

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and Viet Nam, development partners are involved in natural resource management and the water sector, with an increasing focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Project and program landscapes are changing rapidly, with new initiatives and funding constantly emerging. In addition to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the following development partners have active water sector projects and programs in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), including Australia, Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, France, Finland, Germany, and the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States, and the World Bank.

Major Development Partners

| Development Partner | Project Name | Duration | Amount (\$ million) |
|--|---|-----------|---------------------|
| Lao PDR | | | |
| ADB | National Integrated Water Resources Management Support Program | 2011–2015 | 3.9 |
| | Community-Managed Irrigation Systems | 2005–2010 | 10.0 |
| | Nam Ngum Watershed Development | 2004–2011 | 17.4 |
| | Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation | 2008–2014 | 23.0 |
| | Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation | 2010–2014 | 20.0 |
| ADB, AusAID | National Water Resources Policy | 2009–2010 | 0.8 |
| World Bank | Irrigation Project in Downstream of Nam Theun 2 | 2008–2013 | 3.5 |
| World Bank | Nam Theun 2 Hydropower | 2005–2011 | 20.0 |
| Viet Nam | | | |
| ADB | Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Development Project in the Northern Mountains | 2010–2017 | 108.0 |
| ADB, AFD | Strengthening Water Management and Irrigation Systems Rehabilitation Project | 2010–2016 | 100.0 |
| ADB | Red River Delta Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project | 2005–2013 | 50.1 |
| USAID | Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies; Biodiversity Conservation | 2010–2014 | 34.0 |
| World Bank | Mekong Delta Water Management for Rural Development Project | 2011–2017 | 160.0 |
| Regional | | | |
| ADB, Government of the Netherlands, Sweden | Core Environment Program and Biodiversity Conservation Initiative in the Greater Mekong Subregion | 2006–2008 | 36.1 |
| Government of Sweden | Implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion Core Agriculture Support Program (Phase 2) | 2012–2017 | 7.5 |
| ADB, FAO, IFAD, PRC | Accelerating the Implementation of the Core Agriculture Support Program | 2009–2012 | 3.1 |

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AFD = Agence Française de Développement, AusAID = Australian Agency for International Development, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development, Lao PDR = Lao People's Democratic Republic, PRC = People's Republic of China, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: ADB.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

2. Water resources development and management in the Mekong River have been recognized as a critical regional issue since the formation of the Mekong River Committee in 1957. The Mekong River Commission (MRC) came into being following the signing of the Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin by the governments of Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam on 5 April 1995, generally referred to as the 1995 Mekong Agreement.¹ Since the 1995 Agreement, member countries have signed sub-agreements on Data and Information Sharing and Exchange, a Flood Management and Mitigation Strategy, and a formal agreement with the People's Republic of China on the exchange of hydrological and other data. The MRC aims to ensure reasonable and equitable use of the Mekong River System, through a participatory process with National Mekong Committees in each country to develop procedures for water utilization.

C. Achievements and Issues

3. In Viet Nam, consultative group meetings remain the main platform for the government and development partners (including nongovernment organizations) to review progress and issues related to socioeconomic development and official development assistance (ODA).

4. In the Lao PDR, the national integrated water resources management programs supported by ADB and the World Bank provides a forum for different development partners to coordinate their initiatives in the water sector. The support programs are also building the capacity of Lao PDR institutions, such as the Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, to manage the water sector better. This increased capacity and national ownership of the various water investments and initiatives is expected to facilitate improved development coordination.

D. Summary and Recommendations

5. Coordination will be encouraged with key development partners through constant dialogue, sharing of key findings of review missions, and consulting development partners during the detailed design stage, to ensure that the impacts downstream of the project subprojects on water balance and water availability do not adversely affect the projects of other development partners.

6. In terms of community-based disaster risk management, the project will greatly benefit from the experience and knowledge of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). In Viet Nam, the project will be aligned with the national community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) program—especially the criteria for selection of vulnerable communities, the monitoring and evaluation framework and indicators, capacity building, and institutional strengthening activities—to ensure a harmonized approach to CBDRM.

¹ MRC. 1995. Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. http://www.mrcmekong.org/agreement_95/agreement_95.htm (accessed August 2011).