

Multistakeholder Water Governance for sustainable livelihood in Laos

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Multistakeholder Water Governance

1. IUCN Previous water-related works
2. Water, Wetlands and Watershed - IUCN Lao Programme
3. Multistakeholder engagement is important for water governance and IUCN water programme areas
4. Ways Forward



Brief of some previous water-related works

- Mekong Wetland Biodiversity Programme
- Ramsar Pre-accession Process
 - Cost benefit analysis of joining Ramsar convention
 - Outreach and education awareness materials
- Opportunity to engage on Urban Wetlands as a result of relationship with NEC (DoE)
- Upper Mekong Biodiversity Survey
- Regional and National Water Dialogues
- Translation of relevant documents

Mekong Region Waters Dialogue



- ✓ **State & non-State actors**
- ✓ **Multi-perspective**
- ✓ **Multi-disciplinary**
 - ✓ **Facilitated**
 - ✓ **Championed**

National Waters Dialogues

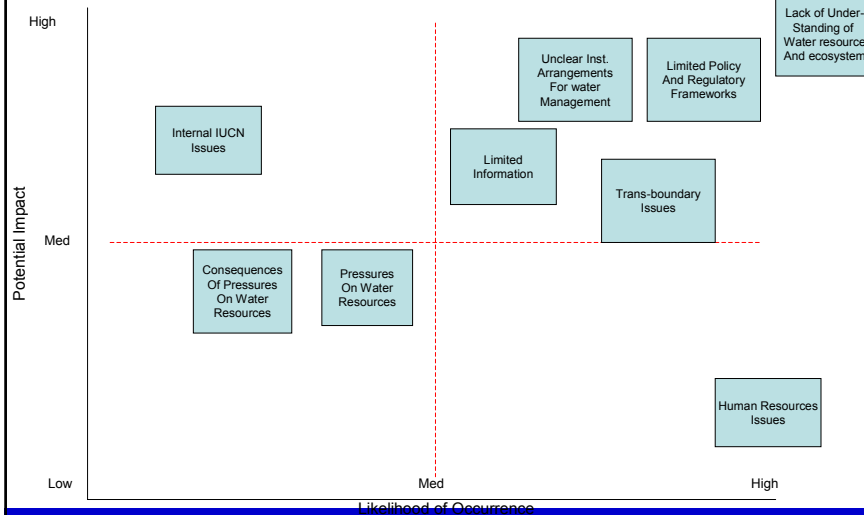


- Lao National Water Dialogue
- Lao Team represents by WRCC, LNMC, EPF, DLF, LARReC, Dept of Irrigation, Dept of Planning of MAF

Some observations from participants

- 160 participants from 6 countries & diverse stakeholder group
- Resulted in “shared learning” & “a clearer and deeper understanding of water and water-related issues in the Mekong Region”
- Learning about roles and plans of key regional actors (ADB, WB, MRC)
- Promotion of open communication & active participation
- “first step in a difficult road” to enhance water governance in the Mekong Region

'NAM' Issues Analysis



Lao Japan Dialogue on Water and Environment, 18 Feb 08

Water, Wetlands and Watershed – IUCN Lao Programme

- **holistic** in scope, focusing on **water-based and wet landscapes and associated resources**, in addition to bodies of water and their multiple uses. Using its convening power and position as a neutral body, IUCN Lao PDR will continue its *Nam* work by **convening diverse stakeholders** to the table to improve understanding of this resource, enhance effective governance and raise awareness of the rising pressures on Lao PDR's water resources.

Lao Japan Dialogue on Water and Environment, 18 Feb 08

Water, Wetlands and Watershed – IUCN Lao Programme

- Improved understanding of the ecosystems and livelihoods approach to water resource management;
- Enhanced water-related governance processes and institutions for informed and effective policies and agreements; and
- Raised profile of the increasing pressures on water-related resources.

Multistakeholder Water Governance

- **Current Objectives (2008-2010)**
- Provide opportunity for State, civil society and business actors to participate in water Dialogues – to inform and be informed;
- To encourage multi-stakeholder involvement in the process of debates on national water resources strategies and relevant regional strategies of ADB, MRC and the World Bank with focusing on agreed safeguard aspects;
- Enable the articulation of different perspectives about water-related development in the Mekong Region for consideration in decision-making

Multistakeholder Water Governance



- **Water networking committee and the panel of expert groups establishment** with clear terms of reference
 - Policy water expert group
 - Scientific water related group
 - User water group
 - Private water group
- Capacity Needs Assessment Framework, Training Working Groups or National Teams and Conduct Assessments/ case studies

Multistakeholder Water Governance



- *Develop Mechanism on Decision Support on development related to water*
 - review the existing policy and legislative framework support the current implementation of the Strategic Framework for Large scale Infrastructure Development
- *Publication and dissemination of lessons learned*
- *Review of policy environment and engagement with policy makers*

Ways Forward



- Promoting continuous water governance through multi-stakeholder dialogues
 - Coordination mechanism is set up based on the existing procedures – with a shared ownership and vision that can be sustained and continue to be a pool of technical advice on national water related planning and management
 - Explore potential areas for collaboration with key stakeholders, at different levels, including regional
 - Potential to be self-sustained through accessing funding sources
 - Support information sharing with the regional and global water network