



# MRC GTZ Cooperation Programme Watershed Management Project



## Publications – Status 06 May 2005

Click  on any Title below to read the Abstract.  
Links to the Full Text on the Internet are provided with the Abstract.

### 2002 (WSMP Appraisal)

Watershed Management in the  
Lower Mekong Basin  
Volume 1: Main Report  
Volume 2: Country Reports

### 2003

Review and Analysis of Existing  
Documentation on Policies, Rules and  
Regulations related to Watershed  
Management

Community Based Forest Management in  
Cambodia and Laos

Training Strategy for Watershed  
Management 2003 – 2005

### 2004

Comparative Study on Practices and  
Lessons in Land Use Planning and Land  
Allocation in Cambodia, Lao PDR,  
Thailand and Viet Nam

Analysis of Existing / Draft Rules and  
Regulations related to Watershed  
Management in Cambodia

Comparative Analysis of Policy and  
Legislation related to Watershed  
Management in Cambodia, Lao PDR and  
Vietnam

Country Status Report on Watershed  
Management in Cambodia, Lao PDR,  
Thailand and Vietnam

### 2004

Proceedings – Policy Dialogue on  
Watershed Management in the Lower  
Mekong Basin

Data Availability for Studies on Effects of  
Land-Cover Changes on Water Yield,  
Sediment and Nutrient Load at  
Catchments of the Lower Mekong Basin

Incorporation of Trade Related  
Cooperation – Pre Feasibility Study within  
the Mandate of the Mekong River  
Commission

Integrated Watershed Management  
Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin – A  
Comparative Analysis of National and  
Local Planning Systems in Cambodia, Lao  
PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

Glossary of Terms related to Watershed  
Management

Management of Pilot Watershed Areas in  
Cambodia and the Lao PDR:  
Baseline Survey

Best Practices and Knowledge Sharing in  
Watershed Management in the Lower  
Mekong Basin

### 2005

Information and Knowledge Management  
Strategy and Concept

The opinions and interpretations expressed in these reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mekong River Commission.

Contact us for additional information or for printed copies: [wsmc@mrcmekong.org](mailto:wsmc@mrcmekong.org)

This document is downloadable from: <http://www.mrcmekong.org/pdf/WSMPublications.pdf>

## Watershed Management in the Lower Mekong Basin Volume 1: Main Report – Volume 2: Country Reports

### Abstract

This report presents the results of an appraisal mission on a German Technical Co-operation contribution to the Watershed Management Project of the Mekong River Commission's Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme (AIFP). The appraisal was commissioned by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ).

The water and land resources of the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) are the basis for the livelihood of about 60 million inhabitants and provide food for some 300 million people. However, the basin's environment is degrading at a rapid rate from unsustainable practices such as forest exploitation, expansion of agriculture onto steep slopes and water pollution and from negative side-effects of some large-scale infrastructure projects. Particularly in the fragile eco-systems of the upper watersheds in the Mekong Basin, increased pressure on natural resources due to a rapidly increasing population is a major threat to sustainability of the present natural resource-based production potentials and a potential source of future conflicts. The multi-faceted functions of these headwaters call for an integrated and participatory approach to watershed management (WSM) throughout the basin. Sustainable management (planning, implementation and monitoring) needs integrated action of the numerous local and regional stakeholders and demands for dialogue, mediation and co-ordination both, at national and regional level.

The joint efforts to manage a certain geographical area and co-ordinate resource management between people living in the upper and the lower parts of the watersheds needs to be facilitated and institutionalised. Any watershed management approach needs to encompass the variety and interaction between organisations and their respective stakes. Those are village organisations, commune (or tambon) councils and their administration, private sector organisations and their structures, provincial authorities and line departments, and the many non-governmental organisations working in the area.

The rationale for MRC involvement in WSM is its mandate, mission and authorised scope of work based on the 1995 MRC agreement that finds its expression in the formulation of the Basin Development Plan (BDP), the Water Utilisation Programme (WUP), and the Environment Programme (EP). Moreover, in October 2000 the MRC countries have endorsed the AIFP as an important regional sector programme to address WSM issues.

An analysis of MRC's Strategic Plan 2001-2005 reveals a high degree of accord between the priorities set forth therein and important traits of the relevant concepts and guidelines of the BMZ. Moreover, the Strategic Plan is in line with the objectives and principles provided by international conventions and arrangements pertaining to natural resources. Support to the implementation of AIFP under the framework of the Strategic Plan would, therefore, be well in agreement with German Development Policy.

**Authors:** Brandl, Fred E. + Preuss, Sabine + Rock, Florian

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)

## Review and Analysis of Existing Documentation on Policies, Rules and Regulations related to Watershed Management

### Abstract

A firm knowledge and understanding of existing policies, rules and regulations related to watershed management within the four member countries of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) is essential. Existing policies, rules and regulations represent a set of tools for the proper management of the resource in question, and having a firm knowledge of what is in existence and how they operate is key to further development of this set of tools.

In light of these facts, a review and analysis of what documentation currently exists on the policies, rules and regulations related to watershed management in the four member countries has been conducted. This report gives an overview of the primary documentation that is available on the subject, assesses the adequacy of said documentation as it currently exists, and makes recommendations for further development of documentation that would be truly useful in the context of watershed management.

**Author:** Oberndorf, Robert B.

[↩ Back to  
Overview](#)

[Access Full Text  
on the Internet](#)

## Community Based Forest Management in Cambodia and Laos

### Abstract

Varying frame conditions in Cambodia and Laos, related to governance, civil society, policy and legal framework, institutional setting, socio-economic and biophysical characteristics had major influences on the development of CBFM at national scale. The comparison between the two countries revealed specific conditions, similarities as well as differences, and made impeding as well as accelerating circumstances for the development of CBFM visible. Because of these national differences, the history and development dynamic of CBFM, concepts and approaches, as well as technical interventions show specific characteristics.

Like other neighboring countries in the region, the Governments of both countries give high priority to poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. As they depend very much on their natural resources, they place emphasize on community-based approaches for their sustainable management and conservation within the frame of general decentralization efforts.

Previous success of CF Initiatives and improving frame conditions increased the recognition and support for CBFM. The accelerating trend of CBFM development and increased promotion reflects the current paradigm shift from a timber oriented forest exploitation system towards a multi-functional and sustainable use of forest resources through the participation of local communities. Yet, the area under CBFM is in both countries still very limited and large-scale application faces various constraints.

In both countries, growing emphasis has been placed on policy and program support for CBFM assisted by international organizations and NGOs. It has been recognized that local people living in and around forests have strong incentives to protect and manage forests, provided that they participate in and benefit from forest management. CBFM has certainly a high potential for larger scale application and could fill a "forest management gap". As an alternative to forest exploitation, CBFM would contribute simultaneously to improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation, to the conservation of biodiversity and the cultural identity of rural communities.

**Author:** Braeutigam, Dietmar

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)

## Training Strategy for Watershed Management 2003 – 2005

### Abstract

The report presents the Training Strategy for Watershed Management as designed by the Watershed Management Project (WSMP) of the Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme (AIFP) of the Mekong River Commission according to the framework given by the MRC Integrated Training Strategy and Programme (MRC ITP).

The Training Strategy covers a total number of seven fields of training, eight modules and two modalities, 23 subjects and approximately 93 topics which are important to be addressed for a successful implementation of the Watershed Management Project (WSMP) of the Agriculture, Irrigation and Forestry Programme (AIFP).

The Training Strategy is flexible and has been designed as a monitoring tool. Formats for the development of training module curricula and session guides are given. The preparation of each training modality is a little project in itself. A working file has been prepared in which detailed actions are listed per modality of the Training Strategy for Watershed Management 2003-2005.

**Author:** DeBoer, Anna

**Note:** The full text version of this document is rather large. Therefore it has not been posted on the Internet for downloading. You can, however, [email us](#) to request a copy to be sent to you by email or mail.

[↩ Back to  
Overview](#)

[Request Full  
Text by Email](#)

## Comparative Study on Practices and Lessons in Land Use Planning and Land Allocation in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam

### Abstract

The overall objectives of the study were to collect and analyze land use planning methodologies in the 4 countries and to assess the experiences and lessons learned during implementation. The comparative assessment includes land use planning approaches at various levels, ranging from participatory village level LUP activities to the elaboration of land use master plans at provincial or even regional level. Finally, recommendations were formulated for the countries as well as for the sub-region as a whole. This study also tries to give some indications on how the AIFP/WSM project of the MRC could enhance land use planning practices in the countries of the sub-region. Due to the general concept of the project this would mainly involve support to training courses and events of regional exchange and some limited application of refined LUP approaches in selected pilot areas.

Though the political and socio-economic framework conditions for the application of land use planning differ widely between countries, land use planning and land allocation procedures have been applied in all 4 countries of the sub-region at different levels within the general context of improved and sustainable natural resources management on the one hand and as a tool in land management on the other. In Lao PDR and Viet Nam, local level LUP directly leads to land allocation to households and communities in view of strengthening management responsibilities and increasing land tenure security.

**Author:** Rock, Florian

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)

## **Analysis of Existing / Draft Rules and Regulations related to Watershed Management in Cambodia within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology**

### **Abstract**

The report presents an overview and analysis of rules and regulations, both currently enacted and draft, which relate to watershed management within three key Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Environment (MOE), and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM). In order that the reader has a sufficient contextual understanding of the legislative process and hierarchy of law in the Kingdom of Cambodia, an overview of the legal system is provided.

The primary documents analyzed are the Royal Decree on Watershed Management (MAFF), the draft Protected Areas Law (MOE), the draft Water Resources Management Law (MOWRAM) and the draft Sub-Decree on Watershed Management (MOWRAM). In addition to these primary documents, the Sub-Decrees that outline the roles and duties of the three key Ministries are briefly reviewed along with other relevant rules and regulations, such as the Forestry Law.

The report concludes with an overview of the current and proposed legislative and regulatory landscape as related to watershed management, and points out important links, conflicts, gaps and recommendations for moving forward.

**Author:** Oberndorf, Robert B.

**Note:** The full text version of this document is yet to be finalized. Therefore it has not been posted on the Internet for downloading. You can, however, [email us](#) to request a copy to be sent to you by email or mail.

[⇐ Back to Overview](#)

[Request Full Text by Email](#)

## Comparative Analysis of Policy and Legislation related to Watershed Management in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam

### Abstract

The report gives an overview and comparison of currently existing policy documents and legislation related to watershed management in the target countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The report begins with an overview and comparison of existing policy documents within each country, followed by an overview and comparison of key legislation that has been enacted. The report concludes with an overall comparison and status analysis of the policy and legislative landscape as related to watershed management within the target countries.

A key part of this report is the legislation matrix located in Annexes 1 through 3. This provides the reader with an important reference tool to existing legislation and the relevant articles or chapters therein relating to watershed management issues. By using this matrix the reader can save valuable time by not having to read entire legislative enactments to find pertinent provisions. The format of the matrix is such that it can easily be updated as new legislation is enacted over time.

This report is strictly limited to a review of documents that have been made available and does not take into account issues related to implementation or interpretation in the field. In addition, it is quite likely that some relevant policy or legislative documents could not be made available for the review, and that there are translation errors contained within the documents provided that could potentially impact on the analysis conducted.

**Author:** Oberndorf, Robert B.

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)



## Country Status Report on Watershed Management in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam – As Background Information for the Policy Dialogue on Watershed Management

### Abstract

The report was prepared by the Watershed Management Project of MRCS, supported by experts from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam, as background information for the *1st Policy Dialogue on Watershed Management in the Lower Mekong Basin*, held from 28 to 30 September 2004 in Vientiane.

The report tries to define the position of the respective countries in watershed management: what are the achievements that have already been made, what are the challenges that are still remaining.

The report comprises of 4 separate country reports. Each of the country reports includes a summary as well as a full text version. All reports following a similar structure: (1) Enabling Regulations, (2) Institutional Framework, (3) Consistencies in Planning Processes, (4) Implementation Experiences, (5) Capacity Building, (6) Impact Monitoring, (7) Financial Mechanisms and Incentives.

The report served as an entry point for the Policy Dialogue and as a stimulus for discussion. As the Status Reports have been prepared by a small group of experts from the four countries, the reports represent the views of the authors and do not claim to be independent, complete or comprehensive. They are a compilation of information available to the authors at the time of writing.

**Author:** Watershed Management Project

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)

## Proceedings – Policy Dialogue on Watershed Management in the Lower Mekong Basin, 28 to 30 September 2004, Vientiane, Lao PDR

### Abstract

This document contains the proceedings of the *1st Policy Dialogue on Watershed Management in the Lower Mekong Basin*, held from 28 to 30 September 2004 in Vientiane. Two days of dialogue in the conference room of the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane, Laos were followed by a further day of dialogue during the workshop field trip.

The design of the Policy Dialogue was based on the principle of short presentations and ample time for discussion. The aim of the Dialogue was not to make decisions but to collect and discuss ideas, views and experiences. We tried to increase mutual understanding of the actual situation of watersheds and watershed management in the Lower Mekong region as well as identify potential options for further development. As hoped and expected, the event was characterized by open sharing of views, experiences, thoughts and options for future development.

The discussions took place in a stimulating and productive atmosphere and were based on mutual respect and understanding. As the evaluation showed, the majority of the participants appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to work in small groups, which contrasted with "usual" conference designs, where plenary discussion forms the main forum of exchange.

What had been worked out theoretically in the first two days, was unambiguously proven by reality on the field trip: the sound and responsible implementation of watershed management is not lacking in terms of technique, but institutional framework and resources. The field trip was widely appreciated for delivering impressively clear and astonishingly easy examples of how to preserve watershed functions.

**Author:** Watershed Management Project

[↩ Back to  
Overview](#)

[Access Full Text  
on the Internet](#)

## Data Availability for Studies on Effects of Land Cover Changes on Water Yield, Sediment and Nutrient Load at Catchments of the Lower Mekong Basin

### Abstract

This report gives an overview on the data availability of key variables of water quantity and quality (precipitation, water level, water flow, suspended sediment, nutrients) at the Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) with the objective to investigate effects of land-cover changes on hydrology. MRCS has three databases: hydro-meteorological database, water quality database and geographical database (Mekong GIS). Datasets were aggregated and restructured to evaluate data availability and completeness of key variables. Three database sources were finally linked using the geographical information system ArcView. A selection of catchments of the Lower Mekong Basin was determined taking into account spatial and temporal coverage of available data. Recommendations for data processing and update of land and forest cover monitoring using remote sensing are given.

**Author:** Fuchs, Hans Dr

**Note:** The full text version of this document is rather large. Therefore it has not been posted on the Internet for downloading. You can, however, [email us](#) to request a copy to be sent to you by email or mail.

[⇐ Back to  
Overview](#)

[Request Full  
Text by Email](#)

## Incorporation of Trade Related Cooperation – Pre Feasibility Study within the Mandate of the Mekong River Commission

### Abstract

The importance of trade as a driving force for national economic development has regained increasing recognition. WTO and UNCTAD use a broad definition of trade, which not only incorporates the trade of goods, but also the trade of services and property rights. This broad definition of trade is used here as well.

A large portion of the rural population of the Lower Mekong Basin countries lives along the river, which is used for transport, as water source, and as fishing ground. For the regions poor, fish is often the only source of protein. The ADB estimates that no less than 1 million people directly depend on the fisheries in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake. In the Mekong Delta, the river is often the only available transport route. Just these few examples already demonstrate the direct link between trade in the region and the work of MRC.

The institutional framework to develop trade along the Mekong River is still in its infancy. MRC is the only regional institution backed by four countries that with an established structure. In the MRC member countries, the ministries of commerce are in charge of developing trade, with which MRC does however not maintain regular contacts. As yet, no programme has explicitly taken on the important task of trade promotion along the Mekong River in relation to environmental and resources issues. MRC, as a regional organisation, lends itself to taking on this task.

The MRC vision is to develop the Mekong Basin in an "economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound" manner. This vision of MRC obviously reflects economic goals and circumstances. Trade is an important component in an economically prosperous river basin, and should be considered in the various tasks of MRC. It is recommended to establish a "trade component" with a three year duration, integrated as a independent component with cross cutting functions into MRC activities. The following conceptual contours are recommendable: (a) focus on trade policy related issues of current interest that have a strong influence on the Mekong, (b) focus on interventions at macro and meso levels, (c) no separate organisational unit in MRC, but rather a matrix solution following the "dotted line principle", (d) networking with other national and international organisations and stake holders.

The goal of the "trade component" is formulated as: the development and utilisation of trade related services and the influencing of trade policy related decision making in the MRC member countries increase the quality of trade related measures, which impact on the ecological and economic sustainability of the Mekong River.

**Authors:** Reineke, Rolf-Dieter DR + Schmitz, Norbert Dr

**Note:** The full text version of this document is yet to be translated from German to English. Therefore it has not been posted on the Internet for downloading. You can, however, [email us](#) to request a copy to be sent to you by email or mail.

[⇐ Back to Overview](#)

[Request Full Text by Email](#)

# Integrated Watershed Management Planning in the Lower Mekong Basin – A Comparative Analysis of National and Local Planning Systems in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

## Abstract

The incorporation of watershed management objectives into local and national development planning can be accomplished by means of integrated planning at all administrative levels and across political boundaries of the Lower Mekong Region. Countries often pursue their own national interests in exploiting natural resources, instead of equitably sharing the joint benefits that can accrue from integrated multi-country management. The limited focus of sectoral agencies results into overlapping sectoral development plans and often renders implementation ineffective. Also the interests of local governments in planning are not necessarily coinciding with planning objectives relating to the broader national interest. The reconciliation of competing interests requires more dialogue-based planning approaches that provide some room for negotiation.

Current forms and standards of planning across the four riparian countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) differ significantly yet, each of them provides some opportunities for strengthening more integrated planning at the various levels. The analysis and subsequent formulation of an integrated planning approach starts from the basic proposition that due to its natural resource-based character effective watershed management can only be accomplished if it is integrated into the wider planning systems of the riparian countries and into the resulting development frameworks.

The analysis of the existing planning systems in the four countries, regarding the policy, structure, resources and support for integrated planning, revealed the following summarized characteristics: Planning structure, Planning policy, Planning resources, Planning support.

It is evident that all four countries require more “integrated planning”, i.e. a holistic planning approach based on a commonly accepted set of inter-sectoral spatial development objectives in order to promote watershed management. Area-based should integrate development-cum-conservation goals into national and local development plans and programmes.

Summarizing, spatial planning can promote watershed management objectives through the strengthening of concrete watershed functions in spatial development strategies. It supports the assimilation of watershed management in the objectives of all sector plans. Planning approaches hence should view spatial development processes and related institutional reforms and capacity building in an integrated manner. Institutional constraints could be reduced by creating appropriate incentives for mutual coordination under a policy- and area-based fiscal management framework.

**Author:** Poppe, Manfred Dr

[⇐ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)

## Glossary of Terms related to Watershed Management

### Abstract

This document contains a glossary of terms directly or indirectly related to Watershed Management. Among the terms directly related to Watershed Management are for instance *Catchment*, *River Basin*, and *Watershed*. Among the terms indirectly related to Watershed Management are for instance *Cumulative Impact*, *Externality*, and *Transboundary Impact*.

**Author:** Watershed Management Project

[↩ Back to  
Overview](#)

[Access Full Text  
on the Internet](#)

## Management of Pilot Watershed Areas in Cambodia and the Lao PDR: Base Line Survey

### Abstract

The Watershed Management Project (WSMP) of the Mekong River Commission / GTZ Cooperation Programme has classified the watersheds of the Lower Mekong Basin according to the risk of impairment of their functions, thus identifying the most "critical" watersheds. In early 2004, the WSMP supported National Working Groups on Watershed Management of Cambodia and the Lao PDR have selected pilot areas from among the most "critical" watersheds. In Cambodia the watershed of the Siem Reap River, and in the Lao PDR the watershed of the Nam Thon River have been selected. Subsequently, base line surveys have been conducted in both watersheds from September to November 2004, the results of which are presented here.

The objectives of the base line surveys were: (a) To collect information on the current situation within the pilot areas, in particular on the socio-economic situation, land use, and land and natural resources management. (b) To provide base line data for monitoring the impact of watershed management related interventions (social impact, impact on water, etc). (c) To provide information pertaining to the identification of potential watershed management related interventions, with specific reference to the forestry sector.

In Cambodia, the base line survey came to the overall conclusion that the watershed of the Siem Reap River is an area suitable for numerous watershed management related interventions. Some potential fields of intervention identified are: (a) Identification, survey and demarcation of the permanent forest estate. (b) Establishment of small-scale tree plantations, fruit orchards or agro-forestry systems. (c) Management of existing forest concession areas for the supply of the domestic wood demand and local wood market. (d) Integrated forest fire management. (e) Set-up of hydrological measurement stations.

In the Lao PDR, the base line survey came to the same overall conclusion that the watershed of the Nam Thon River is an area suitable for numerous watershed management related interventions. Some potential fields of intervention identified are: (a) Identification, demarcation and management of village forests and state forests. (b) Establishment of small-scale tree plantation or agro-forestry systems at the household level. (c) Expansion of bamboo production, processing and marketing. (d) Improvement of range land (silvo-pastoral systems). (e) Support in aquaculture with establishment and maintenance of fish ponds. (f) Set-up of hydrological measurement stations.

In each country, the base line survey comprises of 2 parts:

Part 1: Framework for Land and Forest Resources Management

Part 2: Base Line Survey for the Pilot Area

**Authors:** Schindele, W. (overall responsibility), Hou Kalyan + Ken Serey Rotha + Ung Luyna + Mao Socheat (Cambodia), Kamphay Manivong + Lamphone Xayvongsa + Oulaphone Ongkeo + Sounthone Ketphanh + Souksompong Prixar (Lao PDR)

**Note:** The full text version of these documents is rather large. Therefore they have been compressed for Internet downloading, and do not contain maps and photos. You can, however, [email us](#) to request the full document including maps to be sent to you by email or mail.

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text without Maps on the Internet](#)

[Request Full Text with Maps by Email](#)

## Best Practices and Knowledge Sharing in Watershed Management in the Lower Mekong Basin: Lessons, Prospects and a Way Forward

### Abstract

Collection and dissemination of “best practices” in watershed management are important design elements of the MRC Watershed Management Project (WSMP). Experiences with watershed management approaches, and based on these “best practice” recommendations for drafting of policies and related guidelines, are to be identified, documented, and shared. This is to take place within the overall framework of WSMPs (and MRCs) information and knowledge management.

The review presented here inventories and critically examines lessons learnt from “best practice” approaches and related information and knowledge management activities in the private, public, and development sectors elsewhere, and from this draws conclusions and makes recommendations for the work of the WSMP.

The main conclusions drawn are as follows: (a) There is a need to put the “best practices” approach in the overall context of organizational change and learning. This implies the need to perceive “practices” as lower level elements of clearly articulated organizational processes. Simply collecting “best practices” without treating them as integral part of a much broader strategy to change in organizational performance would be of little use. (b) Much of what is documented as “best practices” is merely an expression – at the explicit “know how” level – of the underlying knowledge that generates them. This may be adequate for some purposes, typically in situations of low complexity. (c) However, it is vital to also recognize the importance of tacit knowledge and its implications for knowledge management in complex situations. Mobilization of expert knowledge is required in such situations, rather than just information system based or derived knowledge.

Based on the above conclusions, an integrated knowledge management model is proposed, which incorporates the “technical” and “human” elements of knowledge management. The model incorporates elements already present, such as (a) the existing WSMP information and knowledge base (document collection, working papers), which has already contributed significantly to the mapping of the knowledge landscape in the region, (b) existing information dissemination mechanisms (MekongInfo), and (c) existing dissemination networks (the WSMP National and Regional Working Groups). The model proposes some additional elements, such as exploring the interest of and engaging selected other regional and national “knowledge leaders” in watershed management and / or knowledge management, ie organizations that possess and / or are able to mobilize relevant expert knowledge. Collaboration with such organizations is expected to create synergies in filling remaining “knowledge gaps” (eg in integrated regional planning), and could possibly lead to the development of an “integrated regional watershed knowledge system”. It is suggested to use and build on the proposed model for the further development of WSMPs information and knowledge management strategy.

**Author:** Veer, Cor Dr

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Access Full Text on the Internet](#)



# Information and Knowledge Management Strategy and Concept

## Abstract

This document contains a combined Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Strategy and Concept, which intend to outline the contours of and give orientation for the management of information and knowledge on Sustainable Watershed Management by the Watershed Management Project (WSMP) of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) GTZ Cooperation Programme.

Sections 2. and 3. of this document contain the **strategy** part. By analysing the MRC fundamentals (1995 Cooperation Agreement, Vision, Mission), section 2. details the thematic focus, the users, and the intended use of the to-be-managed information and knowledge, and derives the overall objective as follows:

The **thematic focus** of information and knowledge management is “management of water related terrestrial natural resources in a watershed (area based) context, with particular emphasis regarding its externalities of trans-boundary nature, and including its institutional and economic framework conditions”.

The (end) **users** of information and knowledge, or *primary* target group, are policy makers and leading institutional developers in the MRC member countries, however supported by a *secondary* target group: researchers, representatives of civil society, institutional developers, and capacity builders, who contribute expertise to the formulation of policies and / or organise their implementation. It is understood that the target groups mainly comprise national and provincial level actors.

The intended **use** of information and knowledge is the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies on “management of water related terrestrial natural resources in a watershed context”, which intend to benefit the local population while reducing negative water related externalities, and where necessary the creation of required preconditions including appropriate institutional foundations.

The **overall objective** of this IKM Strategy is thus formulated as: “Relevant policy makers and leading institutional developers in the LMB countries are aware of, have access to, and make use of relevant information / knowledge on management of water related terrestrial natural resources in a watershed context.” This overall objective is further subdivided into the subordinate objectives.

The strategy part concludes by laying out guiding principles for information and knowledge management in section 3.

Sections 4. to 5. then proceed with the **concept** part, beginning with a brief inventory of data, information and knowledge management activities in MRCS. Actions required to achieve the overall and subordinate objectives are identified and their appropriateness is evaluated in greater detail in section 5., where possible by providing alternative options

**Author:** Watershed Management Project

[↩ Back to Overview](#)

[Request Full Text by Email](#)