Council Study

Day 1 Recap - Key Comments

Overall Progress

- Progress since the previous RTWG Meeting related to key action items should be provided
- Implementation arrangement including coordination between teams and communication with NMCs need to be improved
- Budget allocation to the different teams reported to RTWG but not approval
- Conduct and report performance evaluations of consultants
Overall Approach and Roadmap – Development Scenarios

• Agreed in principle with the concept of thematic sub-scenarios
• Agreed in principle with the number of development scenarios
  – 3 main development scenarios (2007, 2020, 2040)
  – 3 climate change scenarios (subject to detailed presentation of CCAI)
  – Up to 18 thematic sub-scenarios
• All scenarios will be assessed using the same methodology (DSF, DRIFT-DSS, and SE Methodology)

Overall Approach and Roadmap – Development Scenarios (2)

• National Consultations
  – All thematic teams combined
• 6th RTWG Meeting
  – approve all development scenarios and associated data
Dev Scenarios - Irrigation

• Agreed in principle on the proposed three irrigation sub-scenarios
  – Definition of low, medium, high are confusing – need to be clarified
  – Involved too much uncertainty in the analysis of the drivers and the number of possible combinations or scenarios

Dev Scenarios - Irrigation

• Issue related to data that will not be provided as per practice or policy for basins that are not direct tributaries of the Mekong mainstream
  – Water use information from tributaries will be provided as lump values at outlet to mainstem (note: all scenarios)
  – Related to the definition of tributary (refer to JC Meeting minutes) vs. what is in Inception Report
  – Implication on modeling approach. Approach may have to be adjusted to conform with “alternative” data being provided instead
  – Thematic Team to propose on how to “fill” the data gaps after collecting the data they can collect
  – Influence on other MCs providing data on a selective basis
Dev Scenarios - Agriculture and Land Use Change

• Agreed in principle on the proposed three agriculture and land use change sub-scenarios

Dev Scenarios - Hydropower

• Agreed in principle on the proposed three hydropower thematic sub-scenarios
  – Sub-scenarios on operation of dams are important

• Concern on data and assumptions used for China dams

• DSF is limited with respect to accounting for operation rules
  – Hourly data should be used
Dev Scenarios – Domestic and Industrial

- Agreed in principle on the proposed three hydropower thematic sub-scenarios
  - Not new issue
  - Not main water use (less than 30 percent)
- Concern on availability of additional data source and the data quality for sand mining/extraction. Use only WWF data

Dev Scenarios – Flood Protection/Floodplain Infrastructure

- No thematic sub-scenarios will be proposed
  - Only collecting data for the 3 main development scenarios
- Plan to use same set of national consultants for Council Study and Initial Study
  - Need to communicate properly and work with FMMP national coordinators
  - None of the national consultants have been contracted in the Council Study
- Discipline teams normally are responsible for conducting assessments
  - However, Flood Team will assess flood risk and damage associated with thematic scenarios
Dev Scenarios – Navigation

- No thematic sub-scenarios were proposed
- Taking advantage of Regional Master Plan
  - Dev Scenarios for Master Plan by Oct 2015
  - Dev Scenarios for Council Study by Dec 2015

Progress on Modelling

- Modelling Approach was approved at two levels: 10\textsuperscript{th} TACT and 4\textsuperscript{th} RTWG
- Required documentation and concerns
  - Requested WUP-FIN document will be submitted to MCs by Friday (15 August 2015)
  - eWATER Source document on IQQM conversion available and will be provided asap
  - Concerns and questions on WUP-FIN will be addressed in the WUP-FIN meeting on 20 August 2015
  - Role of WUP-FIN Team need to be clarified
  - Evaluation of eWATER Source should also include calibration performance
Progress on Modelling

• Need to have full set of National Modellers and Asst Modellers on board
  – TNMC by end of this month will be able to provide modellers
  – Viet Nam national modeling experts are not available due to ongoing commitment on Mekong Delta Study
• Modeling options for Delta in Council Study
  – VNMC does not agree with first option that involves use of Delta Study results. It will be inappropriate for assessing and comparing several scenarios
  – CNMC agree to continue to use WUP-FIN in Delta
  – Will be discussed further during WUP-FIN meeting

Baseline for Council Study

• Should be based on technical criteria and not on budget and time
• TNMC prefers option 2000
• LNMC is leaning to option 2000
• VNMC prefers option 2007
• CNMC prefers option 2007 (?)
• Mekong Delta Study originally was using 2007/2008 for baseline but now is using 2013
• Baseline is a reference against which future impacts are assessed. It does not mean that changes in conditions before the baseline are not important
“Food for Thought” - Baseline for Council Study

- John Dore: Baseline is a reference against which future impacts are assessed. It does not mean that changes in conditions before the baseline are not important.
- Baseline Model: Baseline or Reference Conditions for which Predicted Changes by the Model Can be Compared With
  - Model can be applied across and results can be compared consistently.
- There is always the flexibility that other targeted/more focused assessments can be done (analysing what happened in the past)
  - Comparison between 2000 vs 2007
  - Retrospective assessment of the past (not based on the modeling approach but base on data, other related studies, and expert opinions).

“Food for Thought” - Baseline for Council Study

- CS is estimating impacts as a result of changes in level of developments (time-irrelevant) BUT not predicting the future impacts – closing knowledge gaps.
- However, we can also analyze changes in conditions in the past (because it happened already) – base on observed data, expert interpretation, and supplemented by modeling.
Key Activity - Agreeing on What will be in the Assessment Reports

Chapters
• Predicted Impacts of Developments in the Future – Environmental and Socio-Economic
  – Chapters on 2020 and 2040
  – Chapters on Thematic assessments
• Comparison of 2000 vs. 2007 (Targeted Time Period)
  – Based on observed data and supplemented by models
• Retrospective assessment of the past based on other methodology (from Natural Conditions)
  – Based on data
  – Quantification of MRC framework indicators
  – Perhaps similar to SOB methodology

Thank You