

## 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

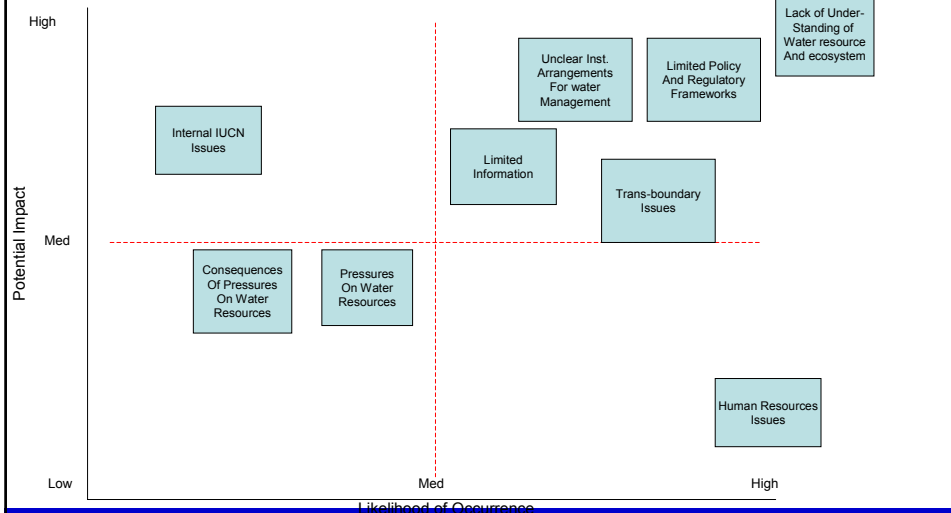


- Lao National Water Dialogue
- Lao Team represents by WRCC, LNMC, EPF, DLF, LARReC, Dept of Irrigation, Dept of Planning of MAF

## 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.

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## 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