agreements have been signed. As the preparation of the BMU-GIZ initiative has been carried out over the time span of first until last quarter 2011, using the Bridging Period facility, the implementation is initiated from 1 September 2011 onwards.

The following remaining activities in 2011 (refer to the 2004 – 2010 Components – Structure):

Component 2 - Final Report printing and distribution will be completed in November 2011

Component 3 - Pocket book version translated into the four languages will be completed in November 2011.

Significant problems encountered and corrected action taken

Recruitment of Operational Manager RFMMC: A first round of recruitment did not provide a qualified candidate for the position of OM of the RFMMC. A second round has been initiated.

Annual Mekong Flood Forum 2011: Funding for the AMFF-2011 under the Bridging Period is limited, while the formulation process and funding opportunities require substantial capacity of FMMP management. Therefore FMMP cancelled the AMFF-2011 but used the option to organize a one day event and present the Annual Mekong Flood Report 2010 in conjunction with ADB’s preliminary results of the ADB funded “Development of the LMB Flood Vulnerability Indexes” (the project is being implemented by ICHARM, Japan, and supported by Deltares, the Netherlands). .

National Flood Units: Under the Bridging Period only the National FMM Coordinator is funded. The necessary arrangements will be continued/renewed for 2011. FMMP is interacting with donors through ICCS to continue and broaden support for national coordination, as soon as FMMP can substantiate additional support to donors.

Formulation Mission: The first round of National Consultation was initiated in July 2010. A second round was conducted in September 2010, while the 1st Regional Consultation meeting was held in HCMC on 18 November 2010. This meeting provided comments, which will require structural revision of the draft FMMP 2010-2015 Programme Document. The revised FMMP 2011 – 2015 Programme Document was made available in February 2011. This version was accepted by MRCS for circulation to the participants of the 2nd Regional Consultation meeting. The approval of the FMMP 2011-2015 Programme Document was provided by the MRC Joint Committee meeting in March 2011.

Japan Asean Integration Fund proposal: ICCS and FMMP have been interacting frequently on the FMMP proposal 2012-2015 for JAIF. The proposal is being processed by JAIF.

German Initiative on Climate Change: FMMP has been interacting with GIZ on the proposal of the German Environment Ministry for Climate Sensitive flood forecasting. Follow-up actions are undertaken. As stated before, the financial and implementation arrangements have been signed between MRC and BMU-GIZ.

BDP, M-IWRM and CCAI: FMMP is closely interacting with BDP, M-IWRM project and CCAI to explore opportunities for cooperation in implementing joint activities under the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 log frame. The EU has expressed interest in supporting a CCAI output, which is incorporated under FMMP output 3.2.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals carried out in 2011

The FMMP Bridging period proposal for the RNE Hanoi (1 November 2010 – 31 December 2011) has been approved after it has been screened by ICCS/CEO. FMMP has been working with FAS to produce the “best guess estimate” related to financial status of FMMP 2004-2010 at 01.11.2010.

A Bridging Period of USD 927, 290 (excluding the funding of C3 CBP2) for 14 months (1 November 2010 – 31 December 2011) was approved by the RNE in Hanoi. The completion report of FMMP 2004-2011 for the Netherlands is rescheduled by March 2012.

Relevant JC and Council decision

The draft final FMMP 2011-2015 Programme Document was approved during the 33rd Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee on 25-26 March 2011 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The Members of the Joint Committee requested that the final version of the report include additional recommendations, which were presented during the 33rd JC Meeting. This final version, dated 15 July 2011, incorporates these requests. Further, to accommodate recent developments concerning potential funding options, previous outputs have been updated to make them more specific to the proposed funding requirements.

3.6.3. **FMMP Workplan for 2012**

FMMP Workplan 2012 will be the combination of the two certain funding sources: BMU-GIZ “Project for the Climate change adaptation” through climate sensitive flood management in the Lower Mekong Basin” and Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) project for “Flood Forecasting and dissemination of information and warning services of the Mekong River Commission’s Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Centre. The GIZ prepared proposal has been accepted and the Agreement between MRC and GIZ on this fund was signed end of June 2011. For the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), the proposal is being processed for final issuing.

Under the German Ministry of Environment (BMU) through the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), among five main outputs, there are four outputs for which activities will be carried out from 01 September 2011 onwards and in 2012. The activities under each output are indicated hereafter:

BMU 1. Climate Data and Information:

- The evaluation report through conducting trainings “Workshop information will be consolidated. Experts, consultant will implement training workshops.
- Working Groups will be established through establishment of regional working group for data collection, system development, and quality control.
- Continuous on the job support of application of newly acquired skills

BMU 2. Annual Flood Forecasting:

- Develop/adjust and improve Flood Forecasting system
- Develop Linkage of system with and between relevant line agencies
- New Pilot testing system will be adjusted

BMU 3. Flood Forecasting

- Evaluation of Scientific Exchange: Scientific exchange on model development in expert seminars
- Agreement agreed by MCs and LAs will be adjusted
- Customizing the selected models and approaches to Mekong conditions
- Development of a communication strategy for introducing the new models and approaches to the Member Countries

BMU 4. Adaptation Planning and Mainstream

- FMMP Technical Report accepted by MRC and NMCs: to continue to support to the implementation of the analysis in MCs and formulation of country specific policy recommendations
- Report on vulnerabilities: vulnerable sectors and regions will be identified
- Guidelines will be established: accompanying national line agencies in using these analyses for selected planning process in particularly vulnerable regions preparedness

BMU 5. Implementation and Pilot Measures

No activities carried out in 2012

Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) main outputs will be carried out:

- FMMP 1. Improved regional hydro-meteorological data and information collection, transfer and exchange for MRC and MRC MCs
- FMMP 2. Daily Mekong River Flood Forecast and Warning Information disseminated to MCs
- FMMP 3. Flash Flood Forecasts Information and Alerts disseminated to MCs
- FMMP 4. Training & Capacity Building Programmes provided to Member Countries
- FMMP 5. Regional Implementation Support through Working Group meetings
- FMMP 6. Exchange of Knowledge through Workshops with MRC Member Countries and MRC Dialogues Partners
- FMMP 7. MRC Annual Flood Reports presented
- FMMP 8. Contribution to MRC Annual Hydrologic Reports presented

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

Fund for a Bridging Period of USD 927,290 for 14 months (1 November 2010 – 31 December 2011) was approved and signed by MRC and RNE Hanoi in October 2010. Completion report of FMMP 2004-2011 for the Netherlands (RNE Hanoi) is expected not to be required before end of March 2012.

Bridging Phase Proposal FMMP Phase II

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1.3.1.FMMP06		1	Outcome: Accurate and relevant FF and delivered to the region and MCs and effectively used				
1.3.1.FMMP06		1.1	Output 1: Daily flood forecasting during the flood season, and river monitoring during the dry season, through th MRC website and dissemination to a wide network of stakeholders for FF and FW				
1.3.1.FMMP06		1.1.1	To conduct data verification, preparation/conduct of forecasts, dissemination of daily bulletin with warning information, if and when applicable				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2	Outcome: Relevant and key FMMP I products are improved and better used by MCs and other MRC programme				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1	Output 2: Enhanced understanding and knowledge and skills of personnel of National Centres in a) mainstream flood forecasting (URBS, ISIS and Delft-FEWS applications), b) in Flash Flood Guidance System				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.1	a. Mainstream flood forecasting (URBS, ISIS and FEWS applications)				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.2	b. Flash Flood Guidance System				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.3	To carry out a series of training outreach sessions with dedicated the staffs of the National Centers				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.3.1	1. Training outreach session				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.3.2	2. Training outreach session				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.3.3	3. Training outreach session				
1.3.1.FMMP06		2.1.3.4	4. Training outreach session				
512ALL03		3	Outcome: The exchange and management of knowledge concerning flood risk management within MCs and other MRC programme				
512ALL03		3.1	Output 3: Annual Flood Report 2010, Annual Mekong Flood Forum 2011, and Hydrology Report 2011				
512ALL03		3.1.1	To implement the Annual Flood Report, the MRC Hydrology Report, Annual Mekong Flood Forum and its proceedings				
512ALL03		3.1.1.1	Annual Flood Report 2010				
512ALL03		3.1.1.2	Annual Mekong Flood Forum 2011				
512ALL03		3.1.1.3	Hydrology Report 2010				
1.1.3.FMMP03; 1.2.2.FMMP03		4	Outcome: IFRM capacity of LAs and NMCs in MCs and other MRC programmes to implement and report on IFRM procedures, guidelines and tools strengthening				
1.1.3.FMMP03; 1.2.2.FMMP03		4.1	Output 4: Enhance knowledge and skills built of staff of Line Agencies and Technical Centres in the MRC member countries on application of Integrated Flood Risk Management				
1.1.3.FMMP03; 1.2.2.FMMP03		4.1.1	Preparation of policy brief and summaries, the translation of key elements in Riparian Languages and the setting out/dissemination of products of all 5 components in order to identify the user groups				

Bridging Phase Proposal FMMP Phase II

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
114ALL02; 321ALL02; 333ALL02; 352ALL02		5	Outcome: Relevant and key FMMP I products are improved and better used by MCs and other MRC programme				
114ALL02; 321ALL02; 333ALL02; 352ALL02		5.1	Output 5: Enhanced awareness, understanding, knowledge and skills built at dedicated personnel of National line agencies in the MRC Member countries				
114ALL02; 321ALL02; 333ALL02; 352ALL02		5.1.1	To identify the need of disseminate. To select, adapt, translate, print and set-out FMMP I products (through summaries, key elements and policy briefs) for dedicated users				
1.3.1.FMMP06		6	Outcome: A financial and technically sustainable RFMMC that meets core operational and additional functions				
1.3.1.FMMP06		6.1	Output 6: A set of FMMP 2011-2015 formulation documents appropriate for further processing by MRCS (implementation documents for FMMP 2011-2015, such as various project documents and Programme Implementation Plan)				
		6.1.1	To provide facilitation, support and inputs for the FMMP II formulation mission				
1.3.1.FMMP06		7	Outcome: A financial and technically sustainable RFMMC that meets core operational and additional functions				
1.3.1.FMMP06		7.1	Output 7: A series of documents, describing dedicated outputs, activities and indicators, budget and planning to specify the FMMP contributions to other MRC programme				
1.3.1.FMMP06		7.1.1	To provide technical support and services to the Environment Programme for the Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI), the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management project (M-IWRM) and to the Basin Development Plan (BDP)				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8	Outcome: A financial and technically sustainable RFMMC that meets core operational and additional functions				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1	Output 8: A series of documents specifying the planning and progress made during the Bridging Period (5 Quartely progress reports, 3 Biannual reports and a FMMP completion report)				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1	To continue the monitoring and reporting systems untill end of Bridging Phase, including the FMMP Completion Report				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1.1	1st Quarterly Progress January - March 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1.2	2nd Quarterly Progress April - June 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1.3	3rd Quarterly Progress July - September 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1.4	4th Quarterly Progress October - December 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.1.5	1st Quarterly Progress 2012				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2	3 Bi-annual progress Reports				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.1	1st Bi-annual Progress 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2	Preparation Draft by FMMP				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.3	ICCS Review/Comments				

★ 4th QR 2011

Bridging Phase Proposal FMMP Phase II

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2.4	Submission Report for Donor Review				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2	2nd Bi-annual Progress 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2.1	Preparation Draft by FMMP				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2.2	ICCS Review/Comments				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.2.3	Submission Report for Donor Review				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.3	3rd Bi-annual Progress 2011				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.3.1	Preparation Draft by FMMP				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.3.2	ICCS Review/Comments				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.2.3.3	Submission Report for Donor Review				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.3	FMMP Completion Report				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.4	Bridging Phase Completion Report				
1.3.1.FMMP06		8.1.5	Submission Report for Donor Review				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9	Outcome: IFRM capacity of LAs and NMCs in MCs and other MRC programmes to implement and report on IFRM procedures, guidelines and tools strengthening				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1	Output 9: Enhanced knowledge and skills build to strengthen cooperation in addressing TB flood issues				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1.1	Implementation of Capacity Building Programme Phase 2, Component 3, FMMP I				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1.2	1st Training Workshop				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1.3	2nd Training Workshop				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1.4	3rd Training Workshop/Pilot Study				
3.4.1.FMMP07		9.1.5	Test Phase 3				

3.7. Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP)

3.7.1. Introduction

Under the management of Technical Support Division, The Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP) was designed as a cross cutting programme of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) which provides information and knowledge services to other programmes as well as to National Mekong Committees and line agencies. The programme Phase II was formulated in 2010 and approved in 2011 with the major issues to

- Consolidate the outputs/achievements from phase I and sustain the results of IKMP.
- Continuously provide services and capacity building; transfer knowledge to line agencies from Member Countries in modelling, river monitoring, database management etc., which are still considered as “knowledge gaps” in the region.
- Take the lead role in the implementation and delivery of two Core River Basin Management Functions that are identified in the next Strategic Plan (SP) of the MRC 2011-2015, including the functions of “Data Acquisition, Exchange and Monitoring” and “Analysis, Modelling and Assessment”.

The activities of IKMP have been carried out with funding from the governments of Australia, Finland and France. The IKMP has strategic importance to sustainable development of the Mekong Region and links to the Millennium Development Goals. The increased population and development pressures necessitate improved understanding of the river basin conditions, management options and environmentally, socially and economically sound practices. Informed decisions are essential if the overall goals of sustainable and equitable development of the Mekong Basin are achieved and which have an influence on many of the region's poor population. The IKMP provides direct guidance to development and investments taking into account impacts on the environment and livelihoods, and will thus contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction in alignment with the Millennium Development Goals.

Since its operation began in early 2007, IKMP has had many achievements over the past four years. The countries, through the NMCS and line agencies; and other MRC programmes have indicated a strong need of IKMP.

Effectively maintain, consolidate and strengthen the network of water related monitoring stations that provide near real-time data on hydro-met, water quality and sediment conditions.

Continue to improve the monitoring system of water level and rainfall at its automatic stations and support Member Countries with sediment monitoring and discharge measurements at selected stations, with appropriate improvements to existing installations.

Supporting studies for drought management including vulnerability assessment, drought mapping and scenarios development is planned in response to increased drought situations in frequency as well as in greater areas.

Periodic upgrades and new model of development established to provide a more comprehensive analytic toolbox for MRC, including time series and spatial analysis capability.

The analysis of climate change effects and their influence on water resources will overlay the entire basin-wide modelling work to provide an assessment of additional changes to be expected in the medium to long term.

At a more general level, MRC can provide an overall assessment of the condition of the water and related resources of the Basin on a regular basis. These assessments would track trends over time and highlight the key drivers of change and approaches to address them. Opportunities to partner with other organizations in preparing such assessments can be explored.

Specific focus will be on the transfer of activities to national entities. This builds on the IKMP Capacity building plan and has three focus areas of:

- Establishing National Information Systems (NIS) with Quality Assured and Controlled Data and Metadata.
- Modelling of real projects, especially with transboundary issues.
- Knowledge Management in the organization

List of ongoing agreements

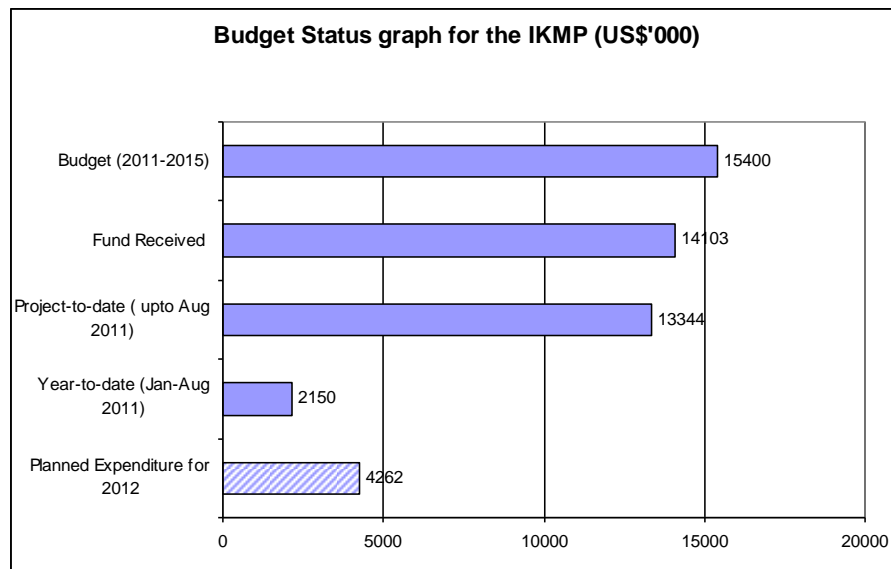
(US\$ 1,000)

	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2011 (*)	Donors
Agreements					
Information and Knowledge Management Programme MK 2007/01	Jan-07	Sep-11	9,136	-84	Finland
Information and Knowledge Management Programme MK 2011/04	Mar-11	Dec-14	9,100	8,450	Finland
Additional support to Senior Modelling Advisor MK2008/13	Jan-09	Dec-12	754	313	Finland
AFD support to Mekong HYCOS project MK 2006/01 –Project Management Unit –Other programme activities	Jan-06 May-06	Jan-12 May-12	600 3,000	330 876	France France
Discharge & Sediment Monitoring MK 2010/03	Apr-10	Dec-13	960	607	France
Hydrology Technical Assistance MK 2011/04	May-11	May-14	520	494	France
Application of MRC Modeling Tools - MK 2010/01	Jan-10	Jul-10	86	18	ADB
AHNIP Extension project, MK 2001/04/A3	Oct-06	Dec-09	186	9	Australia

(*) Balance as of end of August 2011

3.7.2. Progress of IKMP for 2011

The following graph provides an overview of the updated budget status of the Programme for the year 2011 which includes budget for the Programme period, total funds received and expenses on the Project-to-date and Year-to-date. The expected expenditure for 2012 is planned for US\$ 4,262,000.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

The IKMP 2011-2015 will achieve its development objective through delivering outcomes and outputs as follows. Below is the achievements status by August 2011.

Outcome 1: IKMP is efficiently and effectively managed and communicated, and technical components are effectively supported

- Output 1.1: IKM programme implementation plans and annual work-plan achieved
- Output 1.2: Programme fully staffed and staff development plans achieved, some recruitment still ongoing
- Output 1.3: Programme approach, plans and results effectively communicated to stakeholders
- Output 1.4: The perceptions and needs of programme clients, in relation to the programme, regularly assessed, will be done Q1 2012

Outcome 2: A basin-wide river monitoring network is well functioning and linked with other MRC monitoring systems to provide accurate, reliable and timely hydro-meteorological and related data at basin level while strengthening relevant national and regional capacity

- Output 2.1: An appropriate and effective hydro-meteorological network covering mainstream and tributary boundaries upgraded and strengthened. Network established and commissioned by end September 2011.
- Output 2.2: A system for acquiring real-time hydro-meteorological data (discharge/water level, rainfall) for flood monitoring and forecast in place and regularly upgraded, testing is ongoing with FMMP, DOM (Cambodia) and Modeling.
- Output 2.3: A network and database for sediment monitoring (mapping and analysis etc) developed and implemented
- Output 2.4: Drought management studies and ground water monitoring in place to provide data and information for monitoring and forecasting water use, groundwater concept note finished. Funds required for implementation.

- Output 2.5: The MRC's programmes and national project adequately and timely supported with the required hydro-meteorological and related data. QA/QC of data is ongoing, available real time Data, and available on Portal by the 4th quarter of 2011.
- Output 2.6: Critical hydrological situations in the basin monitored and explained in a timely manner, done at critical times.
- Output 2.7: Procedures on Water Use Monitoring effectively implemented in cooperation with NMCS and national line agencies, ongoing planning with the countries
- Output 2.8: Capacity related to the operation and maintenance of the system in a long run effectively built up, follow-up training is planned for the 4th quarter of 2011.

Outcome 3: An Information System of the MRC (MRC-IS) which comprehensively integrates MRC data and information, is consolidated, regularly updated and made available for internal and external uses

- Output 3.1: Data storage system and IT infrastructure at MRCS and NMCS improved. MRCS-IS installed, National Information Systems (NIS) planning ongoing.
- Output 3.2: Manuals of standards and guidelines for data and information management and systems developed and made available for uses.
- Output 3.3: Quality control and correction of important datasets at MRCS and NMCS in place, in place for MRC-IS. IS is developed with the NIS implementation.
- Output 3.4: Data integration, content management and Metadata management system further developed in the Master Catalogue. Major revision in one year, the 4th quarter of 2012
- Output 3.5: An up-to-date MRC database maintained and made available to other MRC programs, NMCSs and national line agencies. Catalogue and 9 relational databases available, continuous updating and maintenance.
- Output 3.6: National Information Systems (NIS) at NMCS and Line Agencies implemented, first edition by the 4th quarter of 2012
- Output 3.7: The operation and maintenance of the National Information System successfully transferred to Line Agencies, part of the implementation of the NIS.
- Output 3.8: The Procedures on Data, Information Exchange and Sharing (PDIES) successfully implemented. Procedures and guidelines are in place.

Outcome 4: MRC provided tools and related modelling services extensively used by target regional and national agencies for planning, forecasting and impact assessment

- Output 4.1: The MRC Toolbox continuously developed, improved and widely used by other MRC programmes, NMCS and national line agencies. First edition of Toolbox is available on the Portal. More tools to continuously be included 2011-15.
- Output 4.2: Strategic studies at basin, national and transboundary levels supported with effective modelling services. Modeling services agreements discussed with stakeholders. Part of Capacity building and transfer plan.

Output 4.3: Capacity building for MRC and national line agencies in analysis, modelling and assessment, designed and implemented under Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles. Capacity building plans for NIS and QA/QC ongoing with Cambodia and Lao PDR. To commence with Thailand and Viet Nam in the 4th quarter of 2011.

Outcome 5: Appropriate knowledge management systems and processes developed and applied, and shared with MRC partner agencies via sustainable knowledge networks

Output 5.1: the MRC portal successfully operated, regularly maintained and updated, act as an access point for information and data exchange and sharing. MRCS-IS and Toolbox available via Portal. Continuous maintenance 2011-2015.

Output 5.2: Mekong Info upgraded, operated and maintained to be a focal point for information about the Mekong River. MekongInfo update in beta test August - September 2011.

Output 5.3: Virtual Mekong Basin developed and maintained for understanding the main balances of river parameters of flow, sediment, nutrition etc. Major parts are done, to be relocated to a Google Earth (GE) server in the 4th quarter of 2011. Further development will be in 2012.

Output 5.6: Partnership with relevant institutions established and strengthened. Partnership with WISDOM established in 2011.

Significant Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions Taken

The sediment monitoring project is underfunded, resulting in postponing / put on hold of equipment acquisition and a reduced number of sampling places

Digital Elevation Model (DEM/DTM) is outdated and of low accuracy: IKMP has temporarily updated the old DEM. A new DEM is needed for detailed modeling and assessments soonest

Staff recruitment: qualified staff could not be recruited, consultancies are being used temporarily.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals in 2011

There were no Review or Appraisal in 2011 as the Phase II of IKMP started by 01.01.2011 and PIP 2011-15 and workplan 2011 was approved by IKMP SC. The IKMP Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) schedules quarterly Quantitative and yearly Qualitative Monitoring.

Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken in 2011

As a result of the discussion with Dialogue Partners on the MRC Junior Riparian Professional project, the first JRP from China joined IKMP in OSP in early March 2011 for a period of 4-6 months. The JRP from China has ended his period at IKMP with good result. IKMP would recommend further corporation in this area. Myanmar has expressed interest but no schedule has been made.

Further to the suggestion from the 34th JC Meeting, IKMP and BDP have worked closely together and the threshold values, algorithms and definition will be made available via the MRCS-IS. Also these values will be used in

relation to the Real time hydrological monitoring and flood forecasting display on MRCS Portal and Website. One definition of threshold is still awaiting approval by the countries.

3.7.3. IKMP Workplan for 2012

The IKMP workplan for 2012 is the continuation of implementation of the PIP activities. The workplan was approved by the IKMP Steering Committee on 6 October 2011.

The priorities for 2012 are:

Outcome 1: IKMP is efficiently and effectively managed and communicated, and technical components are effectively supported

- Develop long-term capacity building strategy for IKMP
- Communicate with and transfer knowledge to riparian countries
- Provide technical support and implement MRC procedures and guidelines
- Redesign knowledge based products and services of IKMP

Milestones

Staff Recruitment finished

Transfer / Decentralization ongoing in all countries

Outcome 2: A basin-wide river monitoring network is well functioning and linked with other MRC monitoring systems to provide accurate, reliable and timely hydro-meteorological and related data at basin level while strengthening relevant national and regional capacity

- Finalize the Mekong HYCOS Q1 2012.
- Make Sediment data analysis Q1 2012
- Finalize the Data Management systems
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Ad hoc Assess Critical situations
- Implement PWUM

Outcome 3: An Information System of the MRC (MRC-IS) which comprehensively integrates MRC data and information, is consolidated, regularly updated and made available for internal and external uses

- MRCS-IS expanded
- National Information Systems established
- PDIES implemented
- QA/QC of datasets continued
- MRCS Toolbox extended with QA and Assessment tools

Outcome 4: MRC provided tools and related modelling services extensively used by target regional and national agencies for planning, forecasting and impact assessment

- Modeling services to other MRC programmes (BDP, CCAI, M-IWRM, AIP, FP etc)

- Modelling support to Member Countries (Capacity building in Cambodia and Lao PDR)
- Modelling exchange with Dialogue Partners
- Cooperation with NHI and USGS in DSF

Outcome 5: Appropriate knowledge management systems and processes developed and applied, and shared with MRC partner agencies via sustainable knowledge networks

- Maintain Portal and MekongInfo
- Launch the KH for TWRM
- Launch Virtual Mekong Basin
- Learning Centre established
- Cooperate with ICBP on Capacity Building
- Establish Partnerships

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals in 2012

The stakeholder satisfaction monitoring will take place first time in the first quarter of 2012 in line with the IKMP PIP.

SP Code	Milestone	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012													
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
		1	IKMP Programme Implementation Plan 2011-15														
		1.1	Outcome 1: IKMP is efficiently and effectively managed and communicated, and technical components are effectively supported														
		1.1.1	Output 1.1: IKM programme implementation plans and annual work-plan achieved														
		1.1.2	Output 1.2: Programme fully staffed and staff development plans achieved														
		1.1.3	Output 1.3: Programme approach, plans and results effectively communicated to stakeholders														
		1.1.4	Output 1.4: The perceptions and needs of programme clients, in relation to the programme, regularly assessed														
		1.2	Outcome 2: A basin-wide river monitoring network is well functioning and linked with other MRC monitoring systems to provide accurate, reliable and timely hydro-meteorological and related data at basin level while strengthening relevant national and regio														
		1.2.1	Output 2.1: An appropriate and effective hydro-meteorological network covering mainstream and tributary boundaries upgraded and strengthened.														
		1.2.1.1	Activity 2.1.1 Finalize the implementation of the Mekong Hydrological Cycling Observation System project (Mekong HYCOS)														
213IKMP04		1.2.2	Output 2.2: A system for acquiring real-time hydro-meteorological data (discharge/water level, rainfall) for flood monitoring and forecast in place and regularly upgraded														
		1.2.2.1	Activity 2.2.1 Develop the strategy/policy for data management within MRCS and in member countries.														
		1.2.2.2	Activity 2.2.2 Adopt or develop appropriate software for hydro-meteorological data management in MRC														
		1.2.2.3	Activity 2.2.3 Consolidate a system for quality assurance and correction for data acquired from the river monitoring network														
		1.2.2.4	Activity 2.2.4 Finalize a relational database for storing and managing all quality assured hydro-meteorological data.														
IKMP03		1.2.3	Output 2.3: A network and database for sediment monitoring (mapping and analysis etc) developed and implemented														
		1.2.3.1	Activity 2.3.1 Provide coordination and technical support to the implementation of Discharge and Sediment Monitoring and Geomor														
243IKMP03		1.2.3.2	Activity 2.3.2 Develop a database for storing and managing sediment and related data acquired from a sediment monitoring system														
215IKMP03		1.2.3.3	Activity 2.3.3 Develop and adopt tools for sediment and geomorphology analysis														
IKMP04	2.1.5.IKMP01	1.2.4	Output 2.4: Drought management studies and ground water monitoring in place to provide data and information for monitoring and forecasting water use														
215IKMP01		1.2.4.1	Activity 2.4.1 Develop and regularly include ground water data in the Master Catalogue and update a relational database for the														
121IKMP01		1.2.4.2	Activity 2.4.2 Provide coordination and technical support to the implementation of Discharge and Sediment Monitoring and Geomor														
IKMP02		1.2.5	Output 2.5: The MRC's programmes and national project adequately and timely supported with the required hydro-meteorological and related data														

SP Code	Milestone	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012													
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
231IKMP02	2.2.1.IKMP02	1.2.5.1	Activity 2.5.1 Deliver properly processed and quality assured historical and real-time hydro-met data to the users via the Mast														
		1.2.5.2	Activity 2.5.2 Process and deliver quality assured near real time hydro-met data directly to real time data users														
254IKMP02		1.2.5.3	Activity 2.5.3 Provide data analysis and special services as required														
IKMP06	2.1.5.IKMP03	1.2.6	Output 2.6: Critical hydrological situations in the basin monitored and explained in a timely manner														
		1.2.6.1	Activity 2.6.1 Near real time monitoring of hydrological conditions of the river and give advice in critical situations.														
234IKMP02	2.2.1.IKMP03	1.2.6.2	Activity 2.6.2 Collect necessary data to provide scientific analysis of any critical hydrological conditions and issue technical														
232IKMP06		1.2.6.3	Activity 2.6.3 Cooperate with relevant agencies/institute for better monitoring and forecasting of critical situations of the r														
IKMP05		1.2.7	Output 2.7: Procedures on Water Use Monitoring effectively implemented in cooperation with NMCS and national line agencies														
		1.2.7.1	Activity 2.7.1 Set up a working group for water use monitoring within MRCS and in each member country (in corporation with M-IW														
		1.2.7.2	Activity 2.7.2 Conduct national and regional consultations on the implementation of PWUM in regional context														
		1.2.7.3	Activity 2.7.3 Set up criteria for water use monitoring in each country and in the region														
		1.2.7.4	Activity 2.7.4 Set up a database for managing data acquired from water use monitoring network														
		1.2.7.5	Activity 2.7.5 Collect water use data from each country and regularly update the monitoring network														
		1.2.8	Output 2.8: Capacity related to the operation and maintenance of the system in a long run effectively built up														
		1.2.8.1	Activity 2.8.1 Frequently conduct needs assessment on operation and maintenance of the river monitoring network in line agency														
		1.2.8.2	Activity 2.8.2 Frequently conduct needs assessment on operation and maintenance of the river monitoring network in line agency														
		1.2.8.3	Activity 2.8.3 Regularly provide training to refresh knowledge and acquire new skills to line agency staff														
	1.4.6.IKMP02	1.3	Outcome 3: An Information System of the MRC (MRC-IS) which comprehensively integrates MRC data and information, is consolidated, regularly updated and made available for internal and external uses														
		1.3.1	Output 3.1: Data storage system and IT infrastructure at MRCS and NMCS improved														
		1.3.1.1	Activity 3.1.1 Upgrade both hardware and software for data storage and IT infrastructure especially servers at both offices of														
251IKMP02		1.3.1.2	Activity 3.1.2: Support MRCS in improving data and information management systems														
		1.3.2	Output 3.2: Manuals of standards and guidelines for data and information management and systems developed and made available for uses														
		1.3.2.1	Activity 3.2.1 Conduct needs assessment on data and information management in MRCS and NMCs														
		1.3.2.2	Activity 3.2.2 Develop manuals and guidelines used for data and information management systems in MRCS and member countries														
		1.3.2.3	Activity 3.2.3 Provide capacity building in managing and maintaining the data and information system to national line agencies														

SP Code	Milestone	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012													
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
		1.3.3	Output 3.3: Quality control and correction of important datasets at MRCS and NMCS in place														
		1.3.3.1	Activity 3.3.1 Finalize manuals and guidelines for data quality assurance in MRC and its member countries														
		1.3.3.2	Activity 3.3.2 Provide quality control and quality assurance to all historical and near real time data available in MRCS														
		1.3.3.3	Activity 3.3.3 Transfer knowledge of data quality control and quality assurance to national agencies														
		1.3.4	Output 3.4: Data integration, content management and Metadata management system further developed in the Master Catalogue														
		1.3.4.1	Activity 3.4.1 Permanently upgrade the MRC master catalogue in both functionality and interface														
		1.3.5	Output 3.5: An up-to-date MRC database maintained and made available to other MRC programs, NMCSs and national line agencies														
		1.3.5.1	Activity 3.5.2 Work with other programmes and line agencies to regularly update the databases														
IKMP04	2.1.3.IKMP04	1.3.6	Output 3.6: National Information Systems (NIS) at NMCS and Line Agencies implemented														
		1.3.6.1	Activity 3.6.1 Support on development of National Information System at NMCS and line agencies														
		1.3.7	Output 3.7: The operation and maintenance of the National Information System successfully transferred to Line Agencies														
		1.3.7.1	Activity 3.7.1 Gradually handover the task of operation and maintenance of the NIS to national line														
211IKMP03		1.3.8	Output 3.8: The Procedures on Data, Information Exchange and Sharing (PDIES) successfully implemented														
		1.3.8.1	Activity 3.8.1 Conduct re-assessment of custodians for data provision in each member country														
		1.3.8.2	Activity 3.8.2 Organize national consultations to identify the best mechanism for data exchange and shari														
		1.3.8.3	Activity 3.8.3 Set up detailed manuals (agreements) for data exchange and sharing within MRC and member states														
		1.3.8.4	Activity 3.8.4 Regularly report and update information on PDIES to TACT and JC meetings														
		1.4	Outcome 4: MRC provided tools and related modelling services extensively used by target regional and national agencies for planning, forecasting and impact assessment														
221IKMP03		1.4.1	Output 4.1: The MRC Toolbox continuously developed, improved and widely used by other MRC programmes, NMCS and national line agencies.														
		1.4.1.1	Activity 4.1.1 MRC Toolbox Interface Software and KB releases														
		1.4.1.2	Activity 4.1.2 Promote Use of MRC Toolbox in other programs														
		1.4.1.3	Activity 4.1.3 Capacity Building for application of MRC Tools														
	2.2.1.IKMP05	1.4.1.4	Activity 4.1.4 Support the use of new tools in the MRC Toolbox by LAs														
	2.2.1.IKMP03	1.4.2	Output 4.2: Strategic studies at basin, national and transboundary levels supported with effective modelling services														
146IKMP02		1.4.2.1	Activity 4.2.1 Models for Strategic Studies at basin national and transboundary scales														
221IKMP05		1.4.2.2	Activity 4.2.2 Basinwide Scenario Work														
221IKMP02		1.4.2.3	Activity 4.2.3 Modelling Services on Transboundary issues as requested														
223IKMP02		1.4.2.4	Activity 4.2.4 Support national real world activities esp Cambodia and Lao														

SP Code	Milestone	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012													
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
222IKMP02		1.4.3	Output 4.3: Capacity building for MRC and national line agencies in analysis, modelling and assessment, designed and implemented under Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles														
241IKMP02		1.4.3.1	Activity 4.3.1 On the job training for National Modellers														
		1.4.3.2	Activity 4.3.2/3 Implement local, national transboundary assistance														
		1.4.3.3	Activity 4.3.4 Set up a network of modelling trainers in the region for application of MRC Toolbox														
		1.4.3.4	Activity 4.3.5 Training Events for application of MRC Toolbox														
		1.5	Outcome 5: Appropriate knowledge management systems and processes developed and applied, and shared with MRC partner agencies via sustainable knowledge networks														
353IKMP02		1.5.1	Output 5.1: the MRC portal successfully operated, regularly maintained and updated, act as an access point for information and data exchange and sharing														
		1.5.2	Output 5.2: Mekong Info upgraded, operated and maintained to be a focal point for information about the Mekong River														
		1.5.2.1	Activity 5.2.1_2 Integrate MekongInfo into the MRC website via the MRC portal														
		1.5.2.2	Activity 5.2.3 Create a forum on Integrated Water Resources Management for users of the MekongInfo														
		1.5.3	Output 5.3: Virtual Mekong Basin developed and maintained for understanding the main balances of river parameters of flow, sediment, nutrition etc														
		1.5.3.1	Activity 5.3.1_3 Develop the web-based Virtual Mekong Basin (VMB)														
		1.5.4	Output 5.4: a Learning Centre established for having learning tools covering areas of the MRC operation														
		1.5.4.1	Activity 5.4.1_3 Redesign the learning centre based in MRCS														
252IKMP02		1.5.5	Output 5.5: Knowledge Hub for Transboundary Water Resources Management established for sharing tools, best practices and other knowledge on TWRM with partners and clients														
253IKMP02		1.5.5.1	Activity 5.5.1_4 Establish a core management team and an interim steering committee for the knowledge hub on TWRM														
		1.5.6	Output 5.6: Partnership with relevant institutions established and strengthened														
255IKMP02		1.5.6.1	Activity 5.6.1_2 Support regular meetings with line agencies and staff and other forums														

3.8. Integrated Capacity Building Programme (ICBP)

3.8.1. Programme Overview

During its four-year period of implementation (2009–2013), the Integrated Capacity Building Programme contributes to the capacity development processes taking place within the MRC through targeted capacity building activities. ICBP sees the importance to support the MRCS and the Member Country agencies to reach:

A more coherent approach in managing water and related resources through better implementation of the MRC Procedures: ICBP works toward supporting the designing, implementing and monitoring of the different capacity building strategies and activities at the regional, trans-boundary and national levels within MRC system which support the strengthening of IWRM competencies for better implementation of the MRC Procedures. This will be done through the completion of the IWRM competency framework⁵, and the close collaboration and support to key MRC Programmes such as the Basin Development Programme (BDP), the Mekong IWRM Project (M IWRM P), the Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI), the Initiative for Sustainable Hydro-power (ISH), etc. for effective planning, designing, and implementing their capacity development strategies. Major work in 2012 will be the finalisation of the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP) for the better implementation of the MRC Procedures, and the implementation of this Action Plan's prioritised capacity building activities.

A more cohesive decision-making, policy development and institutional development: ICBP will work toward the development of visionary leadership and effective management that are required from the emerging needs to become a world class and decentralised river basin organisation, at the same time, ICBP focuses its support to MRCS to improve selected MRC organisational systems e.g. human resource management, procurement system, administrative system, etc. and.

⁵ IWRM Competency Framework defines three levels of competencies (a) technical competencies, (b) managerial competencies and (c) integrative competencies. The 2007 Organisational Independent Review indicated the gaps with respects to “integrate competencies” which are Decision making techniques, Cross-cultural communication, Public consultation and community participation approaches, Dispute management, and Writing skills relative to programme development and reporting.

To make the Competency Framework to be used more widely and effectively, the MRC IWRM Competency Framework will be further developed as a guideline or module for (a) IWRM competencies assessment at different levels (individual, group or organisation), (b) planning and designing of the capacity building strategy and action plan, and (c) monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of capacity building activities. The Framework will have necessary assessment tools, templates, guidelines and checklists so to help users to make full use of the Framework, and can carry any capacity building process independently.

Currently, ICBP aims to make the MRC IWRM Competency Framework available for the (a) finalisation of the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP) for the better implementation of the MRC Procedures, (b) capacity assessment and development for the decentralisation of the core functions, (c) MRCS Knowledge and Skills Transfer for full Riparianisation, (d) Capacity Assessment and Development for Climate Change Adaptation, and (e) improving the current training sessions on IWRM at MRCS, NMCs, LAs, River Basin Organisations, etc.

The international standard MRC staff members who are competent, efficient and effective in implementing and providing high quality technical and advisory supports: ICBP will support the different processes of human resource development, refining the work place competency-based management and effective staffing procedures as well as to promote a learning organisation through different knowledge and skills transfer modalities.

The further mainstreaming of gender equality principles in all MRC Programmes: ICBP will continue to review and apply different updated gender mainstreaming toolkits, guidelines, and checklists to help MRCS and the Member Countries to mainstream gender equality in different IWRM processes at different levels either in the community, in IWRM policy system, or in daily practices at the Line Agencies.

The operational capacity building monitoring and evaluation system: The ICBP web-based M&E system is fully completed and launched for ICBP capacity building activities, which will link closely to the achievement of the MRC Strategic Plan and the capacity building for the better implementation of the MRC Procedures. The system also had additional figures such as e-newsletter for capacity building, capacity building material repository, capacity building activities' coordination and planning, etc.

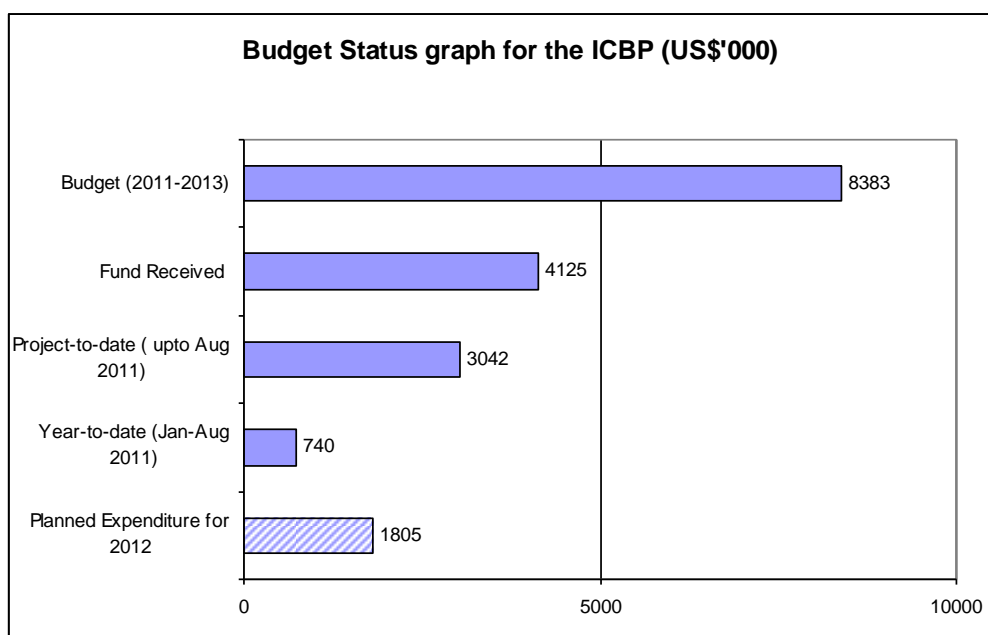
List of agreements

(US\$ 1,000)

Project title	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2011 (*)	Donors
Active projects					
OEB Staff Training	Jan 2011	Dec 2011	50	9847.88	OEB
AusAID support to ICBP	5 June 2009	31 December 2014	(AUD) 6,000,000.	2,967,	AusAID
Junior Riparian Professional (JRP)	Mar 2011	Dec 2014	1 Mil (EURO)	1,279	Finland
New Zealand support to ICBP	January 11 2010	31 December 2013	752	540	New Zealand

3.8.2. *Progress of ICBP for 2011*

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the ICB Programme for the year 2011, which includes budget for the programme period, total funds received and expenses on the Project-to-date and Year-to-date.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

Outcome 1

- Output 1.1 The IWRM Competency Framework has been used in knowledge and skills transfer processes in MRC programmes, aligning the activities at national and regional levels to a common orientation for IWRM capacity building, and guiding the ICBP to develop a common capacity building framework for MRC. Consultations with Member Countries were made to further updating and detailing the competencies into different modules for IWRM competency framework for MRC which can be used for both regional and national levels in capacity building.
- Output 1.2 Identification of competency gaps in the implementation of MRC Procedures has been done in 2011. Initial activities have been identified with CCAI (capacity needs assessment), FMMP (documentation of capacity building activities), ISH (promotion of RSAT), IKMP (developing quality assurance modality for data), etc. ICBP was in process to further detail out the concrete collaboration with above mentioned programmes.
- Output 1.3. JRP project Phase II has been evaluated in April 2011 and evaluation report provided recommendations to improve the quality of the project implementation, which were applied immediately in the project Phase III with Batch 6 had improved quality in English training, as well as other IWRM related disciplines. Phase III is on going and had a successful participation of one JRP from China (IKMP and ISH) and one JRP from Myanmar (M-IWRM-P).
- Output 1.4 The MOU on Cooperation between the Mekong River Commission and the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) supported by the Australian Agency for International

Development (AusAID) and the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM) was signed in May 2011, and a regional meeting was organised for the MRC to discuss a road map for the implementation of the MOU.

- Output 1.5. Different exchanges had been facilitated e.g. Chiang Rai University, Khon Khen University, Chinese International College, Asian Institute of Technology.

Outcome 2

- Output 2.1. Interview skills had been provided to the senior staff of MRC who involved in the interviewing panels of MRCS. The MRC procurement manual had been revised and approved by the Joint Committee. A new area for improvement was identified and support was made available to improve the fix assessment management of the administrative manual.

- Output 2.2. Consultancy for the strengthening of leadership and management competencies had been employed and leadership and management issues and gaps at MRCS had been identified through an inception mission and an online survey at MRCS. First round training on leadership and management competencies was organised for leaders, managers and professionals using a customised training curriculum made for MRCS.

- Output 2.3. A mission to further study the scope and situation of MRC in terms of developing a performance management system was organised in early 2011. The TCU then elaborated on their recommendations to look into the current MRC M&E system and build a process from it. A second consultancy was in place to review the current reporting system, the MRC Programming Manual, PMS Guidance Manual and to organise a training on project cycle management to the Member Countries and selected MRC programme as a first start to form the PMS. A full time senior staff on PSM was recruited to support TCU in further actualising on a concrete PMS in the coming months.

- Output 2.4. Capacity building guidelines have been drafted and it obtained support from the Senior Managers to finalise and use within MRCS. The guidelines provided a framework for ICBP to make use of the different training opportunities for MRC staff development (OEB training budget, JRP training courses, programme funds for staff development). Mapping of staff capacity development needs had been done and OEB budget for staff development had been spent both at the national and regional levels.

- Output 2.5. Concept note for a Multimedia orientation package was made and approved and collaboration with ICCS and programmes had been discussed on the development of an orientation package for new staff members at MRCs on more comprehensive knowledge of MRC protocols, MRC programmes and MRC working approaches and requirements.

Outcome 3

- Output 3.1. MRC Gender Strategy and Policy was printed and translated into 4 riparian languages. Gender equality was promoted at

both two Secretariat offices through international women's day events and the consultation on the gender toolkits. Gender in-house network was emphasised by the proposed joint establishment of a Gender Task force at MRCS. HRS sex-disaggregated data was regularly updated. The MRC gender toolkits were being reviewed by the Member Countries and finalisation was expected to be completed in early 2012.

- Output 3.2. Different supports were provided to MRC Programmes at regional and national levels e.g. via activities implemented by programmes, Gender Mainstreaming in Watershed Management, Gender Analysis training, completing training manual on gender mainstreaming in Fisheries Management (in riparian languages), gender in climate change adaptation, gender analysis in ISH, FMMP, CCAI and ICCS, ICBP M&E system development, programme document gender auditing (EP), etc. A two- day training course on gender mainstreaming in IWRM was organised for JRPs Batch 6.
- Output 3.3. Gender mainstreaming activities at the national level, carried out by the Member Countries ranging from organising international women's day, to piloting project on gender mainstreaming in community water resource management (Cambodia, Thailand), gender analysis (Laos); gender training in Fisheries (Laos), gender and climate change (Laos), gender focal points establishment (Laos), manual on TOT on gender mainstreaming in WRM (Thailand), exchange visit to share experience in establishing and operating a gender unit at organisational level (Laos/Thailand), etc.

Outcome 4

- Output 4.1 and Output 4.3. The database system, together with the E-newsletter were combined into the ICBP M&E system which is now finished and introduced to the Member Countries and Programmes.
- Output 4.2 and Output 4.4. The PIP 2011-2013 was finalized and approved including the workplan for all Member Countries. Training workshop on capacity building, M&E and planning were also provided to each Member Country.
- Outcome 4.5. The training room was used as a common training room at OSV. It was also used as the office for ICBP to develop the ICBP M&E system.
- Output 4.6. Concept notes for a regional network of capacity building institutions and organisations were developed and shared with key institutions such as International Excellence Centre for Water Resource Management (ICE WaRM) and UNESCO IHE. Discussions were made and ICBP would make use of the current networks these institutions had created to further make use of their accumulated expertise in IWRM, as well as to disseminate and promotes different MRC knowledge products e.g. RSAT, IWRM Competency Framework, MRC IWRM Training Manual, IWRM Gender Strategy and Policy, etc.
- Output 4.7. Programme Coordination meetings were organised with one meeting with a one-day training on M&E system for all ICBP

team members. Second Steering Committee Meeting would be organised by the end of the year 2011 or early 2012 once the Mid Term Review report is available. Staff turn over was managed well and all mandated reports were available in due time.

Significant problems encountered and corrected action taken

It took quite a long time (from March to July 2011) for the Member Countries to decide on the CTA position for ICBP due to the following reasons:

- The Member Countries considered ICBP is not an IWRM technical driven programme, thus, it would not need to have a full time CTA,
- ICBP is a complex programme that requires very diverse knowledge and expertise in (a) IWRM capacity building, (b) organisaitonal and institutional development, (c) gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and (d) capacity building processes from needs assessment, planning and M&E. It was considered more effective to have different technical consultants to each of the ICBP component than to have a CTA.
- Funding for the CTA will be finished by end of 2012 so as the position will be fully riparianised by end 2012. Extension of the CTA's contract subject to performance, approval from Joint Committee and funding agreement from Development Partners and Member Countries.

Operating ICBP without a CTA had prevented ICBP to (a) further providing capacity building support to the MRC programmes, (b) coaching ICBP team into riparian professionals in capacity building, and (c) communicating sufficiently with Development Partners and Member Countries on ICBP results on Outputs and Outcomes. The ICBP team had worked very hard to fill in the expertise gaps during the absence of the CTA, and had proposed to the Member Countries to have a CTA for one year (2012), and further needs for CTA beyond 2012 will be proposed to the Steering Committee and Joint Committee for approval. The CTA candidates were interviewed on October 25th and decision was made after that for the selected candidate.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals carried out in 2011

ICBP Mid Term Review was carried out in the second half of the year and review report was available in December 2011.

Relevant JC and Council decision

none.

3.8.3. ICBP Workplan for 2012

Outcome 1

Output 1.1: The MRC IWRM Competency Framework will be developed as a guideline for (a) IWRM competencies assessment at different

levels (individual, group or organisation), (b) planning and designing of the capacity building strategy and action plan, and (c) monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes and impacts of capacity building activities. The Framework will have necessary assessment tools, templates, guidelines and checklists so to help users make full use of the Framework, and can carry any capacity building process independently. Currently, ICBP aims to make the MRC IWRM Competency Framework available for the (a) finalisation of the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP) for the better implementation of the MRC Procedures, (b) capacity assessment and development for the decentralisation of the core functions, (c) MRCS Knowledge and Skills Transfer for full Riparianisation, (d) Capacity Assessment and Development for Climate Change Adaptation, (e) improving the current training sessions on IWRM at MRCS, NMCs, LAs, River Basin Organisations, etc.

Output 1.2: In order to strengthen specialized IWRM competencies for MRCS Programmes, ICBP continues to

- (a) support BDP in the PMFM process for technical review group (TRG) members and others; organizing IWRM training for trainers in each Member Country, using the published IWRM Training Manual; organising Negotiation training for TRG members and other senior officials; and setting up and running networks of RBOs for joint learning and IWRM capacity building for MRCS and NMCSs staff;
- (b) support M-IWRM-P in finalization of the CDAP for regional and national levels; and take lead for the implementation of the CDAP once approved by donors and Member Countries;
- (c) support CCAI in finalization of the capacity need assessment and follow-up implementation of the Capacity Building Plan for climate change adaptation at regional, national and local level in the Lower Mekong Region;
- (d) support ISH in dissemination and promotion for application of Rapid Sustainable Assessment Tools (RSAT) and benefit-sharing mechanism (BSM) with capacity building related activities for Member Countries;
- (e) continue to provide support to all MRC programmes toward making the synergy of all capacity building activities into a common capacity building framework for the actualisation of 5 Goals of the SP 2011-2015.

Output 1.3: The Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) Development Process will be enhanced with the lessons learnt from the first 5 Batches as well as the results from Evaluation of JRP B6 with changes initiated in 2011 in terms of training curriculum, improvement of monitoring and mentoring approaches and more effective coordination. The Promotion of the JRP opportunities at the MRCS to attract highly competent young professionals and graduates from the four countries will be continued with the recruitment of Batch 7 and Batch 8 in 2012, possibly with the increase in the number of JRPs (if decided by specific countries on the proposed scenarios). In addition the

JRP Alumni network will be strengthened with information sharing mechanism and the involvement of alumni in promotion events for the program.

Output 1.4: The MRC/MDBA Strategic Liaison Partnership will be actualised with the approved roll-out implementation plan, at which the exchange and learning process will be tailored to specific needs of the two basins' IWRM leaders, policy makers and professionals. The exchange and learning can be in different forms, from peer exchange and mentoring to learning from real-life case studies on specific and focused areas such as (a) Drought and Salinity Management in the context of Climate Change, (b) Basin-wide planning and related research and study, (c) Cross boundary negotiation and agreement, and (c) Environmental Flows.

Output 1.5: The internships, professional work exchange opportunities and provision of scholarship-related information will be continued with the promotion of the Internship guidelines among the MRC programmes. In addition, a guideline on research fellows & work exchange processes will be developed. ICBP will continue to facilitate the application of MRC country teams to the scholarship opportunity with Water Policy Institute under LKYSPP (Temasek Foundation) for the training runs in Apr 2012 and Oct 2012 in Singapore.

Outcome 2:

Output 2.1: ICBP will continue to work to support HRS on (a) revised HR related policies endorsed by the JC and applied to ensure competitive, effective and transparent in HR management and development, and (b) capacity building on staff competency management as well as the application of revised policies/manuals. All staff followed and used the revised HR policy and manual including process and procedure in their daily work and responsibility. As a result, the staff turn over rate is minimized, and staff motivation increased.

Output 2.2: ICBP will continue the phase I of the MRC leadership curriculum, principles and CB strategy for 2-5 years available and aware at NMCs and MRCS. Phase II will be developed and implemented in the second half of the year to further actualising the MRC leadership principles through designing and implementing initial activities for the Leadership Capacity Building.

Output 2.3: ICBP will continue to support the overall PMS development process through providing financial support to the recruited Senior Staff on PMS (assigned to TCU), involving intensively in the facilitation of the application of the different necessary templates and systems for the PMS and M&E.

ICBP works closely with FAS to provide further financial support the improvement of one chapter of the Administrative Manual, and the further training to MRC staff on the new Procurement Manual and practices.

ICBP will continue to work closely with HRS to further finalising the staff competencies proposed by the HR Consultancy, and

to organise training on competency management, job classification and grading.

Output 2.4: ICBP will further promote the use of the approved Capacity Building Guidelines and to help programmes and sections to prepare for staff development, using OEB and other budget sources.

Output 2.5: ICBP will continue to develop a comprehensive multi-media orientation package for MRC staff and this will be done with the support from ICCS.

Outcome 3:

Output 3.1: In-house gender focal points/gender taskforce will be established and gender in-house action plans for MRCS is developed. MRC key documents and strategy are gender mainstreamed, and sex-disaggregated data will be clear for HRM. Sexual Harassment and Cultural sensitivity Guidelines is developed.

Output 3.2: Different MRC programmes will have the support from ICBP on gender mainstreaming and relevant activities e.g. policy processes, gender training, gender auditing of programme documents, concept notes, reports, plans, etc. The Gender Task Force will be used as a forum for ICBP in this aspect.

Output 3.3: The gender Toolkit are finalised and translated into 4 riparian languages. Exchanges between countries for best practice in gender mainstreaming are organised and pilot projects will be implemented in NMCs and LAs. Case study/success stories from 4 countries will be documented and published. Basin-wide gender workshop will be organised for the regional exchange on GM in IWRM.

Outcome 4

Output 4.1: The web-based Capacity Building Monitoring and Evaluation is officially launched and being tested with countries .

Output 4.2: Improve the PIP 2011-2013 aligning the national and regional workplans for 2012 to the capacity building for the better implementation of the MRC Procedures.

Output 4.3: Good lessons in capacity building (IWRM competencies development, gender mainstreaming, river basin organisational development, effective capacity building processes, etc) are documented and shared.

Output 4.4: IKMP, FMMP and more programmes continue to receive capacity building advices in capacity needs assessment, capacity building planning, implementing and M&E.

Output 4.5: ICBP will continue to update the capacity building material repository system in the web-based M&E system and promote the utility and access of the MRC both at regional and national levels.

Output 4.6: A regional network of intellectuals, IWRM experts and universities is established and functional.

Output 4.7: ICBP will continue to be efficient and effective and is responding to the emerging needs of the MRC for IWRM capacity building for better implementing the MRC Procedures.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals carried out in 2012

None.

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012											
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			Outcome 1: The MRC, NMCs and prioritized national agencies have the necessary technical competencies to integrate IWRM principles into policy making, planning and implementation.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Output 1.1: General IWRM competencies are strengthened.	[Timeline bar from Mar to Nov]											
4.1.3.ICBP05		1.1.1	Continue to elaborate on the MRC IWRM competency framework (upgrade and development of core modules; launching and promotion at MCs and MRCS)			02 Apr	[Timeline bar from Apr to Jun]							01 Nov	
5.3.1.ICBP15 5.3.4.ICBP16 4.3.1.ICBP09		1.1.2	Assist the MRC programmes/sections/units to prepare for and implement their knowledge transfer processes		01 Mar	[Timeline bar from Mar to Apr]		30 Apr							
4.2.2.ICBP08		1.1.3	Support participation in important international conferences				30 Apr	[Timeline bar from Apr to Nov]					02 Nov		
	ICBP05		Milestone: An IWRM competency framework developed				30 Apr								
	ICBP11		Milestone: IWRM competency framework developed and applied for the MRCS and targeted national agencies										01 Nov		
			Output 1.2: Specialized IWRM competencies for MRCS programmes are strengthened.	[Timeline bar from Feb to Dec]											
1.1.5.BDP05 1.2.6.BDP05 1.4.1.BDP05 2.2.2.BDP05 3.2.3.BDP05		1.2.1	Provide support to the BDP: (i) in relation to CDAP: trainings for the Technical Review Groups of PMFM; training on negotiation of transboundary and inter-linkage of Procedures; (ii) networking at basin level and (iii) other emerging capacity need						02 Jul	[Timeline bar from Jul to Sep]				31 Oct	
4.3.2.ICBP10 4.3.2.MIWRMP 4.1.3.MIWRMP 4.2.2.MIWRMP 4.3.3.MIWRMP 4.3.6.MIWRMP 4.3.7.MIWRMP 4.4.1.MIWRMP 4.4.2.MIWRMP 5.5.4.MIWRMP		1.2.2	Provide support to M-IWRM-P: Finalising CDAP with TOR for ICBP in implementation of CDAP; Develop knowledge packages to improve knowledge and understanding on the Procedures						04 Jun	[Timeline bar from Jun to Sep]				29 Oct	
4.3.1.ICBP09		1.2.3	Provide support to CCAI: in capacity needs assessment, designing and monitoring of the CB processes	01 Feb	[Timeline bar from Feb to May]					31 May					
		1.2.4	Provide support to the Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower: further actualising RSAT and other tools, training TOR and promotion of the tools to the wider audience						02 Jul	[Timeline bar from Jul to Dec]					
		1.2.5	Provide technical support to other MRC programmes: (i) to EP in capacity need assessment and finalisation of CDAP for PWQ and organisation of training on water quality monitoring to LNMC; and (ii) developing tools to monitor capacity building activities,				01 May	[Timeline bar from May to Dec]							
	ICBP10		Milestone: Capacity Development Action Plans for the MRCS and national prepared										29 Oct		
			Output 1.3: Junior Riparian Professional development process.	[Timeline bar from Mar to Dec]											
		1.3.1	Promote the JRP opportunities at the MRCS to attract highly competent young professionals and graduates from the four countries (Batch 6 finish, Batch 7 recruited and trained, Batch 8 promoted)		01 Mar	[Timeline bar from Mar to Jun]							26 Oct		
		1.3.2	Implement the JRP Project Phase 3: In 2012, Ensure 16 JRPs from 4 MCs and 4 more JRPs from China and Myanmar on board for batch 7 and 8		01 Mar	[Timeline bar from Mar to Apr]							27 Sep		
		1.3.3	Undertake periodic JRP project reviews and an evaluation to adapt the process and document the lessons learned		06 Mar	[Timeline bar from Mar to Apr]									
		1.3.4	Establish and maintain an alumni network				01 May	[Timeline bar from May to Jun]				29 Oct			
			Output 1.4: MRC, MDBA, and AusAID Strategic Liaison Partnership.	[Timeline bar from May to Dec]											
4.3.5.ICBP12		1.4.1	Intensive short programmes in Australia (Theme 1 on Drought and salinity management in the context of climate change; Theme 2 on basin wide planning)				01 May	[Timeline bar from May to Jun]		29 Jun					

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012												
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
4.3.5.ICBP12		1.4.2	Networking and mentoring				01 May									
4.3.5.ICBP12		1.4.3	Technical support and exchange										01 Oct			
			Output 1.5: Internships, professional work exchange opportunities, and provision of scholarship-related information.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
4.3.6.ICBP13		1.5.1	Facilitate the hosting of 8 interns per year at the two offices of MRCS (OSP and OSV)			02 Apr										
4.3.6.ICBP13		1.5.2	Act as an information exchange centre on IWRM related issues, and inform/support scholarship opportunities for staff of MRCS, NMCs and Line Agencies	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
			Outcome 2: The MRC and NMCs (including their Secretariats) have the necessary organizational capability to effectively coordinate and support the achievement of MRC objectives.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
			Output 2.1: MRC human resources management policies and procedures to support capacity building are revised and applied.	[Timeline bar from Feb to Aug]												
5.3.3.HRS02		2.1.1	Follow up with the Competency Base Management and Countries presentation on new HR policies and Grievance Policy training	01 Feb									31 Aug			
			Output 2.2: Leadership and management competencies are strengthened within MRC and NMCs.	[Timeline bar from Feb to May]												
4.2.1.ICBP07		2.2.1	Implement phase 1 of the leadership and management competencies process - deliver workshops for three target groups from MRCS & NMCs	01 Feb									31 May			
	ICBP07		Milestone: MRCS Leadership Development Strategy Available										17 Jun			
			Output 2.3: Selected MRC organisational systems are strengthened.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
5.2.3.ICBP14		2.3.1	Provide support to the development of PMS				01 May						31 Jul			
5.5.1.ICBP17		2.3.2	Provide support to FAS to revise MRCS' admin manual (related Chapter on Fixed Asset Management and its procedures) and Training to key staff at OSV and OSP on the new Procurement Manual			02 Apr										
5.5.1.ICBP18		2.3.3	Provide support to the work on reunification of MRC salary system for riparianisation and other support	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
			Output 2.4: General organizational development competencies of staff of MRC and NMCs are strengthened.	[Timeline bar from Feb to Dec]												
4.3.2.ICBP10		2.4.1	Manage the OEB budget for MRC staff capacity building	06 Feb												31 Oct
5.5.1.ICBP17		2.4.2	Update the current staff training needs assessment in order to identify the right training course for the right needs		01 Mar											
			Output 2.5: Core-training Programme for new staff is established and its implementation coordinated	[Timeline bar from Feb to Dec]												
4.1.4.ICBP06		2.5.1	Upgrade the orientation manual and provide to all new staff of MRCS	01 Feb				30 Mar								
4.3.4.ICBP06		2.5.2	Design & upgrade a package of modules on IWRM competency		01 Mar				30 Apr							
		2.5.3	Make core-training modules available & monitor the completion of required modules by all staff joining MRC							01 Jun						
	ICBP06		Milestone: IWRM training modules for staff orientation updated							30 Apr						
			Outcome 3: Gender is mainstreamed within the MRCS, and the national agencies integrate gender aspects more effectively into their IWRM work.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
			Output 3.1: MRC gender strategy and policy is mainstreamed into MRCS systems, procedures and guidelines.	[Timeline bar from Jan to Dec]												
		3.1.1	Develop an action plan and to organise gender-mainstreaming and related activities in the MRCS - (ICBP01)	[Timeline bar from Feb to Dec]												
1.4.5.ICBP01			In collaboration with MRC gender in-house focal points and gender taskforce develop the action plan for gender activities within the MRCS in joining with GIZ initiative	06 Feb												27 Nov

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012												
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
			Promote gender responsive development within the MRCS through the periodic meetings of the gender focal points/gender taskforce, regular training on gender awareness and by hosting events to highlight the importance of gender responsive development.		01 Mar		30 Mar									
1.4.5.ICBP01			Document 3-5 lessons and good practices each for both national and regional level, e.c. and print for further promotion in MRCS, NMCs, LAs, gender focal points, etc.	01 Feb											28 Sep	
			Strengthening/capacity building gender in-house network (gender focal points/gender taskforce) and share the lessons and practices throughout MRC programmes and projects in different levels.							02 Jul					28 Sep	
		3.1.2	Review and incorporate gender aspects in the procurement, HR and personnel manuals - (ICBP01)													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Work with FAS to integrate gender aspects in the procurement manual.													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Work with HRS to integrate gender aspects in the approved Grievance policy, Personnel and HR Manuals.													
		3.1.3	Review the HR data system to establish sex-disaggregated database - (ICBP01)													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Continously support HRS to update the sex-disaggregated data					01 May		31 May						
		3.1.4	Review and republish existing and upgraded gender toolkits - (ICBP01 & ICBP02)													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Finalize the gender toolkit and make it reader-friendly for using across MRC Programmes, project at MRCS, NMCs and LAs.	01 Feb				30 Apr								
1.4.5.ICBP01			ICBP will have the revised gender toolkit and translate them into 5 languages for the 4 member countries (Cambodia, Lao, Thailand and Vietnam)		01 Mar										29 Jun	
1.4.5.ICBP01			Launching events of the toolkit in both languages (English and respective riparian language) will be done and training sessions will be organized on the utilisation of these toolkit for the riparian countries countries. This is to be done back to back wit							02 Jul					31 Aug	
	ICBP01		Gender Toolkit developed												29 Jun	
		3.1.5	Republish MRC Gender Policy and Strategy in 5 languages - (ICBP01)													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Republish the MRC Gender Policy and Strategy in 5 languages (Khmer, Lao, Thai, Vietnamese and English).												29 Feb	
		3.1.6	Develop MRC Sexual and Cultural Harassment Guidelines - (ICBP01)													
1.4.5.ICBP01			Develop Anti Sexual and Cultural Harassment guideline using the approved Grievance policy and printing					02 Apr							29 Jun	
			Output 3.2: Gender responsive approaches are mainstreamed into the MRC sector programmes.													
		3.2.1	In collaboration with WSM component follow-up/providig technical support to the LNMN pilot project on Gender in Watershed Management in Nam Ngum/Namxong watershed area, Laos - (ICBP02)													
1.4.5.ICBP02			Develop tools for Gender Mainstreaming in the project cycle for the Watershed Management Project		01 Mar			30 Apr								
1.4.5.ICBP02			Develop a coaching and monitoring plan and carry out periodic review of the gender mainstreaming in Watershed Project													26 Oct
1.4.5.ICBP02			Arrange/faciliate the documentation of good gender mainstreaming practices in the Member Countries under the framework of ICBP on the actual application of gender aspect in Nam Xong watershed management					02 Apr								26 Oct

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012													
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
			Provide training on utilisation of the relevant gender tools to the MRC Programme Officers that in need for application of the tools.								02 Jul	31 Jul					
			Output 3.3: Gender responsive capacity of the NMCSs and prioritized national line agencies is developed through gender awareness raising, training and pilot project implementation.														
		3.3.1	Deliver capacity development activities on Gender-mainstreaming in IWRM for the four national gender working teams - (ICBP03)														
			Organise Training on Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM for the national Gender Teams in 4 countries			02 Apr											28 Sep
		3.3.2	Assist in organising and facilitation of the annual programme for exchanging and sharing of best practices and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming among the riparian countries to strengthening capacity of their Gender Unit and working teams - (ICBP03)														
			Support, organise and facilitate the events to exchange and share of lessons learned and good practices across the related agencies among the member countries and in the dialogue partners' countries.														
1.4.5.ICBP03 4.3.3.ICBP03			Document and publish the best practices and progress of gender focal points in the member countries for the purpose of sharing the lesson learned and promotion of gender aspect in all development effort of the Mekong Region.		05 Mar											25 Sep	
1.4.5.ICBP03 4.3.3.ICBP03			Provide technical support to member Countries in designing capacity building activities for gender mainstreaming according to new work plan which is aligned to the CDAP														
		3.3.3	Provide technical and methodological assistance to the Cambodia national gender teams on mainstreaming gender aspects in the work of their respective agencies - (ICBP03)														
			(i) Providing support to CNMC to follow up the pilot project on " GM in Community Water Resources Management in Kandal, Cambodia " - including case study development; (ii) Support the CNMC and gender team to organise the event to promote gender equality														
		3.3.4	Provide technical and methodological assistance to the Lao national gender teams on mainstreaming gender aspects in the work of their respective agencies - (ICBP03)														
			(i) Assistance to LNMC gender team to follow up the pilot project on " gender in Watershed Management in Namxong watershed area " - including documents the lessons or case studies, etc.; (ii) Provide assistance to the LNMC to organise event to promote gen														
		3.3.5	Provide technical and methodological assistance to the Thai national gender teams on mainstreaming gender aspects in the work of their respective agencies - (ICBP03)														
			(i) Assistance in implementation of the pilot project in the selected areas; (ii) Assist the TNMC in organising event to promote gender equality and women empowerment, and gender mainstreaming in IWRM; (iii) Assist the gender focalpoints in case study dev														
		3.3.6	Provide technical and methodological assistance to the Vietnam national gender teams on mainstreaming gender aspects in the work of their respective agencies - (CBP03)														

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome / Output / Activity / Milestone	2012											
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.4.5.ICBP03 4.3.3.ICBP03			(i) Assist in organising event to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming in IWRM; (ii) Assist gender focal point to review gender issues/gender equality in the related Line Agencies; (iii) Assist the gender focal points in implementing the gender	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Outcome 4: An effective integrated and sustainable capacity building mechanism is established and functioning to support the MRC work.	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Output 4.1: MRC and NMCs capacity-building planning, information management, coordination and monitoring and evaluation system is established.	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
4.1.1.ICBP04		4.1.1	Establish ICBP web-based monitoring system	[Gantt bar from Jan to 30 Mar]											
		4.1.2	Monitor & maintain the implementation of annual capacity building work plan	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
4.1.1.ICBP04		4.1.3	Provide coaching & training for ICBP web-based system users and monitor data entry	[Gantt bar from 02 Feb to 30 Apr]											
4.1.1.ICBP04		4.1.4	Develop CB M & E manual and provide training for monitoring and evaluation of all capacity building activities	[Gantt bar from Jan to 05 Oct]											
	ICBP04		Milestone: MRC capacity building monitoring and evaluation system designed and integrated into the overall MRC PMS	[Gantt bar from Jan to 05 Oct]											
			Capacity Building evaluation follow up workshop	[Gantt bar from 01 Nov to 30 Nov]											
			Output 4.2: National capacity-building plans (covering the NMCs and prioritized national agencies) are prepared and implementation is monitored by the NMCSs.	[Gantt bar from Aug to Nov]											
4.3.2.ICBP10		4.2.1	National Annual CB work plan prepared & implemented	[Gantt bar from Sep to 30 Nov]											
4.3.2.ICBP10		4.2.2	Regional workshop on Capacity Building Needs Assessment & Evaluation (co-op with IWRM competency framework)	[Gantt bar from 01 Aug to 31 Aug]											
			Output 4.3: Lessons learned on capacity-building processes are documented and disseminated.	[Gantt bar from Jun to Jul]											
		4.3.1	Document cases of good practices in capacity building in MRC.	[Gantt bar from 01 Jun to 31 Jul]											
			Output 4.4: MRC programmes are supported with advice on the methodology of capacity building.	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
		4.4.1	Provide technical and methodologies advices on capacity building and planning to MRC Programmes	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Output 4.5: Capacity-building materials repository (open access) is established	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
4.1.1.ICBP04		4.5.1	Maintain and updated ICBP and MRC training materials to MRC share drive and other platforms	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Output 4.6: A regional network of training and education institutions is established to support long-term sustainable capacity building in IWRM	[Gantt bar from Mar to Oct]											
4.2.2.ICBP08		4.6.1	Setting up and communicating with different available networks for the promotion of MRC capacity building and knowledge products (MRC Mekong Forum)	[Gantt bar from 01 Mar to 30 Apr]											
4.2.2.ICBP08		4.6.2	Organized ICBP IWRM Capacity Building Network for Promoting of MRC knowledge products and tools e.g. RSAT, IWRM training manual, WSM training manual, gender toolkits, etc.	[Gantt bar from 01 May to 31 Oct]											
			Output 4.7: Effective and efficient programme management and communication.	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
		4.7.1	Prepare annual work plans and budgets	[Gantt bar from Jan to 30 May]											
		4.7.2	Prepare progress reports	[Gantt bar from May to Dec]											
		4.7.3	Fullfil all requirement for recruitment and staffing	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
		4.7.4	Managing consultants	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
		4.7.5	Management of travel arrangement	[Gantt bar from Jan to Dec]											
		4.7.6	Organise Programme Management Meetings, Knowledge transfer team building events	[Gantt bar from 01 Feb to 30 May]											
		4.7.8	Organise 10,11,12,13 Prgramme Coordination Meetings	[Gantt bar from 02 Mar to Dec]											
			Organise 5th and 6th Steering Committee	[Gantt bar from 10 Feb to Dec]											

3.9. Navigation Programme (NAP)

3.9.1. Programme Overview

The Mekong River is an important gateway to trade centres in the Southeast Asia region and beyond. However, in many stretches, the Mekong River of today has not exploited its inherent potential to boost trade relations and income for the countries situated in its Basin. A regional development approach is needed to contribute to poverty reduction, opening new economic opportunities, creating new employment, developing skills, and improving the access facilities to the remote communities and the delivery of rural services.

Referring to Article 9 of the 1995 Agreement, the development objective of the Navigation Strategy is to promote freedom of navigation and increase the international trade opportunities for the MRC Member Countries' mutual benefit, and to assist in coordination and cooperation for the development of effective and safe waterborne transport in a sustainable and protective manner for the waterway.

The flow regime exercises an important control on navigability, and changes in flow, which are either increasing due to regulation or decreasing due to diversions, will influence the viability of navigation. Issues to be addressed in a regional navigation programme include river navigation conditions; ports developments; capacity building in the navigation sector, integration of navigation with other transport modes (particularly in the international context); comprehensive legal framework to address the physical and non-physical barriers to navigation; and environmental and safety concerns such as pollution.

List of agreements

(US\$ 1,000)

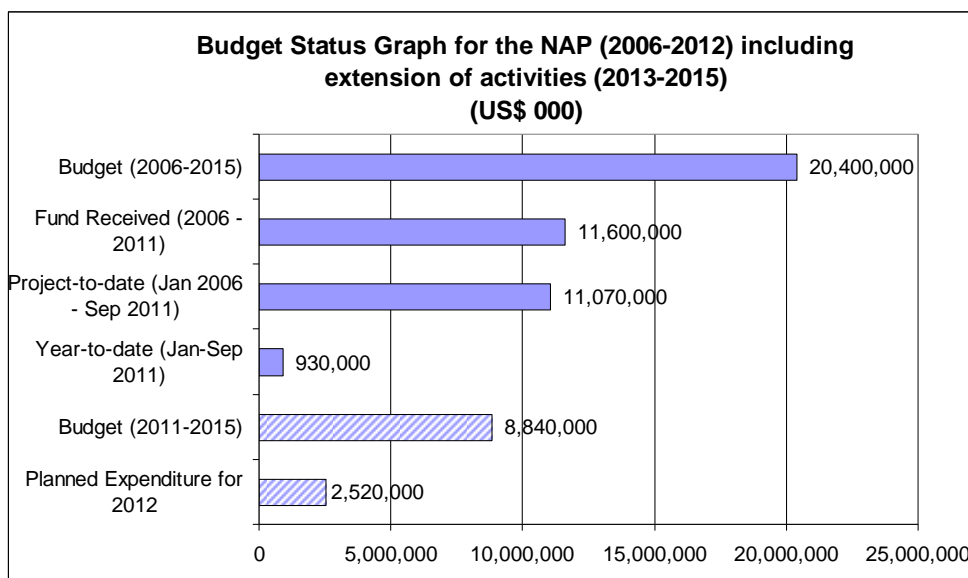
	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance 2011*	Donors
Agreements					
NAP-Belgium	04/10/05	04/10/10	6,400	0	Belgium
NAP-Belgium	2/10/09	13/12/12	5,400	1,430	Belgium
NAP-Belgium	pledged		1,100	pledged	Belgium
NAP-Australia	05/05/08	30/06/12	1,011	0	Australia

* Balance as per October 2011

3.9.2. Progress of NAP for 2011

The following graph provides the expenditure of Jan-Sep 2011 as well as planned expenditure from Oct-Dec 2011 under the extended contributions from Belgium. The graph also gives an overview of the NAP budget status for

the period 2006-2012, total funds received, and planned expenditure for 2012.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

NAP 1.1.8 As part of the PNPCA, NAP has provided extensive inputs in the scoping assessment and technical review report on what the impacts of the proposed dams on river transportation would mean, and how ship locks should be considered. The NAP carefully assessed the feasibility study and the EIA report by the developer of the proposed Xayaburi Dam project.

NAP 1.1.9 The study on defining Significance for Navigation on the Tributaries of the LMB phase 2 is under implementation. The project requires a substantial amount of additional data and information as not all tributaries have been covered during phase 1.

NAP 2.1.1 The first regional meeting on legal framework for cross-border navigation between Lao PDR and Thailand on the stretch downstream from Luang Prabang was organized on 27 October 2010 between NAP, Legal Advisor and the Legal Task Forces of Lao PDR and Thailand. Recently however the proposed Bilateral Legal Framework for Cross-border Navigation between the Lao PDR and Thailand downstream of Luang Prabang is pending. Instead of focusing on trade facilitation, the Lao PDR suggested to focus on the formulation of a river transport agreement to improve navigation safety on the common stretches between the Lao PDR and Thailand. As such this objective by itself already holds many disciplines such as harmonizing navigation rules and regulations, technical standards, training, certification and licensing, monitoring and regulating transport of dangerous cargo, environmental control, etc. A draft proposal is being drafted by the NAP and will be presented

during the next Navigation Advisory Body Meeting in December 2011.

- NAP 2.1.3 Establishment of a standing bilateral committee to oversee the implementation of the Agreement between Cambodia and Viet Nam is being arranged. The implementation of the agreement including the fully functioning of the committee, setting up and harmonizing operational rules and regulations is being prepared.
- NAP 3.1.5 Channel markers on the dangerous stretches of the Mekong between Houei Sai and Luang Prabang, and remaining dangerous in the Lao PDR and Thailand be completed and the aids to navigation on the selected stretches have been installed. Landing facilities for passengers and tourists were installed along the Mekong river stretch between Pak Beng and Luang Prabang. The installations of these modern landing facilities have improved safety and efficiency of passenger ports.
- NAP 3.1.7 The Chart Datum of the hydrographic charts between the Golden Triangle and Vientiane has been re-determined. A longitudinal profile of the river for navigation was designed.
- NAP 3.2.1 Early 2011 NAP commenced the 'Risk Analysis of the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River'. The Risk Analysis determines the risk of oil spills, fire, explosion and major incidents in ports, petroleum terminals and waterways along the Mekong River System and what their impacts could mean to the people living along the river, not only in the villages but also in the urban centers, and how spillages could harm the environment. The Analysis will evaluate which prevention measures are needed to avoid accidents from happening, and recommend how the countries should respond to disasters resulting from wrong-handling of dangerous goods. The Draft Final Report, which includes the Recommendations, will be completed by December 2011.
- NAP 3.2.1 The cooperation between MRCS and the Joint Committee on Coordination of Commercial Navigation (JCCCN) has been progressing steadily. As with the past Navigation Advisory Body meeting, representatives from JCCCN of Myanmar and P.R China have attended the 9th Navigation Advisory Body (NAB) Meeting organized on 29 March 2011 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- NAP 5.1.2 Maintaining the on-going functioning of the NAP Office and NAB. Successful achievement of NAP's outputs will require extensive cooperation from the line agencies and private sector, and coordination by the NMCs. Political commitment of the Member Countries who have endorsed the Navigation Programme should be translated into a high level of commitment at the operational and executive level within the NMCs and national line agencies involved.

- NAP.5.1.4 Provision of specialised Training Courses for MRC, NMC and Line agencies staffs: MRCS and the Government of Flanders have jointly organized a Regional Workshop on Development of the Professional Training on Syllabi for Inland Navigation Training on 17 May 2011 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Navigation specialists from P.R. China and Myanmar attended.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Actions Taken

During the Regional Meeting of 27 October 2010 between the Lao PDR and Thailand it was concluded that there is a need to have a clear and up-to-date legal framework for navigation of the Middle Mekong which implements Art 9 of the Mekong Agreement on freedom of navigation. As a basis for a new agreement, a mix of elements of the Quadripartite Agreement, the Lower Mekong Agreement and the 1926 Agreement would be the preferable approach. The detailed ingredients of a legal framework for navigation would have to be considered on the basis of the legal study and the recommendations which will be prepared by the MRC Secretariat. In 2011, the objectives for the recommendations for the Bilateral Legal Framework for Cross-border Navigation between the Lao PDR and Thailand downstream of Luang Prabang were somehow changed by the Lao PDR. Instead of focusing on trade facilitation, it was suggested to focus on the formulation of a river transport agreement to improve navigation safety and this only on the common stretches between the Lao PDR and Thailand. A proposal is being drafted for submission to the next meeting by the Navigation Advisory Body.

Development Partners reviews or appraisals conducted in 2011

In May 2011, a Review Mission was conducted by a Delegation from the Belgian Donor to assess the process of the cooperation programme. The mission confirmed that the MRC Navigation Programme is going ahead at full speed ahead providing concrete quality results.

Relevant JC and Council decision

As funding for NAP 2004-2009 did not materialize until 2006 the initial six-year programme has only been implemented from March 2006 with the understanding that it will run until March 2012. Moreover, additional activities supported by both Australia and Belgium through current agreements and strong indication of future support will enable the programme to be implemented until December 2012. Planned activities which have not been implemented but considered priority may continue beyond 2012. It was proposed to the Member Countries that the remaining activities will be implemented under the next phase of the NAP which will be aligned with the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015. The Secretariat also proposed extension of Navigation Programme 2004-2009 up to December 2012. The JC considered the proposal and approved the extension of the Navigation Programme up to December 2012 as requested. The MRCS was requested to seriously learn from this lesson regarding the protocol of the Joint Committee.

3.9.3.

NAP Workplan for 2012

Navigation Key Result Area 1, Application of IWRM-based Navigation Development and Coordination under MRC Goal 1, Application of IWRM-based basin development and related resources strategies and guidance.

Output 1.1 (ref.: 112ALL01; 512ALL03;113BDP04): Inputs provided to the basin-wide management plan/strategy for IWRM - Inputs to the Design and Implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Output 1.2 (ref.: 112ALL01): The new Navigation Programme 2013-2015 focusing on the MRC Core Function outlining in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 is formulated and endorsed by the MRC Council

Output 1.3 (ref.: 147NAP09; 234NAP09): 'Risk Analysis of the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River' is completed.

Output 1.4 (ref.: 147NAP09; 234NAP09): Port personnel trained in the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River'.

Output 1.5 (ref.: 147NAP09; 234NAP09): 'Management Strategies and Implementation Plan for the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River' is formulated

Output 1.6 (ref.: 125NAP05): The study on defining 'Significance for Navigation on the Tributaries of the LMB, Phase 2' is completed.

Output 1.7 (ref.: 125NAP06; 361NAP06) Cross-border navigation legal regime established and a mechanism for the effective implementation and monitoring of the legal framework is established, for both Cambodia-Viet Nam, and Lao PDR-Thailand

Navigation Key Result Area 2, Operational Transport Systems enhancing Traffic Safety and Efficiency under MRC Goal 2, Operational systems for basin-wide monitoring, impact assessment, modelling, forecasting and knowledge management to support effective decision making.

Output 2.1 (ref.: 212NAP10; 212NAP11): A communication system for navigation in Lao PDR and Thailand, and Low Water Level Alarm developed

Output 2.2 (ref.: 235NAP13): Improving navigation safety and pilotage efficiency: waterway markers as per priority needs procured and installed.

Output 2.3 (ref.: 235NAP13; 214NAP12; 235NAP12): Tourism Facilitation in the Mekong Basin. landing facilities for tourists procured + installed.

Output 2.4 (ref.: 214NAP12; 235NAP12; 212NAP11): Development of a Port Management and Monitoring System for Phnom Penh Autonomous Port's New Container Terminals

Output 2.5 (ref.: 214NAP12; 235NAP12; 212NAP11): Satellite based Navigation Tracking System installed

Navigation Key Result Area 3, Efficient Dialogue, Coordination and

Responsiveness under MRC Goal 3, Efficient dialogue and coordination processes between basin countries and other stakeholders for effective regional cooperation.

Output 3.1: Strategic partnerships and cooperation with regional and bilateral initiatives strengthened for effective and optimized regional cooperation on key development challenges and issues in the Basin

Output 3.2: Key MRC materials translated into riparian languages

Navigation Key Result Area 4, Management Support and Institutional Strengthening under MRC Goal 5, Efficient organisational transition of the MRC for implementation of its core functions and full riparianisation of its Secretariat.

Output 4.1: Professional technical guidance is provided to ensure proper implementation of highly technical tasks

Output 4.2: The on-going functioning of the NAP Office and NAB is maintained.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

Review by Belgium is conducted every two years. Next Review would be done in 2013. However intermediate visits may be conducted.

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012												
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			Outcome 1: Socio-Economic Analysis and Regional Transport Planning													
			Output 1.1: Regional Master Plan for the overall navigation development in the LMB prepared													
112ALL01; 512ALL03;113BDP04		1.1.1	Supporting to the basin-wide management plan/strategy for IWRM.													
112ALL01; 512ALL03;113BDP04		1.1.2	Supporting to the Design and Implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015.													
			Output 1.2: NAP Programme 2012-2015 Formulated													
112ALL01		1.2.1	Formulate new Navigation Programme 2013-2015 focusing on the MRC Core Function outlining in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015.													
112ALL01		1.2.2	Endorse new Navigation Programme by the MRC Council.													
			Output 1.3: Report on Risk Analysis of the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River finalized and shared													
147NAP09; 234NAP09		1.1.3	Conduct Risk Analysis of the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River.													
			Output 1.4: Training Port personnel in the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River conducted													
147NAP09; 234NAP09		1.4.1	Training Port personnel in the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River.													
			Output 1.5: Management strategies and policies established													
147NAP09; 234NAP09		1.5.1	Formulate Management Strategies for the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River.													
147NAP09; 234NAP09		1.5.2	Set up Implementation Plan for the Storage, Carriage and Handling of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong River.													
			Output 1.6: Study on defining 'significance for Navigation on the Tributaries of the LMB, Phase 2 conducted													
125NAP05		1.6.1	Conduct the study on defining 'Significance for Navigation on the Tributaries of the LMB, Phase 2'.													
			Output 1.7: Cross-border navigation legal regime and a mechanism for the effective implementation and monitoring established and implemented													
125NAP06; 361NAP06		1.7.1	Establish Cross-border navigation legal regime and a mechanism for the effective implementation and monitoring of the legal framework for Cambodia-Viet Nam.													
125NAP06; 361NAP06		1.7.2	Establish Cross-border navigation legal regime, mechanism and framework for Lao PDR-Thailand.													
			Outcome 2: Legal Framework for Cross-Border Navigation													
			Output 2.1: A standard communication system for navigation developed and set up													
212NAP10; 212NAP11		2.1.1	Develop a communication system for navigation.													
212NAP10; 212NAP11		2.1.2	Set up Low Water Level Alarm for navigation in Lao PDR and Thailand.													
			Output 2.2: Navigation safety system in placed													

SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity Code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
235NAP13		2.2.1	Improve navigation safety and pilotage efficiency: Procurement and installation of waterway markers as per priority needs.	[Green bar from Dec to Sep]											
			Output 2.3: Tourism facility improved and in placed	[Green bar from Dec to Sep]											
235NAP13; 214NAP12; 235NAP12		2.3.1	Improve Tourism Facilitation in the Mekong Basin: Procurement and installation of landing facilities for tourists.	[Green bar from Dec to Sep]											
			Output 2.4: Management and monitoring system installed and operated	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
214NAP12; 235NAP12; 212NAP11		2.4.1	Develop of a Port Management and Monitoring System for Phnom Penh Autonomous Port's New Container Terminals.	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
			Uotput 2.5: Navigation Tracking System intalled	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]											
214NAP12; 235NAP12; 212NAP11		2.5.1	Install satellite based Navigation Tracking System.	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Outcome 3: Traffic Safety and Environmental Sustainability	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
			Ouput 3.1: Regional and bilateral cooperation developed	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
		3.1.1	Strengthening strategic partnerships and cooperation with regional and bilateral initiatives for effective and optimize regional cooperation on key development challenges and issues in the Basin	[Red bar from Dec to Dec]											
			Output 3.2: MRC key materials available in 4 riparians languages	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]											
		3.2.1	Translate key MRC materials into riparian languages.	[Red bar from Jan to Dec]											
			Outcome 4: Information sharing and coordination development	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
			Output 4.1: Technical guidance implemented	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
		4.1.1	Provide professional technical guidance to ensure proper implementation of highly technical tasks.	[Red bar from Dec to Dec]											
			Output 4.2: NAP Office and NAB well operated	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											
		4.2.1	Maintain the on-going functioning of the NAP Office and Navigation Advisory Body.	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]											

3.10. Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)

3.10.1. Programme Overview

The CCAI goal: “An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change” reflects the MRC Vision. Inherent in the goal is a commitment to poverty reduction, gender responsiveness and ecological sustainability in adapting to climate change. The overall scope of the CCAI is climate change impact assessment and adaptation planning and implementation within the Mekong River Basin. The overall outcome of the CCAI is the contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, poverty eradication and improved food security. The main focus of this regional initiative is the basin wide integrated approach consistent with IWRM and the MRC 1995 Agreement.

The CCAI immediate objective: ‘Climate change adaptation planning and implementation is guided by improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin’ shows how the goal will be achieved by guiding the climate change adaptation planning process to improve strategies and by building the necessary capacities. Pilot studies and demonstration projects will contribute to the efforts support governments, local authorities and communities in their endeavours to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The CCAI will pilot and demonstrate adaptation planning and implementation throughout the region including the processes of climate change impact and vulnerability assessments. It will develop the tools and provide information to support the adaptation planning process. Local demonstration sites will be established to test the methodologies, build capacity, start implementation and provide lessons learned. Basin scale activities will address climate change impacts and adaptation options at basin planning level through integration with the Basin Development Plan as well as addressing transboundary issues. The CCAI will improve capacity to adapt from local to national levels including in the use of tools for different adaptation planning stages and methods. It will support LMB governments in introducing and improving strategies and plans for adaptation at various levels and their integration with appropriate development plans. It will ensure that adaptation performance and the status of climate change is monitored and reported on a regular basis.

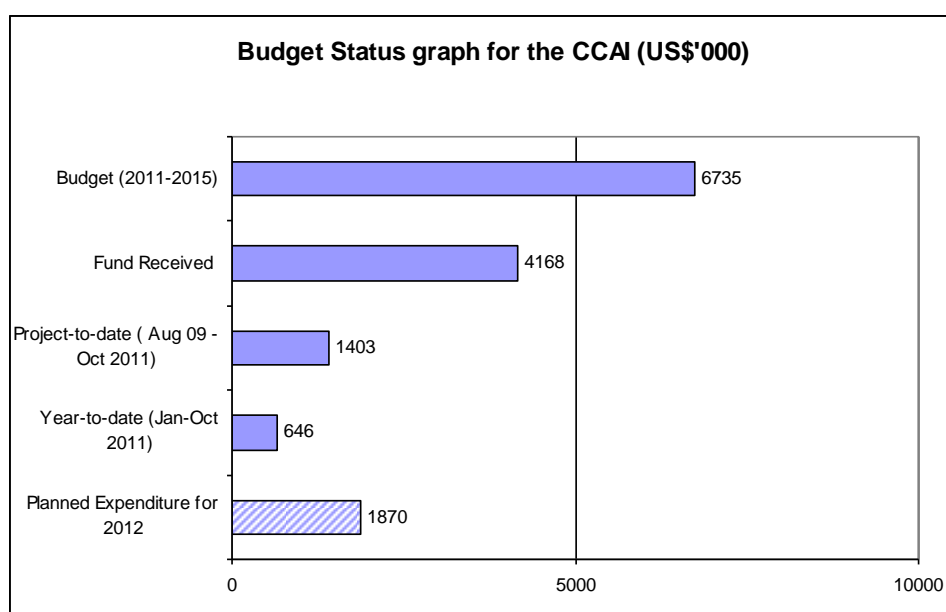
Funding status of CCAI for the period 2011-2015

(in 000 US\$)

No	Donor	Status	Beginning date	Ending date	Funding
1	Australia (AusAID)	Agreed	2-Nov-09	30-Jun-13	2,260
2	Denmark (Danida)	Agreed	1-Jan-10	31-Dec-15	900
3	Luxembourg	Agreed	22-Dec-10	31-Dec-15	2,600
4	Sweden (Sida)	Agreed, via EP	1-Nov-09	31-Dec-11	545
5	Finland	Agreed, via IKMP			600
6	Germany (GIZ)	Pledged			1,950
7	European Union (EU)	Pledged			6,500
	Fund committed in total				15,335
	Programme Total Budget Plan (2011-2015)				15,901

3.10.2. Progress of CCAI for 2011

The Figure below provides an overview of the budget status of the CCAI activities (excluding those conducted by EP and IKMP) which includes the budget for the period of 2009-2015, total funds received so far, expenditure on the Project-to-date (August 2009- October 2011) and expenditure on the Year-to-date (January-October 2011). The expected expenditure for 2012 is planned for US\$ 1,870,966.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

Outcome 1: Adaptation planning and implementation

Output 1.1 Methods and tools for assessment and adaptation planning developed and the climate change database for the Mekong basin established

- CCAI 1.1.1 The MRC climate change database is under construction and should be operational in the first half of 2012. It will include data of climate change and climate variability based on the datasets for climate change scenarios A2 and B2 for 1985-2000 and 2010-2050. The climate change data was originally the downscaled PRECIS data for scenario A2 and B2 from SEA-START. They are grid-based without adjustment. The database will also include datasets of tools and methods for impact assessment and adaptation planning which was established as part of the Technical Paper No. 34. Additional datasets are considered to be included for sub-basin use.
- CCAI 1.1.2 The basin-specific integrated climate and hydrological analysis system to assess the climate change threats has not been developed yet. This activity will be moved to 2012 Workplan.
- CCAI 1.1.3 Experiences and lessons learned in climate change adaptation were identified from the demonstration and basin-wide pilot activities and some were documented in reports of these local projects. A Synthesis Report of Good Practices and Challenges for Successful Climate Change Adaptation is being prepared from the first regional meeting of demonstration projects held on 21-22 July in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Works on systemization and comprehensive analysis of lesson learned into a compendium will be started in 2012.
- CCAI 1.1.4 A report on Climate Change Impacts on wetland and biodiversity is being prepared as one of the products of the basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on wetland and biodiversity implemented by EP. This report is scheduled to be completed in 2012.
- CCAI 1.1.5 A basin-wide baseline to represent current socio-economic conditions across the LMB is being conducted in the Social Impact Monitoring and Vulnerability Assessment (SIMVA) undertaken by the EP. The SIMVA includes a baseline survey of livelihoods that will potentially be affected by future climate change. The survey was conducted during the first half of 2011. The results will be analysed and used to monitor changes in the Mekong River Basin's biophysical environment and socio-economic conditions of people in the basin.
- CCAI 1.1.6 Methods and tools for climate change assessment of species and biodiversity has been outlined and will be further developed and finalised early 2012. This will serve as supporting tools for projecting ecosystem changes. The set of indicators for monitoring the behaviors of key biological features and physical conditions of wetland ecosystems was discussed during implementation of the basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on wetland and biodiversity.

Output 1.2 Local adaptation demonstration activities and projects are established and working

CCAI 1.2.1 The first regional meeting of climate change adaptation demonstration projects held on 21-22 July 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam has attracted the participation of 45 local adaptation projects. A website-based information platform is being prepared for exchange information of these projects. The meeting included both CCAI-funded and country-driven local adaptation projects led by regional and national partners. A synthesis report of Good Practice in Climate Change Adaptation in the LMB is being prepared.

CCAI 1.2.3 At demonstration sites, certain work on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning have been conducted by the national teams of Member Countries in consistence with the CCAI adaptation planning framework and based on the agreed Implementation Agreement between NMCs and MRCS. These activities included testing and refining tools and identifying and assessing existing knowledge and practices on climate change and adaptation. Progress was at different levels across the countries (e.g. completed in Vietnam but being continued till early 2012 in Cambodia). Some cost-effective adaptation options were identified, selected and prioritized for implementation in demonstration sites such as testing flood-resistant rice varieties, low-cost extension of hand-dug irrigation canal, development of village adaptation plan for coastal area etc.

Output 1.3 Basin-wide sector and transboundary adaptation plans/guides are prepared

CCAI 1.3.1 A basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on wetland and biodiversity is being implemented and will be completed in 2012. Four (4) other basin-wide assessments will be implemented in the next few years namely: assessment on flood vulnerability together with FMMP; assessment on drought vulnerability with DMP; assessment on food security with FP and AIP; assessment on sustainable hydropower with ISH.

Output 1.4 Lessons and outcomes of the CCAI adaptation demonstration activities and pilots to facilitate replication and up-scaling through local, sector and national development planning

CCAI 1.4.2 Several exchange visits and on-site trainings for demonstration project teams have been conducted based on specific needs and priority and implementation progress in local demonstration sites. A regional meeting has not yet been convened since not all the demonstration projects completed their works. This meeting will be conducted early next year 2012 to solicit exchange of lessons learned.

CCAI 1.4.3 As a key step to formulate the network of demonstration sites and existing adaptation projects in the region, the first regional meeting of climate change adaptation demonstration projects was held on 21-22 July 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The meeting included both CCAI-funded and country-driven local adaptation projects led by regional and national partners. A synthesis report of Good Practice in Climate Change Adaptation in the LMB is being prepared.

Outcome 2: Improved capacity to manage and adapt to climate change

Output 2.1 Institutional capacity strengthened in policy making and planning for adaptation in the LMB Countries

CCAI 2.1.1 A CCAI's Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Plan for climate change adaptation planning and implementation for the MRC Member Countries is being prepared in close cooperation with ICBP and scheduled for completion in March 2012. The Capacity Needs Assessment includes a baseline of the existing capacity and a capacity needs map pertaining to the national and local agencies in CCAI network. It analyses on the current and future capacity needed at both national and local levels based on an institutional, financial and staff capacity gaps analysis. The Capacity Building Plan includes capacity building activities for each year of the First Phase of CCAI (2011-2015) at regional, national and local levels with details given for each Member Country. It includes indicative cost implementation, operational plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework . The national capacity needs were partly reviewed during implementation of local demonstration projects and other regional activities.

CCAI 2.1.2 The two-yearly integrated capacity building programme for CCAI including technical trainings in adaptation planning and implementation is not established yet in waiting for the results of the Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Plan. This output is re-scheduled to start in 2012. However, during 2011 a number of national and technical trainings, awareness raising campaigns in combination with field visits to demonstration sites for each member country have been conducted mainly linked with local demonstration projects. Additional national training courses were conducted in some of the Member Countries following the regional training on "Climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning". In addition, two Junior Riparian Professionals (JRPs) have completed on-the-job training including extension of contract for one of them based on excellence results and contribution to the respective local demonstration project at national level.

CCAI 2.1.3 A workshop on gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation planning was conducted for Lao PDR.

Output 2.2 Tools for adaptation planning and implementation are documented and capacities built in their application

CCAI 2.2.2 Existing tools and methods for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning were gathered, reviewed and published in Technical Paper No. 34 Review of Climate Change Adaptation Methods and Tools and uploaded on the CCAI website. Application of some of those tools and methods in the four

demonstration sites will be evaluated and lessons learned are surveyed to provide inputs to the CCAI compendium.

Output 2.3 Capacity to monitor and report on performance in adaptation of LMB governments at appropriate levels and of the MPCC members is built

- CCAI 2.3.1 The first glossary of climate change terms in English has been revised and improved from the initial version of 2010 incorporated comments from Member Countries and has been uploaded into the CCAI website. Works on translation of this glossary into national languages in line with similar efforts at the national level have been discussed with the CCAI national coordinators and national teams. The CCAI national project teams and network partners were informed and advised in application of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework right at the start of implementation. OCCA staff and representatives from Member Countries had joined trainings organised by ICBP on general M&E, gender responsiveness, performance indicators, project cycle management and logframe analysis.
- CCAI 2.3.3 A series of Grassroots Comics workshops have been conducted in Member Countries as one of important activities of the CCAI Communication Plan.

Outcome 3: Strategies and Plans for Climate Change Adaptation

Output 3.1 Policy frameworks to facilitate and guide adaptation in place

- CCAI 3.1.1 As first step for scoping of the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, a review of existing and on-going climate change related strategies, programmes, projects and activities at regional and national levels is being conducted. The review will include information from reports of local demonstration projects and basin-wide pilot on wetland and biodiversity, synthesis report on good practices in climate change adaptation and will be completed during first half of 2012.
- CCAI 3.1.2 The review of regional climate change scenarios, climate downscaling modelling and uncertainties has not been conducted yet. This activity will be moved to 2012.
- CCAI 3.1.6 Discussions on developing guidelines for integrating climate change and adaptation into SEA and EIA were arranged with EP and the consultancy team who conducted SEA for mainstream dams in the Mekong River. Key inputs for the guidelines were identified. The Guidelines are scheduled to be completed in 2012.

Output 3.2: A system for monitoring and reporting on the status of climate change and adaptation in the Mekong region is implemented

- CCAI 3.2.1 Draft outline of the report on Status of Climate Change and Adaptation in the Mekong River Basin was developed and preliminarily discussed with the potential members of MPCC during the MPCC Dialogue meeting in March 2011.

Implementation of the monitoring and reporting system on the status of climate change and adaptation at various levels will be started in 2012 to provide inputs for the Status Report, which in turn is scheduled for 2013.

- CCAI 3.2.3 A rapid gender analysis has been conducted under GIZ's overall assessment for the MRC with report incorporated inputs and contribution from CCAI and other relevant programmes. A Plan for CCAI Gender Responsiveness is going to be developed and scheduled for completion in March 2012. This plan helps CCAI to ensure gender responsiveness in all its outcomes, outputs and activities. It includes gender responsiveness indicators to be incorporated into existing performance management system of CCAI.

Output 3.3: A CCAI communications plan has been prepared and is being implemented

- CCAI 3.3.1 A general communication plan for CCAI in 2011-2015 is prepared for endorsement of the CCAI Steering Committee. This communication plan presents the target audiences, media options and activities.

- CCAI 3.3.3 The CCAI website is launched in 2010. It was improved and updated with more publications, MRC CCAI technical reports and CCAI communication materials uploaded, providing links with other information platforms, network and CCAI key partners. A website-based information platform to facilitate experiences exchange and promote regional collaboration and cooperation is being prepared for launching in 2012. This platform will showcase not only climate change adaptation projects in the Mekong region but also tools, methods, and processes which have been successfully applied, as well as their lessons learnt.

Outcome 4: Regional Exchange, Collaboration and Learning

Output 4.1: Partnership agreements and working relations are established and maintained with the CCAI core implementing partner organisations

- CCAI 4.1.1 Discussions on collaboration were conducted with regional partners who are implementing climate change related programmes and projects in the Greater Mekong region. Those partners include CSIRO and ACIAR, FAO, WWF, ADB, CARE International, Wetland Alliances and many others. An MoU was signed between MRC and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority of Australia with key activities related to capacity building, IWRM and climate change.

- CCAI 4.1.2 Regional consultative and coordination meetings were organised for discussing and finalising the CCAI Document 2011-2015 and its implementation. Another regional meeting is planned to be conducted to prepare and discuss the CCAI Roll-out Programme Implementation Plan.

Output 4.2: Appropriate institutional arrangements, staffing and capacities are in place within the MRCS and NMCs

- CCAI 4.2.1 The CCAI programme coordinator (PC) and chief technical advisor (CTA) were recruited in October and November 2011, respectively. A Technical Officer is being recruited to replace the other staff leaving in September 2011. Plan is being taken to fill the 4th Programme Officer position in the beginning of 2012.
- CCAI 4.2.2 The CCAI Steering Committee meeting was convened with permanent members of the Member Countries and representatives of CCAI current and potential donors. In the meeting CCAI progress, institutional arrangements and implementation, sustainability, workplan and budget was reviewed and discussed and necessary adjustments and guidance provided towards effectiveness and efficiency.
- CCAI 4.2.3 The MPCC Dialogue Meeting was organized in March 2011. Member Countries are still under discussion on the establishment of the MPCC. The idea of organising the CCAI interim Knowledge Forum was reconsidered and left to the latter phase.
- CCAI 4.2.5 Meeting of the CCAI regional technical working group was not convened since postponed to 2012.

Output 4.3: A harmonised system is set up for regular CCAI reporting on progress and plans to the MRC JC and Council, donors and partners

- CCAI 4.3.1 The 6-month January-June 2011 Progress Report is completed and the Annual Report is scheduled for January 2012.
- CCAI 4.3.2 The CCAI Performance Management System was developed as a harmonized system of monitoring and reporting, based on a set of performance indicators on cross-cutting issues and CCAI indicators at objective, outcomes and outputs levels.

Output 4.4: Financing for the CCAI is secured for the three five-year cycles

- CCAI 4.4.1 Representatives of key current and potential donors have been invited to the Second CCAI SC meeting in November 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- CCAI 4.4.2 OCCA in close collaboration with ICCS continued to prepare and provide supporting documents to solicit additional funding support based on development priority and targets of development partners and wider donor network such as GIZ and EU.

Output 4.5: Regular review and revision of the CCAI

- CCAI 4.5.1 Plan is undertaken to review the Performance Management System for and incorporate indicators for gender responsiveness of CCAI implementation.

Significant problems encountered and corrective actions taken

One of the key challenges to efficient programme implementation during 2011 was limited human resources which depend partly on the turnover and a few number of professional and management staff members of the Office of Climate Change and Adaptation (OCCA) and partly on capacity of the National Mekong Committee (NMC) and relevant national line agencies. A special national coordinator responsible for CCAI activities in each of the four Member Countries was assigned by the NMC and the Programme Coordinator have been recruited and started working from October 2011. The CCAI CTA was recruited and started work at the Secretariat from December 2011 and active works undertaken to recruit two more programme officers to have the full team for OCCA.

The implementation of demonstration activities was not equally progressed in all Member Countries with some delay in one project while others achieved target on time due to difference in experience and capacity of the national teams. The preparation for designing surveys and vulnerability assessment took more time than originally foreseen. The OCCA team has worked closely with the national teams to provide timely consultation and technical supports. National trainings on gender and assessment methodologies and technical back-up were provided by consultant and the OCCA team.

Development Partner review or appraisals carried out in 2011

No donor review was undertaken in 2010, but donor representatives were invited to attend the first CCAI Steering Committee meeting to review CCAI progress and management issues.

An appraisal mission was conducted by the potential development partner GIZ in June 2011 for considering the financial support for CCAI from 2012 onwards and the Germany Government has expressed strong commitment for funding some components of the CCAI with the total sum of 1,950,000 USD.

Relevant JC and Council Decisions taken in 2011

The overall CCAI Framework Document 2011-2025 has been approved by the Council on January 2011 and the CCAI Document 2011-2015 for Phase 1 has been submitted for consideration and was approved by the JC in its Thirty-fourth Meeting in August 2011.

3.10.3. CCAI Workplan for 2012

Outcome 1: Adaptation planning and implementation

Output 1.1 Methods and tools for assessment and adaptation planning developed and the climate change database for the Mekong basin established

CCAI 1.1.1 The MRC climate change database will be built and posted on the CCAI website by February 2012. To ensure the database's relevance and usefulness, CCAI will consult with the Member

- Countries on its contents and method of operating. IKMP will help manage and update the database on a regular basis.
- CCAI 1.1.2 A Report on Climate Change and Hydrological Modeling will be prepared and published. This report includes description of and guides on use of the basin-specific integrated climate and hydrological analysis system developed by CCAI in collaboration with IKMP and other programmes of MRC. Training will be organized for potential users of this Guide who are professional staff from line agencies of the Member Countries.
- CCAI 1.1.3 A regional forum for information and experience exchange in Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Implementation will be organized which invites regional, national and local adaptation projects relevant to CCAI. At the same time CCAI will conduct a Review of Changes and Trends in Adaptation Approach and Experiences in the region. A 2012 Synthesis Report of Good Practice is the prepared summarising and analysing the experiences gained from the Forums and the Review.
- CCAI 1.1.4 A report on climate change impacts on wetland and biodiversity will be completed and published in mid 2012. A communication event will be organized by EP and CCAI to present the findings of this report.
- CCAI 1.1.5 A report on basin-wide baseline of climate change vulnerability will be completed and published. This report will focus on the livelihoods that will potentially be affected by future climate change.
- CCAI 1.1.6 A Review Report on Methods for Assessing and Prioritizing Adaptation will be completed and published in 2012. This report summarizes methods for identifying, assessing and prioritising adaptation options. It is based on the MRC Technical Paper No. 34 in 2010 "Review of Climate Change Adaptation Methods and Tools". The report will assist the practitioners in climate change adaptation field to select suitable adaptation approaches and measures in their context.
- Output 1.2 Local adaptation demonstration activities and projects are established and working*
- CCAI 1.2.1 An MRC network of climate change adaptation demonstration projects in LMB countries will be established; network activities will be facilitated and maintained throughout the year. It is aimed that at least 5 government and NGO climate change adaptation demonstration projects in each LMB country are engaged in this MRC network.
- CCAI 1.2.2 The selection of second round of four (4) demonstration projects, one in each Member Country, will be completed in March 2012. The criteria for selection of the demonstration projects may include: relevant to Mekong water and related resources and users, representative for the LMB in relation to ecosystem types, economies and communities, high vulnerability to climate change, impacts from climate change already felt today and high potential for replication and upscaling.

- CCAI 1.2.3 Adaptation plans for the second-round 4 demo sites will be developed.
- CCAI 1.2.4 The adaptation plans developed for the first round demonstration sites will be implemented (Lao PDR) or mainstreamed into local development plans (Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam). M&E and necessary adjustment will be implemented during the mainstreaming or implementation process of these plans.
- Output 1.3 Basin-wide sector and transboundary adaptation plans/guides are prepared*
- CCAI 1.3.1 A basin-wide assessment report for wetland ecosystem vulnerability will be completed by EP. The findings of this report will be disseminated through multiple communication channels such as forums, workshops, conferences, and websites.
- CCAI 1.3.2 A report on basin-wide climate change impacts on flood vulnerability will be completed and published in collaboration with FMMP. The findings of this report will be disseminated through multiple communication channels such as forums, workshops, conferences, and websites.
- CCAI 1.3.3 A basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on drought vulnerability will be implemented in collaboration with DMP. The impact assessment will include testing of some tools and methods identified in Output 1.1.
- CCAI 1.3.4 A basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on food security will be implemented in collaboration with FP and AIP. The impact assessment will include testing of some tools and methods identified in Output 1.1.
- CCAI 1.3.5 A basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on sustainable hydropower will be implemented in collaboration with ISH. The impact assessment will include testing of some tools and methods identified in Output 1.1.
- Output 1.4 Lessons and outcomes of the CCAI adaptation demonstration activities and pilots to facilitate replication and up-scaling through local, sector and national development planning*
- CCAI 1.4.1 A systematic process of review and analysis of lessons learned from the demonstration and pilot activities will be defined. This includes identifying a set of criteria and indicators to facilitate adoption of good practice for replication and up-scaling, proven adaptation measures, appropriate reporting and monitoring framework agreed among key partners. The findings will be documented and used in the CCAI compendium.
- CCAI 1.4.2 Exchange visits and sharing of lessons between the basin-wide pilot on wetland and biodiversity and the basin-wide pilots on flood, drought, food security and sustainable hydropower will be conducted. Besides, an exchange visit of climate change decision makers of the LMB governments to other international river basins will be conducted. The focus of these exchanges will be on approaches and methodologies to assess transboundary issues of climate change impact

- assessment and adaptation planning. Lessons learned and impressions of participants will be documented and disseminated for broader learning.
- CCAI 1.4.3 Exchange visits and sharing of lessons of national demonstration sites will be conducted. The exchanges will be organized between the first-round demonstration sites and between the first-round and the second-round demonstration sites. Annual meeting of CCAI demonstration sites will be conducted at the same time with exchange activities. Annual meeting of the MRC network of adaptation projects will be conducted as Regional Forum for experience exchange in 1.1.3 above.
- CCAI 1.4.4 Three (3) sectors for assistance activities to integrate adaptation measures into development plans will be conducted in consultation with Member Countries. This task and its time line will be linked to the outcomes of the basin-wide pilots in 1.3.
- CCAI 1.4.5 Activities to assist/ facilitate local authorities at the demonstration sites to adopt key proven adaptation measures and tools will be implemented. They may include activities such as technical assistance, training, communication, etc. Results and lessons learnt will be documented and published for broader learning.
- CCAI 1.4.6 The 1st technical paper on CCAI demonstration activities will be developed. The topic of the technical paper will be discussed and agreed among national demonstration sites at the annual meeting. It may include case studies on the adaptation process, proven adaptation mechanisms and lessons learnt from the specific demonstration sites to facilitate upscaling and replication.
- Output 1.5 Analysis of long-term flood management options for the Cambodian floodplain and Mekong Delta to respond to growing pressures from climate change, sea level rise, land development and upstream development plans*
- CCAI 1.5.1 A review on relevant studies of long-term flood management options for the Mekong Delta and Cambodia floodplain will be conducted. One of the outcomes of the review will be a set of flood management options that can be considered in adaptation to flood risks from climate change. This task will be done in close collaboration with FMMP.
- Output 1.6 Drought risk and vulnerability analysis considering climate change and options for climate change adaptation*
- CCAI 1.6.1 A review of drought vulnerability indicators will be conducted to identify relevant indicators that can be included in the basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on drought vulnerability (in 1.3.3) as well as in other vulnerability assessment at local demonstration sites of high drought risks. This task will be conducted in close collaboration with DMP.

CCAI 1.6.2 A basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability on drought will be conducted. This task will be conducted in close collaboration with DMP.

Outcome 2: Improved capacity to manage and adapt to climate change

Output 2.1 Institutional capacity strengthened in policy making and planning for adaptation in the LMB Countries

CCAI 2.1.1 The Capacity Needs Assessment for climate change adaptation planning and implementation for the MRC Member Countries will be completed. It will result in a baseline of the existing capacity and a capacity needs map pertaining to the national and local agencies in CCAI network as well as a Capacity Building Plan describing capacity building activities for each year of the First Phase of CCAI (2011-2015). Besides, a CCAI Stakeholder Engagement Plan will also be built and implemented.

CCAI 2.1.2 Based on the Capacity Building Plan, an integrated programme of trainings on adaptation planning and implementation will be designed and conducted on a two yearly basis. The two-year training package should include, e.g. CC impact and vulnerability assessment, adaptation options and priority setting, gender responsiveness, monitoring and reporting, institutional analysis, integrating CC into development policy and planning. The training packages can be contracted to appropriate consultant groups and drawn on existing programmes developed by e.g. ADPC, OECD, SEI, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO-IHE and others. Implementation of the training packages will be started in the second half of 2012.

CCAI 2.1.3 Gender responsive training will be provided to CCAI national and regional teams. The training will be designed and implemented in line with the road map defined in the CCAI Gender Responsiveness Plan and the Capacity Building Plan, which will be ready by March 2012.

CCAI 2.1.4 High level roundtables on basin wide climate change issues will be convened. This activity contributes to awareness raising and policy advocacy to high level policy makers in water related sectors in the Member Countries. The roundtables discuss the current knowledge on climate change impacts and adaptation gained by CCAI and its partners and the needs and approaches to integrate climate change adaptation in development plans of the sectors.

Output 2.2 Tools for adaptation planning and implementation are documented and capacities built in their application

CCAI 2.2.1 Adaptation planning and implementation training materials will be designed and built based on the results of the Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Plan. The training materials will be designed for different levels from regional to national and for specific demonstration sites, tested for and from the training events conducted. This set of training materials will be the basis for the ToT training provided to riparian trainers (2.2.3)

- CCAI 2.2.2 A compendium on proven adaptation measures and tools will be built. Tools and methods for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning and a compendium of climate change adaptation options will be gathered, compiled, documented and disseminated through different means, including the CCAI website. This will be done following an established MRC climate change database (1.1.1) and an agreed mechanism for information and data sharing on climate change by the Member Countries.
- CCAI 2.2.3 Potential riparian trainers (5-6 from each Member Country) will be selected to be trained as MRC riparian trainers on the use of adaptation planning and implementation tools. Specific Training of Trainers programmes will be designed and conducted to supplement these trainers with the necessary skills and knowledge. Training of Trainers programme will be conducted and qualification tests will be organized to certify the competency of the riparian trainers in training of adaptation planning and implementation tools.
- Output 2.3 Capacity to monitor and report on performance in adaptation of LMB governments at appropriate levels and of the MPCC members is built*
- CCAI 2.3.1 Training on climate change adaptation monitoring and evaluation will be designed and implemented as part of the Capacity Building Plan and the two-year training package on climate change adaptation planning and implementation (2.2.1). It will focus on the CCAI set of performance indicators including those of cross cutting issues, such as poverty reduction and gender responsiveness.
- CCAI 2.3.3 Training on climate change communication will be designed and implemented as part of the Capacity Building Plan and the two-year training package on climate change adaptation planning and implementation (2.2.1). Different communication training formats will be developed to better suit the needs and skills of different groups of participants as proposed by the Member Countries, which may include staff from NMCs and line agencies, local project teams, basin-wide project team, and journalists.
- Outcome 3: Strategies and Plans for Climate Change Adaptation*
- Output 3.1 Policy frameworks to facilitate and guide adaptation in place*
- CCAI 3.1.1 A regional Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan will be formulated. The work will be started with scoping, i.e. identifying coverage of sector, natural systems and livelihood concerns via a number of national and regional consultation workshops. Many rounds of national and regional consultations will be needed to define the scope, needs, priorities, existing national policies and capacities related to formulating a regional adaptation strategy and action plan.
- CCAI 3.1.2 A review of regional climate change scenarios, climate downscaling modeling and uncertainties will be conducted, discussed and agreed by the CCAI Regional Technical Working Group. The scenarios will be integrated into BDP scenarios as part of IWRM BDP planning process, with support

from national experts and the MPCC. The scenarios will also be used in the various CCAI basin-wide pilots climate change impact assessment and adaptation planning.

- CCAI 3.1.3 A Guideline for maintenance and enhancement of transboundary natural systems with climate change will be prepared.
- CCAI 3.1.4 A Guideline for integrating priority regional and transboundary issues into national adaptation plan will be prepared. This task is linked to the various CCAI basin-wide pilots in 1.3.
- CCAI 3.1.5 A Guideline for development of local adaptation plans will be prepared for completion in 2013. This work will be based on the results of CCAI local demonstration projects conducted in the Member Countries as well as from reviewing best practice in adaptation planning and implementation with the MRC network of adaptation projects.
- CCAI 3.1.6 A Guideline for integrating climate change adaptation into SEA and EIA will be completed and published. Training on the use of the guideline to its potential users will be conducted in collaboration with EP.
- CCAI 3.1.7 3 guidelines for adaptation plans and design standards for hydropower, agricultures, and fisheries will be prepared in close collaboration with ISH, AIP and FP at MRC. This task will be linked to the basin-wide pilots in respective sectors of 1.3 as well as outcomes of CCAI adaptation demonstration sites and the exchange activities of the MRC network of adaptation projects. It is targeted that Guideline for hydropower will be completed in 2013 and Guidelines for Agriculture and Fisheries in 2014.

Output 3.2: A system for monitoring and reporting on the status of climate change and adaptation in the Mekong region is implemented

- CCAI 3.2.1 A first triennial report on status of climate change and adaptation in the Mekong region will be prepared with a target for completion in 2013. Initial work to prepare for drafting this report has been started in 2011 with a tentative outline. National and regional workshops will be held to define the scope, key aspects and methodologies to develop the report. This task is closely linked to the establishment of a Mekong climate change adaptation monitoring system in 3.2.2.
- CCAI 3.2.2 The Mekong climate change and adaptation monitoring system will be developed and operated.
- CCAI 3.2.3 A Plan for CCAI Gender Responsiveness is going to be developed and scheduled for completion in March 2012. This plan helps CCAI to ensure gender responsiveness in all its outcomes, outputs and activities. The Plan will include gender responsiveness indicators to be incorporated into existing performance management system of CCAI. Indicators for poverty alleviation will also be selected and integrated into the Mekong climate change and adaptation monitoring system. This task is linked to 3.2.2 and the SIMVA of EP. Training on these indicators and how to measure them will be conducted for users who come from NMCs, CCAI national teams, and other stakeholders.

- CCAI 3.2.4 Responsibility for monitoring and reporting at regional, national, and local level will be defined and implemented. This task is linked with 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.3.3.
- Output 3.3: A CCAI communications plan has been prepared and is being implemented*
- CCAI 3.3.1 CCAI communication activities will be conducted following the CCAI communication plan.
- CCAI 3.3.2 The second Mekong Regional Climate Change Forum will be convened. The Forum will include information exchange and networking activities among CCAI stakeholders, key partners in the MRC network of climate change adaptation projects, and CCAI key implementing partners. Key findings from CCAI local demonstration projects and basin-wide pilots will also be presented at the Forum.
- CCAI 3.3.3 CCAI website will be continuously updated and maintained. It is aimed for the website to facilitate and support the whole range of outcomes of CCAI.
- Outcome 4: Regional Exchange, Collaboration and Learning*
- Output 4.1: Partnership agreements and working relations are established and maintained with the CCAI core implementing partner organisations*
- CCAI 4.1.1 Partnership agreements with international, regional and national technical and development institutions will be made and implemented to conduct CCAI training, technical reports, regional basin-wide assessment projects, local demonstration projects, regional forums on climate change and adaptation and other activities.
- CCAI 4.1.2 Meetings with partner organizations and potential partners will be conducted as part of implementing CCAI annual workplan and other regional and national events. Minutes of meeting and joint products will be recorded systematically for the purpose of partnership monitoring and evaluation.
- Output 4.2: Appropriate institutional arrangements, staffing and capacities are in place within the MRCS and NMCs*
- CCAI 4.2.1 With the recruitment of all positions in the staffing table of CCAI Programme Document 2011-2015, the OCCA will be fully staffed by March 2012. An additional PO not planned in the staffing table will be recruited to help CCAI pick up the progress which has been delayed significantly in 2011.
- CCAI 4.2.2 The 3rd CCAI's Steering Committee Meeting will be conducted in Ho Chi Minh City.
- CCAI 4.2.4 CCAI progress will be raised regularly in MRCS programme coordination meetings for discussion and cooperation.
- CCAI 4.2.5 Establishment and 1st meeting of CCAI Regional Technical Working Group will be conducted.

Output 4.3: A harmonised system is set up for regular CCAI reporting on progress and plans to the MRC JC and Council, donors and partners

CCAI 4.3.1 CCAI Progress and annual reports will be prepared and submitted to Steering Committee, Member Countries and Donors.

CCAI 4.3.2 System of reporting to donors has been harmonized. The same progress and annual reports will be submitted to all donors of the CCAI. Specific information requirements of respective donors will be incorporated in the common reports as much as possible.

Output 4.4: Financing for the CCAI is secured for the three five-year cycles

CCAI 4.4.3 Strategies for long-term sustainability of the CCAI will be developed.

Output 4.5: Regular review and revision of the CCAI

CCAI 4.5.1 The CCAI and its Performance Management System will be reviewed by June 2012 in line with the development of strategies for long term sustainability of the CCAI in 4.4.3 above. The review will collect views and assessment of Member Countries and donors on the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threats pertaining to the CCAI. Adjustment and corrective actions will then be implemented. At the same time, while implementing different activities of the CCAI, existing national policies and plans will be collected and analyzed to review and update the efforts of the Member Countries in pursuing climate change adaptation planning and implementation. The findings will be used to propose necessary actions for CCAI to keep it aligned and supportive to national efforts while maintaining its own position of a regional collaboration initiative.

Development Partner Reviews or Appraisals Planned in 2012

No official donor review is being planned but the CCAI will conduct review upon request of any CCAI direct donor and development partner. Besides, the CCAI Steering Committee meeting will be organised in 2012 to which donor representatives will be invited to review the CCAI progress and make necessary adjustment for improving the CCAI implementation.

CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
			Outcome 1. Adaptation planning and implementation				
			output 1.1 Methods and tools for assessment and adaptation planning				
1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01; 1.3.3.CCAI01; 1.3.1.EP05;	CCAI01	1.1.1	The MRC climate change database (with IKMP and other relevant Programmes)				
	CCAI01	Milestone	The MRC climate change database established and operational				
1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01; 1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.1.EP05; 1.3.2.EP05;	CCAI01	1.1.2	Report on Climate Change and Hydrological Modeling and related training for potential users (with IKMP)				
1.3.5.CCAI05; 2.5.4.CCAI05; 3.5.1.CCAI05; 1.1.2.ALL01	CCAI01	1.1.3	Regional Forum for CC adaptation, annual review/update of national activities and 2012 Synthesis Report of Good Practices				
	CCAI01	Milestone	Regional MRC CC Forum 2012 organised				
	CCAI01	Milestone	Draft 2012 Synthesis Report of Good Practices prepared				
1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01; 1.3.3.CCAI01; 1.3.1.EP05;	CCAI01	1.1.4	Report on climate change impacts on wetland and biodiversity and communication event to present the findings				
1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01; 1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.1.EP05; 1.3.2.EP05; 1.3.3.EP05;	CCAI01	1.1.5	Report on basin-wide baseline of livelihoods vulnerability to CC, linked with SIMVA works of EP				
1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01; 1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.1.EP05; 1.3.2.EP05;	CCAI01	1.1.6	Initiation of Review Report on Methods for Assessing and Prioritizing Adaptation (to be completed on 2013)				
			output 1.2 Local adaptation demonstrations				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.2.1	An MRC network of CC adaptation demonstration projects in LMB				
	CCAI04	Milestone	The MRC network of CC adaptation demo projects in LMB established and functioning				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.2.2	Evaluation of the first-round local demo-projects and selection of second-round projects or continuation				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.2.3	Workplans and adaptation plans for the second-round/ continued demonstration projects				










CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	CCAI04	Milestone	Workplans developed for the second-round local demonstration projects				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.2.4	The adaptation plans developed for the first-round projects to be implemented or mainstreamed into local development plans				
			output 1.3 Basin-wide and transboundary pilots				
1.3.4.CCAI04; 1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01;	CCAI04	1.3.1	A basin-wide assessment report for wetland ecosystem's vulnerability to CC completed and communicated/disseminated (together with EP)				
1.3.4.CCAI04; 1.3.1.FMMP05; 1.3.3.FMMP05; 1.4.2.FMMP05; 1.4.3.FMMP05; 2.1.5.FMMP05; 2.4.2.FMMP05; 2.4.4.FMMP05	CCAI04	1.3.2	Start of basin-wide assessment on CC impacts on flood vulnerability in close collaboration with the FMMP				
1.3.4.CCAI04; 1.3.1.CCAI01; 1.3.2.CCAI01;	CCAI04	1.3.3	Start of basin-wide assessment of CC impacts on drought vulnerability in collaboration with the DMP				
			output 1.4 Lessons learnt from demonstrations for replication and up-scaling				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.4.1	Systematic review and analysis of lessons learnt from the demonstration and pilot activities, including a set of criteria and indicators to facilitate adoption of good practices for replication and up-scaling				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.4.2	Initiation of exchange visits and sharing of lessons between the basin-wide pilots (depending on establishment and progress of the new pilots) and preparation for visit of CC decision makers of the LMB governments to other international river basins				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.4.3	Exchange visits between the first-round CCAI local demonstration sites and annual meeting of the MRC network of adaptation projects in combination or back-to-back to the Regional Forum				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.4.5	Activities to assist / facilitate local authorities at the demonstration sites adopt key proven adaptation measures and tools, such as technical assistance, training, communication, etc.				
1.3.4.CCAI04	CCAI04	1.4.6	The first technical paper on CCAI demonstration activities				









CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
			output 1.5 Analysis of long-term floods and climate change				
1.2.1.FMMP04; 1.3.1.FMMP04; 2.3.1.FMMP04; 2.3.3.FMMP04	CCAI04	1.5.1	A review and analysis on relevant studies of long-term flood management options for the Mekong Delta and Cambodia flood plain as basis for flood vulnerability assessment under CC and development context in the region (with FMMP)				
			output 1.6 Drought risk and vulnerability analysis and climate change				
2.4.5.EP15; 2.1.2.EP11; 2.1.3.EP11	CCAI04	1.6.1	A review of drought vulnerability indicators (with DMP)				
2.4.5.EP15; 2.4.2.CCAI01; 2.4.4.CCAI01; 2.4.5.CCAI01; 2.5.4.CCAI01; 3.5.1.CCAI01; 3.6.2.CCAI01	CCAI04	1.6.2	Start of the basin-wide assessment of CC impacts and vulnerability on drought (in collaboration with the DMP)				
			Outcome 2. Improved capacity to manage and adapt to climate change				
			output 2.1 Institutional capacity strengthened in policy making and planning for adaptation in the LMB				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04; 4.3.6.MIWRM04; 4.3.7.MIWRM04; 4.4.1.MIWRM04;	CCAI01	2.1.1	Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Plan for CCAI plus CCAI Stakeholder Engagement Plan				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04; 4.3.6.MIWRM04;	CCAI01	2.1.2	Based on the Capacity Building Plan, an integrated programme of trainings on adaptation planning and implementation will be designed and conducted on a two yearly basis				
1.4.5.ICBP02; 4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 5.5.4.MIWRM04	ICBP02	2.1.3	Gender responsive training will be provided to CCAI national and regional teams, based on the CCAI Gender Responsive Plan and the Capacity Building Plan				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04;	CCAI05	2.1.4	A high level roundtable on basin wide climate change issues				
			output 2.2 Tools for adaptation planning and implementation documented and capacities built				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04; 4.3.6.MIWRM04;	CCAI04	2.2.1	Adaptation planning and implementation training materials will be designed and built based on the results of the Capacity Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Plan				

CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04;	CCAI04	2.2.2	A compendium on proven adaptation measures and tools				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04; 4.3.6.MIWRM04; 4.3.7.MIWRM04; 4.4.1.MIWRM04; 4.4.2.MIWRM04; 5.5.4.MIWRM04	CCAI04	2.2.3	Training of Trainers programmes for at least 20 selected riparian trainers on the use of adaptation planning and implementation tools				
			output 2.3 Capacity to monitor and report on performance in adaptation of LMB governments				
4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04;	CCAI04	2.3.1	Training on climate change adaptation monitoring and evaluation as part of the Capacity Building Plan and the two-yearly training package				
1.1.4.ALL02; 4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04; 4.2.2.MIWRM04; 4.3.3.MIWRM04;	ALL02; CCAI04	2.3.3	Training on climate change communication as part of the CCAI Communication Plan, Capacity Building Plan and the two-yearly training package				
			Outcome 3. Strategies and Plans for Climate Change Adaptation				
			output 3.1 Policy frameworks to facilitate and guide adaptation				
1.3.5.CCAI05; 2.5.4.CCAI05; 3.5.1.CCAI05	CCAI05	3.1.1	A concept and road map for establishment of the regional Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan				
1.3.5.CCAI05; 2.5.4.CCAI05; 3.5.1.CCAI05; 1.3.3.CCAI03	CCAI05; CCAI03	3.1.2	Review of regional climate change scenarios, climate downscaling and modeling methods and uncertainties, agreed with the CCAI Regional Technical Working Group				
3.5.1.CCAI01; 1.3.5.CCAI05; 2.5.4.CCAI05; 3.5.1.CCAI05	CCAI05; CCAI01	3.1.5	A Guideline for development of local adaptation plans, based on the results of CCAI local demonstration projects				
3.5.1.CCAI01; 1.3.5.CCAI05; 2.5.4.CCAI05; 3.5.1.CCAI05	CCAI05; CCAI01	3.1.6	A guideline for integrating CC adaptation into SEA and EIA in close collaboration with the EP.				
			output 3.2 A system for monitoring and reporting on the status of climate change and adaptation in the Mekong				
1.1.2.ALL01	ALL01	3.2.1	A concept and road map for establishment of the first triennial report on status of climate change and adaptation in the Mekong region				

CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
5.2.2.TCU03; 1.1.2.ALL01	ALL01; TCU03	3.2.2	The Mekong climate change and adaptation monitoring system will be developed for being operational in 2013				
1.4.5.ICBP02; 1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ICBP02; ALL02	3.2.3	The CCAI Gender Responsiveness Plan development and start of its implementation				
5.2.2.TCU03; 1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ALL02; TCU03	3.2.4	Responsibility for monitoring and reporting at regional, national, and local level defined and implemented (linked with 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.3.3)				
			output 3.3 CCAI communications plan prepared and being implemented				
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ALL02	3.3.1	CCAI communication activities will be conducted following the CCAI communication plan in close collaboration with the ICCS				
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ALL02	3.3.3	CCAI website continuously updated and maintained				
			Outcome 4 Regional Exchange, Collaboration and Learning				
			output 4.1 Partnership agreements and working relations with CCAI core implementing partners				
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02; 1.1.4.ICCS02;	ALL02; ICCS02	4.1.1	Partnership agreements with international, regional and national technical and development institutions established and implemented				
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02; 1.1.4.ICCS02;	ALL02; ICCS02	4.1.2	Meetings with partner organizations and potential partners will be conducted as part of implementation of CCAI annual work plan and of other regional and national events. Minutes of meeting and joint products will be recorded systematically for the p				
			output 4.2 Appropriate institutional arrangements, staffing and capacities are in place within the MRCS and NMCs				
5.1.3.ICCS04; 4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04;	MIWRM04; ICCS04	4.2.1	Recruitment of all positions in the staffing table of CCAI and full formulation and fuction the OCCA				
5.1.3.ICCS04; 1.1.4.ALL02; 4.1.3.MIWRM04; 4.2.1.MIWRM04;	ALL02; ICCS04; MIWRM04;	4.2.2	The third CCAI's Steering Committee Meeting conducted in Vietnam				

CCAI Work Programme

SP code	Milestone code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone				
				Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ALL02	4.2.4	CCAI progress and issues will be raised regularly in MRCS programme coordination meetings for discussion and cooperation.				
1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	ALL02	4.2.5	Establishment and first meeting of CCAI Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG)				
			output 4.3 A harmonised system is set up for regular CCAI reporting on progress and plans to the MRC JC and Council, donors and partners				
5.2.4.TCU04; 1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.3.3.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	TCU04; ALL02	4.3.1	CCAI progress and annual reports prepared and submitted to Steering Committee, Member Countries and donors.				
5.2.4.TCU04; 1.1.4.ALL02; 3.2.1.ALL02; 3.5.2.ALL02	TCU04; ALL02	4.3.2	Harmonised system of reporting to donors				
			output 4.5 Regular review and revision of the CCAI				
5.2.2.TCU03	TCU03	4.5.1	Review of the CCAI and its Performance Management System with various performance indicators				

3.11. Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH)

3.11.1. Project Overview

In the MRC Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and the Basin Development Plan (BDP), as agreed by the Joint Council, the accelerating pace of hydropower development in the Mekong has been identified as a major interest and challenge for the MRC's mission, and implementing the 1995 Mekong Agreement. The Basin Development Strategy highlights as a Strategic Priority No3 the need to "Improve the Sustainability of Hydropower Development".

The overall goal of the ISH, in relation to goal hierarchy of the MRC Strategic Plan for the 2011-2015 period, is 'cooperation among Member Countries in optimising the contribution that sustainable forms of hydropower offer for national development policies, consistent with implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement.'

The two part objective of the ISH is that:

1. Decisions concerning the management and development of hydropower in the Lower Mekong are placed in a river basin planning and management perspective, applying IWRM principles.
2. MRC and key stakeholders actively cooperate to bring sustainable hydropower considerations into the planning systems and regulatory frameworks of Member Countries, and into project-level hydropower planning, preparation, design, implementation and operation practices.'

It is recognised that the challenge ahead is not only about building knowledge on sustainable hydropower development to inform decisions about possible new hydropower schemes, or their design features. It is also to advance and clarify thinking about the sort of cooperation that is needed among Mekong Countries to sustainably manage the growing number of existing hydropower assets in the Mekong basin, as the cumulative and transboundary impacts of these projects are increasingly felt.⁶Such considerations need to be linked also to wider strategies for sustainable development of the regional power sector.

The policies and legislation of MRC Member Countries, to some extent, already recognise the need to address hydropower sustainability challenges in their planning and regulation systems in an integrated way (i.e. across the economic, social and environmental dimensions) nationally, through bilateral mechanisms, and regionally through implementing the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

⁶One indication of the relevance, immediacy and scale of the challenge is offered in the recent BDP Scenario Assessment exercise, where the Definite Future Scenario (DFS) sees up to 41 large hydropower schemes on LMB tributary systems by 2015. ⁶ This compares to 15 LMB schemes in the BDP Baseline case for 2000, an increase of 26 large dams. The BDP 20-year Probable Future (PFS) Scenario sees up to 71 large hydropower schemes operating on LMB tributaries by 2030. These would have a combined active daily-to-seasonal storage and flow regulation capacity of 45 BCM, almost double the 23 BCM storage of Lancang-Mekong dams in Yunnan Province in China.

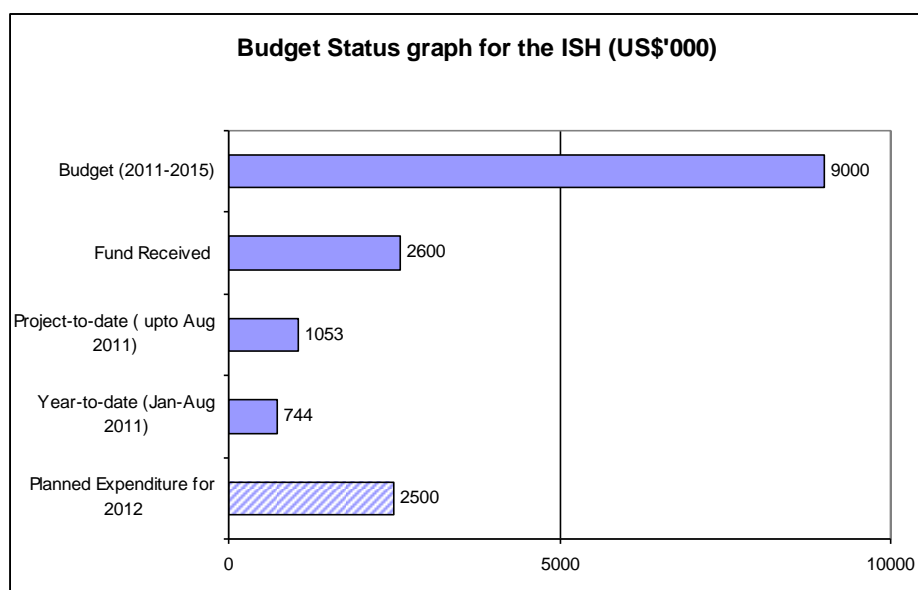
Active and pledged Funding Available

US\$ '000

Project title	Start date	End date	Total Funds	Available In 2012	Development Partner
The MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower	09/2011	07/2013	3,900	2,800	Belgium
The MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower	06/2011	06/2014	3,990	1,860	Finland
The MRC Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower	07/2011	07/2013	[2,000]	[1,000]	Germany experts funded by GIZ
			1,330	650	Germany direct to ISH for agreed workplan

3.11.2. Progress of ISH for 2011

The following graph provides an overview of the budget status of the ISH for the 2011-2015 period. The figures include the budget for the implementation period of 2012, as well as total funds received and expenses on the Project-to-date and Year-to-date.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

The 2011 Workplan was structured around five mutually reinforcing Outcomes using the Outcome / output structure agreed for 2011-2015. There are a total of 25 Outputs planned for the 5-year period. For 2011, Outputs were prioritized to broadly centre on MRC support to Member Countries to advance regional and transboundary cooperation through:

1. Enrichment and continuous, collaborative update of the MRCS Hydropower Data Base;

2. Adoption and use of hydropower sustainability assessment tools, around which awareness raising, shared learning and capacity building can be effectively delivered;
3. Elaboration and support for the introduction of mechanisms for benefit sharing;
4. Filling knowledge gaps in the assessment of the sustainability of LMB mainstream dams;
5. Cooperation with China on sustainable hydropower themes;
6. Support to the PNPCA Process.

The planned and achieved outputs for these elements are detailed below.

Output 2.2a Expanded MRC Hydropower Knowledge Base.

In 2011-2013 this Output concerns undertaking an update of the MRC Hydropower Database (HDB). This will refresh existing project-specific technical information, and most significantly, define a continuous process to expand and update the MRC Hydropower database. The aim is also to incorporate more parameters needed to assess and measure sustainable hydropower outcomes (i.e. expanding the environment and social data on projects in the HDB).

The last update of the MRC HDB was done at the end of 2008. The HDB is important in many respects, as a key input to MRC Programme work, especially IKMP and BDP modelling. In addition, new parameters are needed to help implement the BDS activities.

The ISH Team has undertaken a rapid review of the project-specific data available since the last HDB update. This is from MRCS Programme work in 2009-2010 including:

- The MRCS-ADB 3-S tributaries studies,
- The ongoing tributary significance studies, (now to be coordinated by MIWRM-P)
- The completed SEA of proposed LMB mainstream dams, and
- Data from the Xayaburi PNPCA process.

Initial work on expanding the criteria framework has commenced, linked to the ongoing work on the tributary significant studies dealing with hydropower. Further work on Output 2.2a has been accelerated with the appointment of a Project Officer with substantial hydropower knowledge to undertake this work.

Output 4.2a – Environmental Considerations for Sustainable Hydropower Development (ECSHD)-project and basin / sub-basin hydropower sustainability assessment tools trialled

This Output centers on trialling of hydropower sustainability assessment tools around which awareness raising, shared learning and capacity building activities concerning sustainable hydropower can be effectively delivered. In 2011 the focus is on trialling the basin/sub-basin assessment tool called RSAT, developed in a collaborative process in 2009-2010 coordinated by the ISH working closely with NMCS and ECSHD Partners (ADB, MRCS and WWF).

In January 2011, MRCS together with ECSHD Partners ADB and WWF held the media launch for the RSAT tool as a side-event at the MRC Council sessions in HCMC. Discussions with NMCS on the RSAT trialling started in the second half of 2010, at the recommendation of the June 2010 ISH TRG meeting where a desktop RSAT trial was undertaken for 3S River Basins.

In the first half of 2011, RSAT trials were initiated on sub-basins in the other Member Countries. These included Cambodia (Lower SrePok river basin), Lao PDR (Nam Ngum River Basin), Thailand (Nam Kam river basin) and in Vietnam (Upper SrePok river basin). The strategy, to update the RSAT documentation based on the lessons and experience of the field trials in the four Member Countries, and to complete the full package of RSAT capacity building products into the first quarter 2012, was agreed among ECSHD Partners.

A meeting of the ISH Team and the ECSHD Partners with the RSAT trial Consultants was completed in September 2011. This meeting reviewed the report on the trials and made recommendations on the follow-up actions. RSAT is in the process of being updated and the full set capacity building products will be prepared for targeted implementation of RSAT in 2012-2013.

The main Regional Technical Review Group (TRG) workshop dealing with RSAT is now provisionally scheduled in Q4 (December 2011) to present the results for comment and endorsement by the NMCS and national line agency representatives.

Output 4.1c Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms Elaborated at Regional, National and Community Levels”.

This output includes information sharing on options to introduce benefit sharing mechanisms (BSM) and innovative finance into the hydropower planning and regulatory systems of Member Countries, which are important to deliver sustainable outcomes in the management and development of hydropower; they also to link to RBC/RBO mechanisms.

The MRC Basin Development Strategy outlines the significance of benefit sharing in the Mekong situation.

The approach endorsed at the ISH Regional AC meeting in February 2011 was the ISH (under this Output 4.1c) would facilitate knowledge sharing among Member Countries and cooperation in drawing lessons not only from the Mekong and wider Asian Region, but also from the growing pool of relevant world-wide BSM experience. This concerns national-to-local forms of benefit sharing as well as transboundary forms.

Following the workplan, 2011 activities included preparation of a knowledge base (KB) (compendium) on benefit sharing. This consists of 5 Volume placed on a CD containing more than 120 documents. PowerPoint presentations were prepared to explain the KB initially to NMCS, and then to present later to a wider group of national line agencies and national Stakeholders. In Q2 and Q3 the benefit sharing KB (5 Volumes) was circulated internally to other MRC Programmes inviting comment before it was circulated to NMCS and line agencies.

National consultants (funded by the ISH budget) have been engaged to support NMCS with information gathering on benefit sharing policy in the Mekong and administering the BSM questionnaire (Annex B of Volume 1 of the KB) which is to be discussed with NMCS.

Preparations for the BSM regional workshop and regional study tour will also be discussed.

Output 3. Preparation for “Multi-year follow-up to technical recommendations concerning mainstream dams and MRC cross-programme work undertaken

This Output centers on ensuring the various cross-cutting technical recommendations from MRC Programme work that have relevance for LMB mainstream dams (and sustainable hydropower) are systematically reviewed, prioritized and undertaken in a manner consistent with the agreed MRC Basin Development Strategy (BDS) implementation. The implementation is not only by ISH alone, but also ISH working with and through the concerned MRC Programmes and Regional Partners.

This Output enables the MRC to respond rapidly and flexibly to technical recommendations emerging from MRC Programme work over the past few years on reducing uncertainties about the development opportunities and risks of proposed mainstream LMB hydropower. This includes, but is not limited to the technical recommendations from the SEA of proposed LMB mainstream dams.

As discussed at the Advisory Committee Meeting, MRCS needs to be in a good position to respond comprehensively to technical recommendations that may emerge from the Xayaburi PNPCA process plus any subsequent PNPCA process for other mainstream hydropower projects. All these considerations needed to be aligned to the Basin Development Strategy implementation.

The relevance and importance of Output 3.1b was discussed at the Regional Advisory Committee meeting in February, where it was agreed there would be budget flexibility for this item, as potentially significant expenditures were involved. Also there was the expectation that these requirements that are multi-year in nature could be met, in whole or in part, by budget from ISH Development Partners in agreements struck in 2011.

Consultants have been engaged to scope, in collaboration with other MRC programs and NMCs, a series of studies to address these knowledge gaps. Terms of Reference will be drafted.

Next steps in Q4 under Output 3.1b include elaborating priority technical recommendations agreed by NMCS to be implemented (i) by ISH directly (ii) by other MRC Programmes with ISH funding support, and (iii) by other MRC Programmes with their own financial resources. For practical sake, these will be included as much as possible in the task description of the additional activities already identified for BDS implementation.

Output 3.1d Ongoing technical cooperation with China (PRC) on sustainable hydropower implemented”.

This multi-year Output concerns ongoing cooperation with China on sustainable hydropower themes engaging with the PRC Ecosystem Study Commission for International Rivers (ESCIR). The approach is to use processes that have been constructive to date for data exchange, site visits and confidence building in 2009-2010. Output 3.1d is mainly a platform for technical exchange, not a negotiating platform. It provides for follow-on technical exchanges and related cooperation with agencies in China on Mekong hydropower sustainability issues, generally, as well as research and knowledge sharing on technical issues for cooperation on the Mekong River system.

In Q1, the ISH team advised with MRC Programmes to obtain views on areas to expand MRCS-ESCIR cooperation 2011-2015. Among the potential activities include report & data exchange, technical exchanges (e.g. short visits by IKMP modelling and other MRCS staff from different MRC Programmes), site visits to Lancang-Mekong mainstream dams, ESCIR participation in key ISH and MRC Regional Workshops, and cooperation on field research and knowledge sharing.

In parallel, ISH prepared and delivered internal briefings for Directors and MRCS Management on the potential modes of MRCS cooperation with ESCIR going forward.

A Concept Note was prepared with the collaboration of other concerned MRC Programmes with the assumption that the dialogue partner on the Chinese side would be again ESCIR. The agenda provisionally includes MRCS briefing of PRC professional counterparts and officials on the BDS, the ISH 2011-2015 Programme and the ISH 15 task namely "Strengthened cooperation with China for coordinated operations of Lancang hydropower dams to secure benefits of increased dry season flow, address issue of sediment transport and provide early warning", as well as holding detailed discussion of the specifics of a multi-year MRCS-ESCIR cooperation program.

In September the team Leader of the ISH presented at a meeting in Vientiane of Chinese and Lao hydro developers and operators on the activities of the MRC and exchanged valuable ideas and experiences with Chinese researchers and operators on sustainable hydropower experiences.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Action Taken

As indicated in the section above, even though the staffing levels of the ISH initiative have not been at full quota until September 2011, substantial progress has nevertheless been made. By its nature, the ISH program needs to respond to requirements of key stakeholders for such investigations as the PNPCA process for Xayaburi. This will mean that the regular programs will potentially get delayed.

The staffing of the ISH program is now close to full complement and a clear and funded program for the period to 2015 is being put in place. As the additional studies are scoped by the consultants to fill knowledge gaps, the additional funding and staff requirements will be assessed and discussed with the Advisory Council in November 2011.

Development Partner reviews or appraisals carried out in 2011

Six month progress report for Development Partners was provided at the Regional Advisory Council meeting in February 2011. A further report will be furnished at the upcoming AC meeting in early December 2011. Development Partners are invited to participate at the 2 meetings of the ISH Regional Advisory Committee meetings.

Relevant JC and Council decisions

Relevant JC and council discussion and decisions were made during the year particularly associated with the PNPCA process for Xayaburi. The follow up to these decisions are included in the ISH work program for 2012 and beyond.

3.11.3. ISH Workplan for 2012

Outcome 1: Awareness Raising, Dialogue and Communication

It is characterized by a demonstrated increase in awareness of sustainable hydropower and its rationale, increased dialogue among the key stakeholder interests and partnerships being formed to introduce sustainable considerations into LMB hydropower policy and practices.

Output 1.2a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Facilitated: This output provides briefs and presentations for MRC Bodies, in particular the Joint Committee (JC), Council, formal MRC Dialogue Partners (China and Myanmar) NMC / NMCS and MRCS. It covers ISH work with NMCS to ensure dialogue with relevant line agencies, hydropower developers and project lending entities in the public and private finance sectors, and various multi-stakeholder forums attached to specific ISH Outputs (e.g. information exchange, workshops, ISH Output-based interactions, etc). Among other aspects it aims to encourage functional partnerships to form around various ISH activities and outputs to maximize impact and influence in leading to cooperation for beneficial change.

Output 1.2b Raised Awareness of Risks and Opportunities of Hydropower Development: This output provides a coherent and logical set of targeted messages and information to raise awareness and respond to concerns and expectations of the various stakeholders interests on the rationale, opportunities and challenges advancing sustainable forms of hydropower (via a comprehensive but simple communication strategy that covers all ISH Outputs, and implementation of the strategy to target messages to the needs of specific stakeholder groups, e.g. regulators and line agencies, RBOs/RBCs, developers and operators, MRC Bodies, regional partners and representatives of NGO/CSO organizations and research networks). MRC will be increasingly called upon to provide well-founded information and clearly understandable explanations of many hydropower-related issues.

Output 1.2c Improved Communication and Dissemination of MRC Outputs: This output supports line agencies of four Member Countries

not only to maintain close communication with each other, but also to share and disseminate MRCS information in a timely manner on the development risks and opportunities of hydropower development relevant to stakeholder interests and their specific roles and responsibilities. This also feeds into the overall MRC communication strategy to make more widely known the outputs produced by the ISH and foster general recognition of MRC as a source of sound and impartial information, opinion and advice.

- Output 1.3 Technical Inputs provided to the PNPCA Process: This ISH role is as a cross-cutting initiative in supporting technical inputs to the project-specific PNPCA process was elaborated in the PNPCA working group process. If this was to occur, the ISH role is to (i) collaborate with relevant MRC programmes on technical review of documents and to ascertain conformance to the MRC Preliminary Design Guidance (e.g. fish passage provisions, navigation, sediment management, water quality management and environmental flow provision and safety of dams (ii) provide preliminary technical review of project documents submitted by developers (i.e. feasibility, and EIA/SIA reports) (iii) when requested by MRCS management, provide more detailed technical review of specific project features impacting on sustainable performance, for example, with reference to RSAT and SAP tools to do a systematic check (iv) respond to technical questions the Joint Committee requests of MRCS (v) where required, provide technical support for JC visits to the project area, and (vi) contribute to any MRCS work to refine and/or revise the current PNPCA Procedures and guidance on MRCS roles in the PNPCA.

Outcome 2: Capacity Building and Knowledge Base Support

It is characterized by demonstrated improvement in technical capacities of MRC and prioritized national agency staff in hydropower information and data systems and compilation and use of information needed to advance sustainable hydropower considerations.

- Output 2.1 Technical Assistance Provided to Hydropower Developers on Safeguards and Monitoring: This output provides guidance for hydropower developers/operators on safeguard themes relevant to the 1995 Mekong Agreement and accepted international good practice. This will target guidance for use by hydropower entities and the LMB line agencies regulating them to help them interpret and meet the various national regulations, with a focus on transboundary concerns. It is important to translate MRC programme work to a technical language that developers / operators and regulators are familiar with and use. This will help maximize understanding and lead to improved adoption of MRC scientific and specialist work.
- Output 2.2a Expanded MRC Hydropower Knowledge Base: This output will update and expand the MRC hydropower database (HDB). With the rapidly changing pace of the hydropower development the MRC database needs to be continuously updated. Additional data beyond what is required for BDP

purposes is needed, in particular with regard to (i) reservoir operating policies and related socio-environmental impacts and environmental flows provisions, (ii) use of the HDB to support application of Sustainability Assessment tools (RSAT and eventually SAP) to apply to the full population of hydropower projects (existing to potential), as noted in Output 4.2b. Compilation of non-commercially sensitive sections of MOUs, concession agreements, project developments agreements, power purchase agreements, licenses, certifications and other such documents, in particular those data sets needed for the RSAT / SAP and the BDP scenario assessments and to inform work under other ISH Outcomes. This work will be undertaken in cooperation with BDP/IKMP with ISH responsible for the technical updates.

Output 2.3: Improved Environmental and Socio Economic Baseline Information for Hydropower Planning [ISH 11]: This work will involve filling gaps in baseline data needed to properly assess the impacts of hydropower.

Output 2.4 Capacity Building provided: this output aims to systematically organize ISH coordinated support to Member Country line agencies for implementation environmental and social policy, strategic and project-level studies and monitoring of hydropower project development and management. It responds to the general need to build capacity within the respective line agencies in Member Countries for (i) hydropower sustainability assessments at the basin /sub-basin levels (ii) strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) of sub-basins (iii) developing environmental and social policies to enhance these aspects of sustainability of projects.

Outcome 3: Sustainable hydropower considerations

These are more systematically and demonstrably incorporated into sector, sub-basin and Mekong regional planning systems and regulatory frameworks.

Output 3.1a: Regional Macroeconomic Evaluation of benefits of proposed LMB Mainstream Hydro and alternatives in the context of regional PDPs and GMS market [ISH 02 (ii)] [ISH 05/07]. This work will be progressed in 2012 to get a more thorough view on the role and value of hydropower in the region relative to alternative supply options.

Output 3.1b Multi-year follow-up to Recommendations of SEA and Cross-programme work undertaken: This output will respond to substantive recommendations the MRC SEA of mainstream dams offers for MRCS Programme activities in 2011-2015 to address critical gaps in knowledge and uncertainty. This would include, for example, providing for additional tasks and priorities in field data collection, research, analysis and monitoring to address uncertainties in the impacts on fisheries migration, sediment-nutrient balances, safety of dams issues where the MRCS is best positioned as regional basin entity to undertake. These tasks are generally beyond what the other MRC programmes already envisage in their 2011-2015 plans to date, and would continue with the successful approach in 2008-2010 where ISH co-financed priority items relevant to

MRC needs to address the accelerated interest in hydropower. Other sub-outputs will respond to recommendations such as updating MRCS database with SEA information and additional analysis needed for implementation of the PNPCA procedures (Output 1.3).

Output 3.1d Ongoing technical cooperation with China (PRC) on sustainable hydropower implemented: This output provides for follow-on cooperation with ESCIR designated agencies in China on Mekong hydropower sustainability issues. This will build on cooperation from 2009-2010 and provisionally includes further (i) report & data exchange (ii) technical exchange (e.g. short visits by modelling and other staff) (iii) site visits to selected Yunnan dams (iv) ESCIR participation in the key MRC Regional Workshops and (v) other research cooperation, e.g. case studies around the thematic areas (such as in RSAT).

Outcome 4: Hydropower sustainability assessment tools and Design Guidelines

Tools are in place at project and sub-basin levels to measure and assess progress with sustainable hydropower (IO-4b.) Innovative financing mechanisms, especially benefit sharing on LMB hydropower increasingly evaluated and introduced for LMB hydropower projects.

Output 4.1a Financing Mechanisms for Sustainability Measures for Proposed Mainstream Dams Identified: This output will evaluate potential measures to be adopted to fund sustainability components of proposed mainstream dams to inform planning. This depends also on the Outcome of the first PNPCA. It would be accelerated on a priority basis if called for in the PNPCA process. It will address measures that would probably be jointly undertaken by developers and applied in a coordinated MRC, as a regional organisation, would facilitate discussion amongst governments, developers and financiers to identify these mechanisms and incentives.

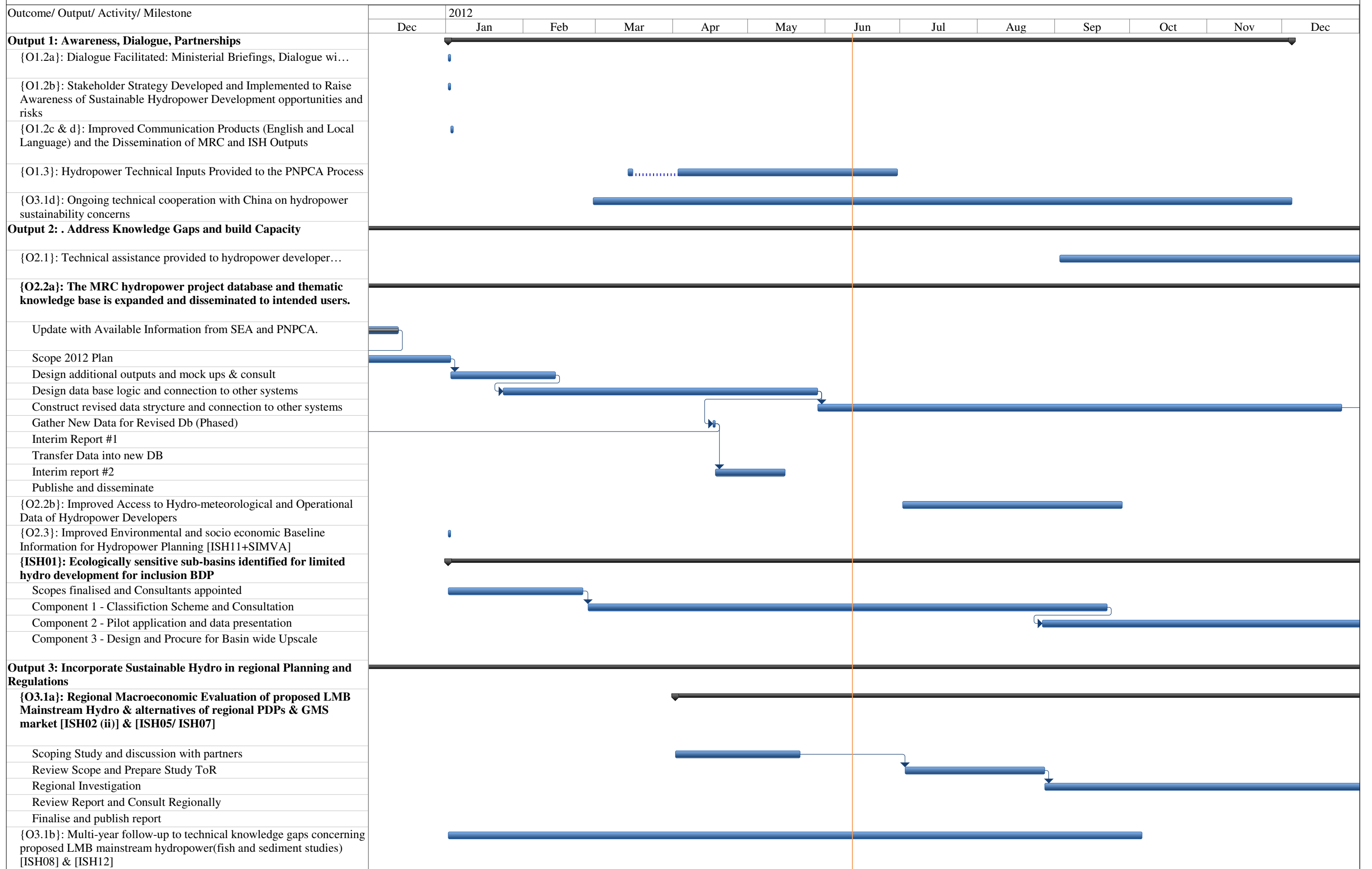
Output 4.1c Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms Elaborated at Regional, National and Community Levels: This output supports sharing of regional and international experience in developing benefit sharing mechanisms at local to national levels and transboundary levels. This would follow the approach set out in the MRC Council Brief prepared by the ISH in 2009. Policy frameworks, laws and regulations for compensation of persons affected by the construction of a hydropower project are generally well established in the MRC Member States. Benefit sharing can be in monetary or non-monetary forms. Revenue sharing (as a form of Benefit Sharing) during the operational life of the project enhances social and environmental sustainability through contributions to local development and poverty reduction and local actions that synergistically manage catchments in ways that contributed to sustainable performance of hydropower (e.g. tree planting to reduce reservoir sedimentation).

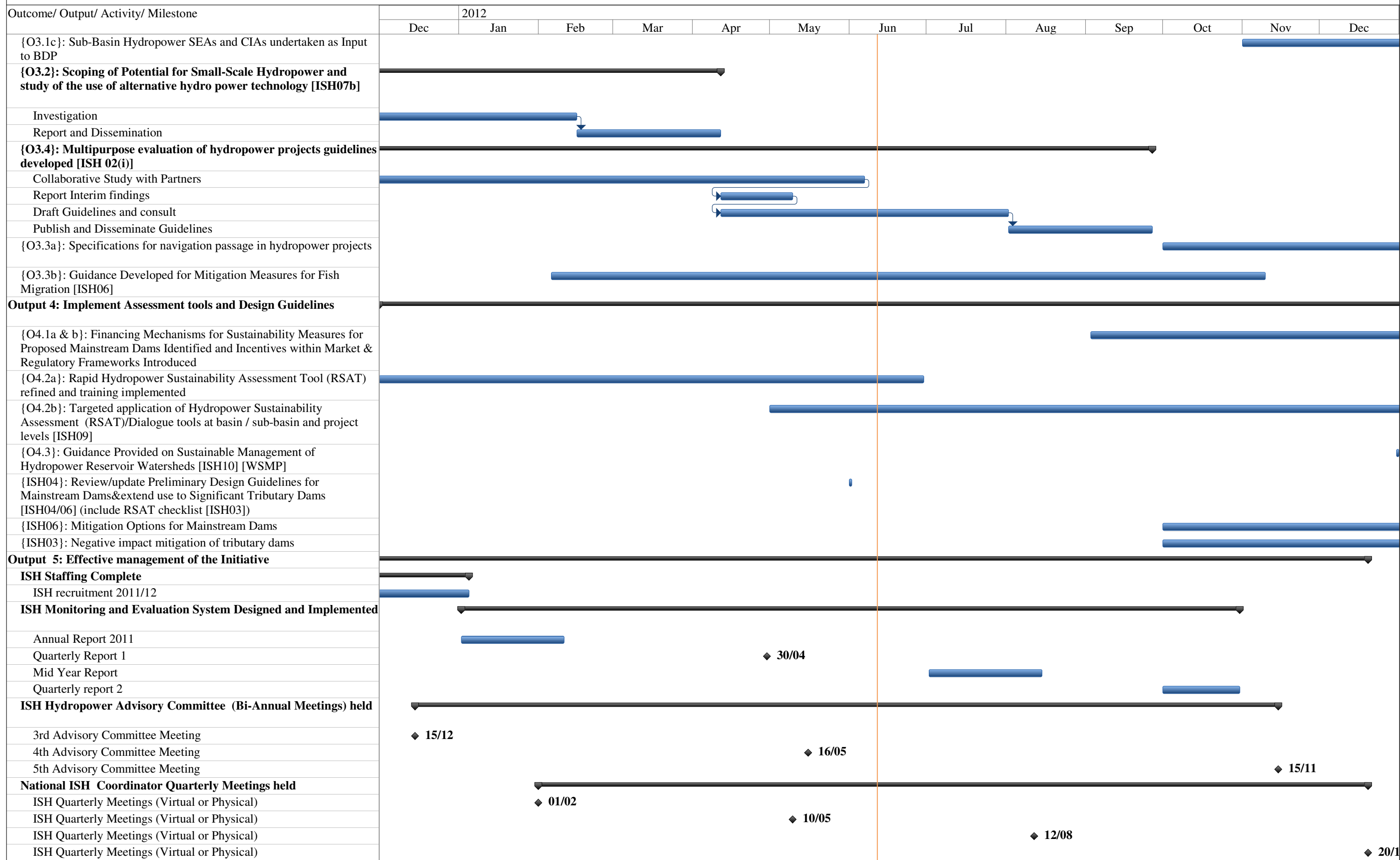
Output 4.2a Environmental Considerations for Sustainable Hydropower Development (ECSHD) project developed the RSAT tool. The

- next version of the tool for sustainability assessment will be finalized and a strategy for implementation developed. This will include focused training under Output 1.2b.to raise awareness of the tool via dialogue in multi-stakeholder workshops and also to build a core group of experts in this field.
- Output 4.2b Targeted application of Hydropower Sustainability Assessment /Dialogue tools at basin / sub-basin and project levels. This output will support full field implementation of the hydropower sustainability assessment tools at basin / sub-basin and project levels. The basin-wide rapid assessment / dialogue tool will be applied after the SAP in a targeted manner to maximize effectiveness working with four primary users, namely (i) newly forming sub-basin river basin entities (expected to be multi stakeholder) (ii) line agencies regulating hydropower in the sub-basin (e.g. economic, environment, social and safety regulation) and, (iii) hydropower developers / operators in the sub-basin. The basin-wide sustainability assessment will be practical and dialogue-oriented. It thus will inform a basin-wide coordination of hydropower operations as well as capacity building and reinforcing of coordination mechanisms and provide concrete exposure to relevant ISH Outputs. From the planning perspective it will practically inform the TOR for heavier tools like CIAs and SEAs and the BDP planning processes. The project-specific tool (the voluntary international IHA Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol - SAP) will be applied in a systematic, targeted manner for all projects in the MRC Hydropower Data base (to limits of available funds) working with NMCS/line agencies and developers on a voluntary basis.
- ISH04/06 Review and Update of the Preliminary Design Guidelines. The design guidelines were drafted in 2008 and approved in 2009. These have been a valuable guidance to mainstream dam developers and for design sustainability criteria. This review will include, dam safety, navigation and fish passage, sediment management, environmental flow assessment guidelines, and be expanded into guidelines for socio economic and environmental planning.
- Output 3.3a and 3.3b: These outputs are specifically on the specification and operational guidelines for navigation and fish passage to be included in the above Preliminary Design Guidelines.

Development Partner reviews or appraisals planned for 2012

Two Regional Advisory Committee meetings will be held during the year to which the Development Partners are invited. Progress reports on projects will be tabled at these meetings.





3.12. Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRM P)

3.12.1. Project Overview

The proposed project will strengthen the enabling framework and capacity for IWRM in the Lower Mekong Basin, and strengthen MRC's role as a facilitator of significant water resources development projects, guided by IWRM principles. The objective of the proposed project is to improve the enabling framework and capacity for IWRM in the LMB Countries and strengthen the role of MRC as the facilitator of significant water resources development, guided by IWRM principles. This Objective will be achieved through the implementation and achievement of three identified outcomes as follows:

- A regional enabling framework with water resources planning and management tools, procedures and guidelines, process and capacity is in place to effectively implement the 1995 Mekong Agreement
- Pro-poor transboundary initiatives jointly designed and implemented, applying IWRM principles and demonstrating mechanisms for joint planning and implementation of project identified as part of the MRC-led basin development planning process.
- Strengthened policies, institutional arrangements and capacity for IWRM in LMB countries.

The project will be implemented at the three interlinked components: the regional, transboundary and national.

The Project will apply IWRM principles and address the Mekong respective challenges by promoting the implementation of IWRM at three levels – regional, transboundary and national. At the regional level, it will bring the BDP including the SEA process, the use of tools and knowledge base, and the implementation of procedures and guidelines into a coherent framework. Developed through the coordinated actions of MRC Programmes in cooperation with the LMB Countries, this framework will provide the opportunity for the MRC to demonstrate that it can act as a facilitator of sustainable and equitable water resources development in the LMB – as envisaged in the 1995 Mekong Agreement – while assisting the LMB Countries to respond to emerging challenges in water resources management. Emphasising the MRC's engagement with line agencies and other relevant partners through a much closer interface between basin level, and national and sub-basin level water resources management, this regional framework will provide enabling factors for IWRM in the LMB Countries.

Project Phases, Funding and Management

Phase	Timing	Funding (US\$ million)	Management
Project formulation	Dec 2007- May 2008	World Bank (0.02), FAO (0.02)	MRCS/BDP2
Project identification and preparation	July 2008– November 2009	AusAID (0.5), PHRD (1.0), MRC TF (0.09), Thailand (0.05)	MRCS, LMB countries

AusAID appraisal of Regional component and Bank pre-appraisal	May 2009		Australia
World Bank project appraisal	December 2010	World Bank	World Bank
World Bank project negotiation	March 2011	World Bank	MRCS
Project implementation under AusAID fund	2009-2014	AusAID (6.0), IDA/APL1 (31.5) , Thailand (20.0), LMB countries in kind (2.2),	MRCS, LMB countries

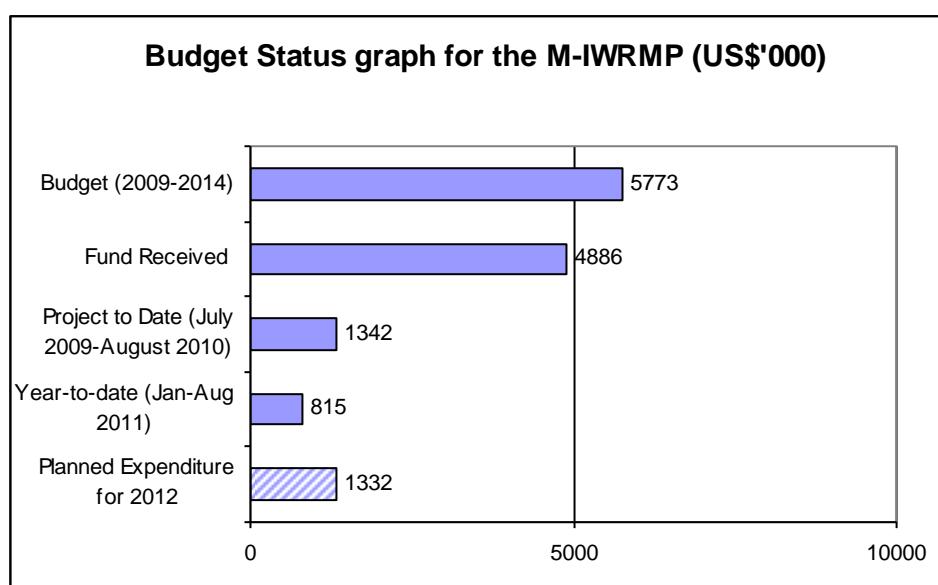
List of agreements/projects

(US\$ 1,000)

Project title	Start date	End date	Budget	Balance Dec 2010	Donor(s)
Active projects					
Australian contribution to the implementation phase of the M-IWRM Project (2009-20014)	07/2008	12/2014	5,773	5,326	Australia
World bank support			7,800 (pending due to delay of WB Board approval)		

3.12.2. Progress of M-IWRM Project in 2011

The following graph described the project budget status including the planned expenditure for 2011, the expenditure from January to August 2011 (year to date), the expenditure from the date of implementation phase (project to date), fund received and the budget pledged. This graph reflects only budget status under the AusAID fund for the Regional Component. The WB's grant to MRCS for the Mekong IWRM Project in support of the Regional and Transboundary Component will be committed after the World Bank Board approval by November 2011.



Planned outputs of the M-IWRMP for 2011

Summary of achieved outputs of M-IWRMP for 2011

MRC Procedures Implementation:

During its last meeting the Project Steering Committee requested the M-IWRMP PCMU to (i) enhance and continue the improvement of the implementation of the MRC Procedures also enhancing the coordination amongst the MRCS programmes and the countries as well as (ii) to coordinate the work of the procedural technical guidelines and their plan towards implementation.

In response to this request, the M-IWRMP PCMU outlined pending issues regarding the implementation of each MRC Procedure also outlining first recommendation how to address those. In addition, the PCMU developed a concept note entitled '*Improvement of the MRC Procedure Implementation*'. The concept note outlines

- (i) the status regarding MRC Procedure implementation,
- (ii) a new approach and mechanism toward improved Procedure implementation within the MRC framework and its objectives, and
- (iii) an overview on next steps.

The concept note has been discussed and agreed within the MRCS, between all MRC Programmes and was presented by the M-IWRMP PCMU at the 34th MRC Joint Committee Meeting for discussion and feedback. The next steps will be the implementation of the approach proposed in the concept note including the development of a respective Road Map, a ToR for the Joint MRCS Platform and the organisation of a first meeting.

Procedure for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA):

The ICCS is responsible for the implementation of the PNPCA implementation; however the detailed technical implementation of this Procedure lies under the responsibility and coordination of the M-IWRMP with other technical programmes of the MRCS. In September 2010 Lao PDR notified the MRC on the proposed Xayaburi hydropower project and submitted the respective documents for the first MRC prior consultation process. Therefore, the PNPCA is under implementation and an implementation mechanism was set-up for the prior consultation. The M-IWRMP PCMU has been coordinating the prior consultation regarding technical issues under its implementation plan and developed – in close cooperation with the MRC Programmes (PNPCA Task Group) - the respective MRCS Prior Consultation Project Review Report. The PNPCA JC Working Group so far has convened three times. At its last meeting (April 2011) it was concluded that the Prior Consultation issues would be taken forward to the MRC Council that will meet in November 2011. Further, the Member Countries have requested to conduct a workshop to clarify roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders under the PNPCA and to discuss lessons-learned from the implementation of the PNPCA. Those issues are intended to be discussed in the frame of a 4th PNPCA Joint Committee Working Group Meeting (date still to be determined). The M-IWRMP PCMU will continue the support of the PNPCA implementation.

Procedure for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing (PDIES):

The detailed technical implementation of this Procedure lies under the responsibility of IKMP. IKMP foresees a number of activities in their workplan to improve the implementation of PDIES such as re-assessing the Primary Custodians for data provision in each Member Country, conducting more consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders to identify best mechanisms for data provision, developing detailed guidelines for data exchange and sharing between MRCS and Member Countries, developing technical guidelines for sharing the non-hydro-met data; regularly reporting the progress and update information on PDIES to Technical Assistance Coordination Team (TACT) and JC and recruiting a Manager for the Knowledge Hub on IWRM under Component 5 of IKMP.

Procedure for Water Utilisation Monitoring (PWUM):

The detailed technical implementation of this Procedure lies under the responsibility of IKMP. IKMP also planned six activities within its Work Programmes namely (1) setting up a respective Working Group at the MRCS and country levels; (2) conducting national and regional consultations on the implementation of PWUM; (3) setting up criteria for water use monitoring in each country and in the LMB region; (4) setting up a database for managing data; (5) collecting water use data from each country and regularly updating the monitoring network; (6) developing necessary tools for water use calculations and presentation of options to finalise and improve guidelines for implementation.

Procedure for the Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream (PMFM):

The detailed technical implementation of this Procedure lies under the responsibility of BDP. Following the guidance from the Special Meeting of the Joint Committee on 27 October 2010, an assessment has been developed by IKMP of the impact of the considered alternative flow frameworks for Article 6A-Planning Purposes on low flows and salinity intrusion in the Mekong Delta. The required modelling work has been conducted by the IKMP using the models and data in MRC's Decision Support Framework. Initial communication with China has begun on the possibility of jointly setting up a critical low water level threshold at Chiang Saen (in Northern Thailand). The only pending issue is that there is no agreement amongst Member Countries on monthly flow thresholds for the implementation of Article 6A – Planning Purposes. The BDP planned the following activities to deal with this pending issue: (1) engagement and preparation of a few PMFM 'facilitators'; organising national consultations and consensus building; convening the 10th Meeting of the Technical Review Group to discuss and agree on the pending issue and to review the progress of implementation of the remaining parts of the Technical Guidelines.

Procedure for Water Quality (PWQ):

The detailed technical implementation of this Procedure lies under the responsibility of EP. The Technical Body on Water Quality (TBWQ) has finalised two of the four Chapters of the Technical Guidelines for the implementation of the PWQ in February 2010 ("Technical Guideline for the Protection of Human Health" and the "Technical Guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life"). However, the approval by the Joint Committee is still pending until all four chapters will be finalised. Both, Chapter 3 ("Technical

Guideline for Water Quality Emergency Response and Management”) and Chapter 4 (“Cooperation Framework for Implementation of the Procedures for Water Quality”) are targeted for finalisation by the end of 2011. The latest development in finalising the remaining Chapters involved the organisation of the 7th meeting of the TBWQ (25-26 July 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia) to discuss the current draft of Chapter 3 in light of the implementation progress of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

MRC knowledge management and tools:

For water resources planning and management, the Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP) developed and refined the MRC Tool Box for future implementation. The MRC Tool Box launch is still foreseen.

Study on significant tributaries in the LMB:

The Technical Coordination Unit (TCU) is compiling 8 packages for the compilation of a synthesised report/study outlining the significance of LMB tributaries. The M-IWRMP PCMU will support the TCU in developing this synthesised report. The synthesised report should support the MRC countries to clarify the definition and terms used in the 1995 Mekong Agreement regarding “significant” tributaries, which could affect the mainstream in terms of water utilisation. It is foreseen, that a respective concept note - that will outline the general approach and objectives of the report - will be available for the MRC Council meeting in December 2011. The report itself will be available by mid 2012. In general, the significance of tributaries intends to reflect the significance of LMB tributaries from different angles to define the term within the LMB context e.g. highlighting significance of tributaries regarding (i) abiotic parameters and hydrology, (ii) environmental aspects in relation to most valuable riverine areas, (iii) human pressures and impacts on the riverine environment, and (iv) existing knowledge gaps. The report will be shared with the MRCS and MRC countries in the frame of national and regional consultations.

Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP):

The development of a CDAP to ensure MRC Procedure implementation and adequate capacities on the country as well as MRCS levels is a key implementation activity of the M-IWRMP. The draft CDAP has been further elaborated between January – June 2011. The draft was discussed with all MRC countries and the MRC programmes. Respective feedback was used to enhance the development of the CDAP, which is provided for the 3rd M-IWRMP PSC Meeting for final discussion.

Formulation of transboundary project proposals:

During its last meeting the Project Steering Committee requested the M-IWRMP PCMU to take up and lead the task regarding the formulation of the transboundary project proposals with full support from the countries. The PCMU was requested to start the drafting work as soon as possible after the 2nd PSC Meeting. AusAID financially enabled the drafting process. Implementation of the projects would only be possible after M-IWRMP PSC

approval and in case the World Bank Grant for the M-IWRMP will be approved.

The PCMU organised one regional meeting to enable the agreement on the process, approach and basic content of the transboundary project proposals to be drafted. Further, three transboundary workshops were held that resulted in two draft transboundary project proposals that are submitted for approval to the M-IWRMP PSC for approval:

1. Cambodia – Lao PDR: *Transboundary IWRM-Based Fisheries Management on the Mekong and Sekong Rivers in Cambodia and Lao PDR*
2. Cambodia – Viet Nam: *Transboundary cooperation between Cambodia and Viet Nam: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Sesan and Srepok Sub-basin*

Further, the PCMU together with Cambodia and Viet Nam developed a project idea and outline for a third transboundary project proposal regarding IWRM in the Mekong Delta. The PSC at its 3rd meeting will be asked for approval of his project idea in order to initiate the drafting as a follow-up.

Thailand and Lao PDR started the development on a transboundary project proposal on wetland management and biodiversity. The PSC will be informed on the status of the project.

Upper Riparian Engagement: As part of continuing efforts to enhance engagement with the Upper Basin countries, initiatives to engage China and Myanmar have been promoted jointly with the MRCS programmes such as the Initiative of Sustainable Hydropower (ISH) in the context of the hydropower development and sharing information related to flow and other transboundary impact studies such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the basin-wide scenario assessment of the Basin Development Plan (BDP), the Prior Consultation Review Report on the proposed Xayaburi mainstream dam. As part of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the ISH together with other related programmes including the M-IWRMP will visit the China Water Resource Institutes as part of the exchange of information on hydropower development and its transboundary impact. The M-IWRMP will prepare a presentation on transboundary cooperation with a focus on hydropower development in the LBM and respective experience gained during the Prior Consultation Process. This presentation can be also shared with relevant LMB stakeholders.

Project management and meetings: Key events took place during the reporting period January - June 2011. The Project Steering Committee of the M-IWRMP was held back to back with Project Coordination and Management Meeting (7-8 April 2011 in Bangkok). Further, (i) a number of national and regional consultations took place regarding the work related to Procedure implementation, national consultations on the Capacity Development Action Plan (CDAP), (ii) national consultations on the Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF) and also (iii) the regional and transboundary consultations on the transboundary project formulations.

The nature and design of the M-IWRMP demands coordination and implementation across the MRCS and LMB countries to achieve its objectives. The recommendation from the 2nd Project Steering Committee to

involve the other MRC Programmes more closely has been followed-up with a respective invitation to participate in the M-IWRMP Project Management and Coordination Meeting (PMCM) and the PSC Meeting.

Project Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation: The Project Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been discussed within various national and regional consultations. A final draft is available and submitted the PSC for endorsement in order to implement M-IWRMP monitoring and evaluation of the three interlinked components. The PCMU also planned to recruit one project officer to carry out the Monitoring and Evaluation as permanent staff of the PCMU. The officer will play key role in terms of implementing M& E by using the PMEF.

Significant Problems Encountered, Corrective Action Taken

During the course of implementation over the executive year 2011, the project has gone through tight schedule to implement the key priorities of the project given by the 2nd recommendation of the Project Steering Committee of the M-IWRMP. Those issues are:

- The coordination amongst the MRCS programmes in implementing procedures
- The formulation of the transboundary projects
- The finalization of the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, and
- The finalization of the Capacity Development Action Plan to be submitted to the World Bank for the appraisal under the Applicable Loan Phase 2 (APL2)
- The follow up on the PNPCA including the workshop on role of stakeholder in the process of PNPCA, and the assessment of lesson learnt during the course of implementation of PNPCA

All the above mentioned key priorities are the challenges encountered by the M-IWRMP to move those key priorities into the realization and outputs.

The corrective action took place immediately after the recommendations from the 2nd PSC, and the M-IWRMP in close cooperation with MRCS programmes, NMCS and countries have demonstrated well to achieve those challenges as mentioned in the above session of the planned outputs and achievement in 2011.

Development Partner reviews or appraisals carried out in 2011

There is no mid-term review planned for the M-IWRMP in 2011; however, the existing reporting mechanism of six month and annual report produced by the M-IWRMP served the basis for the project monitoring to ensure that all planned outputs and milestones are achieved. In addition, the M-IWRMP Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework document is being finalized and used to guide the implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the regional component as well as the transboundary and national component of the project.

Relevant JC and Council decisions

During the 34th Preparatory JC meeting, M-IWRMP presented the progress of the procedure implementation in response to the request of the 33rd JC meeting about concerns over the implementation of all MRC procedures carried out by respective MRCS programmes coordinated by the M-IWRMP. In that occasion, the presentation also includes the Concept Note on the Improvement of the Procedural Implementation. The 34th JC wishes to see this Concept Note be consulted with MRC countries and move on for the implementation.

At the coming 35th JC meeting and the Council in November 2011, it is very important that the council will encourage the World Bank to speed up the approval of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of the three interlinked components of the M-IWRMP because the delay of this grant and loan may affect realization of the project.

3.12.3. *M-IWRMP Workplan for 2012*

More detailed information on programme's workplan for 2010 is provided in the Gantt chart.

Development Partner Reviews and Appraisals planned in 2012

The mid-term review of the M-IWRMP is fall in mid 2012. Therefore, the PCMU of the M-IWRMP is preparing the discussion with development partner and involved MRCS programmes in this mid-term review.

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1				1 REGIONAL COMPONENT												
2				Output 1.1: Regional Water Resources Planning/Management Tools												
3			1.1.1	<i>Status & elaboration of MRC Toolbox-IWRM basis (IKMP)</i>												
4				Develop MRC Toolbox/Data Mastercatalogue and analyse country capacities												
5				Ensure close cooperation with MRC Programmes to manage data in Toolbox												
6				First release, presentation and discussion of MRC Toolbox (TACT)												
7				Establish mechanisms for application and development of the tools												
8				Continue prediction on country needs to apply MRC Toolbox												
9				Report functionality of mechanisms/adaptations to strengthen Toolbox application												
10				First full release of MRC Toolbox												
11			1.1.2	<i>Update, and improve the use of basin-wide data, models and tools (IKMP)</i>												
12				Report regarding national capacity needs to implement Toolbox												
13				Statement on completeness and readiness of Toolbox incl. capacity update												
14				JC information on MRC Toolbox												
15				JC adoption of MRC Toolbox												
16				Update technical relevance and adaptation needs regarding MRC Programmes												
17				Define and add new tools when needed to strengthen MRC Toolbox application												
18				Follow-up capacity needs activities regarding Toolbox application												
19				Implement, monitor and report												
20			1.1.3	<i>Establish quality assurance mechanisms as part of MRC Toolbox (IKMP)</i>												
21				Prepare and integrate QA mechanisms into MRC Toolbox												
22				JC information of QA mechanism as part of Toolbox												
23				JC adoption of QA mechanisms as part of Toolbox adoption												
24				QA verification by regional network of peer organizations/individuals												
25				Implement, monitor, report and share QA results to stakeholders												
26			1.1.4	<i>Raise awareness of benefits of MRC Toolbox (IKMP)</i>												
27				Define the target stakeholders to develop and implement strategies												
28				Identify key concerns and constraints regarding Toolbox												
29				Agree on process to integrate data from all M-IWRMP components for IWRM												
30				Expand MRC website for access of MRC Toolbox, data, legal and IWRM documents												
31				Develop uniform reporting format on country use of MRC Toolbox to JC												
32			1.1.5	<i>Build consensus among LMB countries on significant tributaries designation (TCU, M-IWRMP)</i>												
33				2-step approach study on significance of tributaries in LMB												
34				Step 1: Tributary designation based on abiotic criteria												
35				Step 2: Tributary designation based on multivariate analysis												
36				Implement outcomes of study for the development of a IWRM strategy and plan of management actions for the significant tributaries in harmony/cooperation with other MRC Programmes (BDP, EP)												
37				Concept note to JC for the synthesised report												
38				Synthesised report												
39				National consultation on synthesised report												
40				Submit to JC on the significant tributaries												

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
41				Output 1.2: Water Utilisation Procedures and Technical Guidelines finalised												
42			1.2.1	<i>Set-up operational mechanism for PNCPA implementation (ICCS, M-IWRMP, ISH, NAP and other relevant Programmes)</i>												
43				Implementation of prior consultation regarding hydropower installing a MRCS PNPCA Task Group for integrated planning												
44				Define process for prior consultation (focus hdropower) for regular implementation in agreement with MRC countries												
45				Full involvement of all relevant MRC Programmes in elaboration and implementation process												
46				Provide overview on PNPCA status and projects notified												
47				Consult with stakeholders and identify constraints												
48				Review and improve technical guidelines and processes												
49				Update and adapt PNPCA database for MRC Mastercatalogue/Toolbox												
50				Annual reporting to JC												
51			1.2.2	<i>Implementation of PDIES toward basin-wide IWRM (IKMP, M-IWRMP and all other relevant Programmes)</i>												
52				Update list of LMB custodian agencies for data delivery												
53				Reinforce and coordinate data collection, frequencies, sharing, and exchange in line with MRC Mastercatalogue/Toolbox and Procedures												
54				Assess completeness of shared datasets regarding basin-wide IWRM/Procedures												
55				Annual reporting to JC												
56			1.2.3	<i>PWUM implementation - Monitor water resources initiatives (IKMP, AIFP, ISH, FMMP, NAP, M-IWRMP)</i>												
57				Elaborate & provide overview on PWUM status and projects notified												
58				Discuss and install monitoring network for LMB water use												
59				Efficient data sharing on LMB water use toward basin-wide IWRM												
60				Disseminate PWUM and information to respective water users in LMB												
61				Update and adapt PWUM database for MRC Mastercatalogue/Toolbox												
62				Annual reporting to JC												
63			1.2.4	<i>Finalize technical quideline to implement PMFM (BDP)</i>												
64				Update the TOR for the Technical Review Group (TRG)												
65				Review and improvement of PMFM technical guideline												
66				Finalise of the technical guidelines of PMFM and organise respective workshops												
67				Adoption by JC of technical guidelines and implementation												
68				Implementation of PMFM and technical quidelines												
69				Review and update as required												
70				Annual reporting to JC												
71			1.2.5	<i>Reach agreement and implement the PWQ (M-IWRMP, EP)</i>												
72				Facilitate the process to reach agreement on PWQ												
73				JC adoption of PWQ												
74				Council approval of PWQ												
75				Continuous PWQ implementation, review and updating												
76				Update and adapt PWQ database for MRC Mastercatalogue/Toolbox												
77				Annual reporting to JC												
78			1.2.6	<i>Prepare technical guidelines to support the implementation of the PWQ (EP)</i>												

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																	
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012												
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
79				Draft technical guidelines in cooperation with MRC countries													
80				Develop chapter on emergency management as part of guideline													
81				Complete guidelines including implementation strategy and action programme													
82				Adoption by JC of PWQ technical guidelines and implementation													
83				Dissemination of PWQ guideline, implementation and evaluation of implementation success													
84				Update and adapt PWQ database for MRC Mastercatalogue/Toolbox													
85			1.2.7	<i>PWQ implementation and adaptation of related documents (EP)</i>													
86				Revise/supplement the documentation, manuals and guidelines related to PWQ													
87				Review capacity gaps to ensure PWQ implementation													
88				Fill capacity needs to ensure PWQ implementation													
89				Ensure adaptation of capacities to needs													
90				Develop and apply a mechanism to regularly update WQ monitoring guidelines													
91				Report on WQ activities and implementation success regarding PWQ													
92				Output 1.3: Capacity for IWRM implementation is in place on all MRC levels													
93			1.3.1	<i>Build capacity to implement MRC procedures, technical guidelines and MRC Toolbox (ICBP, M-IWRMP)</i>													
94				Rapid assessment on capacity gaps & capacity needs identification													
95				Support Worldbank elaboration for APL2 funding on capacity needs													
96				Implementation IWRM capacity building in synergy with all MRC activities													
97				Reporting on capacity building towards the Project's IWRM focus related to the MRC Toolbox, Procedure and Guideline implementation.													
98			1.3.2	<i>Prepare annual progress reporting mechanism to strengthen IWRM basis (M-IWRMP)</i>													
99				Identify a set of indicators for procedures and tools implementation													
100				Review reporting mechanisms, consult and agree new approach													
101				Work with concerned MRC Programmes to draft and agree report format													
102				Monitor the project implementation (link 1.3/4 & 1.6/5)													
103			1.3.3	<i>Establish mechanism to translate lessons learned to procedure implementation (M-IWRMP)</i>													
104				Decide how reporting procedures can translate into activities													
105				Analyse opportunities and needed basis to share information													
106				Design a programme to operationalise within MRC systems													
107				Joint Platform of Procedural Implementation													
108				1st Draft Terms of Reference													
109				National consultations													
110				2nd Draft Terms of Reference													
111				Regional consultaion TOR													
112				Final TOR and submit for approval from JC													
113				Meeting of the Joint Platform													
114				Making the 95 MA work through Procedures													
115				Terms of reference to develop a proposal on how Procedures contribute to cooperation													
116				1st Delphi workshop													
117				2nd Delphi workshop													
118				Draft proposal on how Procedurs work together													
119				National consultaion on the draft proposal and roll-out													

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
120			1.3.4	Notify JC on issues material to implementation of the procedures and technical guidelines (ICCS, M-IWRMP)												
121				Using the annual progress report, design a set of actions on effective application of the procedures and technical guidelines												
122				Prepare a set of actions to efficiently inform the JC												
123				Implement and monitor reporting measures (link 1.3/2 & 1.6/5)												
124				Output 1.4. IWRM basis and approach established on all MRC/LMB levels												
125			1.4.1	Initial Support for the Developing LMB Risk Model Framework (RMF)												
126				Strengthen coordination and dialogue with LMB countries, MRC Programmes and MRCS toward RMF												
127				Workshops with riparian countries to identify and agree on user requirements for RMF in terms of application, technical basis and training needs												
128				Advance design of the MRC-IS data architecture and technical foundation for the RMF												
129				Establish preparatory terms of structures with the MRCS and the national counterparts at the MRC for implementation during WB APL2												
130				Participation of relevant stakeholders in supervision & review of two related geospatial pilot projects for inclusion in WB APL2												
131				Reporting of outcomes												
132			1.4.2	Applied IWRM: Pressure/impact analysis, risk assessment and environmental monitoring validation using baselines (MIWRMP, EP, Fisheries Programme)												
133				Prepare short project proposal to submit under WB funding grant												
134				Evaluation of submitted project through PCMU and PSC												
135				Selection of a pilot catchment area for joint sub-area case study (MRC Programme support)												
136				Establish detailed harmonised and basin-wide environmental assessment methodology on riverine pressures and impacts												
137				Development and performance of pressure-impact analysis and risk assessment including the definition of an environmental baseline and threshold criteria												
138				Design of monitoring programme responding to risk assessment												
139				Implement monitoring programme to validate risk assessment and assess compliance with environmental objectives												
140				In response to assessed impacts, design a mitigating programme of measures												
141				Report and present results in frame of regional workshop												
142				Next steps and actions defined												
143				Preparation of up-scaling the IWRM approach to basin-wide scale												
144				Continuous reporting to all MRC levels												
145			1.4.3	Ensure basin-wide implementation framework for basin-wide IWRM (M-IWRMP)												
146				Draft an issue paper for technical and practical IWRM implementation in LMB												
147				Table of Contents of IWRM issue Paper available for further development												
148				Design and agree on MRC Procedure implementation mechanism as IWRM basis												
149				Facilitation of dialogues to prepare the implementation of procedures and tools in designated significant tributaries												
150				Monitor results and report												
151				Mainstream the M-IWRMP experiences into regional & national planning processes (M-IWRMP)												
152				Continuous integration of lessons learnt from all M-IWRMP activities												

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
153				Elaborate summarising document on lessons learnt, key conclusions on IWRM in MRC frame and implementation recommendations for steps forward												
154				Outline planning/management synergies, links and gaps related to IWRM between the regional & national level as part of the document												
155				Report on results of this activity												
156			1.4.5	<i>Define, exploit & ensure synergies between regional, national & transboundary components and outline basin-wide IWRM added values (M-IWRMP)</i>												
157				Ensure link regional IWRM approaches to national&transboundary level												
158				Assess linkages/synergies of three components to ongoing activities												
159				Continuously identify projects that would benefit from M-IWRMP and vice versa												
160				Constantly share IWRM experience, approaches and outcomes												
161			1.4.6	<i>Establish and implement a communication strategy on IWRM and M-IWRMP (ICCS, MIWRMP)</i>												
162				Communication of IWRM & M-IWRMP on all levels (MRCS, countries, decision makers, wider public)												
163				External support for IWRM communication implementation strategy												
164				Awareness raising MRC Procedures and IWRM												
165				Raise skill level on NMCSs in media, public relations and communication												
166				Awareness raising on environmentally sustainable use of water resources												
167				Awareness raising on transboundary impacts on a range of aspects												
168				Awareness raising on proposed future infrastructure development and possible impacts												
169				Awareness raising among people living on the river on relevant simplified information/MRC data												
170				Awareness raising among higher level stakeholders on concerns of local community members												
171				Implementation and reporting to the countries, MRC Programmes and JC												
172			1.4.7	<i>Establish a 'Poverty Reduction and Gender Mainstreaming Strategy' for the Project (Gendering P, M-IWRMP)</i>												
173				Define framework and action for poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming												
174				Implement the Strategy as part of the Project implementation and reporting												
175				Monitoring and reporting												
176				Output 1. 5: Upper riparian engagement is enhanced (ICCS, M-IWRMP)												
177			1.5.1	<i>Engage upper riparian countries in river basin planning</i>												
178				Further development and implement initiatives to engage Upper Countries												
179				Design programme of activities as basis for discussion												
180				Organise joint events with Upper Riparian Countries further develop the concept note on cooperation and capacity building												
181				Define cooperation issues and discuss capacity needs												
182				Implement and monitor the elaborated programme												
183				Report on outcomes												
184			1.5.2	<i>Expand State of Basin Report to include Upper Riparian Countries (EP, ICCS, M-IWRMP)</i>												
185				Share SoB with Upper Riparian Countries												
186				Investigate on opportunities to gather needed data for the extended SoB												
187				Elaborate proposal to widen the SoB on Upper Riparian Topics												
188				Implementation and report on lessons learnt												
189				Output 1. 6: Effective project coordination, oversight and joint learning												

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
190			1.6.1	Establish the PCMU (PLD) and PSC												
191				PCMU as part of the MRCS PLD in place and fully operational												
192				Finalize and reach consensus on the TOR for Project Steering Committee												
193				Bi-annual meetings of the PSC												
203			1.6.2	Coordination meetings within MRCS and between the Programmes (M-IWRMP)												
213			1.6.3	Coordination and management of the regional component (M-IWRMP)												
214				National consultation meetings for the national M-IWRMP component (including overview exchange on national and transboundary M-IWRMP activities)												
215				1st National Consultation Series (once a year - each 1.5 days)												
216				2nd National Consultation Series (twice a year - each 1.5 days)												
217				3rd National Consultation Series (twice a year - each 1.5 days)												
218				4th National Consultation Series (twice a year - each 1.5 days)												
219				5th National Consultation Series (twice a year - each 1.5 days)												
220				Regional consultation meetings for the national M-IWRMP component												
221				1st Regional Consultation Meeting: National M-IWRMP component												
222				2nd Regional Consultation Meeting: National M-IWRMP component												
223				3rd Regional Consultation Meeting: National M-IWRMP component												
224				4th Regional Consultation Meeting: National M-IWRMP component												
225				Additional regional exchange visits, workshops and experience sharing if needed												
226				Regular reporting to the MRC countries and JC												
241			1.6.4	Coordination, facilitation and exchange between regional, national and transboundary components (M-IWRMP)												
242				Regional exchange visits, workshops and experience sharing between regional, national and transboundary level												
249				Continuous interlinking all levels, components and project activities												
250			1.6.5	Establish a Project results-based performance M&E capability (MIWRMP, ICBP)												
251				Update MIWRMP design framework during project inception phase												
252				Develop M&E framework for PIP outputs/activities												
253				Finalise MIWRMP framework including responsibilities for monitoring & data												
254				Implement the M&E mechanisms until end of MIWRMP												
255				MIWRMP Midterm Report including interim implementation success												
256				MIWRMP Final Report including interim implementation success												
257																
258				2 TRANSBOUNDARY COMPONENT (under MRCS management)												
259				Important Note: Five transboundary projects are being formulated												
260				Country driven transboundary cooperation based on IWRM principles (M-IWRMP, countries, relevant MRC Programmes)												
261				Output 2.1 IWRM transboundary dialogue facilitated through regional level												
262				Identification of specific project ideas for transboundary IWRM cooperation (application of criteria based on BDP portfolio)												
263				Agreement between countries on transboundary projects for submission to PSC												

MEKONG INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PROJECT																
ID	SP Code	Milestone Code	Activity code	Outcome/ Output/ Activity/ Milestone	2012											
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
264				PSC Project Approval												
265				Further submission of other projects												
266				<i>Output 2.2 Cambodia-Lao PDR: Mekong mainstream fisheries management at Stung Treng/Kratie to Champasak and sustainable livelihoods for poor communities in place</i>												
267				Sharing information on fisheries management												
268				Identification of existing problematic fisheries management issues (including the endangered Irrawaddy Dolphin)												
269				Consensus in the operating modality of a joint fisheries management body between Cambodia and Lao PDR												
270				Development of an action plan on transboundary fisheries management												
271				Screening regarding the conservation management and cooperation improvement regarding the Irrawaddy Dolphin for formulating a special program												
272				Regional research program to explore hatching techniques for key endangered species												
273				Reporting												
274				<i>Output 2.3 Cambodia-Viet Nam: Water Resources Management in the Se San and Srepok sub-basins in place and implemented</i>												
275				Joint development of a early warning system in relation to flood and drought events												
276				Joint establishment/application of a management and planning tool including a knowledge base closely linked to the MRC Toolbox and key management issues of the sub-basins												
277				Joint capacity building on river basin management.												
278				Reporting												
279				<i>Output 2.4 Cambodia-Viet Nam: Water Resources Management in the Mekong Delta in place and implemented</i>												
280				Dialogue and collaboration towards harmonized water resources investment in the Mekong Delta, considering possible transboundary impacts												
281				Identification and preparation of a project proposal on a possible joint water resources development												
282				Set-up a mechanism to share and exchange hydro-meteorological data												
283				Enhancement of a Mekong Delta management and planning tool including a knowledge base closely linked to the MRC Toolbox												
284				Joint capacity building on river basin management in the Mekong Delta												
285				Reporting												
286				<i>Output 2.5 Thailand-Lao PDR: Wetland and Floodplain Management operational</i>												
287				Identification of human impacts on wetlands in the region												
288				Development of an inventory of wetlands of mainstream disconnected wetlands												
289				Outline of respective mitigation measures												
290				This sub-component is to be further discussed and defined by Lao PDR and Thailand												
291				Reporting												
292				Output 2.6 Cambodia-Thailand: Exchange experience of Tonle Sap and Songkla lake management												
293				Identified common problem and exchange of the best practice												
294				Activities are defined in the project proposal												
295				<i>Output 2.6 All tranboundary projects embeded with clear PIP and logframe</i>												
296				Regional meeting for the PIP and Logframe for each transboundary project												

3.13. Watershed Management Project (WSMP)

3.13.1. Project Overview

In recent years, The MRC-GIZ Watershed Management Project (WSMP), in close collaboration with the MRC Programmes, NMCs and the countries' line agencies, set up an integrated watershed management system through supporting capacity and institutional development in selected pilot areas in all four lower Mekong countries.

The MRC-GIZ WSMP ended in May 2011, with the continuation of a new KfW funded MRC, with a pilot watershed management project in Nam Ton watershed in Lao PDR. The new KfW funded project will build upon GIZ funded watershed management project. This new project will be a combination of technical assistance providing the ground for and financial assistance in implementing solutions for watershed issues.

The proposed project will strengthen the planning, coordination and piloting replicable development solution for sustainable watershed management and IWRM Principles. The objective of the proposed project is to capture the regional interests/relevance in which project could pilot replicable development solution that includes:

Degradation: sustainable natural resources co-management; sustainable finance of (forestry) conservation measures; benefit sharing of larger scale contract farming and water resources infrastructure, e.g. hydropower levies, mining and rubber concessions to alleviate rural poverty; and the supporting role of administrative decentralisation.

Migration: population pressure triggered resource degradation; coping mechanisms, lessons for large scale water resources projects.

The Project will apply IWRM principles and address the Mekong respective challenges by promoting the implementation of IWRM at the regional and watershed level.

At the regional level (MRCS), the project will focus on regional analysis/research and upscaling replicable development solutions from the Nam Ton pilot watershed project.

At the watershed level (Nam Ton Pilot Project), the project aims to "secure watershed function of the Nam Ton watershed and to improve livelihoods in the Nam Ton Project area". The project will also facilitate regional water resources development by supporting regional analysis (lessons learned).

For the first time, MRC's technical assistance is brought together with national efforts on IWRM and with investment projects on-the-ground, thus demonstrating the MRC's contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable management of Mekong and its tributary water and related resources.

Project Phases, Funding and Management

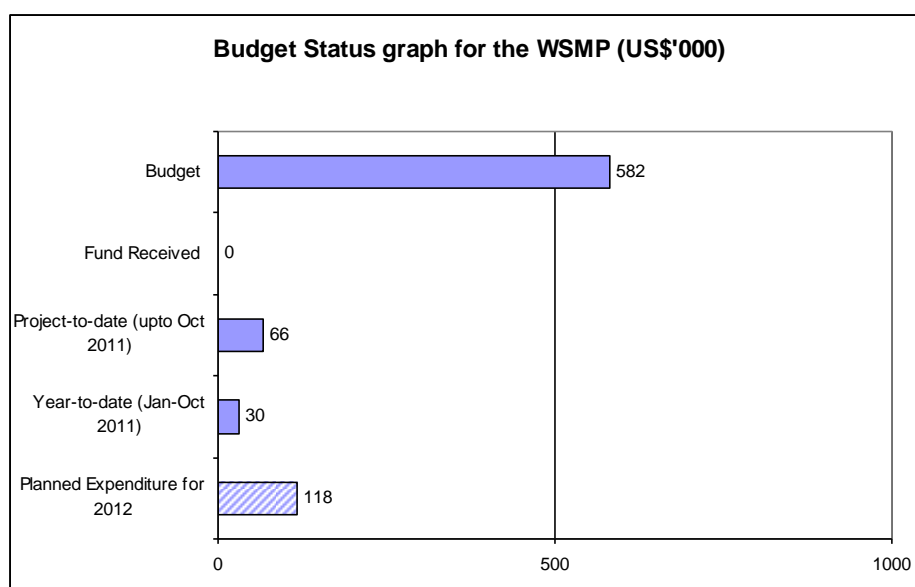
Phase	Timing	Funding (EUR million)	Management
Project formulation/ Pre-Feasibility study	Dec 2005	KfW	KfW
Project formulation/ Feasibility study	Jul- Oct 2007	KfW	KfW
Project identification and preparation (Inception Phase) - PP1	Oct 2010 - Mar 2011	KfW	GoL (WREA/MAF)
Project identification and preparation (Inception Phase) - PP2	Mar 2010 - Mar 2011	KfW	
Project implementation	Mar 2011 - 2018	KfW	MRCS and GoL (WREA/MAF)

List of agreements/projects

Project title	Start date	End date	Budget (EUR million)	Balance 2010	Donor(s)
Active projects					
German Financial Cooperation with the MRC Sustainable Management of Watersheds in the Lower Mekong Basin (2009-2018)	06/2009	12/2018	Total: 5,11m PP1 (GoL): 4,6m PP2 (MRCS): 0.5m	MRCS (473,0000)	Germany through KfW

3.13.2. Progress of WSMP Project in 2011

The following graph described the project budget status including the planned expenditure for 2012, the expenditure from January to September 2011 (year to date), the expenditure from the date of implementation phase (project to date), fund received and the budget pledged. This graph reflects only budget status under the KfW fund for the Regional Part (PP2). The KfW's grant to National Part (PP1) GoL/WREA/MAF have been committed and will be directly transfer to GoL through Ministry of Finance to the Project Executing Agency (WREA) for the project implementation starting October 2010.



Planned and Achieved Outputs for 2011

- International Conference on Watershed Management in Chiang Mai, Thailand 9-11 March 2011, was successfully organized and well received by participants. Joint Conference Technical Paper had been prepared and distributed to partners and participants.
- Project Inception Report (Concept Note and workplan for PPII) - under preparation, discussion and to be finalized by the end of December 2011.

Development Partner Reviews and Appraisals planned in 2011

No reviews and appraisal has been undertaken for 2011. The project preparation process for PP 1 and PP2 will be monitored by regular meetings of the coordination committee comprising MRCS, and WREA/MAF, as well as occasional communication with KfW as needed.

3.13.3. *WSMP Workplan for 2012*

The Workplan for 2012 will be prepared during the inception phase of the PP1 and PP2 for 2011 - 2017. The Gantt Chart will also be prepared and finalized during the inception phase.

As the Project's Inception report is currently being prepared, the outputs/activities for 2012 will be determined and finalized at the end of 2011.

Development Partner Reviews and Appraisals planned in 2012

The project preparation process for PP 1 and PP2 will be monitored by regular meetings of the coordination committee comprising of MRCS, and WREA/MAF. Final review and non-objection by Donor on the inception report and workplan will be required in order to proceed with the implementation.

3.14. MRC Water Management Trust Fund

3.14.1. Programme Overview

Rationale

The Mekong River Commission launched the Water Management Trust Fund in August 2005 to provide strategic and flexible support to the MRC programme development and a facility for the MRC to develop and implement its programme to respond to short-term demands of Member Countries in fulfilling its mandate in trans-boundary water resources management and development.

The establishment of the MRC Water Management Trust Fund is aimed at responding with some flexibility to emerging demands and the need for formulating new projects and activities as new problem settings require to be casted into the ongoing integrated programme because the programme funding mechanism and the annual approval process through the Council do not provide for such flexibility and a complementary mechanism is needed.

In addition, one of the MRC's roles as a facilitator of consensus building in trans-boundary water resources development requires for it to be able to provide technical advisory services, facilitation through workshops and neutral high-quality technical information through specific studies and consultancies in response to such short-term facilitation needs.

Finally, the MRC requires long-term strategic orientation to provide the best substantive and organizational response to longer-term regional water resources development and integration challenges. This requires premium-quality short-term expertise to develop strategic concepts on the basis of a consultative and participatory process.

Objective

The Objective of the MRC Water Management Trust Fund is to provide strategic and flexible support to MRC programme development and a facility for the MRC to develop and implement its programme responding to short-term demand of member countries in fulfilling its mandate in transboundary water resources management and development.

MRC Water Management Trust Fund Activity Tracks

The WMTF works on three activity tracks in support of the 1995 Agreement: (i) Strategic Policy Development; (ii) Transboundary Mediation Facility; and (iii) Responsive Programme Development.

Strategic Policy Development:

- Consultant services in support of strategy development and implementation;
- High-level comparative studies on water resources policy issues;

- Expert and Advisory Panel on Mekong IWRM;
- Liaison travel of management to IWRM global and regional events; and
- IWRM Trust Fund Management and Coordination.

Transboundary Mediation Facility

- Multi-party study visits;
- Studies on transboundary mediation options and approaches in the Mekong;
- Environmental Impact Assessments expertise, information or studies upon request of Member Countries; and
- Facilitation of Member Countries consultation processes under the MRC Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement.

Responsive Programme Development

- Programme development consultancies;
- Programme development and review workshops; and
- Cross-cutting evaluation consultancies.

Use and Implementation Arrangements

For activities below US\$ 100,000 the use of funds of the WMTF are authorized by the Chief Executive Officer of MRC within the Trust Fund's Activity Tracks in support of the 1995 Mekong Agreement: (i) Strategic Policy Development; (ii) Transboundary Mediation Facility; and (iii) Responsive Programme Development. For any activity with a budget of or above US\$ 100,000 approval of the Joint Committee is to be sought.

The WMTF makes use of the project format for each activity drawing upon the Fund to facilitate implementation and monitoring. These projects are screened against the above-agreed funding criteria for separate funding tranches by donors and approved either by the Chief Executive Officer of MRC or by the Joint Committee.

The standard MRC budget policy is to be applied, namely that no advance of funds is possible against funds not yet received. No overspending beyond the level of funds available is authorized. The funds disbursement policy is the same as for MRC projects and programmes, in particular the same signature authority procedures and checks and balances apply.

The overall coordination and annual reporting responsibility for the WMTF rests with the MRC Secretariat International Cooperation and Communication Section (ICCS).

In implementing an activity under the WMTF, recruitment and procurement of services follow the MRC standard procedures as set out in Personnel Manual and Procurement Manual. A special

emphasis is placed on the involvement of regional and local experts to give them an opportunity to participate.

Monitoring and Reporting

The WMTF makes use of the established and transparent substantive and financial reporting system of the MRC which is geared towards multiple-donor funding formats and agreement-based reporting.

Donor contributions towards the WMTF are re-traceable and drawn upon under the conditions agreed upon in the funding agreement with the WMTF Donor.

3.14.2. *Progress on the Water Management Trust Fund in 2011*

In the past, the WMTF has been used to complete a number of crucial activities that could not have been funded through the MRC regular budget. The WMTF was instrumental in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Organisational, Institutional and Financial Review of the MRC (IOR), which brought about important structural changes to make the organisation more effective. In 2011, a number of new recommendations were implemented, in particular for the improvement of the human resources system and to achieve the full riparianisation of the MRC Secretariat. The Organisational Review has been one of the most significant work undertaken by the MRC in recent years to improve its own functioning.

In 2011, the WMTF was successfully utilized for the finalization of the Procedure for Water Quality (PWQ) and all the four Chapters for Technical Guidelines. The WMTF was utilized because the expected funds were delayed almost six months. The PWQ and its Technical Guidelines are decision-making tools that mainly assist policy makers from the Member Countries.

In addition, the Integrated Capacity Building Programme (ICBP) utilised the WMTF in supporting the first Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) from China to be attached to the MRC Initiative on Sustainable Development (ISH). The first JRP from Myanmar was nominated by the Ministry of Transport in April 2011 and has joined the JRP Project Phase III from September 2011 and will be assigned to the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project from December 2011. The WMTF will be utilised to support the first JRP from Myanmar throughout the assignment.

The output of the support for the JRP from the MRC dialogue partners not only built up the capacity of the young academics but has also strengthened the cooperation and knowledge exchange and sharing between our dialogue partners and MRC Member Countries.

Since its creation in 2006, the WMTF has been supported by three main Donors, France, Denmark and Finland and it received

contributions amounting to US\$ 2,505,760. The latest agreement to support the WMTF was signed between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the MRC on 8 March 2010 and contributed to the WMTF with 1,000,000 EUR, equivalent to US\$ 1,400,000. This contribution is the largest made so far to the WMTF and is not earmarked.

3.14.3. *Planned outputs for the Water Management Trust Fund in 2012*

The existing agreements on support to the WMTF, mainly with the contribution from Finland will continue to December 2013.

In 2012, the WMTF funding has not been allocated as the nature of the fund is that it needs to respond to emerging needs and not be planned over an annual basis like other programme funds. One of the planned activities to utilize the WMTF in 2012 is organizing the Mekong2Rio forum which is an initiative set to be a milestone on the road to Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012. This forum will be the first in a series of biennial conferences of its kind convened by the MRC.



Mekong River Commission

Cambodia • Lao PDR • Thailand • Viet Nam

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