

*The MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum*  
*14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017*  
*Vientiane, Lao PDR*



# **Parallel Group Discussion 9A2 - Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy (SHDS2019)**



# 1. Objective

- ✓ Optimal and sustainable *hydropower development alternative pathways* are explored, proposed and discussed, → taking into account *opportunities to enhance benefits beyond national borders and minimise adverse transboundary impacts while supporting water, food and energy security*



## 2. Scope and Implementation Approach

### Connection to and use of, past (and future) studies

- **The previous studies** forms the basis to the SHDS work
  - Council Study and BDP2 will provide major inputs
- **Strategic assessment** of **Alternative Pathways** will be needed to deal with energy/water sector integration matters
- **Alternative Pathways** will provide input to the Basin Strategy Process (2021-2025)



# 3. Alternative Development Pathways

Alternative pathways may include..

- **Alternative regional energy generation, integration and interconnection options** to respond to regional demand and optimise the use of existing and planned hydropower
- **Alternative siting, design and operations for hydropower projects** in the planning stage
- **Inclusion of potential flood and drought management options** for existing and planned projects
- **Alternative governance, coordination and optimisation of mainstream** and tributary hydropower cascades
- **Avoidance, Mitigation and Compensation options** to be built in to LMB SHDS
- **Strong linkage to the Strategies and Masterplans for other sectors**



## 4. SHDS2019 – Expected Outputs

- *Documented alternative sustainable hydropower development pathways for more optimal development for hydropower resources of the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries;*
- *A **description** of opportunities to enhance benefits beyond national borders and minimise adverse transboundary impacts; and*
- ***Inputs to** crosscutting strategies of other sectors to benefit the Basin Planning process for 2021 to 2025.*
- *Agreed set of **follow-up Strategic Actions** detailed to ensure the delivery of the SHDS.*



# Guiding Questions

- 1. Any comments or suggestions to the SHDS implementation principles and methodologies?**
- 2. What do you think on the concept of Alternative Development Pathways? whether they make sense and can help plan HP in a more sustainable manner?**
- 3. Other Comments / Suggestions?**

# 1. Objective

Clarification & MRCS responses	Comments
	Re wording of objective: "enhance benefits beyond national border" Must keep balance between <b>national and regional benefits</b> ; Cannot consider only regional benefits
Complex discussion; agreed term; "agreed BDP wording: optimal" and sustainable	<b>Optimal development?</b> Difficult term – different sectors have different optima, what is optimal depends on different perspectives and objectives (between sectors and countries); term optimal implies linearity in development; better use sustainable? can only refer to specific system optimization;
Way of achieving specific result; course of action: scenario is more open, doesn't imply achieving of objectives	<b>Alternative pathways?</b> Please explain

## 2. Scope and Approach of Updated SHDS2018

Clarification & MRCS responses	Comments
<p>In past socio-economic impact(tb) assessments were also reviewed as part of PNPCAs, but without guidance / frame for this work at MRC</p>	<p>For DG: please include socio-economic and tb EIA parts</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Assemble Council Study info / PDPs / other sector strategies</li><li>2) Initial set of alternative pathways developed</li><li>3) Analyse and discuss trade-offs; against different objectives/desired outcomes</li><li>4) Presentation at interactive workshop; discuss implications for national plans</li></ol>	<p>What is the proposed methodology?</p>



## 2. Scope and Approach of Updated SHDS2018

Clarification & MRCS responses	Comments
	DG: Mainstream and tributaries – should take note from Council Study that trib impact is similar to that of mainstream – argument in favour of <b>including tributaries</b>
Yes; needs all to be taken into account	<b>objective?</b> Only to reach current generation capacity plans for 2040 or broader energy needs perspective taken? Alternative energy sources?
	<b>SDGs:</b> SHDS needs to reflect SDG commitments internationally and in the region; Should align timeframe of SHDS with SDGs – 2030 (or CS 2040?)
Yes; but has to be realistic to do into 12 months	Will all forms of <b>energy generation</b> be looked at

### 3. SHDS2019 Expected Outputs

Clarification & MRCS responses	Comments
Yes; but has to be realistic to do into 12 months; BDP as follow-up process; may only achieve big part of it	Need to carefully consider how much from <b>Council Study</b> can be used how; modelling needs to be redone; SDHD has to be under BDP
	<b>Energy pathway</b> vs. hydropower pathway – limited way to move away from national plans
Yes, ASEAN, GMS will be looked at	Align with GMS
	Consider longer <b>time-frame and manage expectations</b> from the onset; data limitations will prevail;

### 3. SHDS2019 Expected Outputs

Clarification & MRCS responses	Comments
	General comment re hydropower project development: Stakeholder engagement in the process from the beginning is important – need to well understand and develop ownership; benefit sharing important; livelihood improvement needs to occur; information sharing is important; dam safety important