MRC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES, MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE 8TH MRC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM
5-6 NOVEMBER 2019, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR

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Principles (1)

The MRC recognizes that stakeholder contribution to decision-making is fundamental to achieving sustainable, equitable and lasting solutions.

The quality of decisions can be improved and made more transparent and accountable by the inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders who can bring important knowledge and perspectives to the process.

MRC Council, Joint Committee, Secretariat
NMC Secretariats
Line agencies
Dialogue Partners (China and Myanmar)
Development Partners
Regional Organizations

Private Developers, consulting firms
Scientific and research institutes
NGOs, CSOs
Principles (2)

Stakeholder engagement is important in all MRC’s key documents including the 1995 Mekong Agreement and its Procedures, the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the MRC, the Rules of Procedure of the Joint Committee of the MRC, Basin Development Strategy and Strategic Plan.
Objectives

To share information in a timely and regular manner to broader stakeholders for better understanding of the subject

To engage in discussions with broader stakeholders in different stages of MRC work

To provide feedbacks and recommendations from broader stakeholders for the consideration of MRC and/or others (in terms of planning and decision making)

To provide feedbacks on how comments and recommendations have been addressed by MRC and/or others

Not to secure endorsements or approvals of broader stakeholders on any MRC strategies, plans, guidelines, projects or activities. Ultimate decisions are the remit of the member countries through various governance mechanisms.
Mechanism

MRC Partners and Stakeholder Engagement Platform

MECHANISMS & GROUPS

- MRC Summit
- Decision makers
- MRC Council
- MRC Joint Committee
- NMCs (Secretariat & National Agencies)
- MRC Expert Groups
- Private Sector
- Research Orgs
- CSOs
- Media

Regional Stakeholder Forums

STRAATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME

5. Effective dialogue and cooperation between Member Countries and strategic engagement of regional partners and stakeholders on transboundary water management

MRC PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

MEETING THE NEEDS / KEEPING THE BALANCE
Public Participation

• The **Statement on Public Participation** was updated in 2017 to suit the current MRC core function context.

• The broader stakeholder engagement is categorized into national and regional level. At Regional level, 07 **Regional Stakeholder Forums** have been organized during the current MRC strategic plan period (since 2016). Numerous smaller and more targeted engagements had been held.

• For sectoral and technical inputs, **expert groups** are potential mechanism to engage broader stakeholders on technical discussions. There are four Expert Groups: (1) Expert Group on Data, Modelling and Forecasting, (2) Expert Group on Environmental Management, (3) Expert Group on Basin Planning, (4) Expert Group on Strategy and Partnership
Regional Stakeholder Forums

- Forums serve as a platform for the MRC’s MCs and other relevant stakeholders to share information, discuss, provide, and exchange views and recommendations on reasonable and equitable use of water and related resources in the Mekong River system in various key MRC activities.

- All the efforts aim to support achieving Mission of the Mekong River Commission “To promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being”.

Official Announcement: Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Council Study and the Pak Beng Hydropower Project

22-23 February 2017 at Luang Prabang, 27 Jan 2017

The 2nd Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Pak Beng Hydropower Project
5th May 2017, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
3rd-4th June 2017, Vientiane, Lao PDR

The Regional Stakeholder Forum on the Council Study and the Update of PDG and Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 15 Nov 2017
The Basin Development Strategy underscores not only the need for stronger cooperation between Member Countries in implementing all strategic priorities but also with Dialogue Partners (China and Myanmar), related regional cooperation frameworks and programmes (primarily ASEAN, ADB and GMS), and broader stakeholders ranging from other international RBOs and research institutes to civil society, Development Partners, and the private sector.

Gender, climate change and cooperation are cross-cutting aspects of Social – Economic – Environment Dimensions in the next BDS 2021-2030.
Prior Consultation Process for Hydropower Project

Stakeholder consultations to ensure a mechanism to raise awareness and to involve people who will be directly and indirectly affected, as well as local and national government agencies, private sector/developers, the regional donor and academic communities, media, and the wider public represented by CSOs.

- Stakeholder engagement to enhance mutual understanding and collectively contribute recommendations and suggestions for minimizing and mitigating possible harmful effects on the environment and people at transboundary level
- Sharing accurate information
- Minimizing misunderstanding and misperceptions of powers and functions by any parties
- Enabling environment to deliver key messages to decision-making process
THANK YOU

One Mekong. One Spirit.