



Regional Stakeholder Forum

on Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

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Climate Change and Adaptation Policies in the Lower Mekong Basin



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Outline



- Background and Objectives
- Review and Analytical Framework
- Climate Change and Adaptation Policies at National Level
- Climate Change and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Levels
- Conclusion and Implication for MASAP

Background



- **First important step** in the **MASAP** formulation
- Ensure **consistency and no contradiction** to national policies
- Identify potential **policy gaps & hindrances**
- Describe relevant regional & international policies & programmes that the **MASAP** needs to link to
- Entail the analysis of **policy, legal & institutional settings** related to CC adaptation in water and water related sectors
- Take into account **information management, financial resources and capacity dev't** as cross-cutting issues

Objectives



- Provide an overview of **policy framework** for Tb CC adaptation
- Provide guidance to develop goals and objectives of **MASAP**
- Identify **differences** in arrangement and **possible gaps** with respect to Tb issues
- Provide **input** for formulation and implementation of MASAP
- Provide an overview of **opportunities and limitations** for adaptation options to be included in the **MASAP**
- Support improvement of **enabling environment** for CC adaptation

Scope



- **Policies:** national and regional levels
- **Fields/Sectors:** water, land use, hydropower, food security (agriculture and fisheries), and climate change
- **Regional organizations:** MRC, ASEAN
- **Regional Initiative and Programme:** Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC), and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)
- **International agreements:** Paris Agreement, SDGs, and Sendai Framework

Review and Analytical Framework (1/3)

Enabling environment elements:

Policy setting

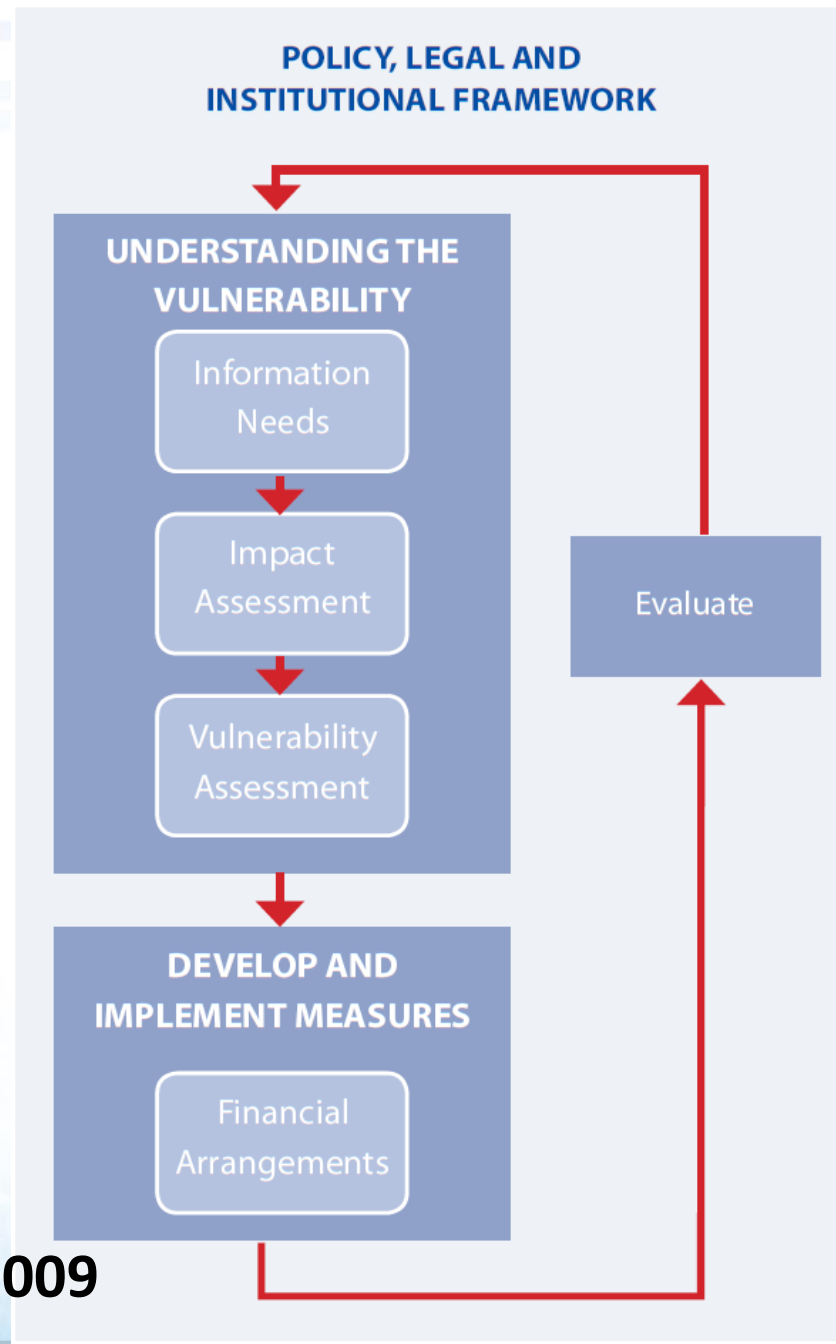
Legal setting

Institutional setting

Information systems

Financing systems

UNECE, 2009



Review and Analytical Framework (2/3)



The tasks include:

- Develop an **overview** of relevant policies, legislation, institutions, information & financial systems
- Analyse them in view of **existing and potential gaps and hindrances** related to Tb issues (MRC's mandate and focus for the MASAP)

Review and Analytical Framework (3/3)

Policy setting: refers to goals of gov't or organization and should be accompanied with **strategies** to reach those goals

Legal setting: is the **legislation** that refers to full set of national and international **laws and agreements**

Institutional setting: refers to formal & informal **networks of organizations** that influence the adaptation strategy

Information systems and Financial systems: comprises

- i. Inventory of information/ financial systems on national & regional scales related to CC adaptation
- ii. Analysis of existing & potential gaps & hindrances related to Tb issues

CC and Adaptation Policies at National Level (1/3)

OVERVIEW

- National policies on CC adaptation are rapidly developed since around 2005
- Policy objective is enhancing CC adaptive capacity of the countries & integrated into socio-economic development policies of the country
- Legal framework on CC adaptation is also developed but lag behind the policy development in many sectors

CC and Adaptation Policies at National Level (2/3)



OVERVIEW (Continue)

- Institutions are in place.
- Coordination and institutional capacity are still developing
- Information system and financial resources are developing which implies fragmented and short-term actions which are no really effective.

CC and Adaptation Policies at National Level (3/3)



PROVISIONS FOR ADDRESSING CC ADAPTATION AT BASIN LEVEL

- Explicit national policy or law addressing CC adaptation at basin level is missing, except for Viet Nam
- National Mekong Committees (NMCs) are the only institutions at national level to cooperate with regional level, the MRC, in terms of water and water related resources including CC for the Mekong River Basin
- National budget and funding received from Development Partners is specifically used for CC adaptation within the countries

CC and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Level (1/5)



- Mekong River Commission (MRC)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN)
- Other regional initiatives:
 - Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Programme
 - Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC)
- International Agreements:
 - Paris Agreement
 - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Sendai Framework

CC and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Level (2/5)



OVERVIEW

- ASEAN's objectives and activities provide a good basis and support for the policies and activities under the MRC, and vice versa.
- NO explicit LINK established between the two organizations. The different institutional setting may complicate coordination over joint activities
- GMS Programme and LMC play an important role in the LMB's CC and adaptation. They potentially yield important synergies with MRC's activities

CC and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Level (3/5)

OVERVIEW (continue)

- Global agreements based on countries' commitments, like the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the SDGs, provide a strong push towards improved CC adaptation actions
- Funding for regional CC adaptation activities are available in regional organizations & initiatives. However, specific share of regional funding for addressing CC adaptation at basin level is limited

CC and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Level (4/5)



PROVISIONS FOR ADDRESSING CC ADAPTATION AT BASIN LEVEL

- Regionally, the policy, legal framework & institutional arrangement of MRC are the only provisions specifically addressing CC adaptation at basin level
- The cooperation framework under ASEAN and other regional programmes while addressing regional activities do not provide actions focusing on adaptation at basin level.

CC and Adaptation Policies at Regional and International Level (5/5)



PROVISIONS FOR ADDRESSING CC ADAPTATION AT BASIN LEVEL (continue)

- Global frameworks provide goals & implementation support to developing countries and can as such support implementation of the MASAP
 - UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement (UNFCCC 2015) provides a strong framework for developing the MASAP
 - SDGs contain provisions to combat the effects of CC & have a supporting mechanism for their implementation
 - Sendai Framework contains provisions for countries to be better prepared for disasters, also in the long run

Conclusion and implication for MASAP (1/5)



- Policies and legislation are in place, both at national and regional level
 - Largely enable CC adaptation in the region
- At both national and regional levels, provisions for addressing CC adaptation at basin level are found only in the framework of Mekong Agreement,
 - ❖ i.e. in policies and activities provided by the MRC

Conclusion and implication for MASAP (2/5)



- MASAP is a unique regional strategy that will provide the opportunity and platform for joint actions addressing the critical aspects of Tb adaptation to CC
 - The NEED to address climate & water linkage at basin level using IWRM approach
 - The NEED to address Tb issues associated with CC adaptation
 - The NEED to support riparian countries to implement adaptation strategies at national, regional and international levels

Conclusion and implication for MASAP (3/5)



- CC adaptation policies nevertheless have to compete with other policies, at both national and regional levels
- Mainstreaming CC in all relevant policies NEEDs continued attention
 - NEED a strategy in the MASAP to address & provide supports for mainstreaming CC into national & regional strategies and plans.
- The institutional setting both at national & regional level is found often quite complicated
 - NEED to explore potential synergies between MRC & ASEAN & Initiatives like GMS Programme and LMC

Conclusion and implication for MASAP (4/5)



- Different development partners do not always have similar goals. Their goals may not always be in line with national & regional policies
 - RECOMMENDED to streamline Development Partners' involvement into the national & transnational policies and plans like the MASAP
- Several global frameworks like the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be supportive in implementing the MASAP

Conclusion and implication for MASAP (5/5)



- There is an **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT** for development & Implementation of the MASAP
 - but **NEED** to address issues on limited availability of information, financial resources and the complexity of the institutional setting need to be addressed
- The **ADDED VALUES** of the MASAP will be the focus on addressing critical Transboundary CC adaptation aspects and on the unique position of MRC in the regional CC institutional landscape



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Thank you

