

Basin Development Strategy 2021-2030

Why the Mekong Basin Development Strategy is needed?



The Mekong River Basin supports the people's livelihoods and riparian economies. Population growth, economic development, and poverty reduction continue throughout the Mekong, yet inequality and challenges persist.

Water and related resources developments and infrastructures have changed the flow regimes, **affecting sediment transport** leading to **increased bank erosion, decline in fish population, environmental assets** and **floodplains**, and **reduced replenishment** of the Mekong Delta.

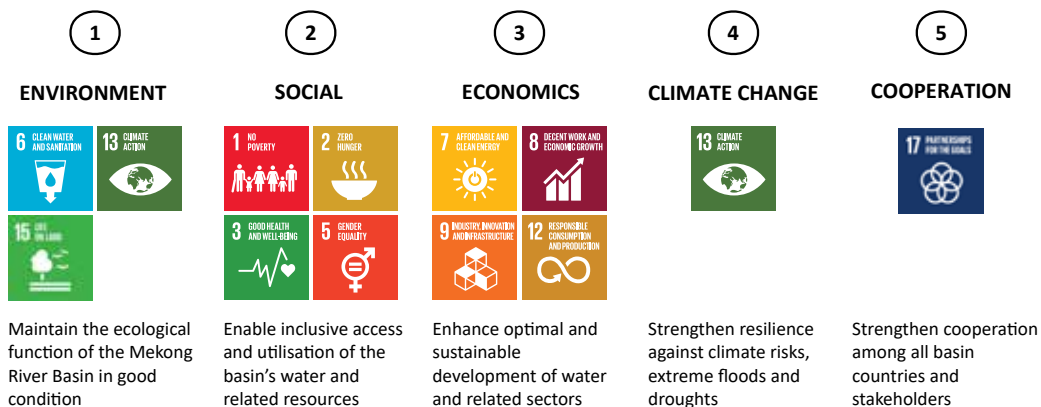


Climate change also influences the health of the Mekong, causing more **extreme floods and droughts**.

A more strategic **regional cooperation, and coordinated planning and operations are essential to improve the overall state of the basin by 2030** and ensure a balanced and responsible development.

How will the BDS address the issues?

The BDS sets out **five strategic priorities** to improve status and indicators as described in the MRC State of the Basin Report (SOBR) and relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also maps out how all relevant actors can collaborate to achieve the outcomes.



➤ What are the outcomes the basin aims to achieve by 2030?

1. MAINTAIN THE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION OF THE MEKONG



Adequate river flows and quality ensured to support a healthy environment.



Sediment transport managed to mitigate bank erosion and land subsidence.



Ecosystem services enhanced from river and wetland habitats.

2. ENABLE INCLUSIVE ACCESS & UTILISATION OF WATER & RELATED RESOURCES



Food, water and energy secured for basin communities.



Employment increased and poverty reduced among vulnerable people depending on river resources.

3. ENHANCE OPTIMAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER AND RELATED SECTORS



Economic growth of all basin countries increased from a more proactive regional planning.



Inclusive growth and sustainability enhanced in irrigated agriculture, hydropower, navigation, environment and fisheries sectors.

4. STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE RISKS, EXTREME FLOODS AND DROUGHTS



Basin communities better informed and prepared against floods and droughts.



Disaster management and adaption to water resources development and climate risks **enhanced**.

5. STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AMONG ALL BASIN COUNTRIES AND STAKEHOLDERS



MRC strengthened for more effective implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement.



Joint efforts and partnerships increased for more integrated management of the basin.

➤ How will the BDS be implemented?

The BDS is designed for implementation by all national and regional stakeholders (through their own strategies, plans, and programmes). The MRC will contribute to a substantial part of the BDS strategic priorities through its Strategic Plan (SP) 2021-2025, comprising 95 activities and 86 expected deliverables.

