



Regional Stakeholder Forum
on **Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan**
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Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP)



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Mandate



- CC occurred and will continue. LMB countries - among the most vulnerable countries in the world
- Adaptation to CC impacts: recognized as urgently needed
- MRC CCAI was asked to formulate and implement Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP). MASAP formulation and implementation: integrated in MRC SP 2011-2015 and 2016-2020
- The importance of MRC's works on CC adaptation: reaffirmed in both the Hua Hin Declaration (2010) and the Ho Chi Minh City Declaration (2014). The Heads of the Governments emphasized the need for MRC to focus and prioritize on researching and addressing the threats to livelihoods posed by CC and preparing for CC adaptation measures, including the MASAP

Purpose



- The MASAP is a statement of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) setting out the strategic priorities and actions at basin level to address climate change risks on the basin and strengthen basin-wide resilience.
- The MASAP, while strengthen basin-wide resilience, will contribute to ensuring sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin in line with the 1995 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin (the 1995 Mekong Agreement).

Aligned Vision



- The MASAP is formulated following the MRC's vision of an economically prosperous, socially just, environmentally sound and climate resilient Mekong River Basin.
- The MASAP contributes to ensuring that people, communities, businesses, and other organizations be able to cope with current climate variability as well as adapt to future climate change, preserving development gains, and minimizing damages.

Added values



- The added values of the MASAP are ensured by addressing critical CC adaptation aspects that need transboundary cooperation and by enhancing the capacity of MCs in implementing their own national strategies
- The critical transboundary aspects that MASAP addresses are:
 - The need to address the climate and water linkage at basin level using IWRM approach.
 - The need to address transboundary issues associated with climate change adaptation.
 - The need to support riparian countries to implement their adaptation strategies and plans at national, regional and international level.

The MASAP in brief



- A tool to mainstream adaptation planning at national and regional level
- An opportunity to seek additional funding for adaptation measures firstly at the regional scale but also at national scale to address transboundary climate change issues
- An orientation (through the CCAI Basin-wide assessment) for the identification of concrete relevant adaptation measures
- A strategy aligned to but complementing the already existing national strategy and plans as well as the Nationally Determined Contribution on CC adaptation

Outline of MASAP



- Chapter 1- Introduction
- Chapter 2- Framework conditions
- Chapter 3- Climate change and vulnerability in the LMB
- Chapter 4- Strategic Guidance and Priorities for Basin Adaptation to Climate Change
- Chapter 5- Action Plan for Basin Adaptation to Climate Change

Strategic Guidance



MRC's strategic priorities and actions in climate change and adaptation should:

- *Support sustainable development pathways, especially having broad socioeconomic benefits and rationale and ensuring resilience to shocks* whether they be due to climate change or other causes
- *Support improved governance and strengthened institutions* that allow for participatory approaches and enhanced decision-making capacity for individuals and communities.

Strategic Guidance (cont.)



- *For adaptation measure, it needs to identify opportunities:*
 - Opportunities: direct effects of CC - very much context specific and vary greatly in different areas in the LMB.
 - Developing adaptation options through its integrated approach provides opportunities for linkages and synergies in adaptation with other themes. It also comprises opportunities for improving transboundary cooperation
 - Implementing adaptation measures provides opportunities to attract funding and opportunities to improve livelihood
- *Be flexible and scalable* - the direction and magnitude of change: uncertainty. It is important that communities can deal with change regardless of how it manifests itself and can rapidly scale-up the response.

The 7 strategic priorities, the pillars of the MASAP



1. Mainstreaming CC into regional and national policies, programs and plans;
2. Regional and international cooperation and partnership on adaptation;
3. Implementation of transboundary, gender sensitive adaptation options;
4. Access to adaptation finance;
5. Monitoring, data collection and sharing;
6. Capacity development for climate change adaptation strategies and plans;
7. Outreach of MRC products on climate change and adaptation.

MASAP's strategic priority n#1: Mainstreaming CC into regional and national policies, programs and plans



- Any water related strategies and long-term programmes in the LMB should consider such modifications due to CC and should address them in the planned actions.
- Opportunities as arising from the integrated climate change assessments and the subsequent analysis should be included in the process of mainstreaming
- Aligned to this strategic priority, at regional level mainstreaming awareness of CC impacts and associated measures to the MRC sectoral strategies developed during 2016-2020, the NIPs and the BDS 2021-2025 should be done.

MASAP's strategic priority n#1 : Mainstreaming CC into regional and national policies, programs and plans (cont.)



- To ensure consistency regarding future climate projections between the MRC sectoral strategies 2016-2020, the NIPs, the BDS 2021-2025 and the MASAP, all should be based on the CC scenarios
- Mainstreaming at the national level to enhance adaptive capacity of MCs, through mainstreaming of strategic priorities and actions of the MASAP into national adaptation projects and programmes as well as streamlining the NIPs with the MASAP.
- To ensure that the adaptation strategy remains relevant under new insights and developments in CC and its effects, regular updating of the MASAP is needed.

MASAP's strategic priority n#2: Regional and international cooperation and partnership on adaptation



- Transboundary cooperation: necessary and beneficial in adapting to CC.
- More efficient and effective adaptation, among others, by pooling available data, models, scenarios and resources and enlarges the planning space for locating adaptation measures
- Demands not only strong political will, but also a solid institutional basis both at the national and regional level
- Strengthen the links between the national CC focal agencies, related line agencies and the NMCs: amplify the cooperation between MRC and the MCs in CC adaptation.

MASAP's strategic priority n#2: Regional and international cooperation and partnership on adaptation (cont.)



- Cooperation between MRC and other regional coordination mechanisms like ASEAN and LMC: yield improved consistency between the regional responses, avoid duplication of efforts, and help strengthen the efforts.
- Exchange of good practices and experiences with CC communities at both regional and international level.
- Strengthening the link and partnerships with international / regional communities and making such partnership more sustainable, all can be institutionalized within the MRC.
- Funding is required for implementation of the MASAP. Networking with IFIs and other donors: to mobilise funds for the intended projects.

MASAP's strategic priority n#3: Enable implementation of transboundary and gender sensitive adaptation measures



- Implementation of transboundary adaptation measures: fundamental to ensure progress towards the MASAP vision.
- Relevant projects: further identified and described and subsequently implemented
- For adaptation measures to be effective and efficient, they need to reflect differentiated vulnerabilities and needs among the different groups.
- Gender and age awareness as well as equity will be considered.
- Implementation of the PINs is highly dependent on securing resources. MRC will be in contact with various organizations that are likely to be able to provide support

MASAP's strategic priority n#4: Access to adaptation finance



- Specific attention is needed regarding finance to secure sufficient funding for implementation of the MASAP
- MRC will engage with DPs and international funding mechanisms to mobilize funding for implementation of the PINs
- Various international funding mechanisms exist to support countries in implementing CC adaptation initiatives. MRC will identify and analyse the relevant mechanisms and will keep track and inform MCs of the changes in the mechanisms and the finance landscape.

MASAP's strategic priority n#5: Monitoring, data collection and sharing



- Improved information: needed to reduce the uncertainty associated with risk assessment, vulnerability assessment and progress and effectiveness of the adaptation strategy.
- Data collection and sharing: needed to provide for the necessary information at the basin scale.
- The CCA indicators of the basin-wide monitoring and reporting system will need to be completed and improved in order to provide the relevant information to identify status and trends in CC effects and adaptation

MASAP's strategic priority n#5: Monitoring, data collection and sharing (cont.)



- Collection of the data by the MCs to assess the indicators and sharing of the data with MRC is needed to ensure that sufficient information is available to make informed decisions and to be able to improve the MASAP in its next planning cycle
- The collected information will be reported and compiled into the updated overviews of status and trends of the CCA indicators.

MASAP's strategic priority n#6: Capacity development for climate change adaptation strategies and plans



- Capacity building is needed to enhance national and regional capacity on development of CC adaptation strategies and plans.
- A range of guidelines, methods and tools related to CC adaptation developed. MRCS will provide support in applying these ones.
- For instance, developing a CC impact and vulnerability assessment by sharing its approach, experience and the available methods and tools.
- MRC will share, on request, its approach and experience in developing the MASAP with the MCs to support them in developing national and sub-national adaptation strategies.

MASAP's strategic priority n#7: Outreach of MRC products on climate change and adaptation



- To ensure MRC findings and products on CC adaptation are known and used in the MCs and the outsider, activities to communicate and disseminate need to identify
- The MRC website and Data Portal contains information on the activities and results of the work on CC: maintained and updated when relevant
- News and updates will be announced through social media like the MRC Facebook. Through this channel, also the public at large can gain more awareness of the CC impact and adaptation.
- The process and results of the MASAP will be presented and discussed at relevant events including the Mekong Forum to gain further experience.

Action Plan for Basin Adaptation to Climate Change



1. Introduction
2. Framework conditions
3. Climate change and vulnerability in the LMB
4. Strategic Guidance and Priorities for Basin Adaptation to Climate Change

5. Action Plan for Basin Adaptation to Climate Change

This section depicts the role of each partner in the implementation of this strategy, the actions to be taken from 2017 to 2022, the approach to monitor, evaluate, report on and eventually update the strategy.

5.1 Roles and responsibilities of the implementation

5.2 Action Plan

5.3 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

5.4 Updating of the MASAP

Roles and responsibilities



| Stakeholder | Roles and responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Mekong River Commission Council | Provide strategic guidance to implementation and promotion of the MASAP at a high-level to all relevant national and regional development initiatives |
| Mekong River Commission Joint Committee (JC) | Provide direct implementation guidance to implementation and promotion of the MASAP at senior-level to all relevant national and regional development initiatives |
| Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) | Facilitate, support and monitor the implementation of the MASAP and regularly report to the Joint Committee and Council |
| National Mekong Committees Secretariat | Act as liaison between MRC and the respective national climate change committees and mainstream climate change adaptation into the National Indicative Plans (NIPs) |
| National Line Agencies including National Climate Change Focal Agencies | Develop and implement transboundary – influential climate change adaptation projects |

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Roles and responsibilities



| Stakeholder | Roles and responsibilities |
|----------------------|--|
| Dialogue Partners | Take account of basin-wide climate change adaptation approach and priorities as suggested by the MASAP and continue exchanging and sharing of information and technical expertise |
| Development Partners | Promote the basin-wide climate change adaptation approach as suggested by the MASAP and continue providing financial and technical support in addressing MASAP strategic priorities and actions both at regional and national bilateral levels |

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Roles and responsibilities



| Stakeholder | Roles and responsibilities |
|--|---|
| Regional institutions/initiatives | Identify synergies and support co-implementation of actions. Avoid duplication of efforts. |
| Research institutes and universities | Consider and promote basin-wide climate change adaptation approaches and priorities as suggested by the MASAP and contribute to the generation and dissemination of information and knowledge |
| Other non-governmental organizations / civil society organizations | Promote basin-wide climate change adaptation approaches and priorities as suggested by the MASAP and contribute to information generation and stakeholder communication and outreach |
| Private sector | Cooperate with MRC and MCs in searching for synergies and mutual support for climate change adaptation |

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Action plan Strategic priority 1



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|--|------------|---|
| 1. Mainstream climate change into regional and national policies, programmes and plans | 1.1. Promote the use of the CCAI climate change scenarios and the findings of CCAI basin-wide assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate internally (MRCS) the information about the agreed CC scenarios (already done for Council Study) Inform sectoral experts of relevant BWA assessment findings in general but especially at the start of the formulation process of any upcoming MRC sectoral strategies and BDS (brown bag lunches, bilateral meetings, sharing of finalized documents) | 2018-2019 | 1. Number of presentations on scenarios and BWA by MRCS staff at internal and regional meetings |
| | 1.2. Climate proof MRC sectoral strategies 2016-2020 and the next BDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of MRCS climate expert during formulation process of upcoming MRC sectoral strategies and BDS Review of already existing sectoral strategies by MRCS climate expert | 2018-2020 | 2. Number of MRC sectoral strategies that account for climate change 3. Next BDS incorporates climate change |

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Action plan Strategic priority 1



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 1. Mainstream climate change into regional and national policies, programmes and plans | 1.3. Promote mainstreaming of MASAP's adaptation strategic priorities at national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the national policy reviews list which strategic priorities need more support in each country Conduct one working session in each country to identify which actions to undertake to achieve higher mainstreaming of the listed priorities Implement these actions in each MC | 2018-2020 | 4. Number of relevant national policies that have incorporated some of the MASAP's adaptation strategic priorities |
| | 1.4. Update the MASAP and streamline it with the BDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide at MRC level how to articulate the different strategies and their respective planning cycle Ensure updating and streamlining processes accordingly | 2022 | 5. Next MASAP (2023 – 2027) has been elaborated and is streamlined with BDS |

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Action plan Strategic priority 2



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|---|------------|--|
| 2. Enhance regional and international cooperation and partnership on adaptation | 2.1. Facilitate designing and implementation of transboundary adaptation projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a working group | 2018 | 6. Number of transboundary adaptation projects that MRCS has been involved in |
| | 2.2. Promote improved coordination between NMCs, national climate change focal agencies and related line agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify with each country which actions could be taken to improve the coordination Implement the identified actions in each MCs | 2018-2020 | 7. Number of national and regional meetings in which climate change is discussed with participation of MRCS staff |
| | 2.3. Strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and LMC regarding climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish contact with ASEAN and LMC on the topic of CC List existing synergies Establish a joint action plan with ASEAN and/or LMC on CC | 2019-2021 | 8. Number of meetings with participation of ASEAN and/or LMC representatives and MRCS representatives 9. A joint action plan with ASEAN and/or LMC is established |

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Action plan Strategic priority 2



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|---|------------|--|
| 2. Enhance regional and international cooperation and partnership on adaptation | 2.4. Strengthen and/or institutionalize partnership between MRC and international climate change communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify international CC communities of strategic interest to MRC Establish contact with them and seek formal and/or informal partnership Organize joint events, participate in respective events | 2018-2022 | 10. Number of formal and informal partnerships with international climate change communities |
| | 2.5. Strengthen cooperation with IFIs and other donors to assist funding supports for formulation and implementation of the PINs as identified under adaptation strategic priority # 3 | 2018-2020 | 11. Number of meetings with IFI's and other donors |

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Action plan Strategic priority 3



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|---|---|------------|---|
| 3. Enable implementation of transboundary and gender sensitive adaptation measures | 3.1. Promote implementation of transboundary adaptation projects in climate change hotspot areas as the suggested adaptation measures and their PINs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop further the initial ideas (either consolidating JP-NIP / sectoral strategies) or developing a stand-alone adaptation project Identify possible funding sources Support the development of proposal for submission to funding source, in line with requirements | 2018-2020 | 12. Number of transboundary adaptation projects in climate change hotspot areas |
| | 3.2. Promote and support identification of additional relevant PINs for the suggested adaptation measures | 2020-2022 | 13. Number of PINs developed |
| | 3.3. Network with other organizations to formulate and implement PINs as described under strategic priorities #2 and # 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the context of activity under 2.4., establish partnership for identification and implementation of adaptation projects in MCs | 2018-2022 | 14. Number of meetings on formulation and implementation of PINs that MRCS staff has been involved in |

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Action plan Strategic priority 4



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|--|------------|---|
| 4. Support access to adaptation finance | 4.1. Identify mechanisms of access to adaptation finance by the MCs and MRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a regional training on the different existing mechanisms MRCS informs NMCs about latest development at the regional level regarding potential funding sources NMCs inform MRCS about latest development at the national level regarding established funds, pipeline development | 2018-2022 | 15. Regional training organized |
| | 4.2. Support the mobilization of funding, including access to adaptation finance, for the formulation and implementation of the PINs described under strategic priority #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of full proposal for submission to funds | 2019-2021 | 16. Number of PINs for which adaptation finance has been arranged |

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Action plan Strategic priority 5



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|---|---|------------|--|
| 5. Enhance monitoring, data collection and sharing | 5.1. Promote enhanced and continued data collection and sharing on the agreed list of CCA indicators following the Procedure for Data Exchange and Information Sharing (PDEIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCs inform on their respective national CCA M&E systems and share the data MRCS complements the missing baselines with information provided by MCs and public data sets | 2018-2019 | 17. Baselines are available for the 66 CCA indicators |
| | 5.2. Regular reporting on status and trends of CCA indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status report is published Update of CCA indicators dashboard is prepared | 2018-2021 | 18. First Status report is published 19. Second status report is prepared |
| | 5.3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of MASAP | 2021 | 20. MASAP indicators are integrated into M&E system of MRC Strategic Plan |

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Action plan Strategic priority 6



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|--|------------|--|
| 6. Strengthen capacity on development of climate change adaptation strategies and plans | 6.1. Ensure dissemination of the CCAI products via different communication channels (linked to strategic priority #7) | 2018-2020 | Indicators 26, 27 and 28 |
| | 6.2. Improve and consolidate the adaptation strategy development approach including the underlying methods, guidelines and tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the most critical knowledge gaps identified during the BWA consultation processes are addressed by specific studies MASAP's update takes into account the international climate community's latest findings and orientations | 2018-2020 | 21. Next MASAP (2023 – 2027) integrates new knowledge compared to this first MASAP (2018-2022) |
| | 6.3. Promote and support application of the MRC climate change impact and vulnerability assessment approach, methods and tools at national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize presentation of the approach to MC, based on requests | continuous | 22. Number of MRC countries that have used MRC approach, methods and tools |

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Action plan Strategic priority 6



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|--|--|------------|---|
| 6. Strengthen capacity on development of climate change adaptation strategies and plans | 6.4. Promote and support application of the MRC approach toward development of adaptation strategies at national level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize presentation of the approach to MC, based on requests | continuous | 23. Number of MRC countries that have used MRC approach to update their national strategy |
| | 6.5. Update the Capacity Need Assessment, formulate and implement Capacity Building Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the Capacity Need Assessment established by CCAI in 2014 at MCs level Implement in the MCs the prioritized training needs listed in the assessment Evaluate the Capacity Building Activities | 2019-2021 | 24. Capacity Need Assessment has been updated 25. Number of capacity building activities implemented |

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Action plan Strategic priority 7



| Strategic priorities | Activities | Time frame | Indicators |
|---|--|------------|--|
| 7. Improve outreach of MRC products on climate change and adaptation | 7.1. Maintain and update MRC CCAI website, data portal and social media | continuous | 26. Number of visits to website and data portal |
| | 7.2. Disseminate MASAP at relevant events | continuous | 27. Number of events at which the MASAP has been presented |
| | 7.3. Develop communication campaigns on MRC CCAI products including MASAP to universities and other stakeholders | 2018-2020 | 28. Number of communication campaigns organized |

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MASAP M&E, reporting and update



1. Define how to operationalize MASAP M&E, integrate MASAP M&E into M&E system of MRC SP.
2. Update the strategy (see action plan 1.4. & 6.2.): in alignment with MRC strategic planning cycle (every 5 years) and based on scientific progress (CC scenarios, methodologies), regional knowledge (collection and availability of data) and lessons learned (MASAP M&E)

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Thank you

