Expert Meeting on Mekong Cooperation on Fisheries, Aquatic Resources and Wetlands: 15 years Lessons Learnt

Development of a Mekong basin-wide Fisheries Management & Development Strategy

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
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1. Linking to BDS
2. The Technical Advisory Body on Fisheries Management (TAB)
3. Review of national policies and strategies
4. Basin-wide Fisheries Management & Development Strategy (BFMS)
5. Integration of BFMS into BDS
It’s needless to say, yet always good to remind us:

The Mekong Basin is home to one of the richest Freshwater Capture Fisheries in the World

✓ It is gratis
✓ It belongs to everybody – a common pool resource
✓ Millions of people depend on it, especially poor people
✓ It is critically important for food and nutrition security
✓ It needs to be protected
✓ It needs to be managed
✓ Fish resources also fulfil important eco-system functions
BDS planning process aims at bringing transboundary cooperation to higher levels

Communication & notification

Information sharing

Regional assessments

• Adapt national plans to mitigate regional costs

• Adapt national plans to capture regional gains

• Identify, negotiate & implement national investments that capture cooperative gains

Joint institutions

Joint project assessment & design

Joint investment

Joint ownership of assets

Dispute

Unilateral Action

Coordination

Collaboration

Joint Action

Integration

Cooperation Continuum

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In compliance with Article 25 of the 1995 Agreement, and to further the protection and sustainable management of Mekong fisheries, a **Technical Advisory Body on Fisheries Management (TAB)** was established with the help of the MRC-FP in 2000.
12 TAB Members
Each Country:
2 Fisheries Line Agencies, one at Deputy Director General level,
1 from NMCs,
& 1 Observer: Regional Coordinator of Network for the Promotion of Gender in Fisheries (NGF)
The Technical Advisory Body for Fisheries Management in the LMB (TAB) owns the process of BFMS formulation & implementation.

**TAB objective is to support Fisheries Stakeholders:**

1. To foster coordinated management and development and sustainable utilization of the economic and nutritional potential of aquatic resources in the Mekong River Basin, and

2. To facilitate the uptake of regional issues in national and local action plans and activities by concerned government agencies and user groups.
The Technical Advisory Body for Fisheries Management in the LMB (TAB) has been approved by the Joint Committee.

The BDS has to make due reference to TAB as a “Joint Institution” of the four Member Countries that is tasked to formulate and implement the Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy.
Why do we need a Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy? BFMS

because.....

1. Capture fisheries are essential for the economic, social and cultural existence and survival of the majority of the rural people and their communities in the LMB.
2. Survival and sustainable utilization of the fisheries resources, their effective management and conservation will need to be approached holistically, addressing the larger LMB ecosystem and challenges emerging from competing water resource use and development projects.
3. States should, within their respective competences and in accordance with international law, cooperate at sub regional, regional and global levels through fisheries management organizations, other international agreements or other arrangements............

(FAO’s Code of Conduct for Responsible fisheries)
Why do we need a Basin wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy?

........to promote conservation and management, ensure responsible fishing and ensure effective conservation and protection of living aquatic resources throughout their range of distribution, taking into account the need for compatible measures in areas within and beyond national jurisdiction.
FP Implementation Plan formulation 2011-2015

TAB members review & confirm outline (TOR for BFMS)

TAB review, comment and agree on 1st Draft BFMS

2nd Draft BFMS for National Consultations
Country strategies and policies have been assessed using the following framework:

1. Contribution to economic (GDP) growth, including by value chain and post harvest improvements
2. Contribution to sustainable livelihoods
3. Contribution to food security
4. Responsible fisheries
5. Fisheries enhancement, including rice field fisheries
6. Responsible aquaculture
Country strategies and policies have been assessed using the following framework (cont.):

7. Environmental and ecosystem/
8. habitat protection and restoration
9. Co-management, including public sector institutional strengthening and capacity building
10. Research, including monitoring, generation of data & information
11. Basin-wide cooperation in fisheries management and development
12. Regional/international cooperation
**Vision**: Member Countries collaborate to manage the fisheries of the Mekong Basin in an environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable, and socially acceptable manner.

**Mission**: To provide MCs, TAB and the MRC FP with a holistic strategic framework for fisheries management of the LMB.

**Goal**: Responsible and sustainable use of living aquatic resources.
BFMS Elements

MONITORING
- Socio-economics
- Livelihoods
- Gender
- Food Security
- CPUE
- Fish Abundance
- Fish Diversity
- Fish Ecology

MANAGEMENT
- Conservation of Key Habitats
- Co-Management
- Transboundary Issues
- Stock Enhancement (GL)

DEVELOPMENT
- Water Development
- Climate Change
- Fish-friendly Irrigation (GL)
- Aquaculture Development (GL)

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Strategic priorities for basin DEVELOPMENT (draft)

1. Regional joint cooperation and interdependent development increased
   ⇒ TAB “joint institution” strengthened
   ⇒ Fisheries Co-management including Transboundary fisheries management strengthened

2. Essential knowledge to address development uncertainty and minimise risks acquired
   ⇒ Impacts from Water Development on Fisheries assessed
   ⇒ Impacts from Climate Change on Fisheries assessed
Strategic priorities for basin DEVELOPMENT (draft)

3. Basin-wide optimal development for multiple use and mutual benefits in water and related sectors enhanced
   ⇒ Fish-friendly Irrigation (Guidelines)
   ⇒ Aquaculture development (Guidelines)

4. National water resources development improved
   ⇒ Basin-wide Fisheries Management & Development Strategy implemented
Integration of BFMS into BDS

• Strategic priorities for basin MANAGEMENT (draft)

1. Basin management procedures and processes strengthened
   ⇒ Joint Monitoring procedures for measuring biological/ecological & social/food security indicators
   ⇒ Framework of fisheries cooperation through TAB strengthened

2. Protection and management of mutually agreed environmental assets strengthened
   ⇒ Conservation of key fisheries habitats strengthened

3. Information management, communications and impact monitoring tools maintained and enhanced
Strategic priorities for basin MANAGEMENT (draft)

3. Information management, communications and impact monitoring tools maintained and enhanced

⇒ Regional monitoring capacity enhanced for biological/ecological indicators:
   - CBUE – (relative) fish abundance
   - Fish Diversity
   - Fish Ecology

⇒ Regional monitoring capacity enhanced for social indicators:
   - Socio-economics
   - Livelihoods
   - Gender
   - Food Security
BFMS formulation process: Remaining Main Steps

National Consultations with national stakeholders

Regional Consultations with regional stakeholders

Endorsement & approval
Thank You!