Recognising the need to implement the integrated water resources management principles at different levels, the Mekong River Commission develops three linked components for the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project. This means that activities will be carried out at the national, transboundary and regional levels to support the commitments of the MRC Member Countries to the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

A regional component, supported by AusAID and the World Bank, enables the uptake of the MRC five Procedures and improves existing tools. Built on the work of the now-completed Water Utilisation Programme, it further develops basin-wide models and tools needed by the Member Countries to effectively implement the Agreement. It aims to build a framework for the implementation at different levels in the Lower Mekong Basin.

A transboundary component, supported by the World Bank, aims to implement integrated water resources management on a bilateral basis between the Member Countries, while supporting and protecting pro-poor livelihoods. This component strengthens the cooperative effort by building a common understanding of key water management issues, and sharing the benefits of the countries’ experiences.

A national component, supported by the World Bank, helps the Member Countries meet their commitments to effectively implement the Procedures. It will strengthen capabilities on a national scale by assisting the countries to improve laws and regulations as well as governance mechanisms and technical know-how.