

Project Outline

Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Resources in the Lower Mekong Basin (SMR)
Partner:	Mekong River Commission - Secretariat / National Mekong Committees and designated national line agencies in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam
Contact MRC:	Lim Chun Hour - Project Officer Forestry
Contact GTZ	Dr. Hans Helmrich - Chief Technical Advisor; Michael Glueck - Technical Advisor.

The SMR project aims to support the MRC, its members states and relevant partners in the region **"to develop, promote and implement strategies in participatory natural resource management"**. To achieve this, the project focuses on the following key areas:

- sustainable watershed management in upland areas of the lower Mekong basin
- participatory natural resources management approaches (PNRM)
- participatory land use planning (LUP)/land allocation approaches
- sustainable use of forest resources
- information management and dissemination on PNRM in the Lower Mekong Basin

The project implementation strategy is based on a *dual approach of regional and nationally based activities*. These are initiated and supported in partnership with national Government agencies, NGOs and international projects and programmes active in the region. The regional component aims to assist the MRC-S in fulfilling its role as a *regional networking and information dissemination* body on the lessons learnt and promising approaches related to watershed management and PNRM - including the development of appropriate policy frameworks.

At the national level the project supports innovative initiatives/local project designed to *strengthen the capacity of communities to manage natural resources* by addressing issues such as participatory LUP, institutional awareness and policy frameworks, alternative land use/income generating options.

During the pilot phase (12/95 - 2/98) the development of a *field project in Dak Lak Province (Vietnam)* was initiated. Its activities have focused on assisting communities (primarily ethnic minorities in upland areas) and provincial authorities in developing participatory approaches for the current land use planning and land allocation programme under way in Vietnam. In addition, the project completed the development of an internet-based *Natural Resource Management Information System (MRC-Online)* which will enable the MRC and professionals in the region to access and exchange information about PNRM and related subjects in five languages. A network of national focal points was established in the four member states of the MRC.

For phase II of the project (3/98 - 8/2001) it is planned to initiate activities in all four riparian countries. Through *technical assistance, co-financing, support for national language based training and action research* the project will assist partners in addressing key issues in watershed/forest resources management, collaborative management approaches involving Government, communities and private sector interests (eg. lessons learnt in the context of protected areas and/or concessions management involving communities), economic incentives for sustainable use of natural resources and the application/effectiveness of spatial information systems for NRM in the region.

As a regional project of the MRC-S it is envisaged that the project will play an important role in *collecting, analysing and disseminating experiences and information* on key topics and strategies in PNRM generated in the four riparian states. As such it will seek to assist the MRC-S in providing practical and user-friendly information of immediate relevance to stakeholders, projects and programmes active in the region.

The project's regional coordination office is located in Hanoi/Vietnam. During 1998, it is envisaged that national coordinators will be appointed in all four countries. The project is part of MRC-Secretariat and as such works through the National Mekong Committees and designated line agencies. Its mandate enables the projects to collaborate with Government agencies, NGOs and the private sector in promoting sustainable management of resources in the lower Mekong basin.

The German contribution to the project includes intentional/regional staff (advisors in regional planning, natural resource management, land use planning, communication, participatory planning), a co-financing facility for PNRM initiatives, short-term consultants fund, counterpart training fund and resources for equipment and running costs.

DRAFT PROJECT PLANNING MATRIX (PPM)

Project title: SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES IN THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

Estimated planning period: 1/1998 - 12/2000

Project no: 91.2220.1-01.200

Prepared on: 03/10/1997

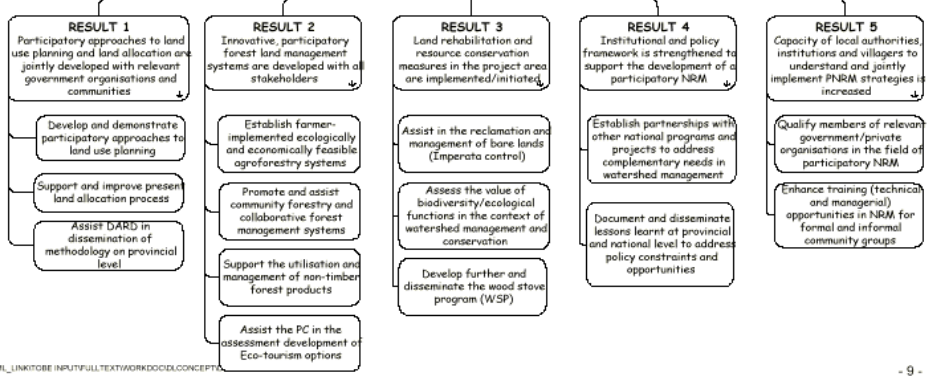
Objectives/Activities	Indicators	MoV	Assumptions
<p>Development Goal:</p> <p>Participatory Natural Resource Management (NRM) has become an integral part of sustainable resource management policies and strategies of the Lower Mekong Basin countries and the Mekong River Commission.</p>	<p>The Basin Development Plan reflects participatory NRM strategies.</p> <p>National policy documents and plans include principles of participatory NRM.</p> <p>National programs and MRC-projects operationalise principles of participatory NRM.</p>	<p>Basin Development Plan</p> <p>Policy documents</p> <p>Plans</p> <p>Program/Project documents</p>	
<p>Project Purpose:</p> <p>Partners are supported in developing, promoting and implementing strategies in participatory NRM.</p>	<p>By 6/2000, project partners in each of the four riparian countries have started new/revised programs, projects and policy initiatives reflecting the participatory NRM approach.</p> <p>By 6/2000, at least 2/3 of identified key actors consider the project as useful and innovative.</p>	<p>Key documents of partners (e.g. list of initiatives, projects, budget)</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>Client satisfaction survey</p>	<p>Political frame conditions in the riparian countries are stable.</p> <p>Institutional changes of CP do not hamper project implementation.</p>
<p>Results:</p> <p>R 1</p> <p>Good practices/lessons learnt on participatory NRM in the region are jointly identified, analysed and implemented on a suitable scale.</p>	<p>By 6/2000 at least 2/3 of project partners give positive feedback on process of identification and analysis of "lessons learnt".</p> <p>In Dak Phoi and Krong No communes of Dak Lak Province, Vietnam innovations for sustainable land management in upland areas have been implemented by 6/2000.</p> <p>Additionally, two land use plans elaborated in a participatory way are available by 6/2000</p>	<p>Survey by external experts</p> <p>Documents reflecting experiences in land management</p> <p>2 land use plans</p>	<p>A sufficient number of co-operating partners can be interested to collaborate on lessons learnt</p>
<p>R 2</p> <p>A service-oriented set of collaborative partnerships is established in all four riparian countries.</p>	<p>By 6/2000, 2/3 of project partners describe the project support as beneficial.</p> <p>By 6/2000, at least 14 collaborative partners have been supported by project.</p>	<p>Joint evaluation exercise</p>	<p>A sufficient number of co-operating partners can be interested to enter into agreements.</p>
<p>R 3</p>	<p>By 6/2000, 2/3 of respondents to a survey are satisfied</p>	<p>Survey report</p>	

Information exchange within and among four riparian countries is strengthened.	with the usefulness of project's communication products. By 10/2000, 2/3 of respondents to a qualitative survey are satisfied with the evolution of the information system.	Survey report	
R 4 Members of co-operating partners, key institutions and other relevant professionals in the riparian countries are better qualified in participatory NRM.	By 10/2000, at least 300 representatives from communities practitioners and policy makers have participated in a NRM-related training event. A post-training follow-up survey conducted by 10/2000 indicates that 2/3 of respondents considered the training / seminars to be of practical relevance.	Training reports Survey report	Qualified training institutions in all riparian countries can be identified.
Activities			
Result 1.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify good practices/lessons learnt in participatory NRM 2. Prepare case studies on participatory NRM for each country 3. Aggregate lessons learnt 4. Develop participatory approaches in Land Use Planning/Land Allocation and support improved land management and conservation measures in Dak Lak 			
Result 2			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify strategic organisations for collaborative partnership to jointly address key challenges in participatory NRM 2. Identify objectives and key issues in participatory NRM to guide selection of partnership initiatives 3. Negotiate and implement specific partnership agreements 4. Collaborate with existing networking efforts at the local and national level 			
Result 3			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further develop and promote information system 2. Support regional/national for a for information exchange 3. Develop and disseminate information materials 4. Organise/support exposure tours/field trips 			
Result 4			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a framework for project supported training initiatives 2. Enhance training opportunities in participatory NRM for community representatives 3. Support training initiatives for practitioners working in the field of NRM 4. Conduct policy makers seminars on frame conditions for participatory NRM 			

**PROJECT PLANNING
MATRIX FOR THE DAK
LAK PILOT PROJECT**

Problems
 Lack of sustainable upland cultivation systems/shifting cultivation
 Lack of participatory/collaborative forest management systems
 Lack of participatory LUP/LA / no involvement in decision making
 No forest land rights for communities
 No alternative income/land resource
 Encroachment of plantation agriculture
 Inappropriate government programs/policies
 Lack of capacity of line agencies
 Lack of environmental awareness of communities/agencies

PROJECT PURPOSE
 Ecological/hydrological functions of upper watersheds in Dak Lak project area are improved and the income of the target group is increased.



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