



Mekong River Commission

For Sustainable Development

Guidelines on Implementation of the Procedures for Water Use Monitoring

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Mekong River Commission

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of the Procedures for Water Use Monitoring**

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Pursuant to the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Council Resolution of October 18th, 1999 on the Water Utilization Programme, the MRC Council approved the Procedures for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing (PDIES) at its 8th Meeting on November 1st, 2001 and the Procedures for Water Use Monitoring (PWUM) at its 10th Meeting on November 30th, 2003.

In July 2002 at its 16th Meeting, the MRC Joint Committee adopted the Guidelines on Custodianship and Management of the MRC-Information System under the PDIES which established the Information System Design and Implementation Team (ISDIT). Subsequently, at the 18th Joint Committee Meeting in October 2003, ISDIT was changed in name to the MRC Technical Assistance and Coordination Team (TACT), as the technical support team for implementation of the PWUM and the PDIES, with broader functions and primary responsibility to oversee the adequacy and functionality of the data and information monitoring and reporting system for the MRC under the PDIES and the PWUM.

To facilitate the implementation of the PWUM, the MRC Joint Committee does hereby adopt the Guidelines on Implementation of the PWUM¹ as a complimentary and supplementary document.

Section 1: Management of the Water Use Monitoring System (WUMS)

1.1 Monitoring System:

Monitoring System specified in 4.2 of the PWUM covers both the existing intra-basin water uses and inter-basin water diversions monitoring.

1.2 In order to effectively and timely implement the PWUM, the MRC Secretariat, in close cooperation with National Mekong Committees (NMCs) and TACT, shall:

- 1.2.1 Prepare an initial list of the existing intra-basin water uses and inter-basin water diversions (if any) schemes and structures which are considered as the component on physical equipment and related structures of the MRC WUMS. The list shall be updated from time to time as required;
- 1.2.2 Elaborate on the technical procedures for water use and related data monitoring and gathering, including data collection and reporting frequencies, operation and maintenance checks, and reporting;
- 1.2.3 Identify the specific data sources provided for in the PDIES to be used and strengthened for determining intra-basin water uses; and
- 1.2.4 Identify the requirements and technical component for monitoring of inter-basin water diversions.

1.3 In accordance with the provision 4.3.3 under the PWUM, the NMCs shall inform the MRC Secretariat of actions taken to establish, maintain and strengthen the WUMS. Each NMC shall request its relevant line agencies to:

¹ The purpose of these Guidelines is to only address issues or points of the Procedures requiring clarification. They are to be applied in conjunction with the PDIES. These Guidelines specifically address the need to strengthen or establish the monitoring system and report "any use of water which may have a significant impact to the water quality or flows regimes of the mainstream of the Mekong River System by any member State" as defined in the PWUM including intra-basin water use and inter-basin diversions into another basin.

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- 1.3.1 Provide information and explanation on the method for calculating existing intra-basin water uses for agriculture and other sectors as applicable.
- 1.3.2 Designate water use monitoring stations and other data collection methods used to determine amount of intra-basin water uses as appropriate, including table and map on station location and name and source of data for other inputs into calculating intra-basin water uses; and
- 1.3.3 Provide data relating to existing intra-basin water uses to NMCs in accordance with the PDIES and the Guidelines on Custodianship and the MRC Information System.

Section 2: Strengthening the Existing Monitoring of Intra-Basin Water Uses

2.1 The MRC Secretariat, with the assistance of the TACT, will work with the NMCs to ensure a systematic and uniform WUMS, by specifically identifying the adequate and practical indicators in gathering and reporting of data and information on the existing intra-basin water uses for groups/types of data and information listed in the PDIES:

- 2.1.1 Water resources indicators might include, but are not limited to rainfall data, water quantity and quality parameters, categories of water use by sector users, type of use (municipal, industrial agricultural, hydropower, etc.) in accordance with provision 4 (b) of the PDIES, place of use (i.e., off-, in-, and on-stream uses), discharges to the river, and in-stream structures such as dams and weirs that may cause significant impact on the mainstream, time/period/season of water use, and where possible, quantity and quality of return flows;
- 2.1.2 Indicators relating to the existing water uses, such as land use for agriculture, including area of use, cropping pattern by season and tributary/sub-tributary location; and
- 2.1.3 Other indicators relating to municipal, commercial and industrial water uses including spatial and temporal distribution.

2.2 The reporting of intra-basin water use data and information should be by primary tributary to the mainstream and uses within the tributary and sub-basin that may cause significant impact on the mainstream.

Section 3: Mechanism for Monitoring of Inter-Basin Water Diversions

As delegated by the MRC Joint Committee, the TACT shall assist the MRC Joint Committee in setting up a mechanism, which involves the respective NMCs, the MRC Secretariat and the TACT itself, to monitor Inter-Basin Water Diversions and implement the monitoring accordingly.

3.1 Monitoring data and information indicators for inter-basin water diversions include:

- 3.1.1 Location of source, destination, diversion route, and facilities;
- 3.1.2 Designed technical features/specifications of the diversions;
- 3.1.3 Actual volume of diverted water as mentioned in 3.3 below;
- 3.1.4 Quality of diverted water; and
- 3.1.5 Duration of water diversion.

3.2 The respective NMC(s) is(are) requested to provide data and information on inter-basin water diversions in accordance with the indicators listed in 3.1 above.

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- 3.3 The monitoring of an inter-basin water diversion shall be implemented through the MRC Water Use Monitoring System to gather data and information and report to the MRC Secretariat in a systematic and timely manner, say daily during the diversion period in the dry season and no less than weekly during the wet season.
- 3.4 The respective NMC(s) operating an inter-basin water diversion shall, if requested by the MRC Joint Committee, modify, reduce or suspend inter-basin water diversions during the certain periods of the dry season in order to meet the requirements of the relevant MRC procedures.

Section 4: Implementation and Review of the Guidelines on Implementation of the Procedures for Water Use Monitoring (PWUM)

4.1 Implementation

The MRC Secretariat, together with the NMCs and the TACT, shall be responsible for the implementation of the Guidelines on Implementation of the PWUM under the guidance and instruction of the MRC Joint Committee.

4.2 Review

4.2.1 The TACT, with the assistance of the MRC Secretariat, shall be responsible for conducting a review of the Guidelines on Implementation of the PWUM, as delegated by the MRC Joint Committee, and for making appropriate recommendations for further guidance and direction. The review of the Guidelines on Implementation of the PWUM, including recommendations, shall form part of the annual report prepared by the MRC Secretariat to the MRC Joint Committee.

4.2.2 In formulating the report, the MRC Secretariat shall take into account the views of NMCs and users of the MRC Information System, including the extent to which their needs are met.

4.2.3 Any proposed amendment or revision of the Guidelines on Implementation of the PWUM is subject to the MRC Joint Committee's approval.

Adopted by the MRC Joint Committee on 5th April 2006 at its 23rd Meeting in Savannakhet, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Kingdom of Cambodia

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Alternate Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Kingdom of Thailand

Member of the MRC Joint Committee for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam