

*The MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

*Vientiane, Lao PDR*



**MRC Council Study** - Recap of the MRC stakeholder engagement principles, mechanisms, and processes and outcomes





# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: DIRECTION, MECHANISMS, PRINCIPLES/OBJECTIVES

# Stakeholder engagement – direction

**Basin Development Strategy 2016-2020** (Section 5.4 Engagement of broader stakeholders) stipulates priority #7 “increase cooperation with partners and stakeholders” and identifies the following key ones:

**MRC Council, JC, Secretariat**

**NMC Secretariats**

**Line agencies of the NMCs**

**Dialogue Partners (China and Myanmar)**

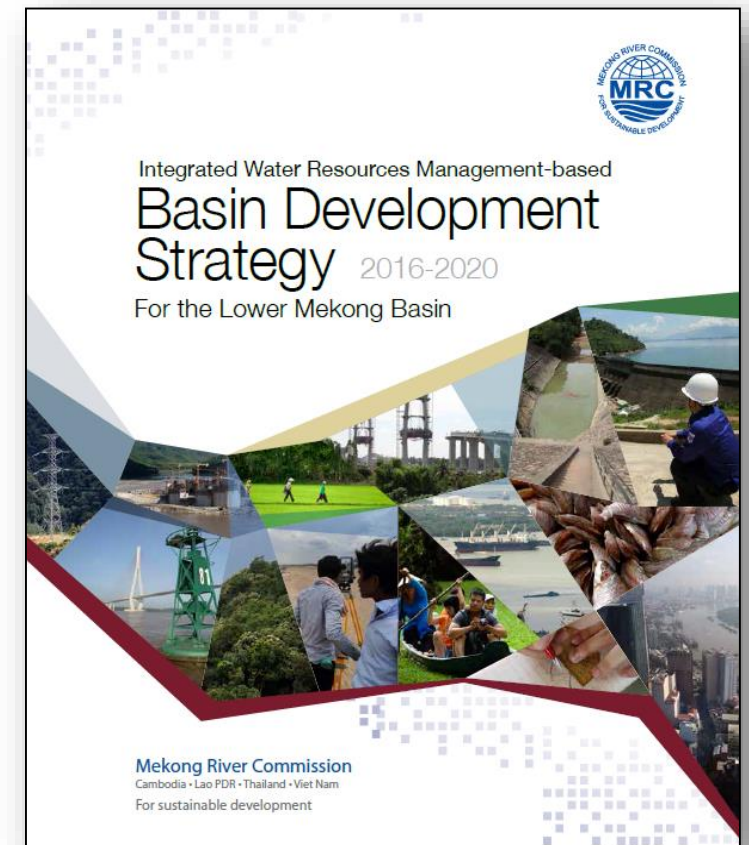
**Development Partners**

**GMS, ASEAN**

**Private Developers, consulting firms**

**Scientific and advisory institutes**

**Other NGOs**



# Stakeholder engagement – direction (cont.)

In the **MRC Strategic Plan 2016-2020**, Result Area #2 (Strengthening regional cooperation) identifies various actions to enhance stakeholder engagement and water diplomacy.

Implementing MRC Procedures

Strengthening cooperation with China and Myanmar

Leveraging partnerships with ASEAN and GMS

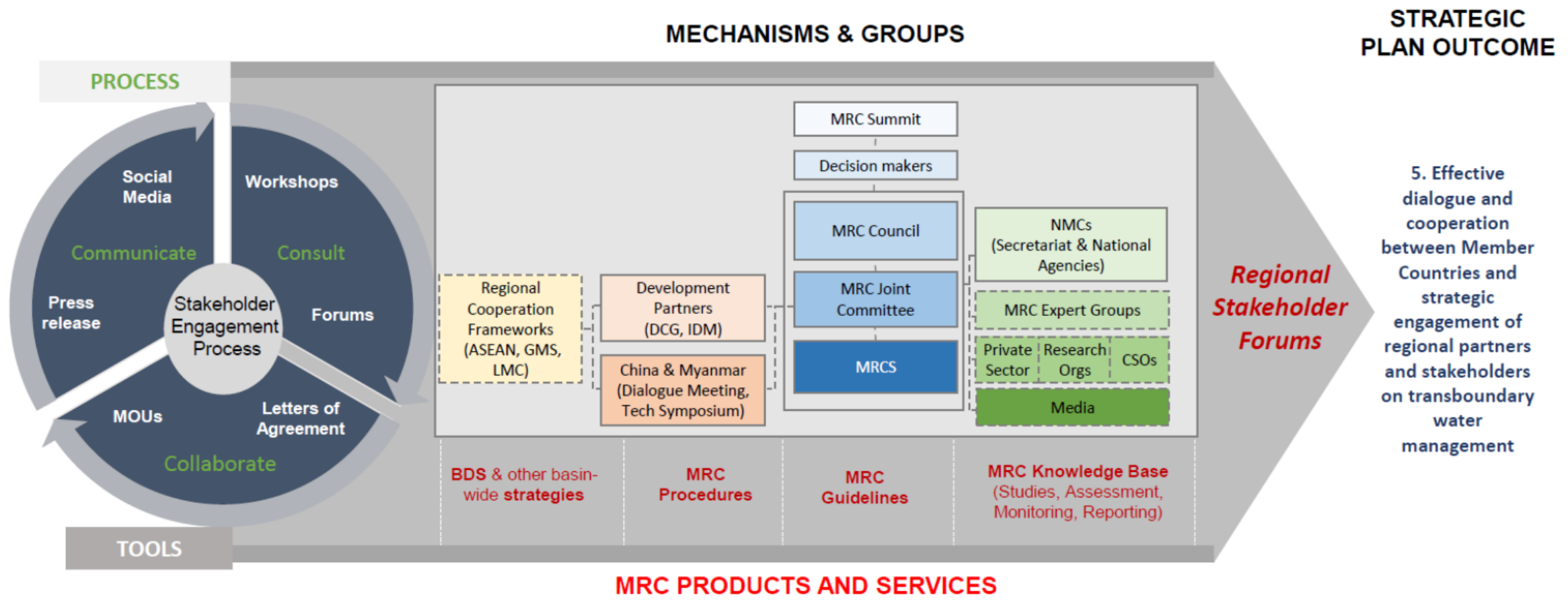
Convening a Regional Stakeholder Platform

Strengthening strategic engagement and water diplomacy



# Stakeholder engagement - mechanisms

## MRC Partners and Stakeholder Engagement Platform





# Stakeholder engagement – principles & objectives

**To share information** in a timely and regular manner to broader stakeholders for better understanding of the subject

**To engage in discussions** with broader stakeholders in different stages of MRC activities

**To provide feedbacks** and recommendations from broader stakeholders for the consideration of MRC and/or others (in terms of planning and decision making)

**To provide feedbacks** on how comments and recommendations have been addressed by MRC and/or others

**Not to secure endorsements** or approvals of broader stakeholders on any MRC strategies, plans, guidelines, projects or activities



# COUNCIL STUDY STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENTS

# Council Study stakeholders

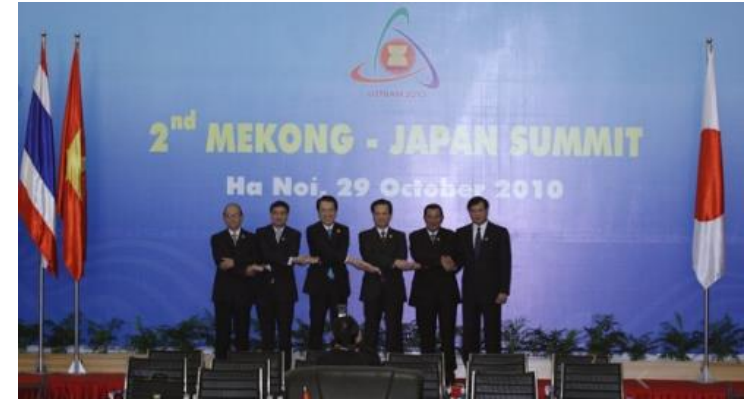
## Two types of stakeholders

The “owners” of the Study

- Political level: PMs, Council/JC
- Technical level:  
line/implementing agencies
- Support (financial/others): DPs

Interested broader  
stakeholders of the Study

- Private sector
- Academics
- NGOs, CSOs
- Media / Public





# Council Study stakeholders – owners of the Study

## POLITICAL LEVEL

Stakeholders	Roles	Engagement mechanisms
<b>Prime Ministers (supported by MOFA, PMO)</b>	<p>So far: Commissioned the Study</p> <p>Future: Provide strategic directions on basin plan</p>	MRC Summit
<b>Council members (supported by JC)</b>	<p>So far: Decided to implement the Study, approved funding, being updated on progress</p> <p>Future: Consider and accept recommendations, provide guidance on implementation</p>	<p>Council meeting</p> <p>CEO/JC engagement (targeted missions, sessions)</p>

# Council Study stakeholders – owners of the Study

## TECHNICAL LEVEL

Stakeholders	Roles	Engagement mechanisms
<b>Key line agencies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural resources &amp; environment (MONRE, MOWRAM)</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Fisheries</li><li>• Agriculture/irrigation</li><li>• Planning &amp; Investment (MPI)</li><li>• Transport (navigation)</li></ul>	<p>So far:</p> <p>Provide data and info</p> <p>Review approaches, models, results</p> <p>Future:</p> <p>Potentially use for adaptation of national plans and projects</p>	<p>Regional technical working group (RTWG)</p> <p>Working sessions</p> <p>National consultations</p>

# Council Study stakeholders – owners of the Study

## SUPPORT

Stakeholders	Roles	Engagement mechanisms
<b>Development Partners</b>	So far: Provided funding support, being updated on progress, provided overall feedbacks  Future: Supported uptake with Council, Line agencies	IDM, MRC Council meetings, MRCS consultations

# Council Study stakeholders – interested broader stakeholders

## SUPPORT

Stakeholders	Roles	Engagement mechanisms
<p><b>Private sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developers of hydropower</b></li> <li>• <b>Developers of large irrigation schemes</b></li> <li>• <b>Consulting companies</b></li> </ul>	<p>So far: Being updated on progress</p> <p>Future: Use for adaption of projects</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder forums (RSF)</p> <p>Specific forum</p> <p>International Conference</p>
<p><b>NGOs, CSOs</b></p>	<p>So far: Being updated on progress, provided feedbacks</p> <p>Future: Feedback, promote for uptake and actions</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder forums (RSF)</p> <p>Specific forum</p> <p>International Conference</p>

# Council Study stakeholders – interested broader stakeholders

## SUPPORT

Stakeholders	Roles	Engagement mechanisms
Academic institutes	<p>So far: Being updated on progress</p> <p>Future: Feedback/review, promote for uptake, further research</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder forums (RSF)</p> <p>Specific forum</p> <p>International Conference</p>
Media	<p>So far: Being updated on progress</p> <p>Future: Better aware &amp; informed, Dissemination</p>	<p>Regional stakeholder forums (RSF)</p> <p>Media briefing</p> <p>International Conference</p>



# Council Study – summary engagements

- ✓ 10 **Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG)** meetings – countries and development partners
- ✓ More than 20 smaller **working sessions** – countries' line agencies
- ✓ About 24 **national consultations** – mostly government representatives but occasionally national research institutes and CSOs
- ✓ **MRC BDP Regional Stakeholder Forum** in Nov 2014 in Siem Reap
- ✓ **Greater Mekong Forum** on Water, Food and Energy on 21-23 October 2015 in Phnom Penh
- ✓ **Meetings with a number of NGOs individually** to provide status updates
- ✓ **MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum (RSF):** on Council Study (with Pak Beng PNPCA) – Feb 2017



# Council Study: Today & further engagements

**The Council Study team** will disseminate the preliminary key results and findings of the study under the assessed disciplines and sectors

**Stakeholders** will have opportunity to provide observations and feedbacks on these results and findings

**The reports of the Council Study** are under finalization and will be made public in January 2018

**Stakeholders** will have opportunity to provide more in-depth review and feedback and ways to uptake/build on the CS at the **upcoming International Conference** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> MRC Summit on 2-3 April 2018



# Thank you



# Main comments from last RSF on CS

Comments from Stakhoders	Action of CS team/Answer
Taking into account Adaptive capacity / resilience	The resilience was included in the CIA report.
There is a challenge in undertaking cumulative impacts given limited data and technical difficulties in deriving cumulative impacts.	Much of the data used comes from the thematic study areas, such as hydrological modelling, social impacts assessments. There is a difference between the macro scale assessment and micro scale assessment. Ranges or bounds of possibility will be provided.
The economic value of tourism seems to be a gap in the GDP assessments as well as the costs from flooding.	Tourism is included within the calculation of ecosystem services. It is also a specific sector assessed. Flooding is included in the climate scenario assessments.
There is a link between ecosystem decline and labour productivity. For natural resource reliant communities, labour capital declines as people leave due to declining environment.	The assessment is already included these points into consideration
How do you assess progress to SDGs.	The measure of Vulnerability is looking at SDG aspects of food security, health security and water security.
Why is energy security missing?	The Energy security was address in the assessment based on available data from Member countries and other data sources
How do you assess relationship between water and energy security.	Normalize all values.
Concern raised as some assessments used reliable data but other assessments were experimental at this stage.	Worth noting that the socio economic assessments commenced late and time periods were tight.  It was mentioned that the socio-economic assessments have been pragmatic approaches given time constraints and the absence of established models (e.g. within MRCS for example).
The way dams and weirs are operated are important factors that may be missed when assessing drought or flood impacts, as well as migration rates.	Noted as important considerations but difficult to quantify.
How can macroeconomic assessments value add or link to microeconomic assessments.	The Microeconomic is based on the Socioeconomic analysis from Household level and these feed into the macroeconomic assessment
Does the council study have capacity for its own primary data collection.	No primary data collection have been conducted by the study team
Can other positive socio-economic trends be captured and promoted in the assessments (e.g. governance factors, law and order changes) either in a qualitative and quantitative sense.	The socioeconomic assessment was based on the agreed scope of work by inception report as agreed by the member countries.



# Main comments from last RSF on CS (2)

Comments from Stakeholders	Action of CS team/Answer
Concern about different datasets, locations and data collection methods and how these can be compared, combined and used for modelling	Standardized data collection methods should be implemented; integrate and analyze data for information which can be used in modelling; data harmonization and gap filling implemented in CS
Any examples from other rivers utilized for DRIFT	DRIFT has been used in number of other rivers for instance international court process; process in Mekong started already in 2003 (IBFM)
Data quality and availability for modelling is a concern	Ensure data quality and availability; process of updating data for modelling in the future need to be in place; transfer of knowledge about data assumptions and data used to the countries; data report will be prepared by the CS including data gap filling and assumptions; not only data but also understanding of the system is extremely important – CS process enhances the understanding
How to have correct understanding to start with when data is lacking	Highlight data gaps, set up monitoring to fill the gaps; it is very important to improve data for information and knowledge improvement and better decision making; continuation of the CS recommended
DRIFT tools suitable for this region? relies on expert judgement as data is lacking especially for the ecosystems	DRIFT needs to be verified and its usefulness assessed; data available from literature and other sources integrated in the assessment
Reliable outcome of the CS required as the request comes from the highest political level	Highest level meeting after CS completion (MRC Summit 2018)
Technology transfer and communication of the results	National experts will be invited to participate in implementing the modelling; hands-on training
Concern timely delivery of results of the CS	The CS completed in due time by Dec 2017