# Understanding the Nexus in the Mekong Region

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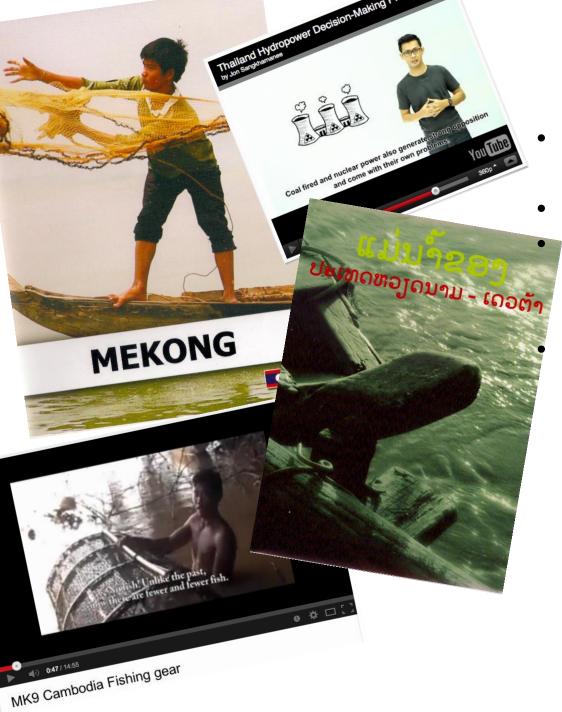


#### Partnerships

- A dynamic, multidisciplinary, multi-national, multi-scale research-fordevelopment 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.



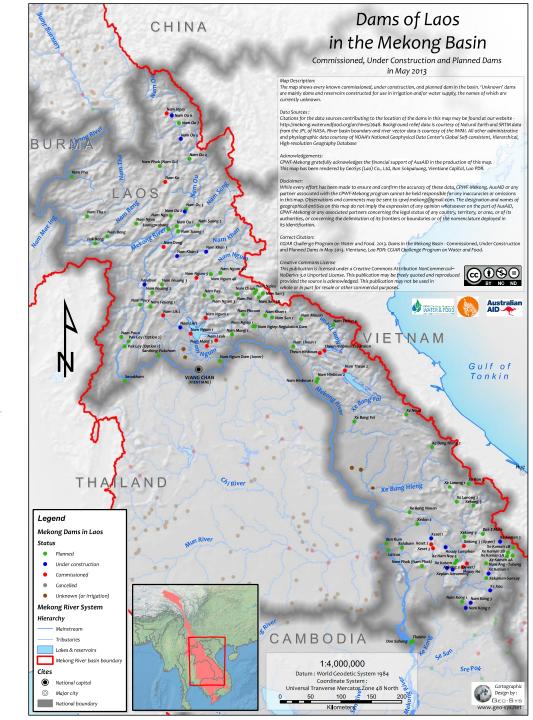


## Mapping Dam Development in the Mekong

- 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]

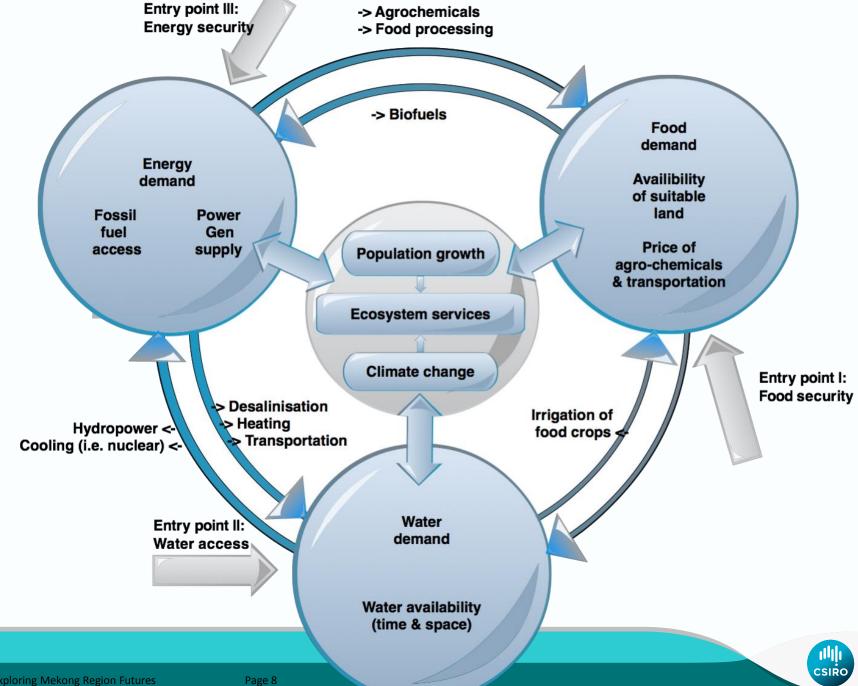


New Delhi 2012



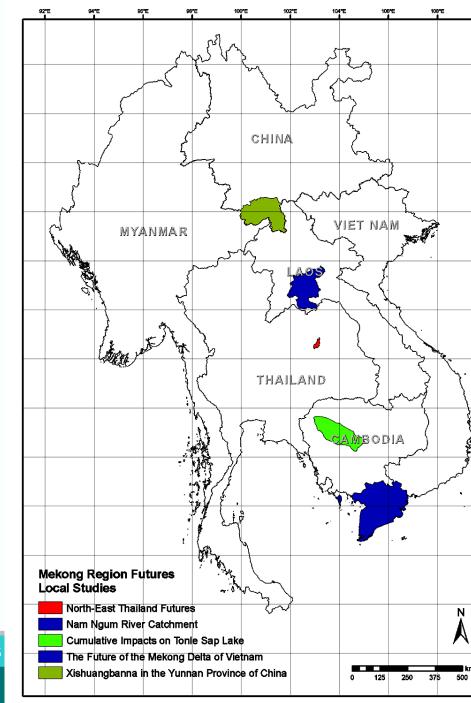


**Ubon Ratchatani 2013** 



#### **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

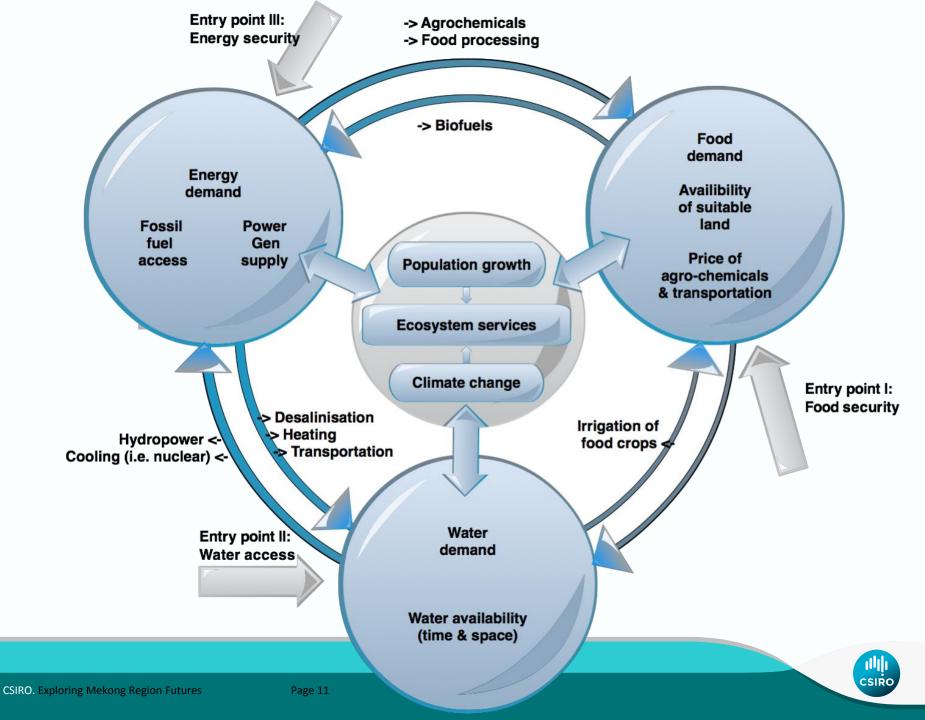


http://www.csiro.au/science/MekongFutures

#### **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
- 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



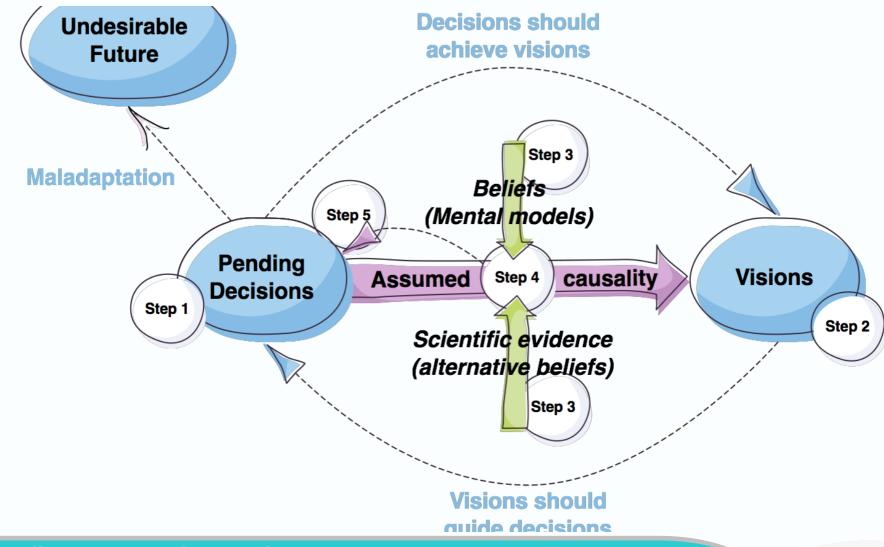


#### **Nexus System Criticalities**

- 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**

#### **Direction of 11th Plan**

#### Risks Confronting Thailand

weakness in public administration Unsustainable Economic structure

threats towards national security

6 risks

declining proportion of working age population

deteriorating in the natural resources and environment loss of traditional values

Creation of 6 dimensions of resilience

#### 6 dimensions of resilience

- the constitutional monarchy governed the country
- the agriculture as a main source of income and food security
- the development based on knowledge and advanced technology
- the society with good values and culture
- the community as a key effective mechanism in development

"a happy society with equity, fairness and resilience"

#### Mission

- to promote better income distribution, and fair, harmony and democratic society in order to achieve better quality of life
- to create socio-economic security through strengthening production of goods and services based on knowledge, creativity and environmental friendliness, improving social protection for better coverage, and ensuring food and energy security
- to strengthen resilience to changes and crises and develop human resources

#### **Targets**

- Thai society is more peaceful and has good governance
- ·all citizens acquire social protection
- total factor productivity in every sector is increased
- shares of agricultural and service sectors in the economy are increased
- · share of creative economy is increased
- · Thailand's competitiveness ranking is improved
- natural resources and environmental quality are improved

#### 6 Development Strategies

- Strategy of promoting the just society
- Strategy of developing human resources to promote a life-long learning society
- Strategy of balancing between food and energy security
- Strategy of creating the knowledge-based economy and enabling environment
- Strategy of strengthening economic and security cooperation in the Region
- Strategy of managing natural resources and environment towards sustainability

#### Roles of development partners

Government/Politic/Private/ Institution/Media/Community/ People

Driving towards implementation

Under participation of development partners





### **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









