

OVERVIEW OF THE MRC BASIN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE UPDATE FOR 2021-2030

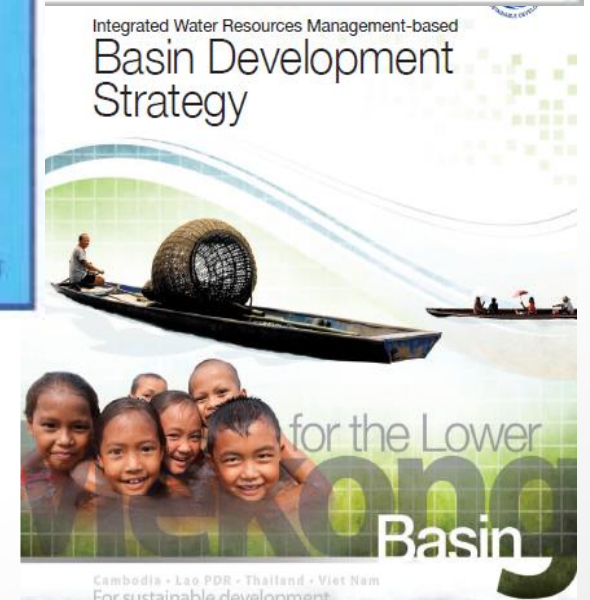
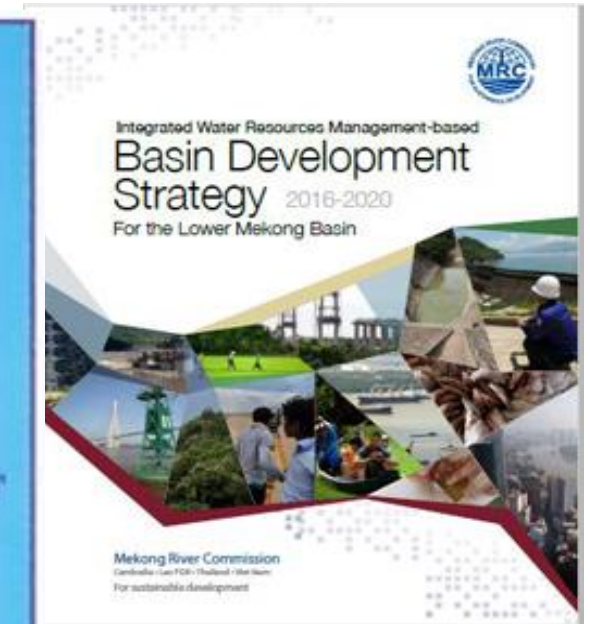
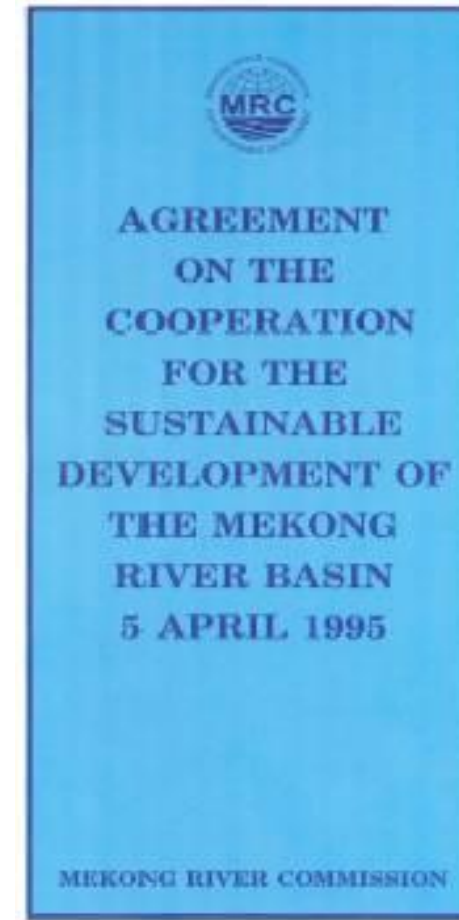
8TH MRC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM, 05-06 NOVEMBER, 2019

Dr. Thim Ly, Chief River Basin Planner, MRCS



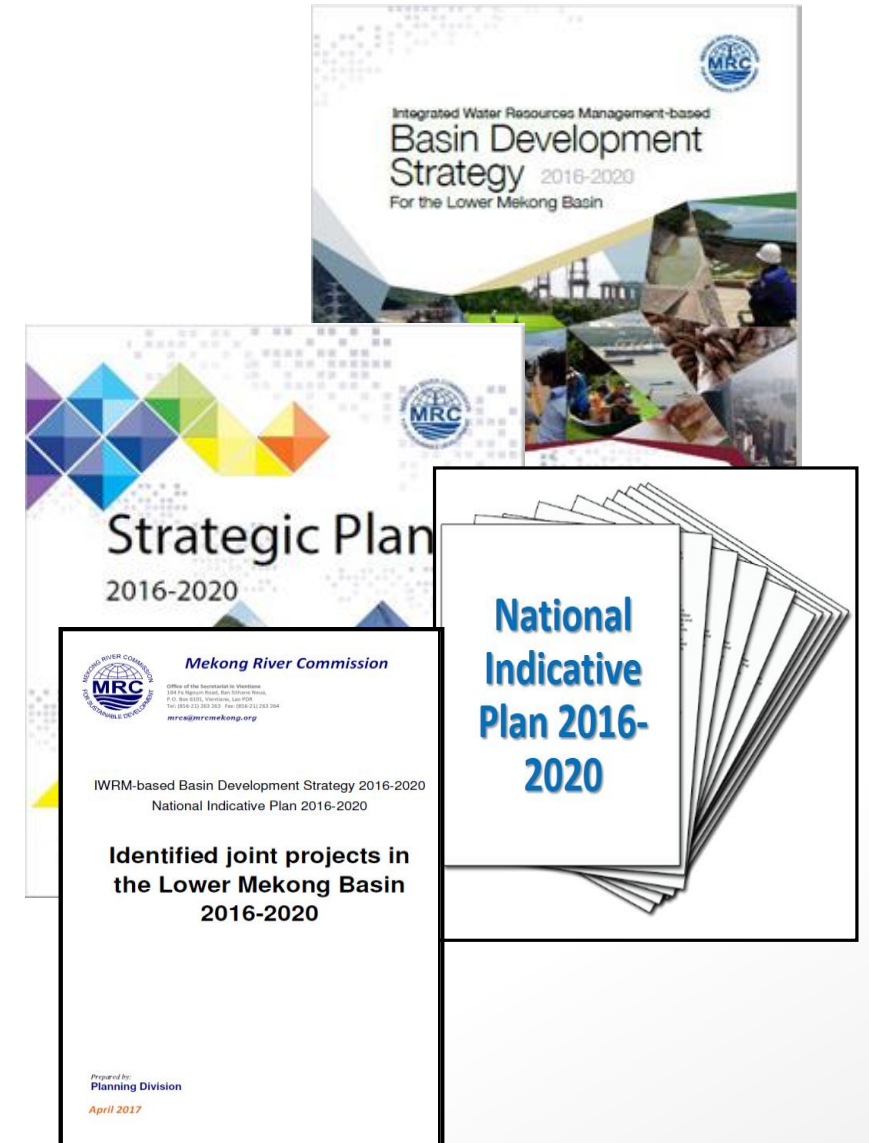
Introduction

- BDS is a statement of the LMB countries **SETTING OUT** how they will utilize, manage and conserve water & related resources of the Mekong in line with the 1995 MA
- Provides regional perspectives for development opportunities and management of the basin
- Responds to the goals, objectives and underlying **PRINCIPLES** of the 1995 MA
- Is an **INSTRUMENT** for basin planning and cooperation
- TWO BDS have been developed, 2011-2015 & 2016-2020



Implementation of BDS 2016-2020

- MRC implements BDS through its *Strategic Plan* (MRC-SP) at regional level and *National Indicative Plans* (NIPs) at national level
- Currently, MRC SP and NIPs 2016-2020 are being implemented
- BDS Applied to all other actors in the Mekong region for implementation



7 Strategic Priorities of BDS 2016-2020

- Reduce remaining knowledge gaps to minimise risks;
- Optimise basin-wide sustainable development and cost and benefit sharing;
- Strengthen the protection of mutually agreed environmental assets;
- Strengthen basin-wide procedures and national implementation capacity;
- Improve national water resources development;
- Enhance information management, communication and tools; and
- Increase cooperation with partners and stakeholders.

Implementation of BDS through SP 2016-2020



- A total of **7** Outcomes categorized under **4** Key Results Areas
- A total of **44** Outputs defined
- ❖ A total of **9** Outputs belonging to “ongoing commitments” (ending in 2017/ 2018)
- Approximately **190+** key indicative activities are defined

KEY RESULT AREA 1: ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND RESOURCES FROM BASIN-WIDE PERSPECTIVES

Outcomes:

1. Increased common understanding
Studies & Assessments (Short Term)
2. Environment management and
Basin-wide sector & cross sector strategies (Long Term)
3. Guidance for the development and
Guidelines / Guidance (Short Term)
implementing agencies

KEY RESULT AREA 2: STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

Outcomes:

4. **Review and update the Procedures Technical Guidelines**
5. **Promote Common Understanding**
- Strengthening cooperation with China**
- Leveraging partnerships with ASEAN and GMS**
- Regional Stakeholder Platform**

KEY RESULT AREA 3: BETTER MONITORING AND COMMUNICATION OF THE BASIN CONDITIONS

Outcome:

6. **Data Quality & Timeliness**
strengthened for better
- Monitoring & forecasting systems**
- Regional databases & web data portal**
- Communication Network**

KEY RESULT AREA 4: LEANER RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATION

Outcome:

7. MRC transitioned to a more efficient and effective organisation in line with the decentralisation Roadmap and related reform plans

Basin Wide Strategies

To optimize national plans

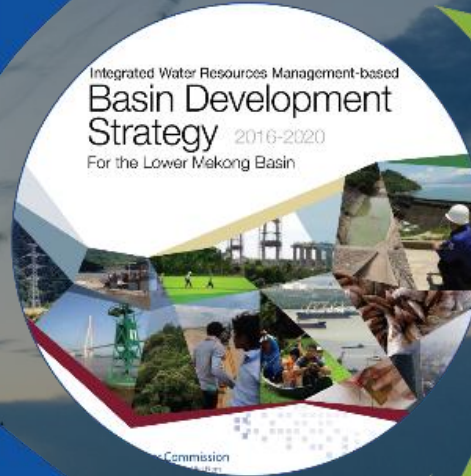
Under Implementation

Mekong
Adaptation
Strategy and
Action Plan
(MASAP)

Basin-wide
Fisheries
Management and
Development
Strategy (BFMS)

Master Plan for
Waterborne
Transportation

National
Indicative Plans
(NIP)



Basin-wide
Environmental
Management
Strategy

Sustainable
Hydropower
Development
Strategy

Drought
Management
and Mitigation
Strategy

Under Development

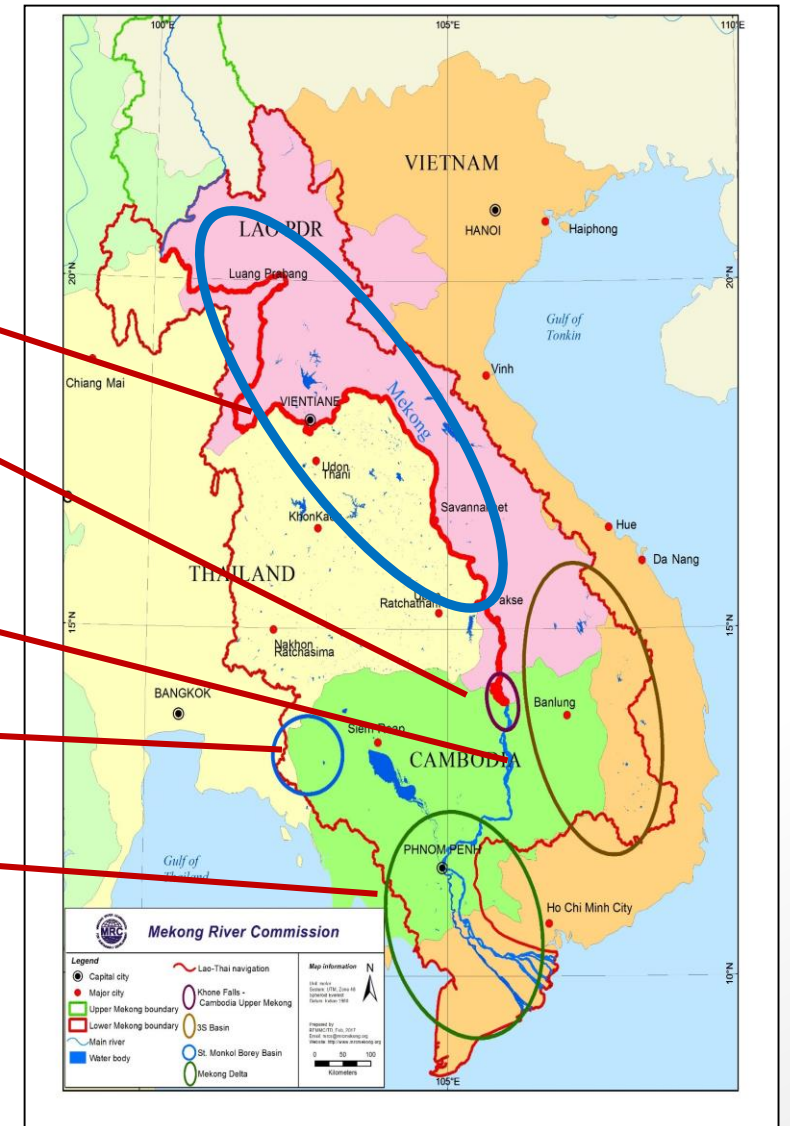
Implementation of BDS through National Indicative Plans (NIPs)

- NIPs contain:
 - *Joint projects*
 - *National projects* of basin-wide significance.
 - *National activities* with basin-wide significance
 - *Decentralized CRBMF activities.*

Four NIPs				
NIP	Cambodia (Aug 2016)	Lao PDR (Sep 2016)	Thailand (Mar 2016)	Vietnam (Aug 2016)
Joint Project	5			
National Project	2	7	2	4
National Activity	2	9	6	13
Decentralized Activity	9	7	9	5

Implementation of BDS through National Indicative Plans (NIPs)

- **Objectives:** Increase **benefits**, reduce **costs**, and provide **water security**
- **5 Joint Projects:**
 1. Lao-Thai safety regulation for **Navigation** (L, T)
 2. Cross border **WR mang't in Khone Falls Region** (C, L)
 3. Sustainable **WR mang't in 3S basin** (C, L, V)
 4. **Flood & drought mang't** in Cambodian-Thai border area (C, T)
 5. **Integrated flood mang't** in the Mekong Delta (C, V)



Preparation of BDS 2021-2030

General Approach and Method

BDS toward 2030:

- ❖ Adopt a shared vision planning exercise by developing a vision toward 2040;
- ❖ Based on the vision, 10-year strategic priorities & outcomes (2021 - 2030) will be developed to achieve the vision
- ❖ The strategic priorities & outcomes will recommend a coherent suite of strategic outputs and actions for the new SP and NIPs to be formulated in 2020



CONCEPT NOTE

Updating of Basin Development Strategy 2021-2030

12 June 2019

1. Introduction

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)-based Basin Development Strategy (BDS) was firstly developed in 2011 with a five-year planning cycle for 2011-2015, followed by the updated BDS 2016-2020.

The BDS is a statement of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) countries setting out how they will utilize, manage and conserve the water and related resources of the Mekong in line with the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin (the 1995 Mekong Agreement). It provides regional perspectives for development opportunities and management of the basin. It also responds to the goals, objectives and underlying principles of the 1995 Mekong Agreement. The BDS is an instrument for basin planning and cooperation.

Since 2011, the BDS has been implemented at regional and national levels through its MRC Strategic Plan (MRC SP) and the four National Indicative Plans (NIPs) for 2011-2015 and 2016-2020, respectively. Currently, the plans are being implemented for 2016-2020.

For the next planning cycle, the update of the BDS will adopt the approach of shared vision planning which includes the development of long-term vision toward 2040 to reflect the recommendations of the MRC Council Study entitled "Study on Sustainable Management and Development of the Mekong River including Impacts of Mainstream Hydropower Projects." With the 20-year vision, the BDS will identify the strategic priorities for the development and management of the basin for the duration of 10 years to guide the development of the MRC SP and NIPs for two short-terms of 5 years for 2021-2025 and 2026-2030. In this regard, the next BDS will be developed for a span of ten years (2021-2030).

This concept note is developed to serve as a roadmap to guide the update of the BDS 2021-2030, including overall framework, scope, approach, mechanisms, processes, outputs, and activities and timeframe. It has been incorporated inputs from internal discussion with Divisions of the MRC Secretariat as well as consultations with Member Countries through Expert Group of Basin Planning (EGBP) conducted on 13 May, and 06 June 2019, respectively. At the EGBP meeting, the term "Sustainable" was requested to add to BDS.

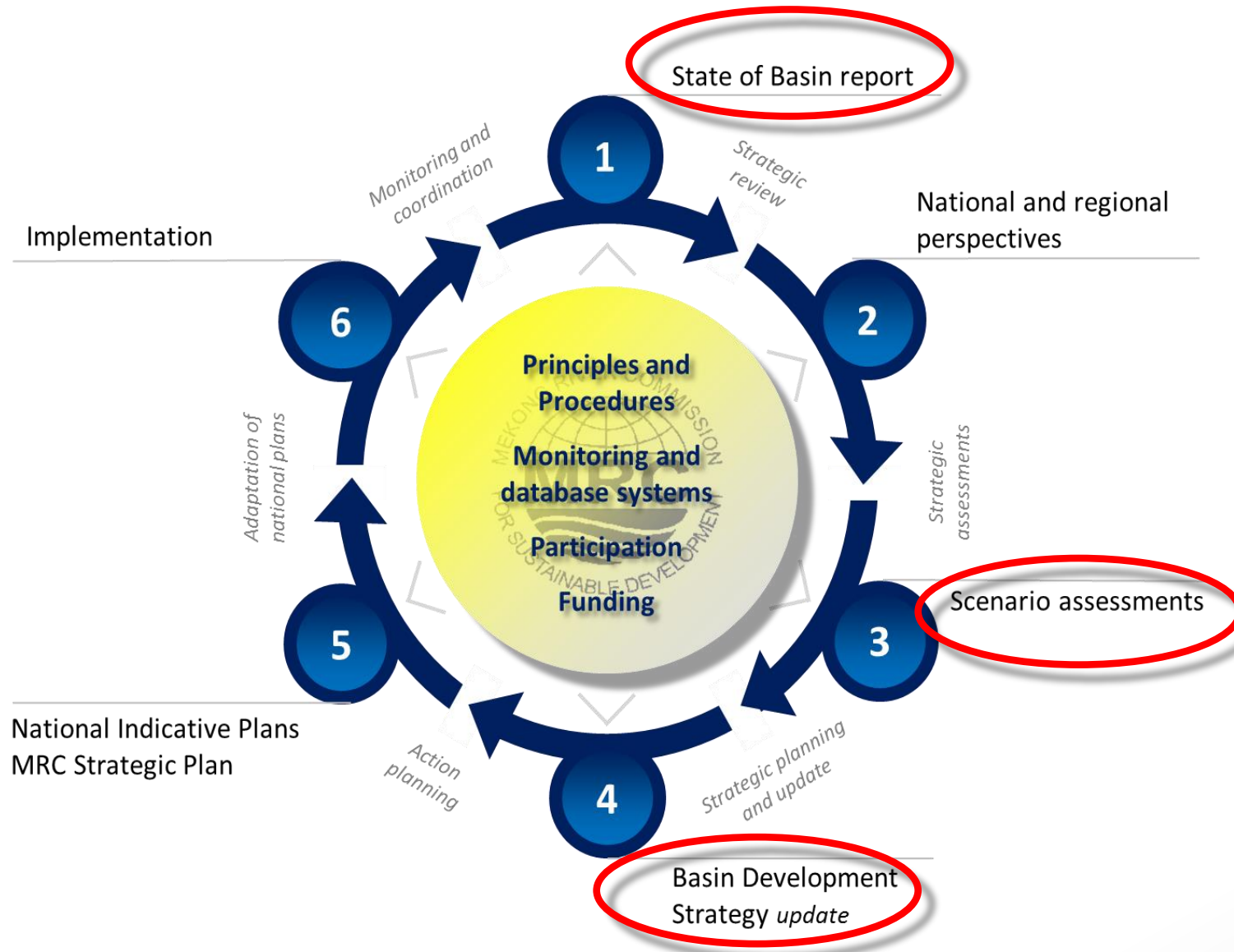
2. Roadmap to update the Sustainable Basin Development Strategy (SBDS) 2021-2030

The roadmap describes overall framework, scope, approach, mechanisms, processes, outputs, and activities and timeframe.

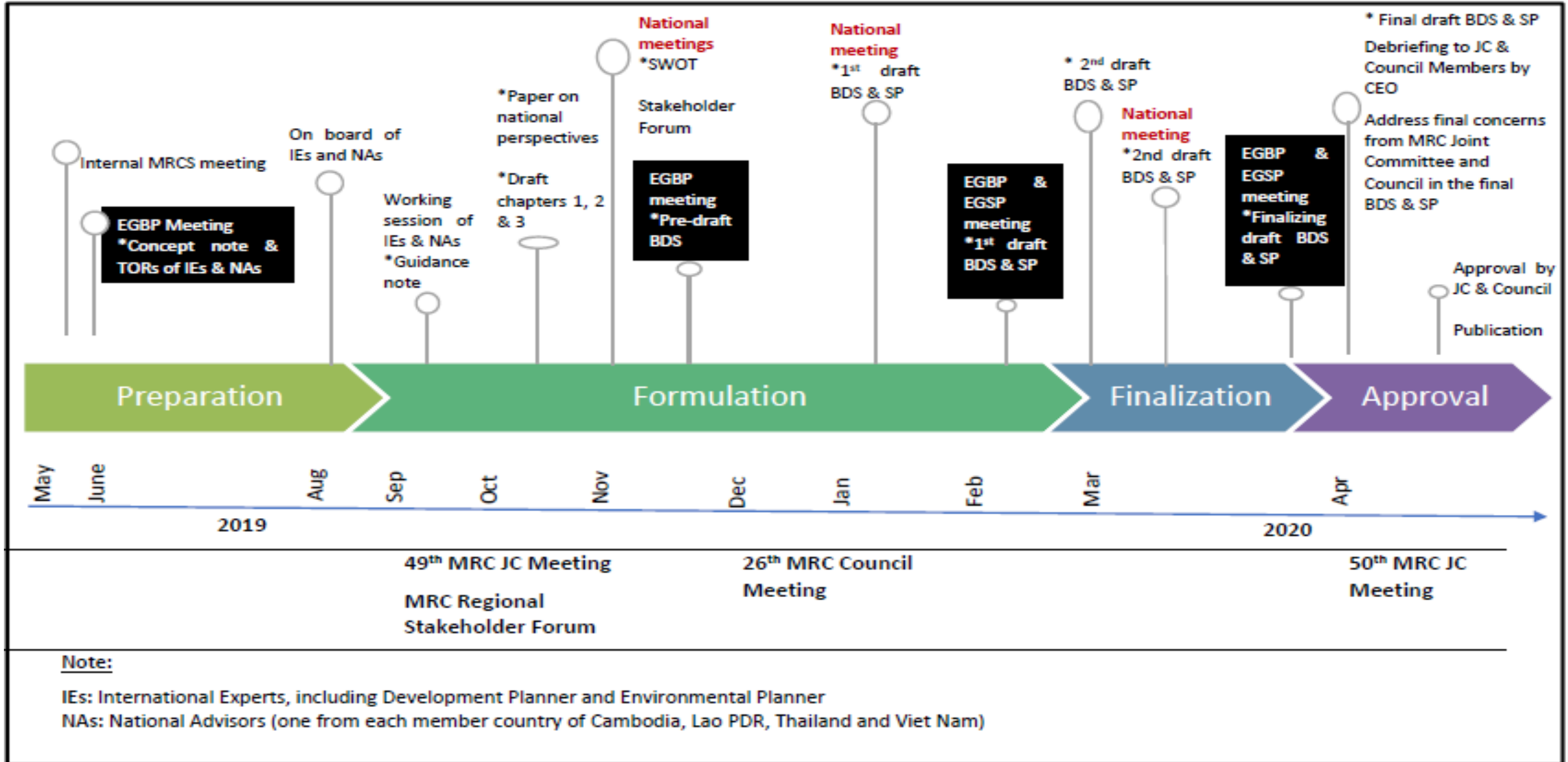
Approach and Method to Develop BDS 2021-2030

- **Approach and method:** take into account
 - ❑ Progress made in implementing strategic priorities of BDS 2016-2020 (based on Mid-Term Review – including for each of seven BDS strategic priorities); and lessons learned from other regional organizations & initiatives (ASEAN, GMS, MLC, etc.)
 - ❑ A review and assessment of the status and trends and key recommendations in water resources and economic, environmental and social factors based on the MRC State of Basin Report 2018 and other scenario assessments and studies;
 - ❑ National and regional perspectives and alignment between them;
 - ❑ Scenario assessments of the MRC Council Study & other to understand the trade-off to develop a 20-year shared vision and shape the 10-year strategic priorities;
 - ❑ Strategic priorities of MRC Sectoral Strategies including MASAP, BFMS, Navigation Masterplan, SHDS, DMS, SBEM

Overall Framework



Process



OUTLINE of BDS 2021-2030

1. Introduction
2. **Basin conditions, trends & long-term outlook**
3. **Strategic needs, risks and responses**
4. Basin development pathway
 - Vision toward 2040
 - Sustainable development opportunity toward 2030
 - Strategic priorities and outcomes for basin development and management toward 2030
5. Implementation of the Strategy

Thank you

