Kratie to Phnom Penh

- ~200 km long
- Low slope: ~0.00005
- Large water level fluctuation 14-18 m
- Major towns/cities: Kratie, Kampong Cham & Phnom Penh
- Numerous villages on islands
Geology of LMB

Structurally ‘Guided’

To Tonle Sap

To delta
Importance of Kratie in LMB

- Flow pattern at Kratie controls timing of flow into and out of the Tonle Sap
  - Tonle Sap VERY sensitive to water level
- Sediment transport at Kratie controls sediment available for deposition on flood plain or in the delta
- Chaktomuk confluence dependant on conditions at Kratie
Flow & Suspended Sediment at Kratie

- 2009 – 2013
- Defined seasons
- Large variation between years

Pattern of sediment delivery

- Little variability of % between years
- 60% in July to Aug
- 80% in June to Sept
What is suspended sediment at Kratie composed of?

- Compared to other sites
  - KT = Kratie

- Over the wet/dry season at Kratie

Bedload at Kratie compared to Chiang Saen

- Predominantly sand at Kratie
- Finer as compared to Chiang Saen
Downstream of Kratie, the Mekong becomes a meandering lowland river.

- slower current;
- a muddy/sandy bed;
- less variation in depth; and
- fringing wetlands and floodplains.

The river drops only 20 m between Kratie and the sea, a distance of c. 500 km (Phnom Penh c. halfway between Kratie and the delta).
Habitat types:

• relatively featureless stretches, where even during the low flow season most of the channel is covered in water;

• stretches with extensive and largely bare sand-bars exposed during the low flow season; and

• channel mosaics, where during the low flow season much of the channel is dry, and a rich variety of bushlands, grass-dominated areas, rocks (sometimes including high-rising outcrops), sand and sometimes gravel area exposed, and the water flow is strongly braided.

• flooded forest. This flooded forest occurs within the braiding of the channel - trees (up to 20m in height) which are partly, largely or entirely submerged during the high flow season.
Bird Species

Many of the bird species present are species of sand bars, and bushlands along braided channel

River tern present in reasonable numbers

River lapwing is present in the braided channel in quite good numbers
Other species include:

- Wire-tailed swallow – southernmost breeding records ion Mekong;
- Cormorants / herons nesting in channel forest trees;
- Bank nesting blue-tailed bee-eaters;
- Distinctive race of pied wagtail

Only mammal of note likely to be otter

Livelihoods
Gravel & sand extraction

Culture & Tourism