



Mekong River Commission
Basin Development Plan Programme Phase 2 (BDP2)

Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan for Basin Development Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin



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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIFP	Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme (MRC)
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BDP	Basin Development Plan
BDP1	Basin Development Plan Phase 1
BDP2	Basin Development Plan Phase 2
CEPA	Culture and Environment Preservation Association
CPWF	Challenge Programme on Water and Food
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DSF	Decision Support Framework
EP	Environment Programme (MRC)
FMMP	Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (MRC)
FP	Fisheries Programme (MRC)
GAPE	Global Association of People and Environment
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-Region
ISH	Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower
IBFM	Integrated Basin Flow Management
ICCS	International Cooperation and Communications Section
IKMP	Integrated Knowledge Management Programme (MRC)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JC	Joint Committee
LMB	Lower Mekong Basin
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
M-IWRMP	Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project
M-POWER	Mekong Programme on Water Environment and Resilience
MRB	Mekong River Basin
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MRCS	Mekong River Commission Secretariat
NAP	Navigation Programme (MRC)
NBDP	National Basin Development Plan team
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMC	National Mekong Committee
PADETC	Participatory Development Training Centre
PINs	Project Identification Notes
RAM	Resource Allocation Module
RBDP	Regional Basin Development Plan Programme team
RBOs	River Basin Organisations
RBCs	River Basin Committees
RTWG	Regional Technical Working Group
SA	Sub-Area

SAF	Sub-Area Forum
SAWG	Sub-Area Working Group
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SEARIN	Southeast Asia Rivers Network
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SIM	Social Impact Monitoring
SPCP	Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan
TA	Technical Assistance
TERRA	Towards Ecological Recovery and Regional Alliance
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VA	Vulnerability Assessment
WB	World Bank
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WG	Working Group
WI	Wetlands International
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

INTRODUCTION

Stakeholder participation is an integral part of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which the Mekong River Commission (MRC) adopted in its Strategic Plan 2006-2010. Stakeholder participation is particularly important for the Basin Development Plan (BDP), the umbrella programme of the MRC for promoting its joint planning function as an inter-governmental river basin organisation for sustainable development of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB).¹

Under the 1995 Mekong Agreement the Joint Committee (JC) is responsible for formulating a BDP, for promoting, supporting, and coordinating the development of the full potential of sustainable benefits to all Member Countries, and for preventing wasteful use of the Mekong River Basin waters, with emphasis and preference on joint and/or basin-wide development projects.

The BDP Phase 1 2000-2006 (BDP1) implemented a series of multi-stakeholder participatory planning forums at national, trans-national and sub-area levels through different BDP working groups. Members of these working groups consisted of a wide range of representatives from various state and local agencies. Principles of stakeholder participation in the BDP process were also developed during BDP1.

BDP Phase 2, 2007-2010 (BDP2) aims to produce a rolling Basin Development Plan for the LMB based on IWRM, which will build upon the participatory planning process of BDP1. BDP2 is positioning itself as an important forum for stakeholder consultation in the LMB to ensure that key issues from all levels of development are brought to the relevant stakeholders so that there are mutual benefits for both local people and countries as a whole. It is important to note that the current development in the MRB² has been driven by many actors and is occurring outside the confines of the MRC, whereby the MRC has not been previously involved. MRC is now positioning itself as an advisor to governments and producer of important knowledge around water-related developments. It is therefore an important role for BDP2 to create a cooperative framework with various development actors, civil society and affected communities in the region to empower BDP2 and its partners to influence decision-making around basin planning and management.

The BDP2 Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan (SPCP) highlights the importance of further refining and implementing effective approaches to engage a wide range of stakeholder groups in the BDP process. This is considered a prerequisite for determining the success of the BDP process and its ultimate output – an IWRM-based Basin Development Plan for the LMB.

The SPCP expands the horizon of meaningful participation in the implementation of all activities and outputs of BDP2. It also lays out effective communication strategies and packages, which will enable stakeholders to develop a clear understanding of the BDP, its objectives, processes and outputs and to effectively engage with the BDP and benefit from the BDP's processes and plans. The SPCP is more than a plan for designing stakeholder forums. It seeks to create and mainstream genuine and meaningful engagement and partnership with stakeholders throughout the BDP planning cycle.

1 The Lower Mekong Basin consists of the lower part of the basin included within the four MRC Member Countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

2 The Mekong River Basin (MRB) consists of Yunnan and Guangxi provinces in China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

The SPCP is structured into nine parts and four Annexes. Part 1 illustrates the broader context of stakeholder participation and communication in the MRC that the SPCP will operate within. Part 2 provides an overview of BDP2. Part 3 provides a brief analysis of BDP stakeholders and highlights the importance of stakeholder participation and effective communication in planning for sustainable development of the MRB. Part 4 presents the objectives and expected outputs of the SPCP. Part 5 describes the key principles for stakeholder participation and communication in the BDP process. Part 6 elaborates the approaches for stakeholder participation in each stage of the BDP planning cycle. Part 7 describes how BDP2 will enhance communication to support stakeholder participation and the BDP process. Part 8 describes the responsibilities of different actors involved in BDP2 in implementing the SPCP and finally Part 9 presents the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework of the SPCP.

PART I: BACKGROUND OF STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN AT THE MRC AND FOR BASIN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1 MRC STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan of BDP2 operates within the context of both the MRC's wider policy for engagement³ with stakeholders, and the principles of IWRM.

1.1 Stakeholder participation in Integrated Water Resource Management

Stakeholder participation is a widely accepted principle of IWRM. The Dublin Principles are taken as the basis of IWRM and the second principle states that "Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels."⁴ This principle is reflected in the BDP2 Inception Report, which states that the "BDP process is one of consensus building based on informed debate and ownership of different communities and stakeholders in the basin."⁵ These elements will be evident in the SPCP of the BDP2, and are directly related to the participatory approach advocated by IWRM principles, which argue that participation is the only way to achieve long-lasting consensus and common agreement.⁶

Stakeholder participation and communication is essential in both the preparation of an IWRM strategy and its implementation. If stakeholders are not included in the preparation phase, it is likely that the IWRM strategy will be developed in an unsuitable manner and not sensitive to the needs of the people of the basin. Stakeholder participation and communication are necessary to ensure successful IWRM, which aims to manage the resources of the LMB in a sustainable manner. Employing transparent decision-making, good governance principles will ensure that water management plans will work in reality and are responsive to the needs of the basin and its peoples. Stakeholder participation will allow the BDP2 to draw on the experiences of a range of stakeholders and involve their diverse knowledge to ensure that the focus of water development and management plans are suitable for the basin. Support and engagement at all levels is needed if IWRM is to succeed.

IWRM also recognises that water issues are complex and in the case of the Mekong, are transboundary in nature. The SPCP acknowledges this by involving stakeholders throughout the

³ The MRC is currently developing a stakeholder engagement policy for the governance levels (Joint Committee and Council) which would present more mechanisms for stakeholders to engage in the JC and Council meetings and inform their discussions. The policy is currently in the preparation stage.

⁴ International Conference on Water and the Environment, Dublin 1992

⁵ Mekong River Commission (February 2008) *BDP, Inception Report*, p.45

⁶ Global Water Partnership (March 2000) *Integrated Water Resources Management*, p.16

basin from a range of backgrounds and experience, in a combination of sub-area forums and basin-wide consultations.

1.2 Stakeholder participation in the MRC

The MRC has already devoted considerable amount of time to identification and development of appropriate approaches to stakeholder participation. In 1999, the MRC Joint Committee (JC) adopted a set of principles for civil society participation, to be applied to MRC activities. *Public Participation in the context of the Lower Mekong Basin* (1999) outlines the MRC's general approach to stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders were defined as "any person, group of institutions that has an interest in an activity, project or programme. This includes both intended beneficiaries and intermediaries, those positively affected, and those involved and/or those who are generally excluded from the decision-making process⁷". Stakeholder participation was identified as a normal and essential process of MRC and National Mekong Committees (NMCs) activities, which enhances the MRC and the NMCs ability to meet the sustainable development objectives of the 1995 Mekong Agreement. In 2001, the MRC Council and JC agreed in principle to invite partner regional organisations to participate as observers at their meetings. In 2002, a MRC regional consultation 'Workshop on Public Participation' was held at the MRC Secretariat. In 2003, a MRC Public Participation Strategy was finalised followed by an Action Plan for Public Participation in 2004. In 2005 a short booklet *Public Participation in the Lower Mekong Basin* was released to raise awareness of the work of the MRC and its programmes, and to promote cooperation with stakeholders. Despite all the activities outlined above, public participation has not been mainstreamed within MRC programmes and governance. Lessons learnt suggest that this is due to lack of implementation tool and processes, limited political will by MRC riparian governments, and lack of understanding of the true benefits of engaging diverse stakeholders in decision-making around water resources development and management in the LMB.

Stakeholder participation in the MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010

Through the development of the MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010⁸, the MRC adopted an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework in which stakeholder participation is one of the key objectives and the MRC committed to build in processes for public involvement and input into MRC activities. Furthermore, stakeholder participation is one of the six MRCS management principles.⁹

MRC Organisational Review

The Independent Organisational Review of the MRC in 2006 considered that MRC had little engagement with civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and recommended that the MRC consider (i) formalising a stakeholder consultative process as part of its annual meetings and (ii) better specify its collaborative partnerships with research organisations. This recommendation was agreed at a special session of the Joint Committee on June 27, 2007. The third meeting of the Task Force on the MRC Secretariat Organisational Structure agreed in May 2008 on the proposal and timeframe and this was further confirmed in its fifth meeting in October 2008.

⁷ Mekong River Commission (1999) *Public Participation in the context of Lower Mekong Basin*, pp. 2

⁸ Mekong River Commission (December 2006) *Strategic Plan 2006-2010*, p 42, MRC: Vientiane

⁹ Mekong River Commission (December 2006) *Strategic Plan 2006-2010*, p 41, MRC: Vientiane

The main objective of this work is to develop general principles of stakeholder involvement in the MRC and a policy for stakeholder engagement in the MRC governance bodies (the JC and Council) along with recommendations to implement it. A common terminology for all MRC documents related to stakeholder engagement and a typology of meetings will also be developed. The BDP SPCP will be inline with the broader MRC strategy for stakeholder engagement.

MRC draft Communications Strategy

Communications activities form an integral part of activities carried out in the Mekong River Basin. The MRC Strategic Plan for 2001-2005 highlighted the need for a “strong public communications strategy” to raise the profile and status of the MRC. The SP for 2006-2010 includes various objectives that require communications work, such as disseminating critical information and knowledge generated about river, its ecosystem and the people.

The MRC Secretariat (MRCS) is working on a draft Communications Strategy for the organisation. The strategy will promote the work of the MRC and its partners in the region and internationally. It aims to ensure that the target groups - government decision-makers in the member countries, people holding a direct livelihood stake in the Mekong and its tributaries, and scientists and technical researchers who help shape policies and projects within the four riparian countries, recognise the role the MRC plays with regards to water and related resources and its overall contribution to sustainable economic and social development of the MRB.

To achieve these goals, the strategy outlines the following objectives: 1) provide communications products and services directly aimed at the needs of decision-makers, the public and technical cooperation experts; 2) recognise the language needs of different audiences; 3) build the capacity of the MRCS, NMCs and line agencies to communicate regularly and effectively; 4) improve communications with regional initiatives and organisations; 5) maintain and improve the MRC website as an important source of public information on water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin; 6) define the disclosure policy, communications policy, style guide and other communications initiatives to improve internal communications and capacity; 7) promote cross-cutting issues such as riparianisation and gender balance across all MRC communications; 8) develop permanent mechanisms for closer collaboration with parliamentarians, educational institutions, civil society and the private sector; and 9) engage more closely with domestic, regional and international media as key partners in reaching target audiences while recognising that print and broadcast media have different needs and uses.¹⁰ Whilst this strategy is still in a draft phase and is expected to be agreed in 2009, BDP2 has ensured that the SPCP is fully aligned with the communications strategy.

¹⁰ Draft MRC Communications Strategy (August 2008)

2 THE MRC BASIN DEVELOPMENT PLAN PHASE 2

2.1 Development challenge

While millions of poor people rely on the natural resources of the Mekong Basin for their food security and livelihoods, water infrastructure development is limited compared with most other large river basins in the world. Governments of the countries in the LMB increasingly recognise that developing some of the economic potential of the water resources in the Mekong Basin can contribute to increased economic growth, poverty alleviation, improve livelihoods, and work towards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Recently water resources development is being accelerated, in particular for the generation of hydro-electricity, driven primarily by market forces and the private sector. This process needs to be complemented by the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the basin, sub-basin and project levels to ensure that the development of the water resources is sensitive to national priorities and the maintenance of vital ecosystems and capture fisheries production, on which most of the poor population in the Mekong Basin depend.

Given this situation, there has been an increasing demand from MRC member countries and project developers for the provision of an integrated basin perspective against which national plans and proposed projects can be assessed to ensure the most acceptable balance between economic, environmental, and social outcomes in the LMB, and mutual benefits to the LMB countries. The development of such a basin perspective is beyond the responsibility of any individual country or project developer.

The BDP2 is designed to support the MRC member countries to develop the necessary basin perspective and integrate them in the national planning process. This will require a basin-wide planning process and a strong partnership of the basin's stakeholders, which can effectively balance resource development and resource protection. In the process, the BDP2 can make an important contribution to the achievement of all four strategic goals of the MRC's Strategic Plan 2006-2010.

2.2 Objectives and outputs

The BDP Phase 2, 2007-2010 (BDP2) was launched in January 2007 following the approval of the revised Programme Document by the JC in its twenty-fourth meeting in August 2006. Phase 2 is designed to produce a rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan, building on the achievements of Phase 1 (2002-2006), including the established participatory planning processes and the developed knowledge base and assessment tools.

The BDP Programme *development objective* is stated as "the water resources of the Mekong River Basin managed and developed in an integrated, sustainable and equitable manner for the mutual benefit of the basin countries". It is based on the 1995 Mekong Agreement and supports the MRC vision of "an economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin", in line with the MRC mission "to promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well being".

Three *immediate objectives* of BDP2 have been defined to reflect the manner in which the MRC conceptualises basin planning; namely as consisting of a planning process, a knowledge base and assessment tools, and capacity to implement the process by applying the knowledge base and the tools. The immediate objectives are:

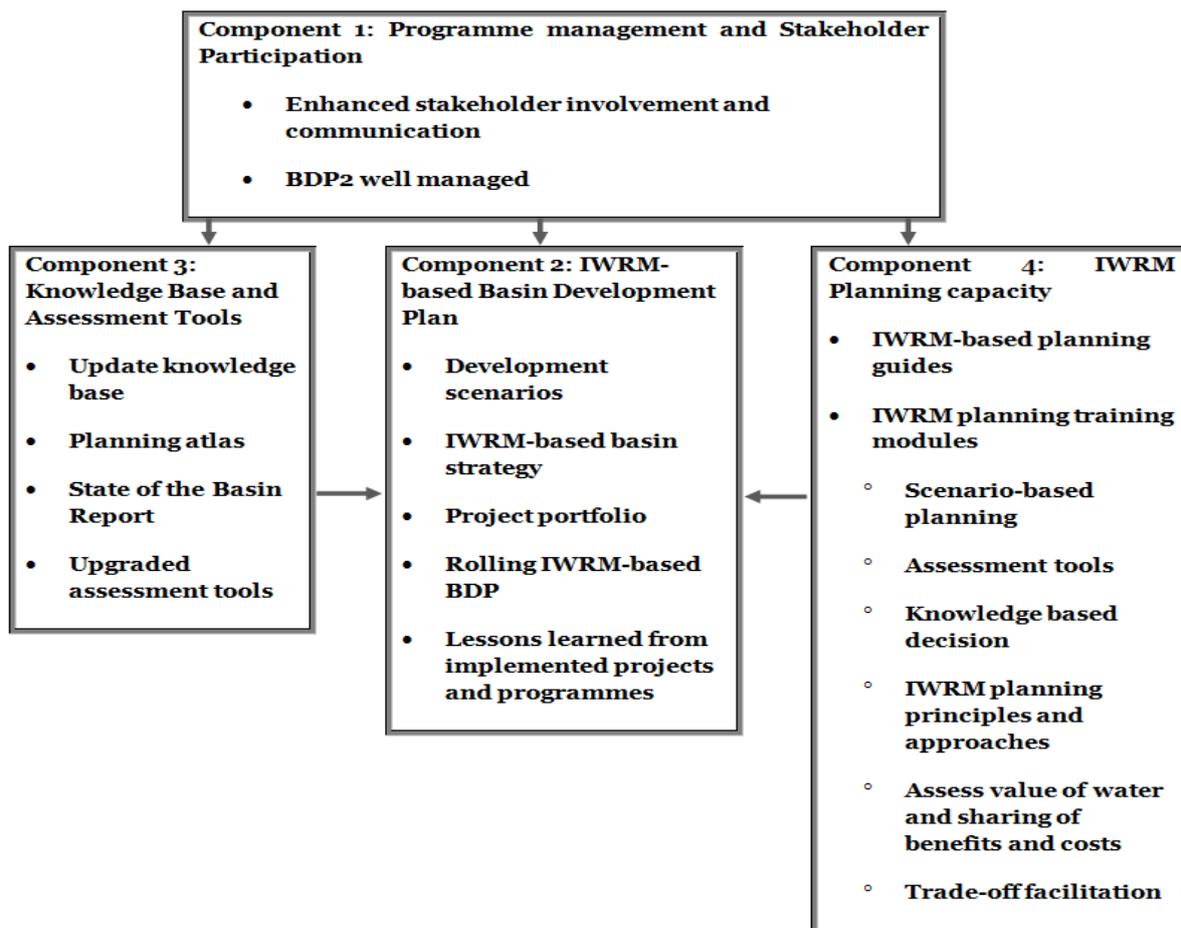
A rolling IWRM based Basin Development Plan produced in support of sustainable development in the Mekong River basin; (see more detail in Chapter 6.6)

Knowledge base and assessment tools further developed and utilised effectively at the basin, national (NMCs, planning and sector agencies), and sub-basin levels (RBOs), provincial departments); and

Capacity built at the basin (MRC) and national levels (NMCs, planning and sector agencies) for IWRM planning and facilitation/mediation in areas where trade-off management is required.

The immediate objectives create a framework for the entire BDP2. Figure 1 shows that each objective forms a BDP2 component (Component 2 to 4). Component 1 is added to ensure adequate Programme management and stakeholder participation in BDP2 implementation. The key delivery of the outputs that are listed in Figure 1 will collectively lead to the achievement of the Programme objectives.

Figure 1 – BDP2 Components and Outputs



3 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION IN BASIN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

3.1 Defining BDP stakeholders

A stakeholder is an individual, group, or institution that has a defined and recognised interest, or stake, in a decision-making process or project. Such interests may be economic, cultural, recreational, religious, geographical or otherwise described. Stakeholders may be defined by whether they will be affected by a decision or have some influence on its outcome.

The most important stakeholder in the Mekong River Basin is its people and more specifically those that are either directly or indirectly affected, including those marginalised groups who are affected but have no voice or may be invisible, both positively or negatively by water resources development. This group of stakeholders is considered *key* to the developments in the Mekong and the work of the Mekong River Commission and more specifically to the process of the BDP2.

Stakeholder Analysis

The BDP2 is carrying out a stakeholder analysis in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam to develop an inventory and institutional appraisal of key stakeholders from state and non-state actors representing a variety of sectors. In addition, an analysis of the institutional framework and national policy review on participatory river basin planning will be carried out. The BDP stakeholder analysis will provide a stronger foundation for stakeholder engagement in the approaches and mechanisms that the SPCP proposes for implementation in BDP2. The Stakeholder Analysis report will further supplement the definitions outlined in 3.1.

Stakeholder can be broadly categorised into the following groups:

Directly affected people are generally both individuals and groups of people at the local level who are affected by development activities both positively and negatively. The affected groups in the Mekong River Basin include workers, farmers and fisherfolk who depend on river resources for their livelihoods. Minorities, poor people and women are also included in these groups because they tend to be most vulnerable in that they have the least political power to inform and access planning and decision-making processes.

Indirectly affected people are people that live nearby and/or use resources from project areas. They may also include people who trade occasionally with directly affected peoples.

The **private sector** are generally project developers or investors both from the region and outside the region who are either directly investing in a project or interested in investments that would become feasible or profitable if a project goes ahead. They are generally focused around the sectors of hydropower, irrigation and agricultural expansion, mining, and tourism among others.

The **Donors (Development Partners)** play a significant role in driving the direction of the MRC and have interests in integrated sustainable development in the region. The donors may be both programme or project funders and play a role in the monitoring and evaluating of the MRC.

The **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** are groups working at local, national and regional levels. NGOs can be divided into several different types including: development-oriented, advocacy,

research, and non-profit associations.¹¹ NGOs carry out research, design and implement development projects and carrying out advocacy to influence decision-making around water-related resources in the Mekong. These groups come from a number of sectors such as environment, water, nutrition, community development, and humanitarian among others. Some locally-based NGOs may be representatives of directly affected people and those operating on other levels may have *interests* in project/programmatic directions.

The **research, academic and scientific community** are conducting research on a range of environmental and social issues applicable to the sectors MRC is working to address. They can provide a valuable resource of information to the MRC particularly at the programmatic level.

International organisations consist mainly of UN agencies and ASEAN are also a major stakeholder group that works with the MRC. UN agencies are often regional stakeholders who can influence or play a significant role in regional and/or national water and related resources policies and programmes. This may be through technical assistance to line agencies or through other inputs.

River Basin Organisations (RBOs) or River Basin Committees (RBCs) in the case of Thailand. Where RBOs exist in a country, they can play an important role in sub-basin planning processes.

Upstream countries. China and Myanmar are dialogue partners with the MRC and provide important data for scientific studies as well as to enhance decision-making.

3.2 Building on BDP1 participatory planning process

The above identification of BDP stakeholders shows the great need for the MRC to ensure that each of the stakeholder groups has the right and appropriate mechanisms to participate fully and meaningfully in the planning process with an aim towards influencing decision-making.

Understanding this complex requirement, BDP1 sought to establish a participatory planning process at regional, national, sub-area, and potential district levels. The BDP1 *“Guideline for Stakeholder Participation, July 2004”* identified a number of principles for stakeholder participation in the BDP process and developed a step-by-step guideline to organise sub-area forums. This guideline remains a strong foundation for further development and implementation of BDP2 participation and communication activities.

Stakeholder participation in BDP1 was implemented mainly through sub-area forums, whilst at the national level line agencies and other institutions participated through BDP National Working Groups and BDP Sub-committees. Transboundary meetings (across sub-areas) were also carried out and provided an open environment for participants to discuss transboundary issues and jointly identify development opportunities.¹²

¹¹ Lao PDR currently does not have local NGOs, however, has developed non-profit associations (NPA). There are currently 26 associations with another six waiting to be registered. The NPAs operate under the framework of the Lao Union of Science and Engineering Association, which falls under the National Science Council within the Prime Minister’s Office.

¹² BDP Phase 1 Completion Report (2006)

3.3 Enhanced transparency and stakeholder involvement as an output of BDP2

To further promote a participatory basin development planning process, the BDP2 document emphasises the need for enhanced transparency and stakeholder involvement, including linkages with national planning. Enhanced transparency and stakeholder involvement in the planning process is emphasised as a prerequisite for ownership, collaboration and acceptance and implementation of the rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan. Furthermore, the methodologies developed and implemented for public participation will enable greater participation and voice from women and/or those otherwise missed out from such fora.

To achieve enhanced transparency and stakeholder involvement the following activities are planned under BDP2:

- Develop and implement methodologies and practices for public participation;
- Improve interaction with national planning and line agencies through direct participation of MRC and NMCs/BDP staff in relevant forums and working groups;
- Improve and consolidate dialogue on shared development opportunities and trans-boundary issues with stakeholders.

3.4 The need for a stakeholder participation and communication plan in BDP2

The BDP2 Inception Report clearly identifies the preparation of a Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan as one of its first tasks under activity 1.1.1 – *Enhance and implement methodologies and practices for public participation*. The SPCP has been developed within the context of the new MRC Communications Strategy.

The SPCP aims to develop and establish stakeholder participation and communication principles and mechanisms that the BDP2 outputs are required to adopt into their development processes. It is a ‘must-produce-plan’ that promotes meaningful stakeholder participation and effective communication among a wide range of stakeholders in the BDP process.

The SPCP is particularly important given that stakeholder participation is seen as a cross-cutting issue that supports the basin development planning cycle and the finalisation of all BDP2 outputs. The 1st BDP2 Stakeholder Consultation in March 2008 and its inception report emphasised that “the stakeholder participation and communication component is not a ‘stand alone’ component. It is an integral part of, and fundamental to the success of each of the other components of BDP2.”¹³

The SPCP provides an important reference document that gives guidance on ways in which BDP2 aims to implement stakeholder participation and communication activities. It describes the objectives and principles of these activities, how to implement them throughout the planning process, and how to monitor and evaluate the results.

¹³ Stakeholder consultation for BDP2 and its Inception Report, 12-13 March 2008, pp 62.

PART II: STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR BASIN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN LOWER MEKONG BASIN

4 OBJECTIVES AND KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

4.1 Objectives and outputs

The **objective** of the SPCP is to provide principles, guidance and a plan of action for stakeholder participation and communication for an MRC-led participatory, inclusive and transparent basin development planning process.

The **expected outputs** of the implementation of the SPCP include:

- Enhanced understanding of stakeholders and their interests/needs in relation to water and related resources use in the LMB;
- Improved public access to information and understanding on the BDP process and its outputs through better communication;
- Meaningful mechanisms established to engage, build confidence and cooperation and promote the active participation and communication of diverse stakeholders in planning for sustainable development of the LMB;
- Increased sharing of knowledge and experience among the MRC and stakeholders in support of sustainable Mekong basin development;
- External peer review and validation of results of the BDP process promoted for technical soundness and stakeholder input and acceptance;
- Greater degree of ownership and commitment of national governments, partners and other stakeholders of the BDP process and its outputs;
- Informed and improved decision-making in water resources development in the LMB through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

4.2 Key principles

The MRC has developed a set of key principles (JC 1999) that promote meaningful stakeholder participation and communication. These principles have been elaborated in generic terms for the overall stakeholder engagement process at the MRC at all levels. These principles are meant to be flexible and the actual modalities will differ depending at which level stakeholder engagement is sought. The principles respond to different conditions depending on the nature of issues and decisions being discussed; participants' knowledge and experience; and existing support and procedures for participation.

Stakeholder participation principles include:

Representative: Relevant stakeholders should be represented, that is representatives of individuals, groups and institutions with an interest in and/or directly or indirectly affected by the issues. A major forum for representation of directly or indirectly affected peoples is through the BDP2 Sub-area forums, ADB led - 3S visioning exercise at district level, and a series of consultations through various development and management issues at the LMB tributary level. The representation of stakeholder representatives should include processes that promote social equity, ensure gender balance and enable the interests and needs of affected peoples to be taken into consideration. Interests and needs of the poor will be taken into consideration as a priority, and opportunities will be provided for them to engage effectively.

Accessibility: Easily accessible information is essential to stakeholder involvement and participatory processes. Accessible means timely distribution of information that is presented in non-technical, easily understood terms and ideally translated into the riparian languages of the member countries of the MRC. Use of the MRC website and listserves along with already existing networks will be employed to ensure timely distribution of information. Accessibility also means providing space and avenues for stakeholders to engage and be a part of MRC processes.

Relevance: The role of MRC needs to be clearly articulated to stakeholders so that they fully understand the working parameters of the Commission. Furthermore, stakeholder engagement in 'real' issues facing the Mekong River Basin is essential to effective processes and there should be mutual benefit for both the MRC and stakeholders. MRC should ensure that issues are presented in a timely manner and relevant to the stakeholders of the Basin.

Openness and Transparency: The process of stakeholder involvement should be clear and understandable to participants. The motivations and objectives for a participatory process should be explicit and the contributions of the participants should be considered in a timely manner. All relevant water-related decisions should be fully and clearly communicated to stakeholders, indicating the nature of the decision and the reasons for it.

Realistic and Efficient: Resources are frequently limited for carrying out stakeholder engagement activities in governance, programs, projects and activities of the MRC. Stakeholder involvement should be designed and implemented in a manner to use resources effectively and efficiently, taking into consideration available information, time and financial resources, as well as participant capacity. MRC should also place importance on the complementary and coordinated actions between the MRC Secretariat (e.g. the programmes, BDP2 and governance level) and the NMCs.

Accountability: MRC is accountable to stakeholders in upholding the stakeholder participation policy. Ensuring mutual accountability between the MRC and its stakeholders is essential. This stakeholder principle emphasises the need for not only the MRC to uphold to the stakeholder principles and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement but also for stakeholders to ensure and enable constructive engagement within the MRC that contributes to the overall objectives of the 1995 Mekong Agreement. Therefore it should be clear that all stakeholders understand the abilities and limitations of the MRC and its mandate through the 1995 Mekong Agreement and look for ways to strengthen MRC activities and actions. Accountability of all actors should be mainstreamed throughout engagement activities.

Timeliness: Stakeholder participation should be integrated as early as possible in the formulation of MRC programs, projects and other activities as well as at the highest level of decision-making in the

MRC Council and Joint Committee. Participatory approaches should be employed throughout all stages of MRC activities.

Practicality: MRC recognises that other networks and processes are already established in the Mekong and can be built on in order to ensure outreach and engagement with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

5 APPROACHES TO STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN THE BDP PLANNING CYCLE

Stakeholder consultation on BDP2 and its Inception Report in March 2008 emphasised the need to ensure throughout the BDP planning cycle the incorporation of the rights and interests of stakeholder groups.

In Sections 6.1 to 6.7 the seven individual stages of the BDP planning cycle are described. Each section provides a definition of the purpose of the planning stage and the main activities to be implemented. This is followed by a summary of the processes and approaches that BDP2 will adopt to involve different stakeholders in each of the seven stages of the BDP planning cycle. However, it should be recognised that the stages of the planning cycle are all inter-linked, as are the stakeholder participation activities. The approaches refer to a number of mechanisms for implementation. These mechanisms vary from informal interaction, to strengthening relationships between the BDP team and stakeholders, to informal and formal consultations, forums or dialogues. Annex 1 provides an explanatory note on how these mechanisms are defined by BDP2. Furthermore, the recently prepared national stakeholder analysis reports will provide supplementary information to guide the participation in each country.

The BDP Planning Cycle

As a river basin organisation, one of the key functions of the MRC is to facilitate a joint basin development planning process among the four riparian countries to manage and develop the water resources of the Mekong Basin in an integrated, sustainable and equitable manner for their mutual benefit. An approach to planning which is referred to as the BDP planning cycle is shown in Figure 2. The essence in this process is to ensure the integration of basin perspectives into the national planning process. The BDP planning cycle, therefore, brings all existing, planned and potential water resources developments in the planning process. This will offer a platform for the MRC to effectively engage in transboundary assessment, and facilitate cooperation among countries to ensure that projects are free of transboundary conflict. Effective stakeholder participation and capacity building within the MRC mandate for IWRM is an essential component throughout the cycle.

5.1 Stage 1 – Sub-area analysis / Regional and national sector reviews

A large knowledge base on the basin's water and related resources is available at regional, national and local levels in the Mekong Basin. The main objective of Stage 1 is to analyse available data and produce synthesised information for planning purposes at the basin and sub-area levels. In the process, IWRM planning capacity will be built.

The BDP1 defined nine water and related sectors¹⁴ and ten sub-areas in the LMB (see Figure 4) and established a participatory planning process and produced sector reviews and sub-area studies. The BDP2 is building on these achievements to address the remaining gaps in the sector knowledge base and prepare sub-area profiles.

¹⁴ See Section 6.1.2 for the definition of sectors and how they are considered in BDP planning process

Figure 2 - An elaboration of the BDP planning cycle

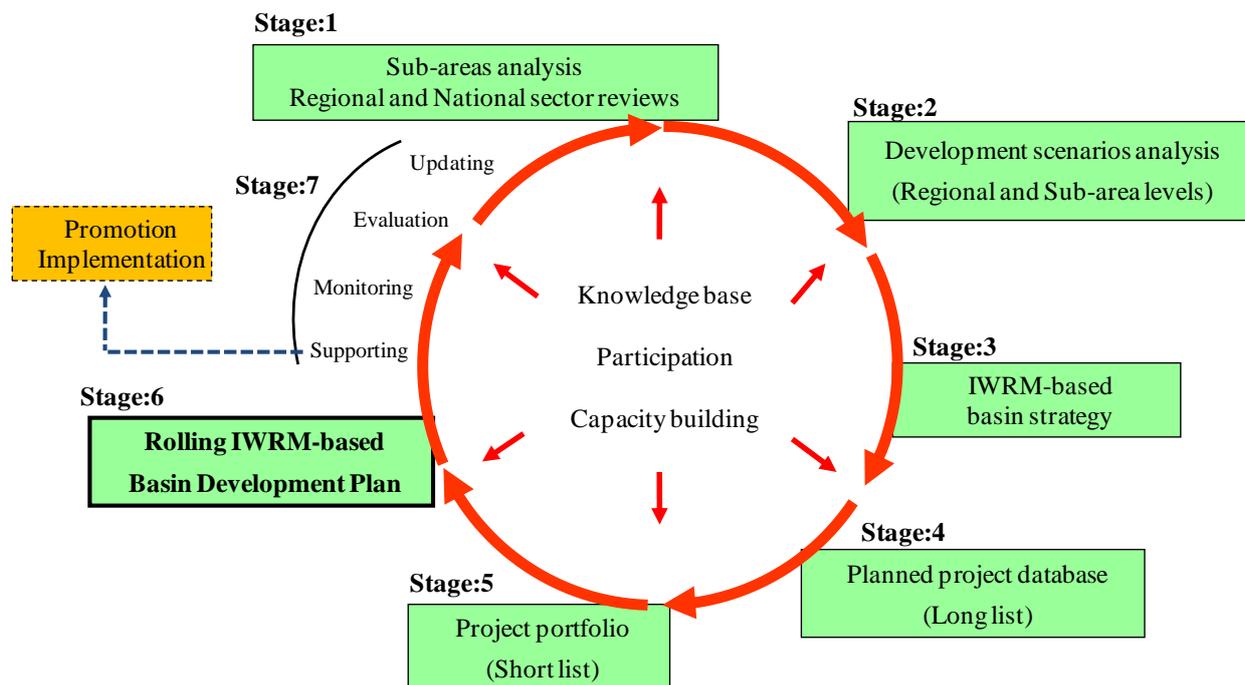
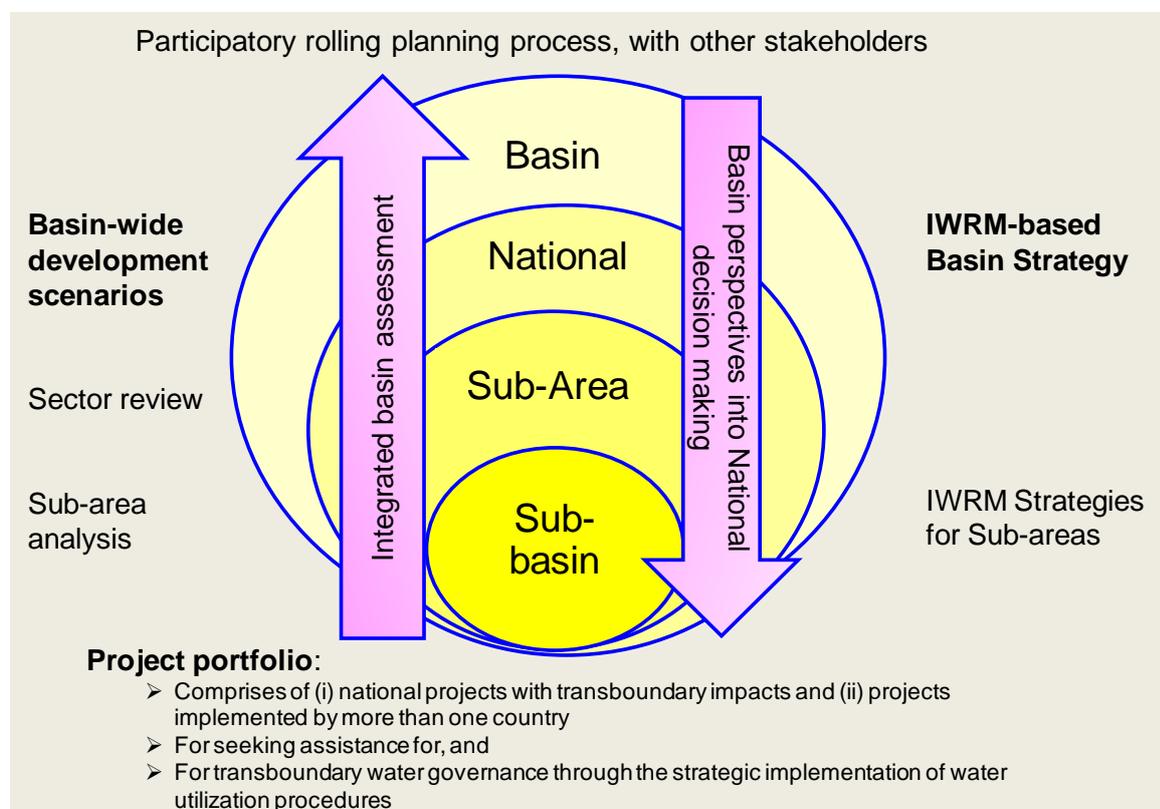


Figure 3 - BDP's integration with national processes



In the process, a common understanding will be built on the opportunities and constraints for water and related resources development in each sector and sub-area in the context of the different water demands and interests at the national and basin levels. A shared understanding of the opportunities and constraints for water resources development and protection in the various parts of the Mekong Basin will facilitate the joint preparation of IWRM strategies at the sub-area and basin levels.

Sub-area analysis

The main objective of the BDP sub-area analysis is to bring local perspectives into the basin planning, and basin perspectives into the national planning (see Figure 3). Other objectives include the improvement of data and information exchange across sectors and borders, and the development of IWRM planning capacity and joint learning processes.

Figure 5 provides an overview of the BDP2 supported sub-area activities, which will be carried out in two phases. During the first phase, sub-area profiles will be prepared, including a classification of sub-tributary catchments¹⁵ into development catchments, conservation catchments, and critical catchments (with significant development-protection trade-offs) and possibly others. During phase 2, a Sub-area IWRM Strategy will be prepared in a participatory manner, which facilitates the development and management of the land, water and related resources in each of these catchments.

The Sub-area IWRM Strategy will include implementing guidelines and a planning framework that will assist sector agencies and provinces in undertaking the actual sector and socio-economic planning in a way that is sensitive to the main resource protection issues in the distinguished types of catchments. Moreover, the implementation of the strategies will strengthen the coordinating, steering, and monitoring role of the national water (and environment) resources management agencies and their affiliations at the sub-area levels, such as river basin committees.

In those sub-areas that are situated in a larger transboundary sub-basin, such as the Sekong-Sesan-Srepok Basin, the country Sub-area IWRM Strategies will be integrated in a coherent Sub-basin IWRM Strategy that is consistent with the individual sub-area strategies and serves as a summary of the sub-area strategies, and outlines the strategy, institutional, and project recommendations.

Stakeholder participation is essential throughout the process and some key stakeholder participation events having been included as obligatory steps. The main stakeholders in the BDP sub-area activities have been identified as: (i) local decision-makers (provincial and district government agencies such as water resources management, planning and other related sector departments), (ii) national research institutions, individual consultants, and local/national/international NGOs working in and on the sub-area and (iii) local communities. BDP1 has established BDP sub-area working groups (SAWG)¹⁶ in all ten sub-areas, comprising of local government agencies, concerned national line agencies and national research institutions and RBCs (in the case of Thailand). BDP2 will build on existing networks of local and international NGOs and coordinate with other MRC Programmes to support sub-area activities.

Data collection on different water uses, for the description of projects, the analysis of opportunities and constraints and the consensus building on defining critical river basins within each SA and on

¹⁵ Several sub-tributary basins form one sub-basin of the Mekong River

¹⁶ See definition and more detail of Sub-area Working Group (SAWG) in Annex 1

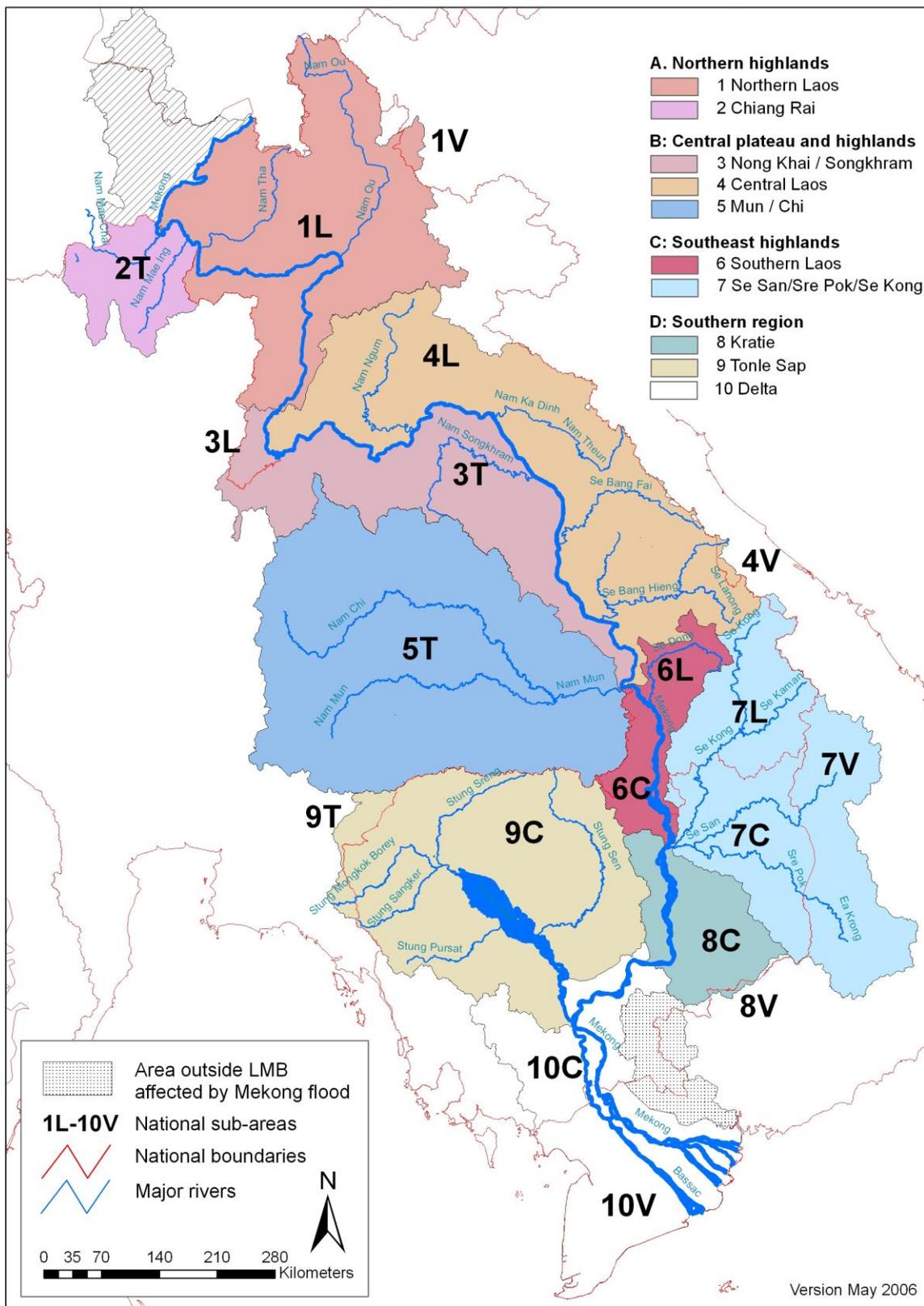
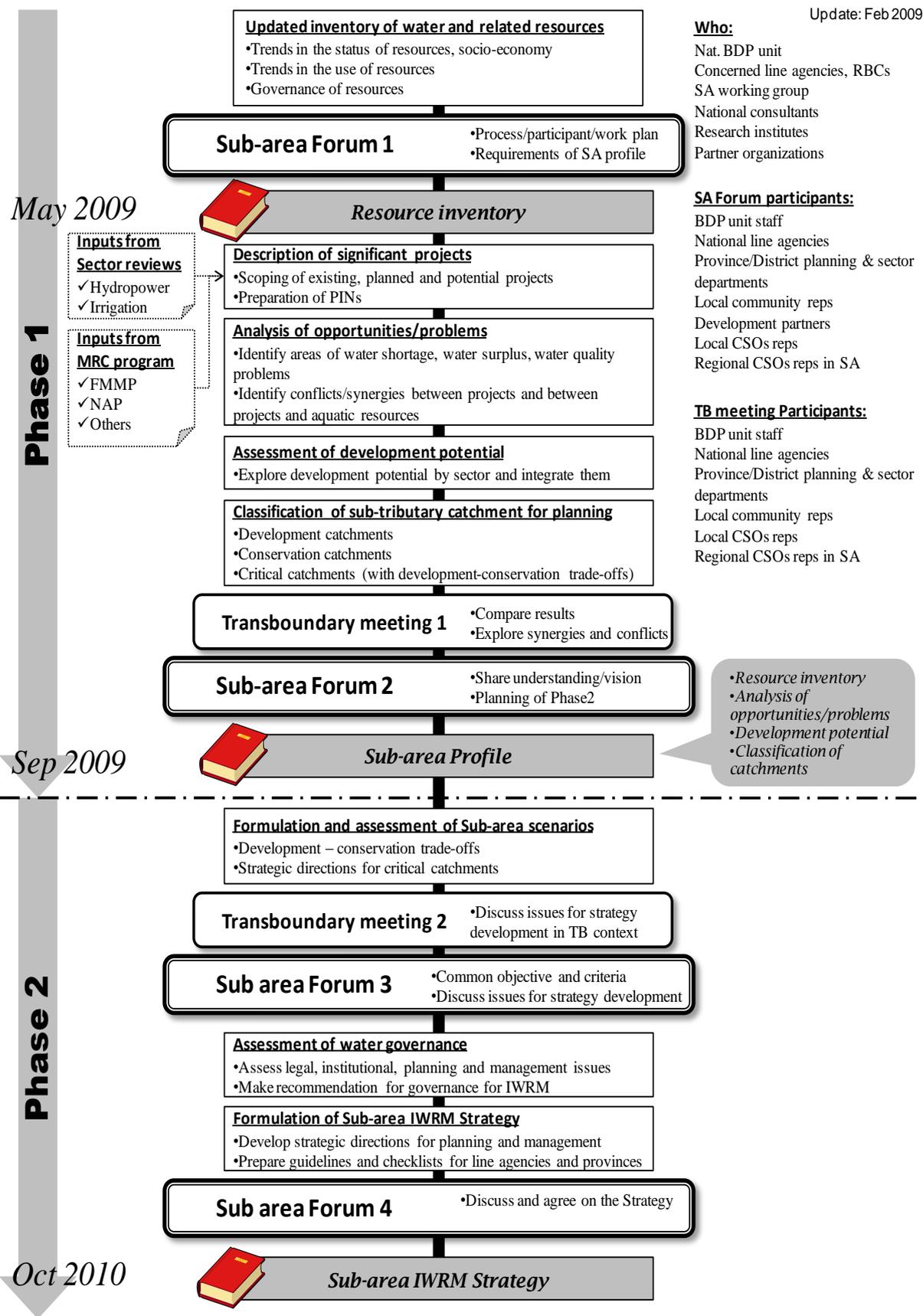


Figure 4 - BDP Sub-areas

their development scenarios and IWRM strategies will require partnership with various stakeholders. The following participatory approaches are anticipated.

- **Strengthen the SA Working Groups** to proactively engage in the process of data collection and analysis, to guide sub-area activities and lead the sub-area forums. The inclusion of civil society organisations including local and international NGOs in the SAWG, besides participation in SA forums, should be explored.
- **Engage national research institutions and experts** to support the SAWG in sub-area analysis (e.g. through partnership agreements or other arrangements).
- **Build partnerships** with and facilitate joint work with international, national and local NGOs and communities working in the sub-areas to maximise the use of available data, information and expertise, and ensure the availability and accessibility of MRC data.
- **Empower local decision-makers and communities** to take the lead in data provision, analysis, working with national research institutions and experts, and implementing local forums in their sub-areas.
- **Organise sub-area forums** (and other forums at greater decentralised levels (if needed): At least two SA forums are planned for each stage of the SA analysis. During Stage 1 – Development of SA Profile, these forums are for local governments, communities, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders to dialogue to (i) build a common understanding of the key IWRM challenges in each SA, which would help scope the data collection and analysis for the SA Profile; and (ii) review, discuss and build consensus on the SA profile. For Stage 2, the forums would focus on (iii) discussing which options (or which development scenario) to be selected, especially when draft results of SA scenario analysis are available and (iv) the Sub-area IWRM Strategy. It is crucial that:
 - Relevant and necessary information in an accessible form are provided prior to any dialogue or consultation so that all stakeholders can effectively participate.
 - Communities and other local stakeholders are consulted and provided with opportunities to participate in these sub-area forums.
 - Discussions at the forums are well recorded and issues taken up in the BDP planning process as well as lessons learned are drawn out and shared amongst SA and riparian countries for better organisation of the next forums.
 - The Guidelines for SA forums, developed in BDP1 will be updated to help prepare and organise these SA forums.
- **Transboundary meetings** (between countries and provinces sharing one river basin). Forums related to governance issues and specific projects will be organised. The Forums will be held to strengthen cooperation in the transboundary governance. These will build from the sub-area forums that will also be held and any outcomes generated from those forums will feed into the transboundary meetings.

Figure 5 - Diagram of BDP Sub area forums



- **Forums/dialogues on transboundary projects.** Inline with the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement (PNPCA)¹⁷ BDP2 will work with the NMCs and line agencies to gain trust and confidence to organise and facilitate forums on transboundary projects in the LMB.
- **Participation of Sub-area Working Group (SAWG) and local decision makers in other agencies' forums and networks.** BDP2 should develop a good knowledge of what being undertaken by related national and provincial agencies and by other organisations (international and local NGOs, multilateral and bilateral organisations and others) to build partnership and identify opportunities for IWRM issues at the SA level to be taken up and discussed in these forums and networks. Examples of these opportunities would be the participation in the Mekong national and regional water dialogues organised by IUCN, the discussion on SA development opportunities and constraints in the on-the-ground initiatives by international NGOs and/or integration of SA dialogues into provincial discussion on broader socio-economic development directions.

The issues discussed in SA Forums with relevance to the Basin as the whole would be brought up to the Annual Regional BDP Stakeholder Consultation (see 6.2 – Basin-wide scenario analysis and 6.3 – IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy below).

Regional and national sector reviews

The key water related sectors to be considered in the joint basin planning process have been identified as shown in the adjacent box. The main objectives of the sector reviews are to provide a sound and updated knowledge base of each sector for scenario-based planning, and to engage national sector and planning agencies in the basin planning process.

The latter is essential since these agencies will need to integrate basin perspectives (as described in the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and the Sub-area IWRM Strategies) into the national planning.

Sector policies and plans are analysed in the broader context of national development strategies and external factors, such as global market and regional development dimensions. Water demand projections are made and the technical, economic and operational characteristics of significant existing, planned

BDP Development Sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigated agriculture • Watershed management • Fisheries • Hydropower • Navigation, river works • Tourism and recreation (water related) • Water supply (domestic and industrial uses) • Flood management and mitigation • Environment, including environmental flows

¹⁷ The objectives of the PNPCA are to provide steps for the MRC member States to support the establishment of the Rules for Water Utilisation and Inter-Basin Diversions and promote better understanding and cooperation among the MRC member countries in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner to ensure the sustainable development, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin. See www.mrcmekong.org for further elaboration of the Procedures.

and potential projects are assembled in databases. For example, the BDP2 has been working with national sector specialists to improve existing hydropower and irrigation databases and user guides.

The irrigation and hydropower databases have been used already for applications to support the formulation of basin-wide water resources development scenarios. Over one hundred planned or proposed hydropower projects were economically screened. National sector reports have been consolidated into regional sector reports that summarises the current situation, analyses the development potential, and provides an outlook to the sustainable development of the sector.

Other MRC Programmes address the main knowledge gaps for basin planning in other sectors. For example, the FP in collaboration with the WorldFish Centre is modelling the barrier effect of dams on migratory fish production. The EP has started to consolidate and improve its information regarding the wetlands in the Mekong Basin, and revitalised its Social Impact Monitoring (SIM) and Vulnerability Assessment (VA) activities. The FMMP will prepare flood risk reduction strategies for the BDP sub-areas and identify significant flood management projects. The NAP will develop standard specifications for navigation locks and identify significant projects to improve navigation.

The main stakeholders during this stage are: national line agencies in charge of different sectors, national planning agencies, MRC programmes (ISH, FP, EP, FMMP, NAP, AIFP) and other regional and national research institutions and international organisations with expertise in one or more sectors.

The proposed participatory approaches include the followings.

- **Engage national line agencies** to work with the NMCs and MRCS to carry out sector reviews. The MRCS will ensure international good practice is utilised to enable high quality work while facilitating information sharing and discussion among the Member Countries.
- **Work through MRC sector programmes** for the analysis of key issues in each sector. In close coordination with BDP, the following activities are being carried out:
 - Analysis and identification of flood mitigation and flood control measures in the LMB, carried out by FMMP;
 - Monitoring of aquatic resources and assessment of potential losses of capture fisheries, caused by hydropower development by FP;
 - Analysis of agricultural development options in the LMB in linkage with water use efficiency by AIFP;
 - Understanding the reliance of population groups on water resources and the Mekong ecosystem and their vulnerability to water resources development through the SIM and VA by EP;
 - Identification of navigation development options with the possible changes in the mainstream flow due to hydropower development by NAP.
- **Learn from national and regional research institutions and universities** through BDP stakeholder forums and virtual discussion (i.e. utilising existing networks and the website).
- **Ensure access to information** by sharing and disseminating MRC data in an accessible manner to stakeholders through websites, publications, email list servers and MRC or other organisations events/meetings.

- **Organise National forums** for concerned line agencies to discuss national sector policies, plans and projects in an integrated manner with other sectors and with due consideration to the benefits and losses of other riparian countries.
- **Organise Sub-area Forums:** The SA analysis should be carried out in close coordination with the sector reviews given that (i) there should be coherence between SA development and national sector policies and (ii) opportunities for transboundary cooperation or potential transboundary impacts require coordinated actions at national and local (provincial and district) levels. The SA forums (*See Participatory approaches in Stage 1 – Sub-area analysis*) should also serve to ensure this coherence and cooperation.

5.2 Stage 2 – Development scenario analysis

Scoping of scenarios

The purpose of the analysis of alternative development scenarios is to support the development of a common vision and strategy that describes how the water and related resources in the LMB could be developed for economic growth and social welfare in each of the basin countries in a balanced way, without compromising the sustainability of the Basin’s vital ecosystems.

National decisions in some sectors may affect the Basin’s water and related resources, while MRC has no direct mandate for economic and social planning at the national level and for ensuring the integration of basin perspectives in national decision making. Given this situation, a sensible approach to building a common vision and strategy for water and related resources development is to define a “development space” within which the LMB countries can plan and work, taking into account the impact of foreseeable developments in the upper part of the Mekong Basin.

The development space for water and related resources will be defined through a basin-wide dialogue of the results of a comprehensive assessment of basin-wide scenarios that represents different levels of water resources development in the Mekong Basin. Each scenario represents a balance (trade-off) between economic, social and environmental objectives. The scenario that would achieve the most acceptable balance between economic, social and environmental outcomes in the LMB, and brings mutual benefits to the

Defined scenarios

1. **Baseline situation**, which represents the development conditions (physical and management characteristics) that existed in the year 2000.
2. **Definite future situation**, which includes the water resources developments that will definitely be fixed parts of the Mekong system in several years from now, such as the planned dams in the Upper Mekong Basin (Chinese Dam Scenario) and developments that are being constructed in the LMB (Definite Future Scenario).
3. **Foreseeable future situation**, which represents the development conditions that could become a reality during the next 20 years (20-year LMB Plan Scenario, 20-Year LMB Plan Scenario Without Mainstream Dams; 20-Year LMB Plan Scenario Without Mainstream Dams in the Middle and Lower LMB and the Mekong Delta Flood Management Scenario). The economic, environmental and social impacts of possible water resources developments in the LMB over and above the definite future situation is in particular relevant to decision-making on the development space for water and related resources in the LMB.
4. **Long-term future**, which represents development conditions in the Mekong Basin that are plausible (or at least not implausible) in 50 years from now (LMB Long-Term Development Scenario, LMB Very High Development Scenario). Given the large uncertainties in the formulation and assessment of long-term scenarios, they will be used to explore the constraints and potential of the basin for some climate change scenarios.

individual countries, would be selected by senior government officials to inform the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy (Stage 3 in the BDP planning cycle).

The formulation and assessment process

Four groups of scenarios have been defined for plausible future water and related resources situations (see the box above). All eight water related sectors shown in the box in Section 6.1.2 will be considered in the formulation and assessment of the water resources development scenarios. The main sectors considered for scenario formulation are those that can significantly change the hydrological regime of the river, such as irrigation, hydropower, and flood control. Thus each scenario would be formulated to represent different combinations levels of these sectoral developments. Other (passive) water-using sectors such as fisheries, tourism, navigation and the environment will be considered in the assessment of the scenarios.

The formulated water resources development scenarios will be first assessed against a range of direct hydrological indicators (flow and level changes at different locations at various times of the year) and indirect hydrological indicators (changes in sediment transport and water quality). In addition, transboundary impacts of scenarios, which are not driven by hydrological changes, will be assessed. In particular, the barrier effect of dams on migratory fish could result in significant decreases in capture fisheries production and possibly changes in habitats, such as wetlands. Proven tools and methods will be used to predict the hydrological and other changes, such as MRC's Decision Support Framework.

Subsequently, the main trade-off between economic, environmental and social development objectives will be assessed for each scenario in different series of processes from expert appraisal, through participatory assessment. The development objectives are derived from current national policies, strategies and sector plans, as well as the 1995 Mekong Agreement, the MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010, and the strategic directions for IWRM in the LMB prepared during BDP1. Appropriate assessment indicators have been assigned to each development objective to measure how well a development objective is met by a particular development scenario.

The results of the assessment of scenarios will be discussed with various stakeholder groups. Ultimately, the decision making body of the MRC at the Council level will need to provide guidance on which scenario most likely would achieve an optimal balance between economic, environmental, and social outcomes in the LMB, and would bring mutual benefits to the LMB countries.

It is noted that in choosing a water resources development scenario, the LMB countries are not committing to a particular set of projects (which are in any case subject to feasibility studies, EIAs etc), but are identifying a development space within which they can plan and work. Conflicts and trade-offs may occur, but within an agreed vision of an overall outcome to reach the goal of poverty reduction that gives priority attention to the poor and vulnerability groups, (which will be described in the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy).

Figure 6 provides an overview of the technical approach and overall process to formulate and assess basin-wide development scenarios as well as possible stakeholder participation mechanisms. The main stakeholders involved in this stage of the BDP planning cycle are (i) Members of the Regional Technical Working Group on scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy (RTWG), which is facilitated by the BDP2, (ii) Line agencies, NMCs, other MRC programmes; and (iii) Research institutes/networks and national/international NGOs and other organisations with experience in this field.

The following Stakeholder participation approaches are planned for this most critical stage in the BDP planning cycle.

- **Regional Technical Working Group on Scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy (RTWG).** The RTWG comprises line agencies, NMCs and MRC programmes, national research institutions. Plans are being made to expand the membership to regional institutions with relevant experiences. The RTWG reviews and contributes to both the process and technical work in the formulation and assessment of basin-wide development scenarios, the BDP assessment framework for scenarios and projects and the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy.
- **Participation through SA analysis and sector reviews** (see 6.1). The SA analysis and sector reviews are critical inputs into the formulation and assessment of development scenarios (basin-wide and SA levels). The participation of relevant line agencies (both at national and provincial/district levels), BDP National and SAWG and other stakeholders is envisaged.
- **Wide dissemination of information.** Draft technical papers and results of scenario analysis will be posted on the MRC website and circulate via email/networks so that stakeholders are aware of these and have the opportunity to provide comments.
- **National forums.** National Forums will be held to consult with stakeholders at national levels on the various sub-area scenarios and strategy (stage 3) in the country and priorities of national issues in Mekong water resources development. The National forums will feed into the regional meetings and BDP Stakeholder consultation/dialogues.
- **Sub-area forums.** *See stage 1 above*
- **Partnership with other institutions/agencies.** Scenario analysis, especially the assessment of economic, environment and social impacts would require comprehensive data, information and knowledge on the specific technical issues and/or locations. Building partnership and engaging agencies with relevant knowledge and experience in the scenario analysis would help address the information and knowledge gap, obtain valuable inputs as well as utilising the networks and outreach of these agencies to other stakeholders especially communities. At the same time, MRC/NMC staff will participate in activities and assessments led by these agencies or use their forums to discuss basin development issues (see 6.1.1 above)
- **Training** on scenario-based water resources planning including dispute and trade-off facilitation will be provided for the RTWG, line agencies, SAWG members and local government agencies and MRCS staff in cooperation with international and national research institutes and relevant networks.
- **Stakeholder review.** Draft technical papers (i.e. approach to scenario formulation and assessment and draft results of scenario analysis) will be available for peer-review by a wide stakeholder groups via list serves, websites or specific meetings to discuss and obtain feedback on the drafts.
- **Independent expert review for quality assurance.** A group of internationally recognised experts (from elsewhere and in the region) will be recruited to independently review the quality of scenario analysis results, the use of assessment tools and other key outputs of BDP2 (such as the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, Project portfolio and the participation aspect of the process) to ensure that the results are credible. The review will be done at critical intervals and before the finalisation of these outputs.

The independent review/quality assurance will include a comparison of results of BDP scenarios assessment, using other internationally recognised simulation models or assessment methodologies by other universities and institutions.

- **MRC Joint Committee and Council** will play a crucial role in the review, provision of guidance and endorsement of scenario assessment results. The JC and Council will also be vital in ensuring that important issues in basin development through scenario and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy are discussed by concerned decision makers in each riparian country to build regional consensus.

5.3 Stage 3 – IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy

The preparation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy in Stage 3 will be based on the feedback and guidance provided during Stage 2 on which basin-wide scenario (and thus which level of water resources development) likely would achieve the most acceptable balance between economic, environmental, and social outcomes in the LMB, and would bring mutual benefits to the LMB countries. Also the Sub-area IWRM Strategies (see Stage 1) will inform the basin strategy.

The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy will provide a long-term view of how the LMB could be developed in a sustainable manner for economic growth and poverty reduction in which prior attention is given to the poor and vulnerable groups.

It will provide clear strategic directions for the development and protection of the water and related resources in the mainstream and tributary basins. Bringing and influencing regional management perspective to national planning, the strategy will also provide a rolling planning, evaluation and reporting framework, which aims at bringing these views and directions into the national planning and vice versa, amongst others through the MRC Programmes and BDP2's sub-area activities. The results will guide the formulation of the Project Portfolio.

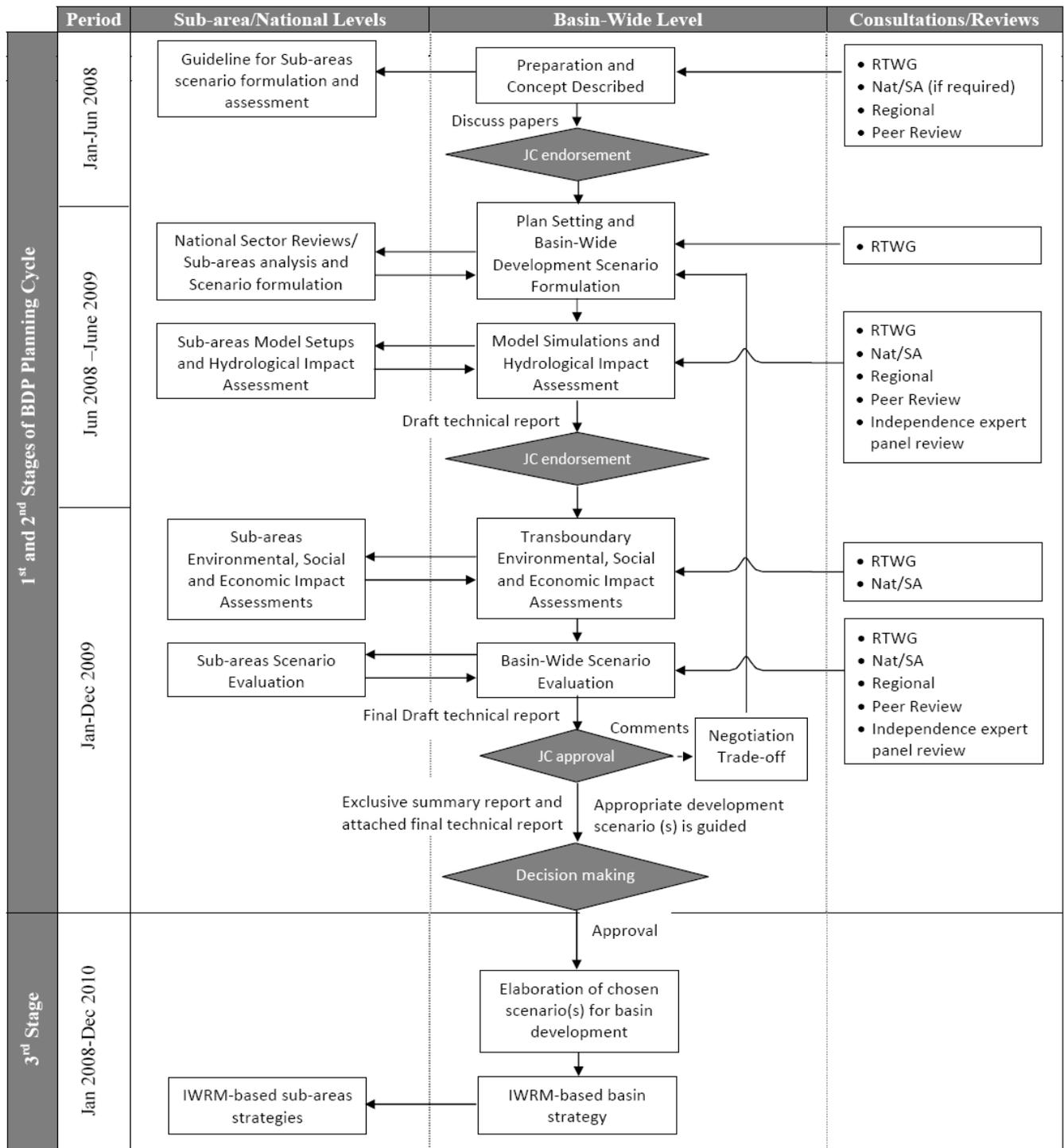
Figure 7 provides an overview of the process for the preparation and consensus building on the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. Since Stages 2 and 3 of the BDP planning cycle are closely linked to each other, the stakeholders in both stages are the same and the participatory approaches are interlinked. In addition, an Advisory/Facilitation Group comprising of one senior advisor from each member country and one international consultant will be formed to support the strategy formulation process. They will focus on building ownership of planning and sector agencies and engaging national decision makers in the process of the formulation and adoption of the strategy. This would build commitment for the implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy.

5.4 Stage 4 – Planned project database (long-list)

Figure 8 summarises the process to develop the Project Database and the Project Portfolio (Stage 5 in Section 6.5 below). The current Project Database comprises over 300 project ideas identified during BDP1. Most projects are not included in the national plans yet. The objective of Stage 4 is to improve the database to contain Project Identification Notes (PINs) of significant planned and potential projects in the water-related sectors (see Section 6.1).

In the MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010 the following three types of water-related projects are distinguished:

Figure 6 - Overall process to formulate and assess basin-wide development scenarios with the linkages of Sub-area/National levels and consultations/reviews



Note: See description of participation process for the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy in Stage 3 – IWRM based basin Strategy

- **Infrastructure developments** being civil, mechanical or electric engineering-based projects. The BDP2 has subdivided these into two subtypes:
 - Water control developments being projects that control or consume water and related resources, such as hydropower, irrigation, and flood control projects;
 - Water quality impact developments being projects that do not significantly control water resources but that can significantly affect the quality of water, such as major industries and mines, municipal waste disposal and water treatment facilities, and the use of water for power plant cooling.
- **Non-structural developments** being investments in facilities that contribute directly to improved management of water and related resources, such as flood warning systems, navigation equipment, and systems for the monitoring of water flows, water quality and sediments; and
- **Enabling developments** being improvements to resource management practices, such as research programmes, sectoral studies, and development of assessment tools, the preparation of regulations and procedures, and institutional development and capacity building.

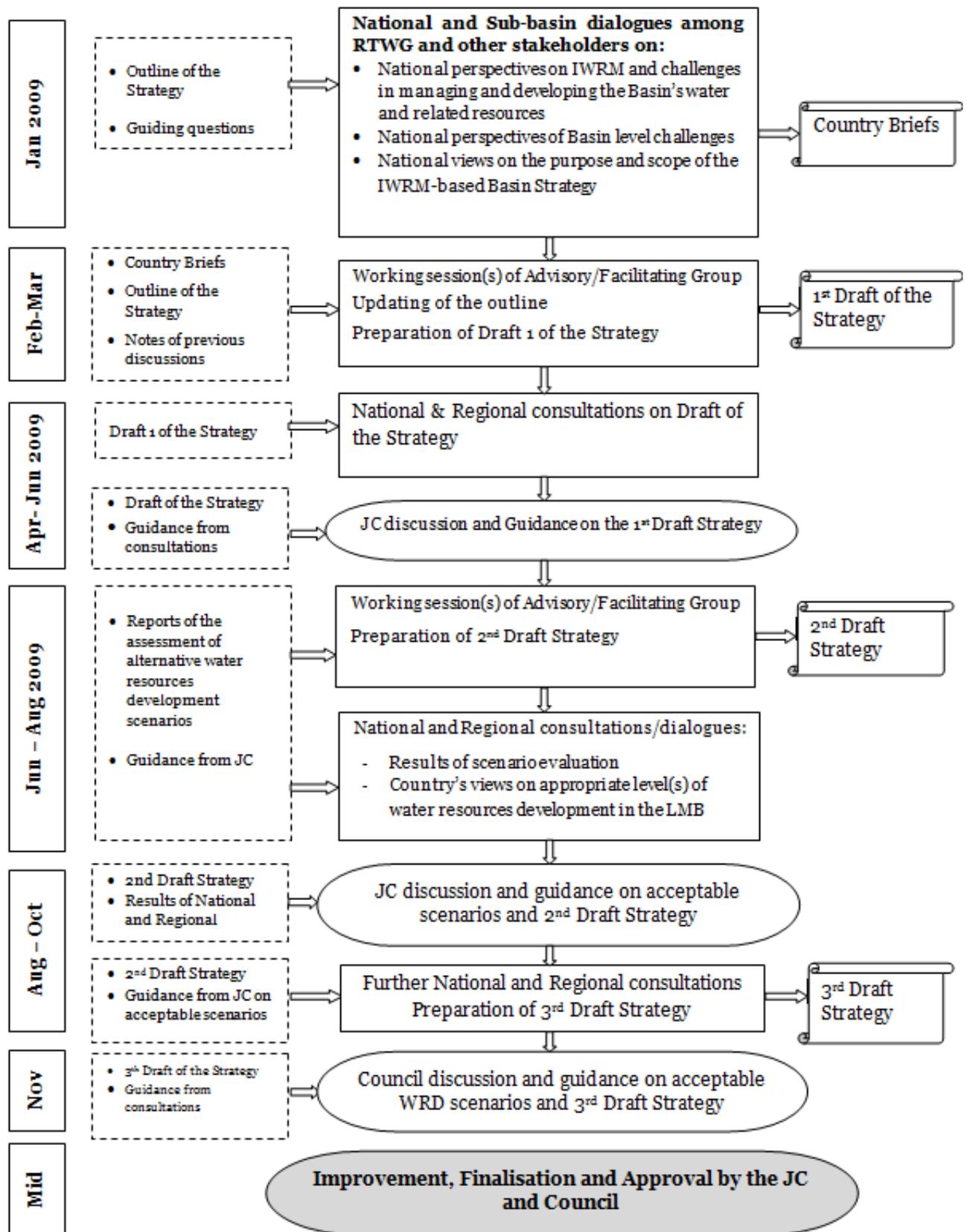
Given MRC's mandate, the Project Database will focus on projects that are of *basin-wide significance* or of a transboundary nature, and thus require some form of cooperation between two or more riparian countries (MRC Strategic Plan 2006-2010). In this document, such projects are named "significant". Three classes of significant projects can be distinguished, based on the location of the projects and the number of countries involved:

- **Joint projects** are projects that provide basin-wide value. These projects will be jointly developed, initially by the four LMB countries, later hopefully also including the two upper riparian countries of China and Myanmar. Virtually all joint projects in the Project Database will be non-structural developments and enabling developments. Conversely, virtually all non-structural and enabling projects will be joint projects

For an infrastructure development to be classified in this class it needs to have permanent value across borders, realising benefits in several countries. An example would be a storage reservoir or another intervention that directly improves flow conditions and/or raises the productivity of the use of water with basin-wide significance. Non-permanent cross-border benefits, such as a hydropower export agreement, do not qualify the project as joint.

- **Transboundary projects** are between two or three riparian countries. Also this category of projects will comprise mainly non-structural developments and enabling developments, which are: 1) implemented necessarily in more than one country at the same time or 2) implemented in one country and are of transboundary in nature. Examples of infrastructure developments in this class are the development or improvement of a significant border canal between two countries, a dam across a border river, or a reservoir area spanning two countries, which all require joint planning and implementation;
- **Significant national projects**, or suites of projects, are those which can be solely developed by one country and could have significant positive and negative impacts on one or more other countries. Most projects in this class are significant infrastructure developments, which can be implemented by each of the four MRC member countries individually, within its borders and with its financial partners.

Figure 7 – Process to prepare and adopt the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy



It is envisioned that most infrastructure projects in the above three classes are subject to the implementation of the Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement, (PNPCA, approved 2003). The implementation of the PNPCA will help ensure that the project is in line with the principles of the 1995 Mekong Agreement, which aims at the optimal, sustainable and equitable management and development of water and related resources.

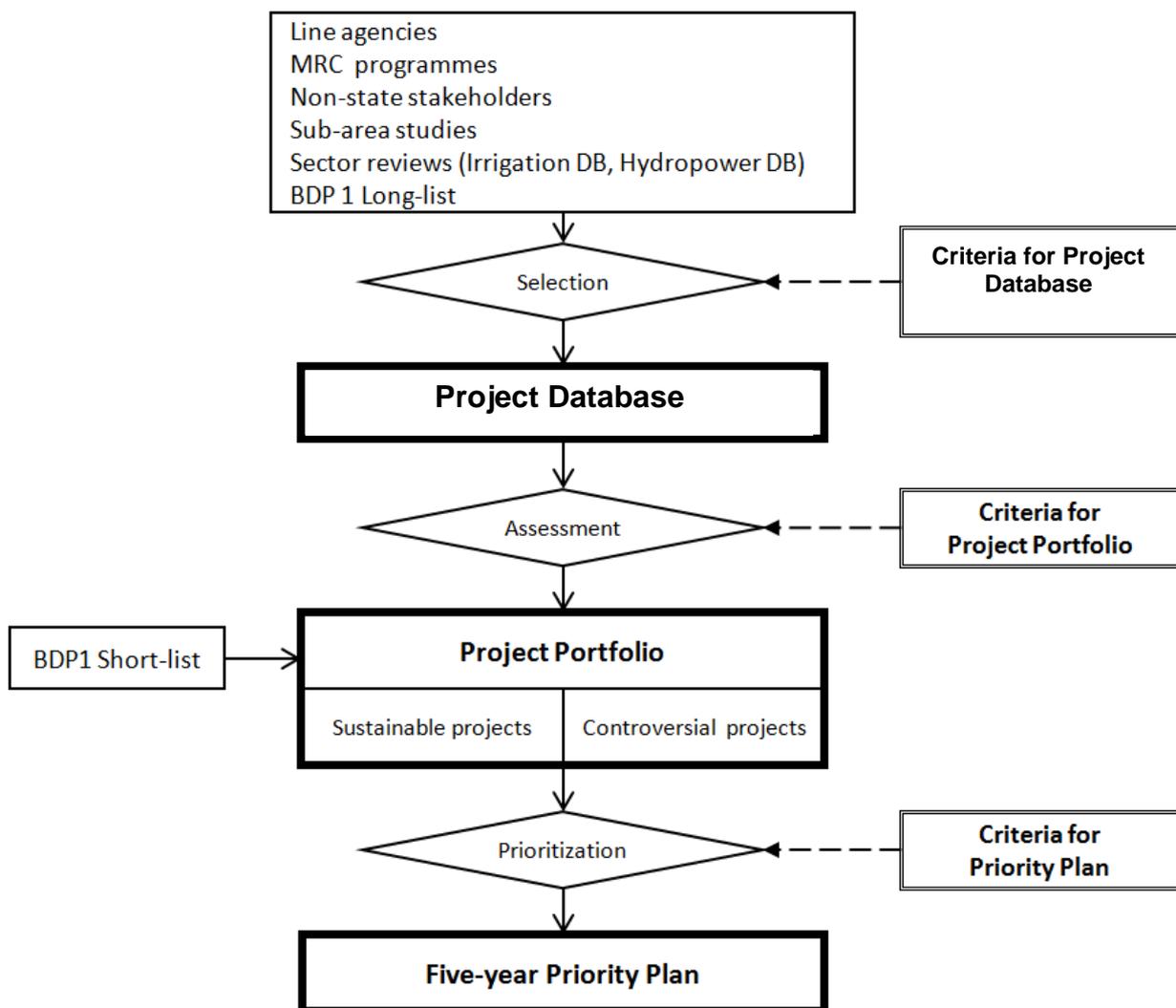
It is envisioned that the improved database will contain PINs of all joint, transboundary and significant national projects that are planned by the riparian countries, MRC Programmes and others. The improved database should also contain PINs of significant infrastructure developments that are already completed or under construction, with a view to informing the formulation of development scenarios and recording the negative and positive impacts of these projects.

The PINs of infrastructural developments in some of the water-related sectors, such as irrigated agriculture and hydropower, can be generated from existing sectoral databases. For the other water-related sectors, data PIN input files will be made for the storage of relevant project data and information in the Project Database. The main vehicles for the collection of the project information are the sector activities of the various MRC Programmes and the BDP2 sub-area activities. In the process, new significant projects can be identified, based on real needs and opportunities.

The selection criteria that will be used for the selection of the joint, transboundary and significant national projects will be agreed in a dialogue with stakeholders. The stakeholders including line agencies and local authorities, communities, civil society organisations, NMCs, MRC programmes, development partners and the private sector will be involved in this stage of the BDP planning cycle in a wide range of activities, including the following:

- Provide project information and data and involve in the preparation and use of the Project Database (by line agencies, local government agencies, NMCs, international and local NGOs and communities);
- Participatory identification of potential projects based on basin-wide and SA scenario analysis and SA forums and transboundary meetings;
- Participatory project screening and assessment and/or review and feedback on the results;
- Participation in national, SA and regional forums including forums on transboundary projects;
- Engage with upstream countries to include ongoing and planned projects in the upper basin for a comprehensive and sustainable view of future development in the MRB;
- Sharing of information for effective participation by stakeholders.

Figure 8 – Process for developing the Project Portfolio



5.5 Stage 5 – Project portfolio (short-list)¹⁸

The Project Portfolio will comprise joint projects, transboundary projects and significant national projects drawn from the Project Database (Stage 4). The objective of the Project Portfolio is to: 1) enhance the mutual benefits to the riparian countries that can be created through the cooperative development of some of the basin’s water and related resources, and 2) minimise harmful effects that might result from natural occurrences and man-made activities, as envisioned in the 1995 Mekong Agreement.

The projects will be selected in the Project Portfolio based on two objectives: promotion of projects or strengthened governance of projects, as envisioned in the 1995 Mekong Agreement. Therefore, the portfolio will comprise two main categories of significant projects:

¹⁸ Currently, the Project portfolio is being worked in progress in conceptualizing the project classification/prioritization framework and process.

- **Sustainable projects**, which will best meet the strategic needs for national socio-economic development while maintaining essential basin functions throughout a 20-year plan period. MRC may seek development assistance for this category of projects on behalf of the member countries (an explicit part of the definition of the BDP as set out in the 1995 Agreement). Moreover, MRC may support their preparation and implementation through provision of shared information, technical advice and facilitation of cooperation; and
- **Controversial projects**, which might not comply with the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. This category may comprise some planned, proposed or potential significant national infrastructure developments and transboundary infrastructure developments (see Section 6.4). The early identification of possible controversial projects will offer opportunities for the MRC to engage in facilitating dialogue on such projects and add value to project assessment, preparation, implementation, with a view to enhancing the mutual benefits of the riparian countries and the sustainable management of the river's natural resources.

An agreed IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy will be an important guide for the selection of joint projects, transboundary projects and significant national projects into the Project Portfolio. If needed, economic, environmental and social screening tools will be used to check whether or not significant infrastructure developments would qualify as a sustainable or a controversial project in the Project Portfolio. Other selection criteria will be agreed in a dialogue with stakeholders.

The Project Portfolio will provide opportunities to the riparian countries to capture the mutual benefits that can be created by cooperation under the 1995 Mekong Agreement. For the MRC it provides a platform for early engagement in significant projects, and assists the line agencies and development partners in the “clearing” of such projects in an overall basin context. This in turn should facilitate the funding of the project preparation and implementation, as well as a more strategic implementation of the PNPCA.

A sub-set of projects in the Project Portfolio will be further prioritised for inclusion as a “firm” project in the Five-year Priority Plan. The prioritisation selection criteria will be agreed in a dialogue with stakeholders. The projects in the Priority Plan would comprise significant infrastructure developments, non-structural developments and enabling developments of basin-wide significance or transboundary nature. Each project in the priority plan would be accompanied by a proforma description setting out the main details of the project, its anticipated cost, impacts, risks and implementation arrangements, as well as the justification for its inclusion in the Five-year Priority Plan.

The stakeholders in this stage are the same as stakeholders in Stage 4. Participatory approaches are also quite similar. In addition, the following suggestions are made:

- The role of the MRC Joint Committee and Council is crucial in reviewing and endorsing the criteria, screening process and the Project Portfolio. This is important as actions on the Project Portfolio through the Five-year Priority Plan would not be possible without agreement and commitment of member countries reflected through consensus and endorsement at the MRC governance level.
- More emphasis would be put in this stage on approaches and mechanisms to effectively share information and support the national line agencies, development partners and private sector to further identify and prepare projects in the Portfolio for funding and implementation.

- Attention will be paid to the monitoring of the implementation of the Project Portfolio to draw out lessons learned (BDP2 output 2.6 and stage 7 of BDP planning cycle) and to ensure prompt actions to update the rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan.

5.6 Stage 6 – Rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan

The rolling¹⁹ IWRM-based Basin Development Plan may be viewed essentially as a management document that sets out, in both the short and medium term horizon, and consistent with the long-term directions in the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, the specific actions agreed by the MRC member countries to develop and manage the basin's resources and the means for effective monitoring of these. The Plan will be implemented by the member countries and stakeholders. This includes the integration of the Plan's strategic directions and specific projects and actions into the national planning process.

The IWRM-based Basin Development Plan will be a coherent and consistent plan document, comprising of the following main elements: selected development scenarios (stage 2), the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy (stage 3), and the Project Portfolio (stage 5). Additionally, in part of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, the Plan will also identify roles and responsibility among agencies and stakeholders, as well as a management structure to be the main mechanism to keep the Plan rolling.

Virtually all infrastructural developments in the Project Portfolio would be prepared and implemented by the countries with support from project developers, development banks, and others. The MRC would assist the member countries through the provision of shared information, technical advice and facilitation of cooperation. MRC would also engage in the facilitation of dialogue on controversial projects in the Project Portfolio (see Stage 5). It is envisioned that many of the enabling developments and some of the non-structural projects in the Project Portfolio will be implemented by the MRC Programmes.

Some of the aforementioned consultations and forums in stages 1, 2 and 3 - at national and regional levels on the development scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy will be used to discuss the outline of the Plan with various stakeholder groups. The agreed outline will drive the integration of the three elements in a draft plan document. By that time the draft versions of the elements have already benefited from basin-wide discussions with the different interest groups and senior government officials. The last year of BDP2 will be used to achieve consensus among the various stakeholder groups on the draft plan document, so that by the time it presented to the MRC Council for approval, it has widespread support.

5.7 Stage 7- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation, support and updating

The BDP2 will develop clear criteria, quantified indicators, procedures, time-bound for monitoring implementation progress and evaluating the impact and ownership of the Plan, and guidelines for all stakeholders to engage in the monitoring and evaluation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan. MRC/BDP will facilitate discussions, forums and dialogues on implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan, and will need to rely on input at all levels from the local to the regional to ensure effective implementation and management of the Plan.

¹⁹ "Rolling" in the context of the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan refers to an iterative plan that will be updated and changed as circumstances arise. As development is rapidly occurring in the Lower Mekong Basin it is realised and expected that the plan needs to be consistently kept up to date as new projects emerge.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on individual projects will be the responsibility of the project owners, while monitoring of the implementation and the periodic evaluation of the impact of the entire Plan will be carried out by the MRC Programmes in coordination with the national planning and line agencies.

MRC's transboundary monitoring programmes include water quantity, water quality, water use, sediment transport, aquatic ecosystem health, and vulnerability assessment to aquatic ecosystem change. The resulting monitoring information can be used to continually check on the condition of the basin's transboundary water resources. The reporting process includes periodic updates of the State-of-Basin Report, which provides an overall assessment of the trends in the health and use of the water and related resources in the Mekong Basin.

The rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan will provide guidelines for its periodic updating through the BDP planning cycle. As projects move through the project cycle, some are removed from the Project Portfolio because they are completed or proved unfeasible. New projects will be identified and approved for inclusion in the Plan. It is envisioned that the Project Portfolio will be updated every 2 or 3 years. Also the development scenarios and the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy will need to be updated every 5 to 10 years, since new data and information become available that may necessitate a review of the earlier agreed understanding of the basin dynamics, basin needs, stakeholders, development space, and national development needs.

In this way, each IWRM-based Basin Development Plan can be updated in an informed way, adjusting as necessary the Basin Strategy and Project Portfolio, to ensure that the LMB countries stay within the agreed development space and are on track towards achieving the Plan's long term policy objectives.

All identified stakeholders of BDP will be included in the monitoring and evaluation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan and its periodic updating through the BDP planning cycle.

6 ENHANCING COMMUNICATION IN BDP2

6.1 Principles

BDP2 communications will be in line with the MRC Communications Strategy. Its main aim is to ensure BDP stakeholders are kept well informed and actively receive and contribute information into the BDP process, the MRC in general and “big picture” issues occurring within the LMB according to their interests. Promotion of effective communication with easily understood messages through diverse groups of stakeholders in local languages at sub-area, national and regional levels will ensure consistency, pro-activeness and two-way communication processes. Fundamental to this process is employing the stakeholder principles as outlined in section 5 specifically around providing accessible and transparent information in local languages.

Currently (as of April 2009), the BDP2 programme implementation is still at an early stage of identifying stakeholder groups at community, national, and provincial levels. The communication activities will be implemented proactively in an overarching and outreaching approach. The programme is working towards identifying more specific groups of target audiences especially the poor, marginalised and woman groups on a process of learning-by-doing. As a regional organisation, the MRC will need to build partnerships with local NGOs and the research communities as a vehicle to reach to them. Once these groups are identified in demographics, social conditions or in manageable perspectives, the programme will need to further develop a communication approach that will fit and effectively engage them in the BDP process.

6.2 Approaches

The BDP will employ a range of routine communication tools and approaches, which include:

MRC Quarterly Newsletter: the BDP team will report on the programmes progress through the MRC newsletter, produced every three months.

BDP2 brochures and publications: Brochures will be prepared for public events including MRC governance events (JC, Council, informal and formal donor meetings, dialogue meetings, etc) and BDP stakeholder consultation events. These events offer a platform for the dissemination and display of BDP2 publications including technical reports or other programme related materials.

Press releases and Media: With assistance from ICCS, press releases through newspapers, TV and radio media will be prepared for major BDP events, important activities and/or release of publications and outputs.

Website: The BDP2 webpage on the MRC website will include draft and final reports and other related information on the BDP process. Practical software for the development of MRC hydrological models is being proposed for the web to be freely downloaded. This is still under discussion for the possible implementation.

Video: Short documentary or video is a good communication tool that can outreach wider stakeholders. The BDP programme is developing an initiative of a short film/or documentary to highlight key issues that the MRC-led participatory basin planning process is addressing and how the process is undertaken, with line agencies, NMCs and stakeholders. A possible title of the

documentary/film could be “Participatory basin planning for sustainable development of LMB and how MRC could support”. It is hoped that the film will be an innovative communication that is made to present an attractive participatory basin planning story and feature a complex BDP process to a digestible and enjoyable message – and to benefit a wide group of audience in the Basin.

Email list server: The BDP2 team will use existing listserves organised by a range of organisations such as the BDP email list, Mekong-Lancang, M-POWER, SEI, and Global Water Issues Listserve hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development to keep stakeholders updated on progress and activities as well as to invite comments, inputs and peer review of its work.

BDP presentations/interventions in events at local, national, regional and international levels: By actively participating in informal and formal events related to development of the MRB, the BDP will share information and knowledge generated through the BDP planning process while gathering other stakeholders’ knowledge and experience.

Routine interactions: BDP2 will aim to routinely interact with a range of stakeholders both informally and formally in order to regularly share information.

The detailed workplan of the BDP2 SPCP is provided in Annex 3. This workplan is based on the logical framework and project implementation plan of the BDP2.²⁰ Analysis of the stakeholders involved in the BDP process has been conducted to identify participation and communication activities for each of the BDP2 activities and outputs. Selection of the activities is based on the key principles elucidated in Section 5 and the main approaches for stakeholder participation in Section 6. Ensuring practical implementation and the selection of activities will be determined by available time, resources, and a deeper analysis of the stakeholders, who will be targeted in specific country and sub-area contexts.

²⁰ BDP2 Final Draft Inception Report (2008), pages 80-83 and 106.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION

7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPCP

7.1 Responsibilities of the main actors

The SPCP is a far-reaching plan to ensure that the work of BDP2 is participatory and includes all relevant stakeholders. Consequently it encompasses a wide range of activities. To effectively implement the SPCP, a number of actors with varying responsibilities will be involved. Below are the key implementation responsibilities of actors involved in the BDP2 SPCP.

The regional BDP (RBDP) team based in the MRCS will:

- Oversee the implementation of the SPCP, and provide guidance on its implementation to the national BDP teams and BDP Working Groups.
- Organise regional forums and communicate to stakeholders through the MRC/BDP websites and BDP communication materials/publications.
- Coordinate with other MRC programmes and other actors at the regional level.
- Support the national BDP teams and SAWGs in organising national and sub-area stakeholder forums and building partnerships with various stakeholder groups.
- Ensure transparency in recruiting regional experts and consultants in line with MRC procurement procedures, and assist the national BDP teams and sub-area teams in providing guidance in recruitment of national and local experts/consultants.

The national BDP teams based in the four riparian countries will:

- Provide guidance and advice to the RBDP team on national relevance of technical and administrative issues.
- Organise national and sub-area stakeholder consultations and forums in conjunction with the NMCs.
- Facilitate communication between national line agencies and other stakeholders and their participation in the BDP process at national and sub-area levels.
- Communicate clearly with stakeholders and the RBDP team on progress and work undertaken.
- Facilitate Member Countries' participation in the RTWG and regional stakeholder forums.
- Participate in training activities, to help build a common understanding among stakeholders on key issues such as IWRM and scenarios.

- Ensure transparent recruitment of national experts/consultants.

Line agencies and local governments will:

- Participate in national BDP working groups, RTWG and meetings.
- Take the lead in sector reviews, sub-area activities and collection of information for the planned Project Database (Stage 4) and the project portfolio (Stage 5).
- Actively participate in the stakeholder forums at the sub-area, national and regional levels.
- Participate in BDP2 training activities to help build a common understanding among stakeholders of key issues such as development scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy at sub-area and basin levels.

Other MRCS Programmes will:

- Actively participate in the RTWG and other BDP2 activities.
- Provide programme inputs and participate in BDP2 forums and meetings and technical activities.
- Contribute to the peer and external reviews of the BDP process and its outputs.
- BDP national and sub-area working groups in the four riparian countries will:
- Review and provide comments on BDP guidelines for different outputs, such as the Guidelines for Updating Sub-area Profiles including the planning guides.
- Provide and collect necessary data and information for Sub-area update activities and participate in sub-area forums.
- Participate in training activities, to help build a common understanding among stakeholders of key issues such as IWRM and scenarios.
- Clearly communicate the SPCP to the sub-contractors for sub-area work.

Sub-contractors for sub-area activities will:

- Collect data to update sub-areas profiles and analysis.
- Involve local stakeholders in data collection for sub-areas activities.
- Research institutes and universities will:
- Engage with and become involved in BDP2 processes where appropriate.
- Provide inputs to BDP, such as sub-area data and existing research.
- Peer-review the work of BDP2, e.g. the basin-wide scenarios.
- Work with the BDP2 (national and regional) to design and implement training activities.
- Where appropriate, take part in training activities, to help build a common understanding among stakeholders of key issues such as IWRM.

NGOs, civil society organisations and international organisations will:

- Engage with and become involved in BDP2 processes where appropriate.
- Where appropriate, take part in training activities, to help build a common understanding among stakeholders of key issues such as IWRM and scenarios.
- Participate in BDP stakeholder forums and consultations at various levels.
- Provide inputs to BDP2, such as sub-area data and livelihood data.
- Review and provide comments on BDP2 outputs, such as scenario, the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and project portfolio.

Communities will:

- Engage with and become involved in BDP2 processes where appropriate.
- Take part in training activities at local and sub-area levels to help build a common understanding among stakeholders of key issues such as IWRM and scenarios.
- Actively participate in BDP stakeholder forums and consultations at the local level.
- Provide inputs to BDP2, such a community-specific data and information related to potential impacts of development projects.
- Provide comments on BDP2 documents as relevant.

7.2 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of SPCP implementation

Monitoring of the SPCP will aim to measure how activities are carried out as an integral part of BDP2 implementation and contribute to the expected outcomes set out in the SPCP. The monitoring will be at two levels: internal and external.

Internal monitoring

Internal monitoring of the SPCP implementation implies self-monitoring by the national and regional BDP teams and monitoring within the MRC M&E framework.

Regional level: The BDP Social Scientist with support from the BDP Regional Coordinator will be primarily responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of the SPCP. Internal monitoring at regional or overall programme level will focus on:

- Ensuring that SPCP activities are incorporated in the periodic Regional and National Programme Implementation Plan (PIP).
- Ensuring that adequate support will be provided to the BDP specialists – managers of different BDP2 outputs and National BDP Coordinators in the design and implementation of and reporting on these activities.

- Ensuring the provision of support tools i.e. checklists or report formats to support the monitoring of and reporting on stakeholder participation and the communication aspects of BDP2 activities.
- Allowing for necessary and timely adjustments of the SPCP to meet with specific country/local situations.
- Enabling quality reporting on stakeholder participation as an integral part of the BDP process.
- Providing inputs to MRC reporting on stakeholder participation and the implementation of its Communications Strategy.
- Identifying and providing capacity building support and on-the-job coaching to the national BDP coordinators in the implementation and monitoring of the SPCP.

National level: The National BDP Coordinator, with support from the Natural Resources Planning Specialist, will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the SPCP at national and local levels. Monitoring at national and local level will aim to:

- Ensuring that SPCP activities are integrated into the National PIP.
- Ensuring the adequate identification and analysis of stakeholders for country/sub-area specific activities.
- Enabling frequent discussion among the BDP team to share lessons learned and to make adjustments to country specific activities.
- Facilitating the external monitoring of implementation in country and sub-areas.
- Providing inputs to quality reporting on SPCP implementation at country and local levels to the National BDP Sub-Committee and NMCs, and as part of the overall BDP2 quarterly and six-monthly reporting.

External monitoring

The BDP2 team is responsible for sharing of information and for creating appropriate opportunities to facilitate external monitoring of SPCP implementation by other stakeholders. This external monitoring will enable stakeholders outside the MRC (line agencies, civil society organisations, research institutions and NGOs, and others) to keep track of how each of the stages of the BDP planning process is being carried out in comparison to stated BDP2 intentions and the SPCP.

External monitoring will be facilitated through (i) active sharing of information by BDP2; (ii) engaging stakeholders in various activities; and (iii) providing mechanisms for regular feedback by stakeholders, formally in meetings, through the website/networks and in an informal manner. The BDP2 team will develop a set of indicators as a baseline for its periodic reviews of SPCP implementation.

7.3 Review of SPCP implementation

Periodic review of SPCP implementation

Review of the SPCP will be incorporated into the overall BDP2 review. The following reviews are planned under BDP2.

- Annual joint donor review.
- Mid-term review, which will coincide with the second annual joint donor Review (for example by the mid 2009 or as determined by the donors).
- Final review at the end of BDP2 implementation, which will be carried out by independent consultants in collaboration with the donor reviewers.²¹

The focus of SPCP reviews will be further developed and determined by review teams using the indicators developed by the BDP2 team. Possible areas of inclusion are:

- The effectiveness of the SPCP document.
- The effectiveness of implementation of the SPCP as it progresses and contributes to participatory and transparency processes.
- Stakeholder satisfaction with SPCP activities and with their contribution to BDP2;
- Contribution of BDP2 SPCP to overall MRC stakeholder participation and transparency.

The BDP Social scientist and the Regional Coordinator will be responsible for facilitating the review of the SPCP as part of overall BDP2 reviews, and for coordinating implementation of the recommendations of these reviews.

External quality assurance

Stakeholder participation and transparency have been emphasised in the agreement between MRC and Danida – the main donor for BDP2 - as an important element that is subject to external quality assurance. This external quality assurance will be facilitated through the following activities:

Peer review of the SPCP document

The draft SPCP will be submitted to the member countries and a wide range of stakeholders for comments. In addition, a peer review of the document will be arranged with partner organisations with experience in participatory planning.

Review by an independent expert panel

An independent expert panel, consisting of representatives of CSOs, thematic groups, and experts will be mobilised by BDP2 by November 2009 to provide quality check on BDP2 outputs. The quality checks will address BDP2 milestones/indicators of success with a focus on the following outputs:

²¹ BDP2 Inception report, February 2008, page 94

- 1) The IWRM-based Basin Development Plan, including basin-wide development scenarios, assessment tools, the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy, the project portfolio; and
- 2) Elements of transparency and participation in the BDP planning process.

As such, the first review by the independent expert panel in November 2009 will include the SPCP document and its initial implementation. This will provide an early assessment of the plan itself and its implementation to guide further actions by the BDP team. A final review will take place at the end of BDP2 in 2010. The M&E framework for the SPCP can be found in Annex 4.

ANNEX 1 – MECHANISMS FOR STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN BDP2

BDP2 activities and outputs require the employment of diverse processes and mechanisms for stakeholder participation. This note explains the different mechanisms that BDP2 will utilise to promote meaningful participation and active communication for “a participatory, inclusive and transparent BDP process”. The mechanisms, referred to in the SPCP such as “stakeholder consultation”, “sub-area forum” or “informal and formal interactions” are detailed below and tailored to the BDP context in order to facilitate a common understanding and coherent implementation of the SPCP at sub-area, national and regional levels.

These mechanisms facilitate different degrees of participation from ‘being informed’ to ‘being heard’ to ‘participating’ and finally ‘influencing’. The MRC/BDP stakeholder engagement principles found in section 5 of the SPCP will be utilised as a basis for public participation as key cross-cutting areas of each of the mechanisms elaborated below.

Public access to BDP information and outputs

The updated BDP page in the MRC website includes BDP1 and BDP2 papers, reports and publications as a means towards sharing information that BDP has produced. BDP2 will continue to actively share its information via the web and various listserves on a regular basis.

A similar proactive dissemination of information will take place at the national level through the NMC website and other communication channels. Translation of BDP materials into riparian languages for dissemination is essential in this process.

Public hearings (or public assessment)

Public hearings usually happen when the project proposers, government or public agencies wish to present proposals on projects or activities. The main purpose of a hearing is to gather feedback from the public or identified stakeholders at an early or intermediary stage of the project or activity. In the BDP, the MRC has a mandate to provide advice to Member Countries for sustainable development in the MRB. In order to ensure that the advice or recommendations reflect stakeholders’ views, the BDP2 will facilitate public hearings or public assessment forums for the MRC to listen to stakeholders on issues of significance to the MRB and on projects that have potential transboundary impacts.

Stakeholder consultation

Consultations often have a specific purpose for example to obtain specific technical inputs or comments and feedback on a project or activity from relevant experts and stakeholders. Consultations will help the BDP2 utilise the knowledge capital generated by NGOs, academia, and communities in the MRB. For this, the BDP team must know which stakeholders possess expertise, empirical work and research in different parts of the MRB.

Given the different needs, BDP2 stakeholder consultations will take varied forms – small and informal expert consultation on a specific technical issue; consultations with sub-area stakeholders; national consultations on implications of the regional dimensions on the country; regional consultation on broad issues for sustainable development in the MRB. At a minimum, regional

stakeholder consultation will be organised on an annual basis during the BDP2 along with the sub-area forums. Where appropriate, the BDP stakeholder consultations will be organised in the style of Dialogues (see below) to allow stakeholders to share their views and concerns openly and equally.

Consultations in the BDP2 will aim to generate mutual understanding and promote two-way discussions and dialogue. BDP2 will ensure that there are mutual benefits to those participating into this process so that collaborate futures are developed and determined. Consultations may be organised “virtually” with draft papers and/or reports posted on the website and/or sent to interested stakeholders for comments and inputs (ideally with translated versions). This will enable stakeholders to share their knowledge and input into the BDP and for the BDP team to tap the knowledge and experience of other organisations and stakeholders to ensure the best possible quality of BDP2 technical papers and reports. In any case, all relevant documents utilised for a consultation will be provided to participants ahead of time.

Dialogue or multi-stakeholder platforms

Dialogues or Multi-Stakeholder Platforms are open discussions on set topics by a wide range of stakeholders and interest groups. They are intended to allow participants to present their concerns, comments, and ideas on identified topics in a comfortable setting based on trust and mutual accountability. Such meetings build knowledge capital among stakeholders and form networks and working relationships in a mutually agreeable manner. Where relevant, MRC may utilise existing networks to organise such Dialogues by groups that already have expertise in a specifically relevant area.

The key mandate of BDP2 is to facilitate the building of a shared vision among Member Countries, partners and other stakeholders for water and related resources development in the MRB. As such, *regional multi-stakeholder dialogues* during the BDP process between the MRC, Member Countries and other stakeholder groups will be crucial.

A *National forum* will be organised on critical issues such as the implications of selected basin-wide development scenarios and the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy on national policies and priorities; the approval and implementation of the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan at basin, national and sub-area levels and ensuring synergy with IWRM strategies for sub-areas. The national forums will consist of representatives from each sub-area, national agencies, NGOs, communities and the private sector.

Sub-area forum: Building on the BDP1, the sub-area forums will bring local governments, national line agencies and other stakeholders and communities together to discuss, analyse and build a shared vision on opportunities and problems in water and related resources development in the sub-area. The sub-area forums will be organised in both consultative and dialogue style, inviting stakeholders to share their concerns on water resources development and proposed solutions in the sub-area in linkage with other transboundary sub-areas and the MRB as a whole. The sub-area forums are also meant for stakeholders in the sub-areas to jointly update the SA report, develop scenarios and IWRM strategies. At least two SA forums will be organised during the periodic updating the sub-area report and another two during the formulation and assessment of sub-area scenarios and IWRM strategy. If required, lower level forums may be organised in the sub-area especially where biodiversity, socio-economic or development prone hotspots are located. The NMCs and BDP team will work closely with community groups, local networks, RBOs (if they exist) and experienced NGOs working at the local, provincial or national levels. Where applicable, BDP will tap regional organisations/initiatives to lend expertise and experience to the discussions.

Transboundary meetings: This is particularly important for SAs sharing one river basin. Local governments, concerned line agencies and communities in these transboundary SAs will jointly discuss existing and potential transboundary issues and possible solutions.

BDP technical and management bodies

Regional Technical Working Group on Scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy

The BDP2 has established a Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) with members of national line agencies, NMCs, NGOs, national research institutions and MRC programmes. The RTWG reviews and contributes to both the process and technical work in the formulation and assessment of basin-wide development scenarios, the BDP assessment framework for scenarios and projects and the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy. Opportunities should be explored to link the RTWG with some international and regional research institutions and to CSOs with relevant expertise in order to strengthen the technical expertise of the RTWG while promoting transparency and broadening the shared view with public inputs. This can take either the form of extended RTWG meetings or engagement of the research institutions and CSOs in training and workshops.

BDP Sub-Committee

BDP Sub-Committees were established in each Member Country during BDP1 to bring national decision makers together and to influence the BDP process. National decision-makers steer BDP2 national activities through the BDP sub-committee and advise the overall BDP process through the MRC governance structure. A stronger link between the BDP Sub-committee and non-state actors will help the national BDP processes take into account the interests and concerns of diverse stakeholder groups.

BDP National WG

National BDP WGs were established under BDP1 consisting of line agencies and with the coordination of NMC/National BDP units. The National BDP WG is essential to ensure that the BDP process is integrated into national planning. Participation and leadership of line agencies in certain stages such as the sector review will ensure that the BDP process is in line with national policies and priorities while providing recommendations to harmonise national priorities in basin-wide context.

BDP Sub-area WGs

BDP sub-area WGs have been established in each of the ten BDP sub-areas. They comprise of national line agencies, NMCs, NGOs, and representatives from local governments. The BDP sub-area WGs play a crucial role in guiding sub-area activities and during sub-area forums. BDP2 will strengthen local representation and leadership in sub-area WG and sub-area activities, and enhance linkages between the SAWG and other partner organisations and stakeholders.

ANNEX 2 – GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING SUCCESSFUL FORUMS, CONSULTATIONS AND DIALOGUES

The aim of forums and dialogues at the sub-area, country and regional level is to allow stakeholders to meaningfully participate in the BDP through soliciting their opinions, comments, and thoughts, and discussing these in an enabling environment, which allows participants to openly share their views, and leads to a successful discussion.

In order to achieve this, the following guidelines have been prepared to cover each step in organising BDP2 consultations, forums and dialogues.

Invitation

The announcement of the event should be issued at minimum two months in advance, and should be sent by letter and email to expected participants as well as posted on the regional or national BDP websites. This will ensure that stakeholders are aware of the forum and that interested people or groups may also apply to attend. Request for comments (in case of consultations) should also be sent out with the invitation, so that participants who are unable to attend the forum/dialogue can still be part of the discussion by submitting their views or comments in writing.

Participants

A wide range of stakeholders should be invited to participate, to ensure good and rich discussions. There should also be a good balance between participants, including a good balance between men and women, young and old, poor and better off, educated and less so, and between the different types of stakeholders. This will vary depending on whether the forum or dialogue is at sub-area, national or regional level, but should include a mix of, commune, district, provincial and national levels, private and public sectors, government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations (IOs). The facilitator(s) should ensure that more modest participants do not get ‘drowned out’ by more articulate ones who may be more used to public forums.

The key consideration is to allow all participants to have a voice if they wish. If there are too many people for the facilitator(s) or for the chosen venue, that will become progressively difficult.

Regional forums/dialogues will obviously be bigger than sub-area forums or country forums, and may involve between 80 and 150 participants. Sub-area forums should be around 40 participants, so as to include all the key stakeholders, but may be bigger (around 60) in terms of sub-areas, which are trans-boundary.

Media

The media should be briefed about the forum/dialogue. A press briefing announcing the forum/dialogue and giving some short summary information should be released in the week before the forum/dialogue. A short briefing should also be released after the forum/dialogue outlining the key achievements of the meeting.

Briefing Materials

To save time at the forum, briefing of all participants before hand will be vital. This includes information on MRC, BDP, the role and objectives of the forum, any draft reports which are to be discussed at the forum/dialogue, and the process to be used during the forum. Briefing material should be prepared in the riparian language (as well as English where appropriate), or in each riparian language in the case of transboundary sub-area forums. Briefing materials should be distributed at least two weeks beforehand by email and through the website where appropriate. This will ensure that all participants are able to understand the material before the forum/dialogue, which will save time on the day.

Venue

The venue selected should be appropriate for the needs of the participants and for the type of participants. Participants should feel comfortable in the venue, not intimidated, so that they feel able to share their views openly. The venue should enable informal seating layouts, have good acoustics, and have facilities for breakout/working groups. Ideally it should be possible to have refreshment breaks and lunch in the same venue or near to the venue, so that good informal discussions between participants are possible. Coloured maps and MRC, NMC and BDP displays could be used to stimulate interest in BDP and what it intends to achieve.

Layout of the forum or dialogue

Seating should be arranged to enable good discussion. Therefore it should be more informal than at large-scale regional MRC meetings. Chairs should be set out either around circular tables with 5-10 chairs, or in a crescent shape, or in a three-sided square. Such layouts stimulate communication, and also are easily adapted for small group work. Tables are not necessarily essential and can sometimes present barriers to effective dialogue. If a 'VIP top table' is needed this should only be set-up during the opening or closing, or be placed at the front, but at one side of the room, so that it does not dominate the meeting.

In most forums and dialogues it will be necessary to have a projector and screen set-up at the front of the room, so that presentations can be made. At bigger meetings, microphones may be needed.

A space for participants to leave comments or suggestions should be provided; this can be a comment box/tray provided at the back of the venue or on every table. This ensures that all participants, including those who may be too shy to speak to the meeting as a whole, have their views noted.

Chairperson

Chairpersons should be senior enough to be well respected - but remain willing to hand over the practical running of the Forums fully to the facilitator. The Chair for each Forum must therefore be well briefed on (and in support of) the participatory, independently facilitated processes to be used. It is important that the Chair recognises that, outside of the formal opening and closing sessions, the debate will be open and informal. Chairpersons will help the process tremendously if they are prepared therefore to focus their role on setting the scene, summing up, and generally giving the meetings an essential credibility, rather than attempting to guide or influence the debates once they are in the hands of the facilitator.

Senior participants

Senior officers should be similarly briefed to respect the process, and, unlike in more formal meetings, they should not seek to steer or guide the discussion or its outcome or expect to dominate it as 'experts'. The forum is consultative, rather than decision-making, and in this context, all voices are equal and should be enabled to be heard.

Facilitation

An independent facilitator should be selected and comprehensively briefed on the meeting and the materials. Facilitation is important for a successful forum or dialogue. The facilitator brings neutral guidance to the process, and should have no vested interests. His / her role is to guide and draw together a quite complex participatory process and possibly divergent views, from a fully independent standpoint. These are heavy responsibilities, and it is essential that the facilitator be allowed a free course of action by the Chairperson.

The facilitator needs to inspire the trust of stakeholders and help enable all voices to be heard. He or she will have techniques to draw out viewpoints, guide the debate, time manage sessions, overcome conflicts if any, and reach consensus or necessary compromise. For sub-area and country forums the facilitator is likely to be a national of that country, or someone with an extremely high command of the relevant national language and culture. For transboundary sub-area forums it would be helpful, but not necessary for the facilitator to have a good grasp of both riparian languages, in case any difficulties in understanding arise.

Agenda

Most forums and dialogues are likely to last for one to two days, depending on the issues to be discussed and the number of participants. Sub-area and country forums are likely to last one day, whilst regional dialogues are more likely to be two days as they will have more participants and to ensure enough time for substantial discussion including all participants. All forums and dialogues are likely to be a mix of presentations and discussion. They should commence with a short introductory speech welcoming all participants and outlining the aims and objectives of the meeting. They should close with a short speech thanking all participants for their attendance, for sharing their views and comments, and for the discussions that were had.

Some extra 'float' time should be allowed in the programme for unexpected difficulties, 'hot topics' or the resolution of conflict. If these are not addressed on the spot and just 'parked', it may affect the integrity of the whole process. Agreeing to differ and recognise other viewpoints is an important part of the process.

Presentations

Presentations should cover the aim of the forum/dialogue, the issues to be discussed and provide information, which can stimulate debate. However, to allow sufficient time for discussion, presentations should be kept short (15 minutes in most cases) and the majority of time at the forum/dialogue should be provided for discussion.

Discussions

Discussions can take two forms. They can be meeting-wide discussions, or they can be small group discussions, which then feedback to the rest of the meeting. Most forums or dialogues will involve a mixture of the two.

To ensure focused and successful discussions, participants should be well briefed, and a short set of questions (1-3) or points to be discussed (1-3) should be prepared for each separate discussion session. These will guide discussions. However, they should not be allowed to dominate the discussion, the point is not to answer each question. The point of preparing a few short questions or points for discussion is to stimulate the discussions between participants and to keep the discussions going. Participants should be able to raise issues they feel are important and to discuss these. Therefore if they only respond to one question, this is fine.

Breakout sessions

In some forums or dialogues, there may be a large number of issues that need discussion. In this case, breakout sessions may be needed. Breakout sessions allow participants with special interest in/or knowledge of a particular issue to discuss more in depth, or to receive more detailed information. A reporter should attend each breakout session, so that all participants are aware of what was discussed in the session.

Reporting

During the meeting a team of people (around 2-6 depending on the size of the forum/dialogue) should be employed to take notes of the meeting and the discussion, including any points about which participants agree or do not agree. Informal feedback outside of the sessions, either through discussions during the break, or received in the comments box/tray, should also be recorded. Successful reporting of the meeting is essential for a number of reasons. It ensures that participants get a good overview of all the discussions including the ones that they did not take part in, and ensures that stakeholders who were not able to attend the meeting, or are simply interested in the work of BDP are able to get a good understanding of what happened at the forum/dialogue.

At some forums/dialogues, particularly the regional ones, it will be appropriate to prepare a feedback questionnaire, distributed to participants at the meeting. The questionnaire should ask for participants' comments on the arrangements, presentations, and briefing material, and ask participants how they think these things can be improved in the future.

Communication after the forum or dialogue

Participants should be informed that they could continue to provide comments either in writing or via email for two weeks after the forum or dialogue. A draft record of the meeting should be prepared and emailed to participants and placed on the NMC and/or regional BDP website, and feedback invited. Stakeholders should be given two weeks in which to offer comments and suggestions. These should be incorporated into the report and the final version of the report should then be emailed to all participants and made available through the BDP website. This will help to consolidate stakeholder networks and ensure that forums or dialogues are not seen as one-off events.

Administration and logistical arrangement

Be friendly and seriously take good care of the logical arrangement. Keep participants informed about the changes and detail of logistic arrangement which that included time, venues, accommodation and transport. Be clear on expenditure whether will be shouldered by the organizer or the participants. Spontaneous interpreters must be provided if requested by participations prior the meeting.

ANNEX 3 - DETAILED WORKPLAN OF BDP2 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
Component 1 – Programme Management and Communication				
Output 1.1 Transparency and stakeholder involvement enhanced				
Activity 1.1.1 Enhance and implement methodologies and practices for public participation	Update BDP guidelines for stakeholder participation and prepare the Participation and Communication Plan and implement	RBDP	February 2009	
	a. National consultations of the Draft SPCP in each Member Country	RBDP	June – Sept. 2008	NMCs, National BDP WG, SA WG, CSOs and other national stakeholders in each of the Member Countries
	b. Peer review of the draft SPCP by selected interested partner organisations and stakeholders	RBDP	June – Sept. 2008	RBDP and selected CSOs
	c. Regional consultation on the draft SPCP	RBDP	November 2008	MRC, NMC, CSOs, representatives
	d. Finalise the SPCP with inputs from regional expert	RBDP	February 2009	RBDP and regional expert
	e. Review by Independent Expert Panel of the SPCP. Review report posted on the website for public access	RBDP	October 2009, June 2010	All
	Implement the SPCP with detailed stakeholder analysis for each country and each activity	RBDP/NBDP	On-going	RBDP, NBDP, All
	Regular review and adjustments	RBDP	On-going	Comments from all

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
Activity 1.1.2 Improve interaction with national planning and line agencies through direct participation of MRC and NMCs/BDP staff in relevant fora and working groups	1.1.2.1 BDP Coordination Meetings for effective coordination and communication of the BDP processes among the BDP regional and national teams	RBDP/ NBDP	Quarterly	BDP National and Regional teams
	1.1.2.2 Strengthened interaction between NBDP and RBDP with National BDP WG and sub-area WG	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams, BDP National WG and SA WG
	1.1.2.3 Informal and formal consultations to strengthen inputs from and coordination with MRC programmes and to maximise the use of the in-house expertise	RBDP	On-going	BDP Regional team and MRC Programmes, NMCs and NBDP
	Enhance informal and formal relationship with line agencies (through sector reviews, RTWG and other activities) and local governments (through SA activities)	NBDP/ RBDP	On-going	National line agencies, NMCs, National BDP WG, local governments, SA WG
Activity 1.1.3 Improve and consolidate forum dialogue on shared development opportunities and transboundary issues	Annual Regional BDP Stakeholder Consultations	RBDP	1 st quarter 2008 3 rd quarter 2009 4 rd quarter 2010	BDP Regional team and MRC programmes BDP National team CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, communities, donors, development agencies, media

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	National Forums (with focus on basin-wide development scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy in concert with national policies and priorities)	RBDP/ NBDP	2 nd ,3 rd quarter 2009 2 nd quarter 2010	MRC, NMC, Line agencies and stakeholders focused at national, CSOs, and community levels and relevant regional stakeholders
	Sub-area forums (at least 4 times per one sub-area from 2009-2010. (Forums at lower scales like provincial or district levels may be held if necessary - optional or upon requests from Sub-area forums.)	RBDP/NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009 4 th quarter 2009 2 nd quarter 2010 4 th quarter 2010	MRC and stakeholders focused at national, CSOs, NGOs, and national, provincial and community levels and relevant regional stakeholders
	BDP transboundary meetings and cross SA visits 6C&6L, 7L, 7V & 7C, and 10C&10V	RBDP/ NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009 2 nd quarter 2010	SA WG, local governments, representatives of local communities, NMCs, RBDP and stakeholders (focused at national, provincial and community levels and relevant regional stakeholders)
	Business Sector Forum (in collaboration with National Countries and MRC Initiative on Hydropower)	RBDP	3 rd quarter 2009 3 rd quarter 2010	MRC stakeholders and private sector on hydropower, mining, irrigation and tourism
	Dialogue and consultation on the Mekong mainstream projects (as part of basin-wide scenario assessment and SEA)	RBDP/NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009 3 rd quarter 2010	MRC, NMC, Line agencies and stakeholders focused at national, CSOs, and community levels and relevant regional stakeholders

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	BDP2 featured in MRC tri monthly newsletter and update MRC/BDP website to keep BDP Stakeholders updated on the BDP progress and next activities	RBDP	on-going	MRC and stakeholders
Activity 1.1.4 Build partnerships with relevant regional actors and the international donor community	1.1.4.1 Informal communication, visits and meetings	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	Regional actors and initiatives Regional and National NGOs Private Sector: Hydropower, Irrigation, Tourism and mining industry, private consultants, the media
	1.1.4.2 Formal visits, consultations and partner dialogues - Seeking opportunities for collaboration, joint activities and integrating partner organisations activities into the BDP process (i.e. partner organisations funding and implementing projects brought forward by the BDP)	RBDP/ICCS NBDP	On-going	Regional actors and initiatives Regional and National NGOs Private Sector: Hydropower, Irrigation, Tourism and mining industry, private consultants
	1.1.4.3 Concerned national and local agencies are identified and supported by BDP2 to participate in other partner organisations forums and activities	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams, partner organisations, line agencies and local governments
Output 1.2 – BDP2 managed effectively				
Activity 1.2.1 Managerial and	1.2.1.1 Process and procedures for workplan, budgets, monitoring and reporting	RBDP/NBDP	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
administrative procedures strengthened	a. BDP Coordination Meetings (same as 1.1.2.1)	RBDP/NBDP	Quarterly	BDP National and Regional teams
Activities 1.2.2	1.2.2.1 Staff competences matching needs	RBDP/NBDP	2007	BDP National and Regional teams
Staff competencies matching needs	a. Recruitment of BDP regional staff is widely advertised	RBDP/NBDP	Early 2007	BDP National and Regional teams
	b. Staff trainings to strengthen their field of expertise	Regional and National teams	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams
Activity 1.2.3	Periodic progress report posted in the MRC/BDP website	RBDP/NBDP	Six-monthly	BDP National and Regional teams, interested stakeholders
Managerial information system internalised	Joint Donor Reviews with consultations with stakeholders and aide-memoir disseminated widely	RBDP/NBDP	Annually or as determined by Donors	BDP National and Regional teams, Donors of BDP2, interested stakeholders
	BDP2 database of papers, reports and other documents updated regularly and made accessible publicly	RBDP/NBDP	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams, interested stakeholders
Component 2 - A rolling IWRM-based Basin Development				
Output 2.1 Basin Wide Development Scenarios				
Activity 2.1.1	BDP/MRC lead a process towards consolidated shared visions of the water resources			BDP National and Regional teams, Line Agencies and MRC Programmes
BDP MRC leads a process				

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
towards consolidated shared visions of the water resources development of the Mekong Basin (Manage the process for the formulation and assessment of basin-wide and sub-area development scenarios including input data)	Prepare TOR and establish Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWG)	RBDP/NBDP/ MRC Programmes	March 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, NMCs, Line agencies, national research institutions, MRC programmes
	b. RTWG meetings and extended meetings and/or interactions with CSOs and other stakeholders with relevant technical expertise	RBDP/NBDP/ MRCP	On-going	BDP National and Regional teams, NMCs, Line agencies, national research institutions, MRC programmes, partner organisations
	Revise Guideline for updating Sub-area profiles	RBDP/ NBDP	February 2008	BDP Regional and National teams, prospect sub-contractors/experts, SA WG, ADB TA for 3S, other partner organisations
	Guidelines for updating Sub-area reports widely discussed (with SA WB, local governments)	RBDP/ NBDP	June 2008 – March 09	BDP Regional and National team, sub-contractors/experts, partner organisations, CSOs and the public

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	<p>Updated Sub-area Profiles and Reports – findings discussed widely through Sub-area forums with SA WG, local government agencies, CSOs and communities:</p> <p>See Sub-area forum in 1.1.3.3 above</p> <p>Small meetings and/or interviews for SA activities</p>	RBDP/ NBDP/ CSOs	<p>First draft Profile in early May 2009 or before the first Sub-area Forum</p> <p>Final draft updated Sub-area report in February 2009</p>	NMC, SA WG, RBO, RBDP, MRC programmes, partner organisation (such as ADB) and other CSOs and academia
	Carry out Hydropower and Irrigation Sector Reviews	RBDP/ NBDP	February 2008 – March 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, National line agencies, MRC responsible programmes and other interested stakeholders
	Mobilise expert team (International, National from line agencies in 4 Member Countries)	RBDP/ NBDP	March 2008	MRC Regional and National teams, BDP National WG
	Results of the Sector reviews are open for comments/inputs as appropriate	RBDP/NBDP	April 2009	RTWG, partner organisations and relevant stakeholders
<p>Activity 2.1.2</p> <p>Understand further the large-scale development options, opportunities, and</p>	2.1.2.1 Building consensus amongst the RTWG on the Approach and Overall process for the formulation and assessment of basin-wide development scenarios	RBDP/NBDP	July 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
constraints, and analyse costs, benefits and impacts (Formulation and assessment of basin-wide development scenarios)	Prepare and circulate draft discussion paper with RTWG	RBDP/NBDP	March 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG
	Revise the discussion paper through BDP Coordination meetings/RTWG and BDP Stakeholder consultation (i.e. the 1 st in March 2008)	RBDP/ NMNC	June 2008	BDP National and Regional teams
	Share the draft discussion paper with selected partner organisations for peer review and early comments	RBDP	June 2008	RBDP and partner organizations who have expertise in scenario development
	Finalise the discussion paper and submit to JC for guidance	RBDP	July 2008	RBDP
	2.1.2.2 Basin wide scenario formulation through RTWG Meetings	RBDP/NMNC/ MRC programmes	Four times in 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, Line Agencies and MRC Programmes
	2.1.2.3 Formulate scoping guideline and framework of the basin-wide development scenarios with RTWG members and other experts from 4 Member Countries and MRC programmes	RBDP/ NBDP	August 2008 – March 09	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG, Line Agencies, MRC Programmes and other experts
	2.1.2.4 Assess the hydrological impacts of the scenarios using the DSF and prepare draft report	RBDP/ NBDP	End 2008 – June 09	RBDP, RTWG and other modelling experts from 4 Member countries, international and regional experts

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	2.1.2.5 Peer review and expert discussion on the draft report of hydrological impact assessment	RBDP	End 3 rd quarter 2008	RTWG, MRC Programmes and independent experts focusing on those with relevant knowledge and experience, relevant stakeholders
	2.1.2.6 Independent Expert Panel review of BDP2 (same team as 1.1.1.1 e) approach and process for formulation and assessment of basin-wide scenarios and assessment framework (see 3.2 below) and results of hydrological impact assessment. Independent Expert Panel members are nominated by the criteria that they are well respected and accepted by civil society communality regionally and internationally and by Member Countries - and posses high experience in the required expertise area.	RBDP	May 2009, October 2009, June 2010	Independent Expert Panel with international and regional experts, partner organisations and experts and institution that posses high experience in scenario work
	2.1.2.7 Results of hydrological impact assessment of basin-wide development scenarios submitted to JC for guidance	RBDP/ICCS NBDP	August 2009	MRC Joint Committee
	2.1.2.8 Assess the development scenarios methodology, scope and process - in terms of social and environment impacts and economic (cost and benefits) using expert appraisal process and the agreed BDP assessment framework	RBDP/ NBDP	Apr. 2009 - June 2010	RBDP, MRC Programmes (EP, FP, NAP, ISH, AIFP, FMMP), RTWG and other experts from Member countries, international and regional experts

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	2.1.2.9 Peer review and stakeholder consultation on scoping, methodology and process of the environment and social and economic impacts assessment of the basin-wide development scenarios. Focus will be on national and local through National and SA forums and focused group discussions	RBDP/ NBDP	2 nd quarter 2009 and on-going	RTWG, NMCs, Line agencies, SA WG, partner organisations, CSOs, NGOs and all interested stakeholders
	2.1.2.10 Independent Expert Panel review of hydrological, environment, social and economic impact assessment results	RBDP	May 2009, October 2009, June 2010	Independent Expert Panel, RTWG, peer reviewers and interested stakeholders
	2.1.2.11 Finalisation of report on and submit to decision making (MRC JC and Council) for selection of the most appropriate scenario for LMB water and related resources development	RBDP/ Expert team	3 rd quarter 2010	RBDP, NBDP, RTWG, Expert team
Output 2.2 IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy				
Activity 2.2.1 IWRM based Strategy - Formulate detailed IWRM strategies for cross sectoral, balanced development and consolidate into a comprehensive IWRM Strategy for the LMB	2.2.1.1 Prepare concept and outline of the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy			
	Preparation preliminary draft concept note and outline of the IWRM based Strategy and consultation with RTWG	RBDP	March 2008	RBDP, NBDP, RTWG
	Share the preliminary concept and outline at BDP stakeholder consultation and the revised for peer review	RBDP	March 2008	RBDP, RTWG, partner organisations and other stakeholders

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	Finalise the concept and outline based on inputs from RTWG, stakeholder consultation and peer review	RBDP	March 2009	RBDP
	2.2.1.2 Develop the 1 st draft IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	RBDP	April 2009	RBDP, NBDP, RTWG, experts and institutions through informal consultations
	Draft IWRM based basin Strategy discussed by RTWG and commented by partner organisations and stakeholders (through website and internet-based forum)	RBDP	April – December 2009	All
	National and sub-area forums on the draft IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	RBDP	2 nd quarter 2009	All stakeholders
	The 1 st draft is finalised and submitted to JC	RBDP	June 2009	JC
	2.2.1.3 Develop the 2 nd draft IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	RBDP		RTWG
	Prepare 2 nd draft IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy incorporating (i) comments by JC and (ii) results of basin-wide development scenarios assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts	RBDP	July 2009	RBDP, NBDP, RTWG, experts
	National and sub-area forums on the 2 nd draft (in combination with annual national forums and sub-areas forums)	NBDP/ RBDP	2 nd ,3 rd quarter 2009	NBDP, RBDP, RTWG, all stakeholders

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	Stakeholder consultation on the 2 nd draft of IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy (in combination with 2 nd Annual BDP Stakeholder consultation and also on results of scenarios assessment)	RBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	All stakeholders
	Independent Expert Panel review of the draft strategy (together with 2.1.2.10.)		May 2009, October 2009, June 2010	Independent Expert Panel, RTWG, peer reviewers and interested stakeholders
	Submit the 2 nd draft to JC	RBDP	4 th quarter 2009	JC
	2.2.1.4 Finalise the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy	RBDP	March 2010	RWTG
	Prepare 3 rd draft strategy	RBDP	September 2009	RBDP, NBDP, RTWG and experts
	RTWG, national and sub-area forums and peer review of the 3 rd draft strategy	NBDP/ RBDP	October – December 2009	All stakeholders
	Stakeholder consultation on the 3 rd draft Strategy through Annual BDP stakeholder consultation	RBDP	1 st quarter 2010	All stakeholders
	3 rd draft is approved by JC	RBDP	April 2010	JC
	The final draft IWRM based basin Strategy is approved by the MRC Council	RBDP	October 2010	MRC Council
	Publish the approved strategy and disseminate	RBDP	4 th quarter 2010	CSOs

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	The IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy is implemented by Member Countries and other stakeholders	Member Countries and CSOs	After 2010	Member Countries, partner organisations, CSOs and the public in general
Output 2.3 Programmes and projects proposed by national and sub-regional level institutions and stakeholders assessed (Project database and Planned project list)				
Activity 2.3.1 Continue needs assessment based on national development plans, multi-sector requirements sub-area preferences and stakeholder proposal (Update and develop BDP2 project database and criteria long-list and Short-list projects)	2.3.1.1 Update Project Database structure with classification system and updated PIN format	RBDP	Started Dec. 2007	BDP National and Regional teams
	Endorsement of the structure and classification system by BDP team (through Coordination Meeting)	RBDP/ NBDP	2 nd quarter 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, MRC programmes, RTWG
	Update project database with inputs from sector reviews, MRC programmes, Sub-area activities, update of BDP1 database and other organisations	RBDP/ NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG, Line agencies, SA WG, local governments and communities, and relevant national and regional stakeholders
Activity 2.3.2 Identify and assess combination of basin scale development potentials constraints and options and	2.3.2.1 Consultation with Member Countries and project proposers owners on analysis of projects with trans-boundary relevance in BDP Coordination meetings, national consultations and Sub-area activities	RBDP	4 th quarter 2009	BDP National and Regional teams and Line agencies

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
prepare cost benefit estimates and impact analysis in cooperation with proposers owners	2.3.2.2 MRC/BDP2 Project database is available with public access	RBDP	4 th quarter 2010	NMCs, Line agencies, MRC programmes, other stakeholders
Output 2.4 Project portfolio				
Activity 2.4.1 Review BDP project screening and ranking process	2.4.1.1 Update criteria for assessment, screening and prioritising projects (as part of BDP assessment framework) and guideline on project portfolio	RBDP	2 nd quarter 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG
	2.4.1.2 Wide consultation on the project assessment criteria and the Guideline on Project Portfolio	RBDP/ NBDP	2 nd quarter 2009	RTWG, line agencies, SA WG, other partner organisations
Activity 2.4.2 Develop the planned project database	Work with owners of the planned and potential project, develop the list of planned projects for further assessment and prioritisation into the Project portfolio	RBDP/ NBDP	4 th quarter 2009	MRC, NMC, Line agencies and stakeholders focused at national, CSOs, and community levels and relevant regional stakeholders
Activity 2.4.3 Rank joint projects with potential trans-boundary effects according to agreed criteria and present to Joint Committee for prioritisation	Prepare initial project portfolio through participatory review of planned projects, screen and prioritise onto the project portfolio	RBDP/ NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	RTWG, line agencies, SA WG, other partner organisations
	Stakeholder consultation on the prioritisation and draft project portfolio (through BDP coordination meetings, RTWG, National BDP WG and SA meetings, etc)	RBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	RTWG, line agencies, SA WG, other partner organisations

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	Update 2009 Project Portfolio for JC to endorse	RBDP/NBDP	End 2009	RTWG, line agencies, SA WG, other partner organisations
	Prepare final Project Portfolio 2010 for JC to approve	RBDP/NBDP	End 2010	RBDP
	Update beyond 201	NMCs/MRCS		RBDP and NMCs
Output 2.5 Rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan				
Activity 2.5 Combined detailed IWRM strategies, development scenarios and project portfolios into a rolling IWRM-based Basin Development Plan (Activity 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 combined)	Draft Outline IWRM-based Basin Development Plan	RBDP/NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG
	Promote consensus on the rolling IWRM based Basin Development Plan	RBDP/ NBDP		BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG
	Combined Development scenarios, IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and Project Portfolios to prepare the 1 st draft IWRM-based Basin Development Plan	RBDP/ NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	MRC, NMC, Line agencies and RTWG
	Stakeholder consultation and peer review of the Plan (together with results of scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and through existing forums)	RBDP	2009 - 2010	All stakeholders
	Submit the draft Plan to JC for review and approval: Together with 2 nd draft Strategy Together with final draft Strategy	RBDP/ NBDP		3 rd quarter 2009 April 2010

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	Submit the final draft Plan to MRC Council for approval	RBDP	October 2010	The General public
	The plan is approved by Council and thus transferred to Member Countries for joint implementation with ownership of Countries, MRC and stakeholders	MRCS, Member Countries,	After 2010	MRCS, Member Countries, development partners, business sector and CSOs
Output 2.6 Lessons Learnt from implemented projects and programmes				
Activity 2.6.1 Gather lessons learned from impacts of programmes and projects facilitated by the Mekong Programme	To identify transboundary projects from which useful lessons can be learnt	NBDP	On-going	BDP Regional team, line agencies, CSOs, local Stakeholders in 3S areas, and Development Partners
	Collect, discuss and disseminate reports to establish the lessons that can be drawn from past transboundary activities to help shape future planning	RBDP	On-going	BDP Regional team, line agencies, CSOs, local Stakeholders in 3S areas, and Development Partners
Component 3 - Knowledge base and Assessment tools				
Output 3.1 Knowledge base updated and operational				
Activity 3.1.1 Update knowledge base	Review and consolidate data and information available at BDP and other MRC Programmes	RBDP	November 2007	RBDP and MRC Programmes
	Work closely with IKMP and NMCs to update data holdings and improve regional and national databases to support basin planning	RBDP/ NBDP	Start early 2008	RBDP, IKMP, National BDP

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	Consolidated data and information including those of BDP1 to be available on MRC/BDP website	RBDP	Early 2008	All stakeholders
	Continue consolidate and update regional and national knowledge bases	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	Regional and National BDP, MRC programmes, NMCs, line agencies and SA WG and other stakeholders
Activity 3.1.2	Draft concept note planning atlas	RBDP	May 2008	BDP National and Regional teams
Update the Planning Atlas	Consultations on the draft concept note of planning atlas and finalisation	RBDP	Sept. 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, other organisations
	Draft planning atlas is prepared with inputs from countries and other partner organisations	RBDP/NBDP	Dec. 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, partner organisations, SA WG and sub-contractors
	Draft planning atlas is consulted with line agencies, SA WG and other end users	RBDP/ NBDP	June 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, Line agencies, local governments, other stakeholders
	Joint preparation of the planning atlas	RBDP/ NBDP	February– December 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, Line agencies, local governments, other stakeholders
	Planning atlas is approved, published and widely disseminated	RBDP	3 rd quarter 2010	All stakeholders
Activity 3.1.3	Jointly draft outline and concept note of the State of the Basin Report (SoB) with EP programme	EP/RBDP	Dec. 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, EP
Update State of the Basin				

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
Report	Establish a task force consisting of MRC programme	EP/RBDP	June 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, EP
	Data collection and writing up the updated SoB	EP/RBDP NBDP	June 2009 – Dec. 2009	BDP National and Regional teams, EP
	The updated version of SoB is approved by JC	EP/RBDP	April 2010	EP, RBDP, JC
	The updated SoB is approved by Council	RBDP	2 nd quarter 2010	MRC Council
	The updated high quality SoB is published and widely distributed	EP/RBDP	End 2010	MRCs Programme, NMC and National line agencies representatives
Output 3.2 Upgrade Assessment Tools				
Activity 3.2.1 Upgrade assessment Framework	3.2.1.1 Develop BDP draft Assessment Framework (together with scenario work and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy)	RBDP	March 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG, other experts
	3.2.1.2 National consultation and peer review of the Assessment framework	NBDP/ RBDP	June 2008	Countries and Partner organisations
	3.2.1.3 Finalise the assessment framework (for both scenario assessment and project assessment), incorporating comments from RTWG and other partner organisations	RBDP	July 2008	BDP National and Regional teams, RTWG

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	3.2.1.4 Submit the Assessment framework to JC for guidance	RBDP	July 2008	RBDP, NMCs, Line agencies, RTWG
	3.2.1.5 Independent Expert Panel reviews of the Assessment framework (together with 2.1.2.5, 2.1.2.9 and 2.2.1.d)	RBDP	May 2009, October 2009, June 2010	RBDP, NBDP, NMC, Stakeholders and experts
	3.2.1.6 The AF is agreed and commented by JC	RBDP	Same timeline with Activity 2.1.2	JC
Activity 3.2.2 Upgrade assessment tools and makes them operational for routine use	3.2.2.1 Upgrade assessment tools (DSF, IBFM, SEA, SIA and RAM) and make them operational for routine use with MRC Programmes, national teams and experience CSOs as in accordance with the assessment framework	RBDP,	2 nd quarter 2009	RBDP, IKMP, National and Line agencies, MRC and relevant Stakeholders,
	3.2.2.2 (new) Participatory and joint development of Livelihood and Vulnerability Assessment with MRC Programmes (EP and FP), national agencies, CSOs and communities to serve long-term social assessment of BDP scenarios and projects	RBDP	Start November 2008	Environment Programme, RBDP and CSOs
	3.2.2.3 Assessment tools – Peer Review	RBDP/ NBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	CSOs and Assessment tool experts

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	3.2.2.4 Stakeholder consultation on BDP Assessment tools	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	RTWG, CSOs and Assessment tool experts
	3.2.2.5 Independent Expert Panel review of Assessment tools (same as scenarios, IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and Stakeholder involvement)	RBDP	May 2009, October 2009, June 2010	RTWG, National and Line agencies, MRC, Experts and Stakeholders
	3.2.2.6 Report of Independent Expert Panel review submitted to JC for guidance	RBDP	3 rd quarter 2009	JC
Component 4 – IWRM-based planning capacity				
Output 4.1 IWRM-based Planning Guide				
Activity 4.1.1 Review of existing planning guide	4.1.1.1 Consultation Workshop on usefulness of the existing Planning Guides on collecting data for updating the sub-area profiles (combined with Regional training and Sub-area training for IWRM planning)	RBDP	Starting January 2009	NMCs, National and Regional BDP, MRC Programmes, SA WG, SA sub-contractors and experience CSOs
Activity 4.1.2 Develop new planning guides	4.1.2.1 Develop Draft Planning Guide based on the workshop feedback	RBDP	February 2009	National and Line agencies, MRC and Stakeholders
	4.1.2.2 Draft Planning Guide used in updating SA report and feedback provided to RBDP.	NBDP/ RBDP	Start February 2009	NMCs, Line agencies, SA WG and sub-contractors

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
Activity 4.1.3 Ensure usefulness of planning guides beyond 2010	4.1.2.4. Final Planning Guide approved by JC	RBDP	2010	JC
	4.1.2.4 Publish the Guide and update occasionally	RBDP	ongoing	National and Line agencies, MRC and Stakeholders
Output 4.2 - Staff at MRCS and NMC levels skilled in scenarios-based planning and in the use of assessment tools & Output 4.3 - Knowledge base decision support capacity enhanced at MRCS and NMC levels				
Activity 4.2.1 Identify MRCS modelling staff to participate in the core group of resources on models and tools	4.2.1.1 Establish close relationship between BDP2 and IKMP Modelling team that is also part of the RTWG	RBDP	March 2008	Regional and National BDP, IKMP/Modelling team, NMS's modelling experts and other partner organisations
Activity 4.2.2 Train relevant staff at MRCS, NMC and line agencies levels in scenario-based planning and tools	4.2.2.1 Together with MRC programmes, review existing training modules on scenario-based planning and use of tools and similar training modules by other partner organisations	RBDP/	June 2008	MRC programmes, regional and national training institutions, partner organisations that have developed/delivered similar training such as SEI, UNCESCO-DHI, etc

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
application	<p>4.2.2.2 Design and deliver BDP2-tailored regional training courses with MRC programmes taking lead in their specific tools</p> <p>When appropriate, invite selected representatives from partner organisations and CSOs in the training</p>	RBDP/Sub-contractor/MRC programmes	July 2008	Training institution/expert, MRC programmes, regional and national training institutions, partner organisations that have developed/delivered similar training such as SEI, UNCESCO-DHI, etc
<p>Activity 4.3.1</p> <p>Relevant staff at MRCS and NMC levels select and apply information and tools on a routine basis</p>	<p>4.3.1.1 NMCs, RTWG members apply the knowledge base and assessment tools during scenario and project assessment</p> <p>When appropriate, partner organisations, CSOs and research institutions are invited to use the tools to verify the results of scenario and project assessment and planning</p>	NBDP/ RBDP/RTWG	Start in August 2008	Members of RTWG and other representatives from Member Countries apply the knowledge and tools obtained from the training courses in scenario assessment and project assessment to develop Project Portfolio.
Output 4.4 - IWRM planning principles and approaches internalized at MRCS and NMC levels				
<p>Activity 4.4.1 and 4.4.2</p> <p>Carry out BDP capacity and training needs assessment and identify training institutions</p>	<p>4.4.1.1 Training needs assessment and identification of training institutions in each countries carried out with involvement of concerned line agencies and local governments. Results endorsed by National BDP WG and BDP Sub-committee</p>	RBDP		MRCS and NMC
	<p>4.4.1.2 Study visits – Officials from Member Countries and MRCS expose to different stakeholders to learn both positive and negative experiences of water resources development</p>	RBDP	April 2008	MRCS, NMC and high level officials of Member Countries, MRCS, host institutions in other River basins, CSOs in places of visit.

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
	4.4.1.3 Regional training on IWRM principles and approaches in basin development planning. Exploring other organisations IWRM experiences in the region would be part of the training	RBDP	on-going	MRCS, NMC, Line agencies, members of RTWG, SA WG, relevant partner organisations
	4.4.1.4 Training of trainers starting with Regional training for Team leaders and concerned personnel for SA activities	RBDP/NBDP Sub-contractors for SA activities	Start in 2 nd quarter 2009	MRCS, NMC, Line agencies, Sub-contractor/national experts for SA activities, selected national training institutions and CSO/local NGO representatives
	4.4.1.5 Deliver training courses in countries and to locals	RBDP/ NBDP	TBD	MRCS, NMC, Line agencies and selected CSO representatives
	4.4.1.6 Assess training impacts	RBDP/NBDP	2010	MRCS, NMC, Line agencies, National and SA WG, CSO and NGOs, local communities
Output 4.5 - Capacity built within the MRCS to assess value of water and sharing of benefits and costs				
Activity 4.5.1 Upgrade skill and staff competencies	4.5.1.1 Upgrade modelling skills and staff capabilities to valuate water in different users (same as 4.2.2.2 above)	RBDP	November 2008	Same as 4.2.2.2 above
	4.5.1.2 Stakeholder dialogues/forums on the assessment methodology, criteria and tools used (same as output 3.2 – assessment framework)	RBDP/ NBDP	On-going	Same stakeholders for the development scenarios and Assessment framework

BDP2 Output /Activity	Participation and Communication Activities	Responsible	Timeline	Potential stakeholders to be involved
Output 4.6 - Capacity built within BDP to assist MRC and the Mekong Programme in Trade-off facilitation and mediation				
Activity 4.6.1 Assess skills requirement	4.6.1.1 Design training package based on assessment of skill requirements under 4.4.1.1	NBDP/ RBDP	July 2008	Same as 4.4.1.1 above
Activity 4.6.2 Train staff in principles of trade-offs facilitations	4.6.1.2 Train staff in principles of trade off facilitation. When appropriate, utilise materials and expertise of partner organisations and/or invite representatives from partner organisations to the training	RBDP	4 th quarter 2008 and on-going	MRCS, NMC and key planners, officials from line agencies involved in the decision making for the basin-wide development scenarios and the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan, Local governments

ANNEX 4 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK OF THE SPCP

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
BDP2 output:	Output 1.1 Transparency and stakeholder involvement enhanced			
Output indicator:	Improved guidelines, stakeholder consultations at all levels and through all BDP processes and products, public access to and increased dissemination of BDB outcome and results			
Means of verification:	Minutes of meetings, records of exchange and manuals, training provided to NMCs in stakeholder involvement			
	Update BDP guideline for Stakeholder participation, prepare the Stakeholder Participation and Communication Plan and implement			
Activity indicators:	MRC participation in national planning fora, working groups etc – formal and informal			
	Establish consultation process to engage riparian and other stakeholders throughout the IWRM-based BDP formulation, formal and informal			
	Build partnerships with relevant regional actors and the international donor community			
Objective of the SPCP: To provide principles, guidance and plan of actions on stakeholder participation and communication for an MRC-led participatory, inclusive and transparent Basin development planning process.	Acceptance of the SPCP document by Member countries and other stakeholders	Minutes of national and regional consultations, forums and dialogues	Activity-based	BDP Social scientist and National BDP Coordinators
	Participation of relevant stakeholders in BDP activities and events	Formal and informal satisfaction surveys of MRC stakeholders	In line with MRC M&E and other activities (formal and informal donor meetings and others)	Regional BDP Coordinator
	Wide acceptance of the BDP process and its outputs	Report of Independent Expert Panel		
		Joint Donor Review reports	At least 3 times during BDP2 implementation	

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
			Annually	
Expected outputs				
Enhanced understanding of stakeholders and their interests/needs in relation to water and related resources use in the MRB	<p>Relevant stakeholders participate in relevant activities/forums of BDP2</p> <p>Issues covered in BDP process reflect stakeholders needs</p>	<p>Minutes of national and regional consultations, forums and dialogues</p> <p>Formal and informal satisfaction surveys of MRC stakeholders</p>	<p>Activity-based</p> <p>In line with MRC M&E and other activities (formal and informal donor meetings and others)</p>	<p>BDP Social scientist and National BDP Coordinators</p> <p>Regional BDP Coordinator</p>
Improved public access to information and communication on the BDP process and its outputs through better communication	<p>BDP2 webpage updated regularly</p> <p>Internet-based mechanisms created and maintained for information sharing and seeking inputs by stakeholders</p> <p>Regular BDP2 brochures, articles in MRC newsletters, presentations in meetings/workshops etc</p> <p>Wide dissemination of BDP2 publications and other outputs</p>	<p>Feedbacks on the MRC website</p> <p>Documented feedbacks by stakeholders (formal and informal)</p> <p>Minutes of meetings, forums, etc</p> <p>Other MRC official channels (JC, Council and other meetings)</p>	<p>Every six month, in line with progress reports</p>	<p>BDP Social scientist and National BDP Coordinators</p>

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
<p>Meaningful mechanisms are established to engage, build confidence and promote active participation of diverse stakeholders in planning for sustainable development of MRB</p>	<p>NMC, line agencies and MRC Programmes actively participate in RTWG for scenarios and IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy</p> <p>Existing BDP Sub-committee, National WG and Sub-area WG are strengthened to involve and/or take into account other stakeholders concerns</p> <p>Participation of other stakeholders in extended RTWG and/or virtual discussions</p> <p>Successful forums and dialogues are held at the sub-area, national and regional level</p> <p>Data collection and other activities involve stakeholders with clear communication on purposes (i.e. for Sub-area activities)</p>	<p>Minutes of RTWG, feedbacks from partner organisations and other stakeholders</p> <p>Meeting reports, progress national reports, reports of Sub-area forums</p> <p>Documentation of comments on technical papers/reports of BDP2</p> <p>Meeting reports, feedbacks from stakeholders, both formally and informally</p>	<p>Activity based</p> <p>Activity based and quarterly and six-monthly</p>	<p>Relevant BDP2 staff responsible for different technical papers/reports</p> <p>National BDP Coordinators and BDP Social scientist</p>
<p>Increased sharing of knowledge and experience amongst the MRC and stakeholders in support of sustainable Mekong</p>	<p>Stakeholders are able to express their views openly and share knowledge/experience.</p> <p>The extent BDP2 uses knowledge</p>	<p>Minutes of meetings, forums, documenting the range of comments and the number of participants contributing to the</p>	<p>Activity based</p> <p>Progress reports</p> <p>MRC overall M&E reports and stakeholders</p>	<p>BDP Social scientist and Regional Programme Coordinator</p>

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
basin development	and experiences of other organisations/individuals and vice versa	discussions BDP2 technical reports, publications, etc Other organisations' websites, publications, etc	satisfaction surveys Joint Donor Review	
Peer review and validation of results of the BDP process are promoted for technical soundness and stakeholders' acceptance	BDP interim outputs are widely available, and peer reviewed by selected stakeholders (i.e. draft basin-wide scenarios are available for peer review by relevant organisations with scenario experience such as SEI).	Progress reports Documentation of comments and feedbacks from organisations and individuals	Activity based	BDP Social scientist and Regional Programme Coordinator National BDP Coordinators
Partnerships built with relevant partner organisations at regional, national and local levels	Partner organisations and their relevant activities identified in line with overall MRC partnership activities Partnerships built and collaboration enhanced for WB/MRC M-IWRMP project, ADB TA in 3S, WWF, IUCN, SEI and other organisations Partner organisations' contribution and participation in BDP2 activities such as basin-wide development	Reports of MRC annual meetings with partner organisations Reports of partner organisation activities BDP2 technical and progress reports	Annually Activity-based In line with BDP2 reporting schedule	BDP Social scientist and Regional Programme Coordinator National BDP Coordinators

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
	<p>scenarios, updating the Planning Atlas and the State of the Basin report.</p> <p>BDP staffs (regional and national) participate in meetings and activities of partner organisations and other regional actors.</p>			
<p>Greater degree of ownership and commitment of National governments, development partners and other stakeholders of the BDP process and its outputs</p>	<p>Active participation of NMCs, line agencies and other research institution in RTWG and the process of producing the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan</p> <p>National institutions/experts lead sector reviews and Sub-area activities with NMC coordination and involvement of other stakeholders</p> <p>Guidance and approval of MRC JC and Council for the IWRM-based Basin Development Plan and BDP process</p>	<p>Minutes of RTWG and BDP2 technical papers and reports</p> <p>Sector review reports</p> <p>Sub-area forums and other technical reports</p> <p>MRC documents of JC and Council meetings and decisions</p>	<p>Activity-based</p> <p>As in line with MRC procedures</p>	<p>BDP Social scientist</p> <p>National BDP Coordinators</p> <p>Regional BDP Coordinator</p>

Objective and expected outcomes	Verifiable indicator	Means of verification	Frequency of data collection	Responsibility for data collection
Decision-making in water resources development of MRB is informed and improved.	National government decisions on water resources development projects take into account BDP2 information and outputs	Governments decisions and policies; Media Feedbacks from stakeholders	Regularly BDP2 progress and technical reports	BDP Social scientist National BDP Coordinators