

Understanding the Nexus in the Mekong Region

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Partnerships

- A dynamic, multi-disciplinary, multi-national, multi-scale research-for-development network that delivers world-class research and generates significant developmental impacts.
- Largest water-food-energy partnership in the Mekong.
- 73 formal members.
- All connected through 19 projects and 22 small grants.



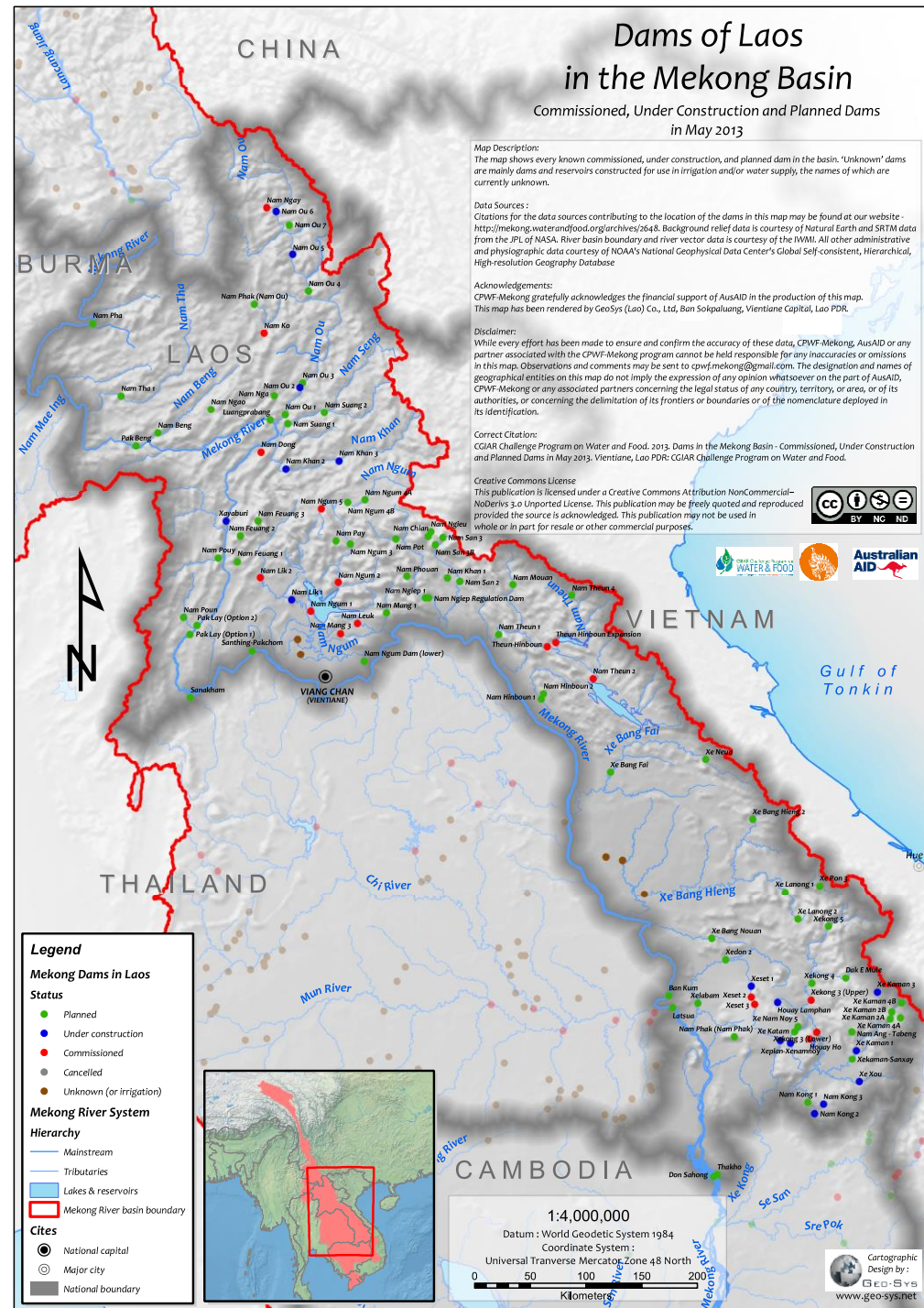
Mekong Movies

- Many Mekong movies generated by the program.
- All available on YouTube.
- Some produced by documentary film-makers; others by communities.
- Include topics such as dam development in general, change, *thaibaan*, hydropower decision-making, the role of rivers in local lives, and more.



Mapping Dam Development in the Mekong

- Maps of all existing, under construction and planned dams in the Mekong.
- Maps available for download from:
<http://mekong.waterandfood.org/archives/2648>
- Additional maps being generated to link our work with particularly dam sites and catchments.



An annual forum to deliberate water, food and energy research



Started from annual M-POWER meetings:

- Chiang Mai 2006-2007
- Vientiane 2006 (CPWF)
- Hanoi 2008
- Kunming 2009
- Phnom Penh 2010

Morphed into Mekong Forum on WFE

- Phnom Penh 2011
- Hanoi 2012
- Hanoi 2013

[237 delegates, 92 organisations]



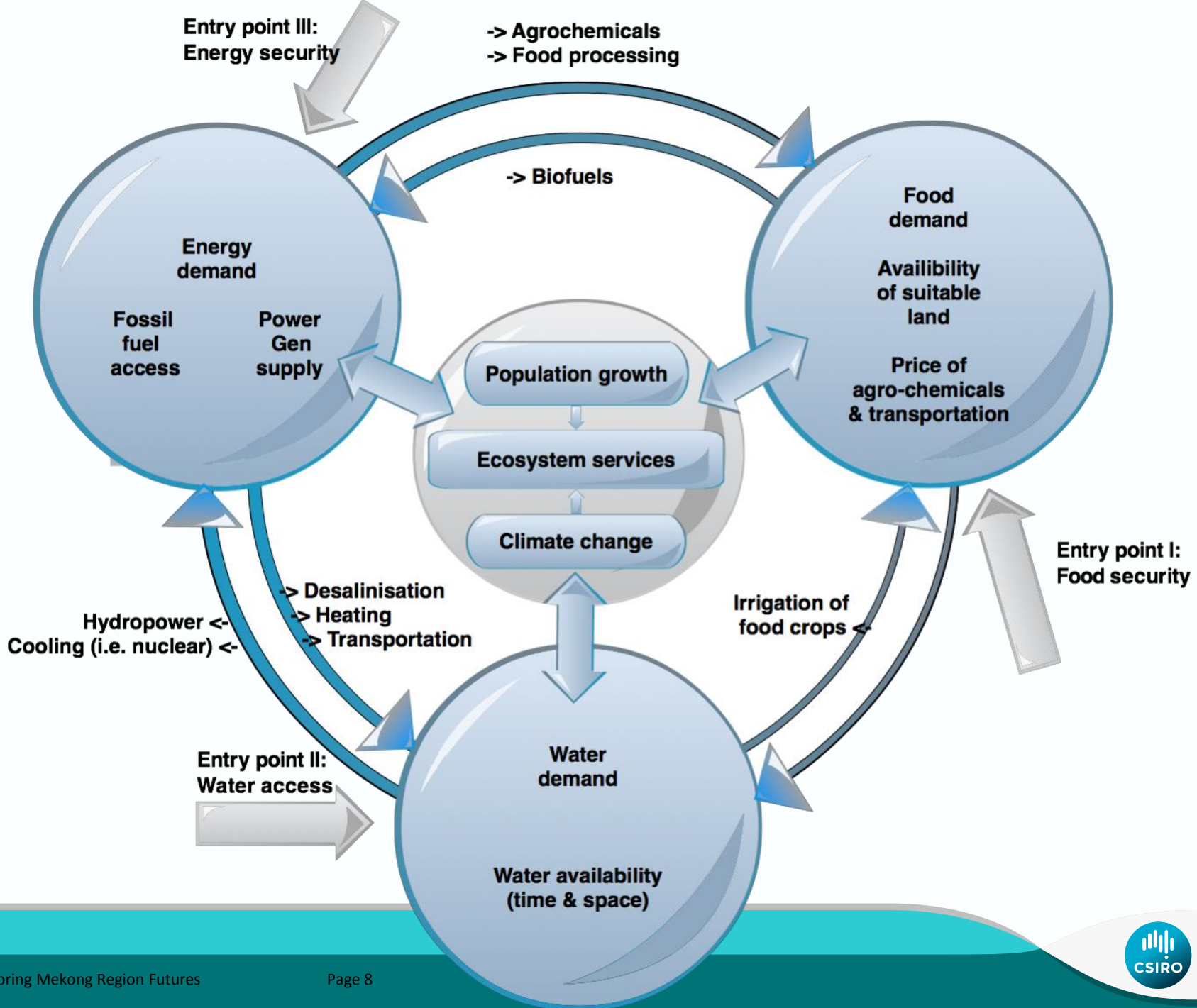
New Delhi 2012

M-POWER

Mekong Program on Water
Environment and Resilience



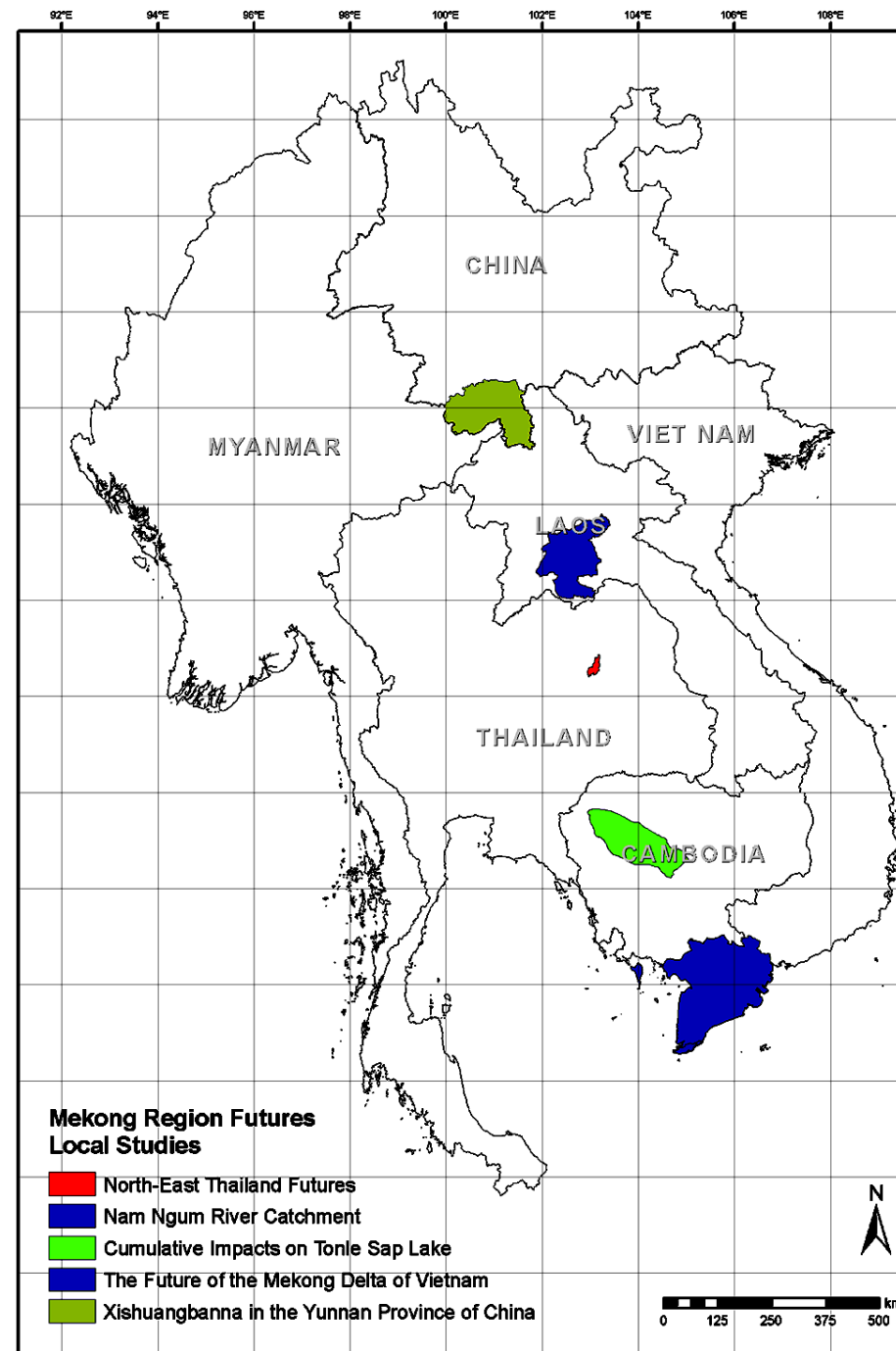
Ubon Ratchatani 2013



Mekong region

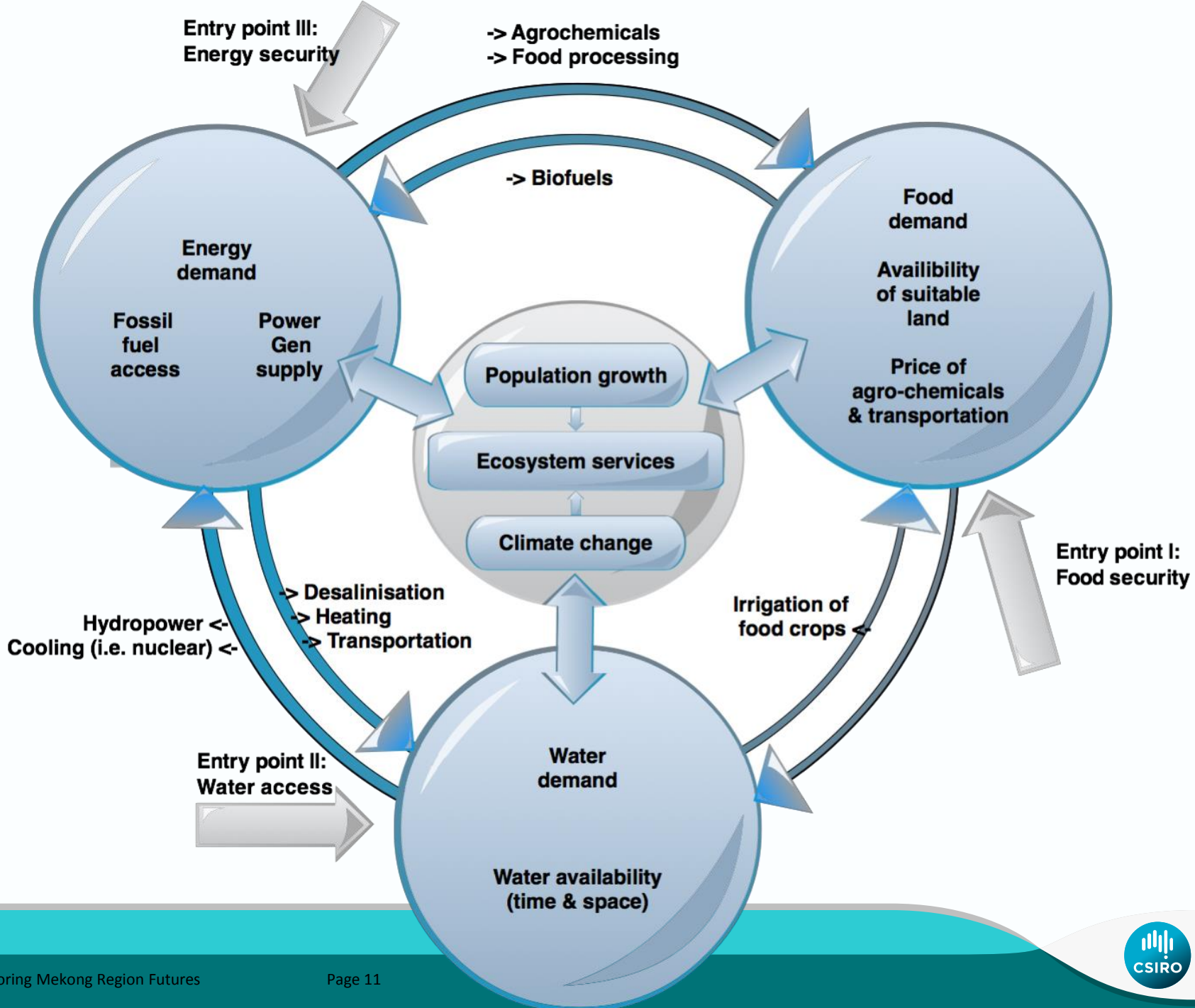
- **Yunnan (ICRAF)**
Rubber-Reforestation-Biodiversity
- **Lao PDR (IWMI/WREA)**
Water use in Nam Ngum catchment & Vientiane plain
- **Thailand (SEI/KKU/RBO)**
Irrigation for north-eastern Provinces & climate change
- **Cambodia (Aalto/TSA/SNEC)**
Impacts of Mekong mainstream dams on Tonle Sap
- **Vietnam (Can Tho Uni/Prov)**
Mekong Delta adaptation to sea-level rise

<http://www.csiro.au/science/MekongFutures>



Nexus Synthesis

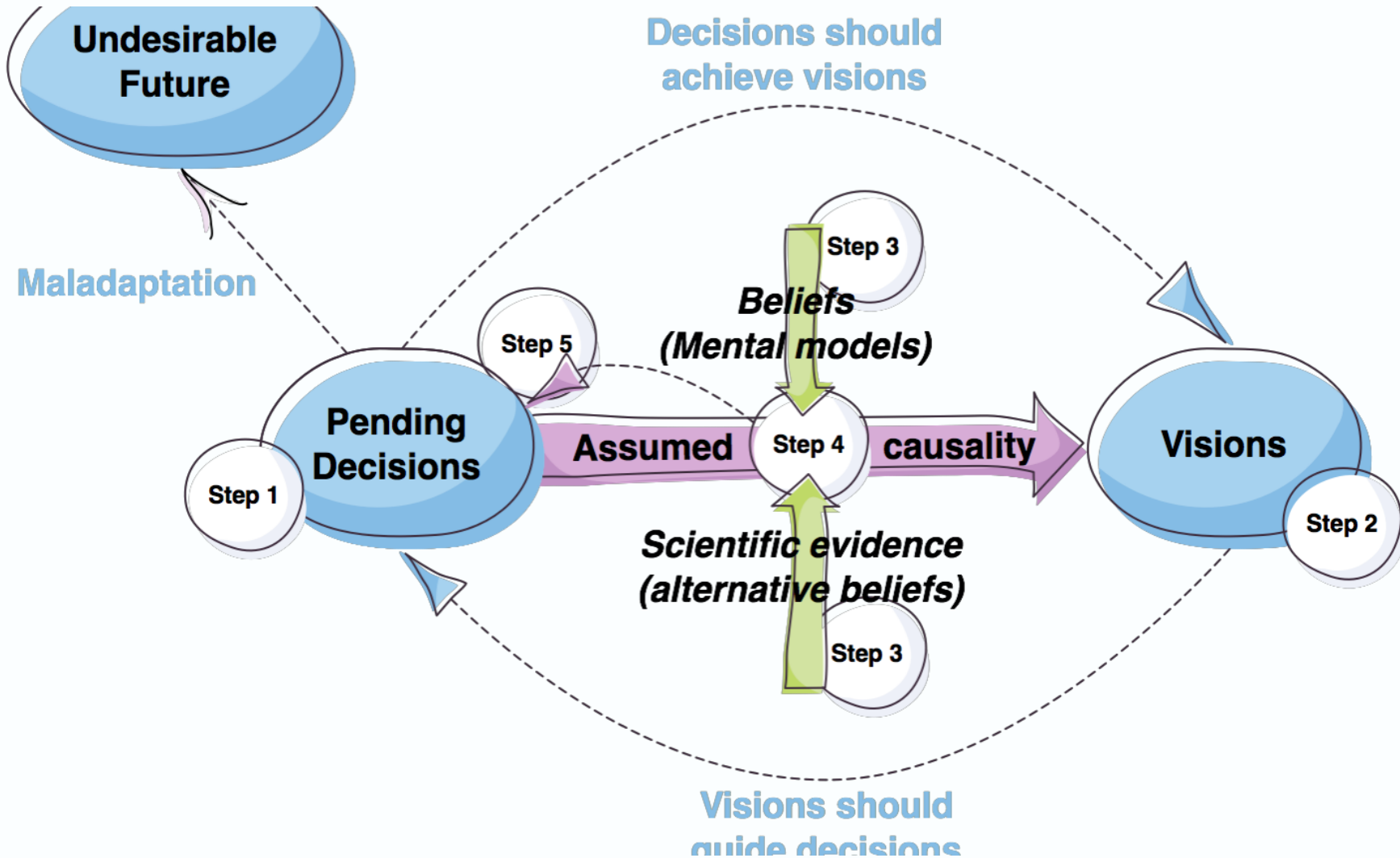
1. Water access will see big change (Pech Sokhem)
 - ? Flood risks shift from natural to operational risks
 - Peaks and timing change will erode many livelihoods
 - ? Substantial shift between six countries (possible conflict)
2. Energy (Tira Foran)
 - + Increasing demand could be satisfied
 - Higher energy prices
3. Food security decrease (David Fullbrook)
 - Less fish
 - ? More irrigation potential but more energy crops and rubber
 - Food prices increase with bigger pressure on the poor
4. Livelihoods and Migration (Lilao Bouapao)
 - ? Shift from subsistence to paid labour
 - ? More migration



Nexus System Criticalities

- Transboundary fish stock management
- Instruments to manage risks from monocultures
- Strategies to avoid migration peaks due to change in access to natural resources
- Strategies for labour transition from primary to secondary sectors in the context of urban growth
- Explicit management of energy demand instead of sole focus on energy supply

Challenge and Reconstruct Learning (ChaRL)





**Creating Enabling Environment
for
Cross Sectoral Collaboration
on
Water-Food-Energy Nexus
– Experience from Thailand**

National target



THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(2012-2016)

National Economic and Social Development Board
Office of the Prime Minister
Bangkok, Thailand

Key Contribution



Key Factors Making Cross Sectoral Collaboration Possible

1. All concerned parties committed to solve real world problem.
2. **Existing mechanism**, RBO, consisting of representatives from various sectors
3. **Key champions** in the area and in the RBO process buy in the ideas and significantly contributed to the project (Director Prasit & Dr. Yanyong)
4. **Multi-objective** planning tools
5. **Engagement** of all concerned stakeholders for entire project period (e.g. RBO selected the study area)
6. **Ownership of data and project outputs** – commitment that all collected data and models developed by project handed over.

Water Food Energy Nexus Mekong Region

Many 1% solutions ?????

- ✓ Networks, relationships *eg M-POWER*
- ✓ Movies *eg Thai TV, Mekong, Delta*
- ✓ Maps *eg Mekong dams*
- ✓ Forums *eg. Naga*
- ✓ Bus boondoggles *eg. Ganga guests*
- ✓ Conceptual frameworks *eg. ChaRL*
- ✓ Regional teams, research *eg. Futures*
- ✓ Collaboration *eg. 11th Thai plan*



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