

Prospects of Lancang-Mekong Region Strategic Plan and Green Development

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Bridging science and policy



SEI Asia and the development agenda



Three Pillars



Solution
driven
science



Strengthening
capacity



Evidence
based policy
engagement



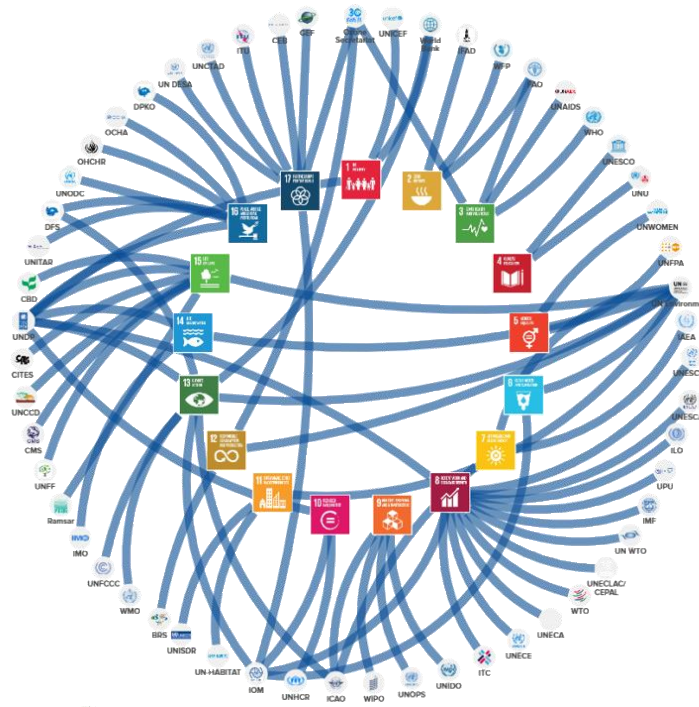
Driving research in Asia

- Gender and Social Equality
- Water Resources Management
- Reducing Disaster Risk
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- Energy Transitions
- Urban Health and Wellbeing





Tools



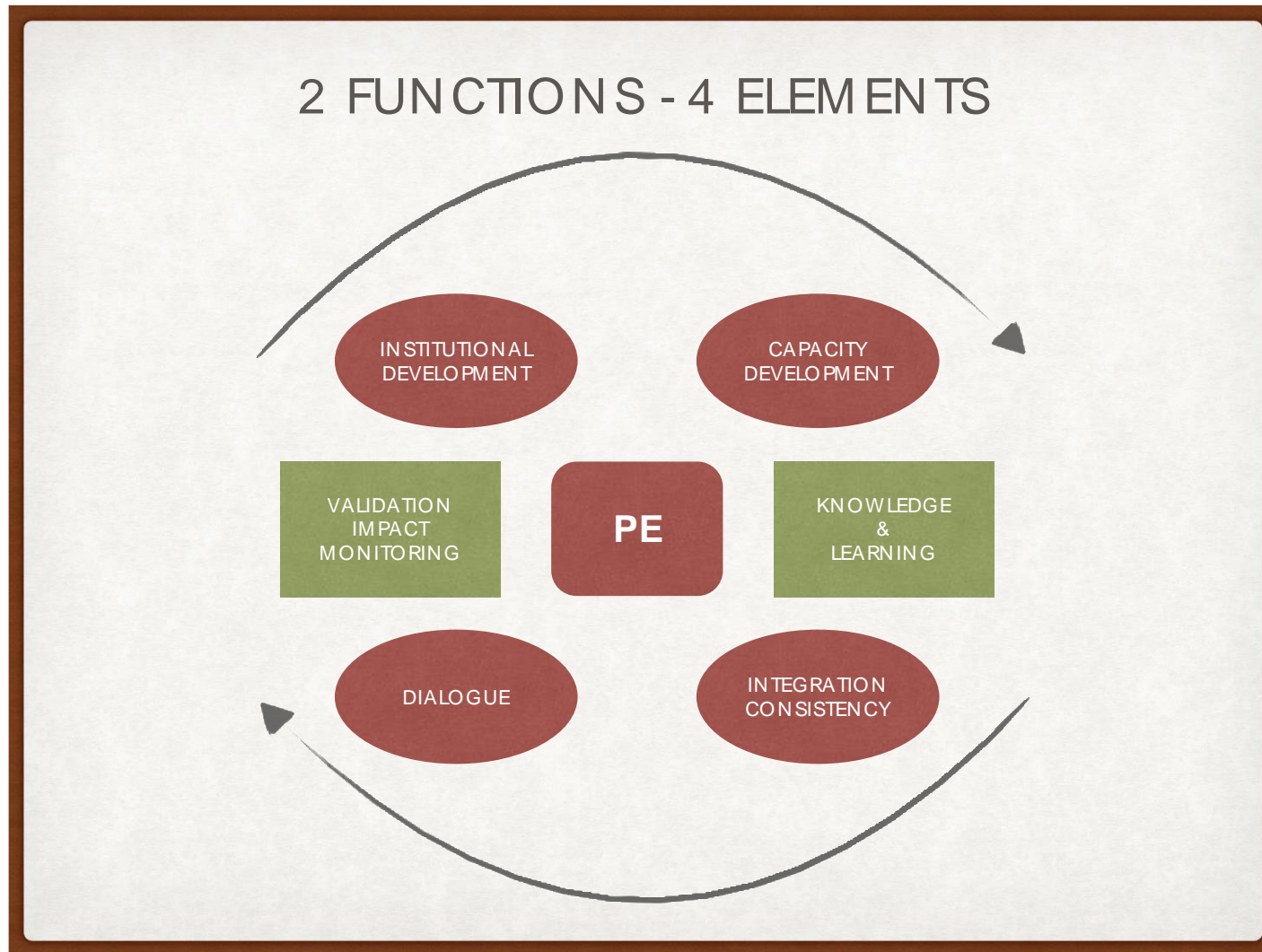
Robust Decision Support (RDS)



Partnerships



Policy Engagement





Strengthening Capacity



Sustainable Mekong Research Network SUMERNET



Strategic risk assessment





Gender and Social Equality (GSE)

Chindwin Futures





Definitions

- evaluating the **social and environmental consequences** of proposed policy, plan or programmes
- systematic and comprehensive process for use in **publicly accountable decision-making**

SEA is applied to policies, plans and programmes, looking at **social and environmental impacts at a strategic level**, not evaluating them at project level

SEA as a tool for Strategic Planning

- SEA is a process of **evidence-based analysis** of social and environmental issues
- Balanced analysis to **build consensus**, including recognising trade-offs and linking sector goals to national development
- Decision-oriented: not just about identifying problems, but also about agreeing on **solutions**



Phases of the SEA



Scoping



Baseline



Scenarios



Impact Analysis



Weighting and Trade-Offs

Reporting



SEA as a Strategic Planning Tool for the Development in the Mekong

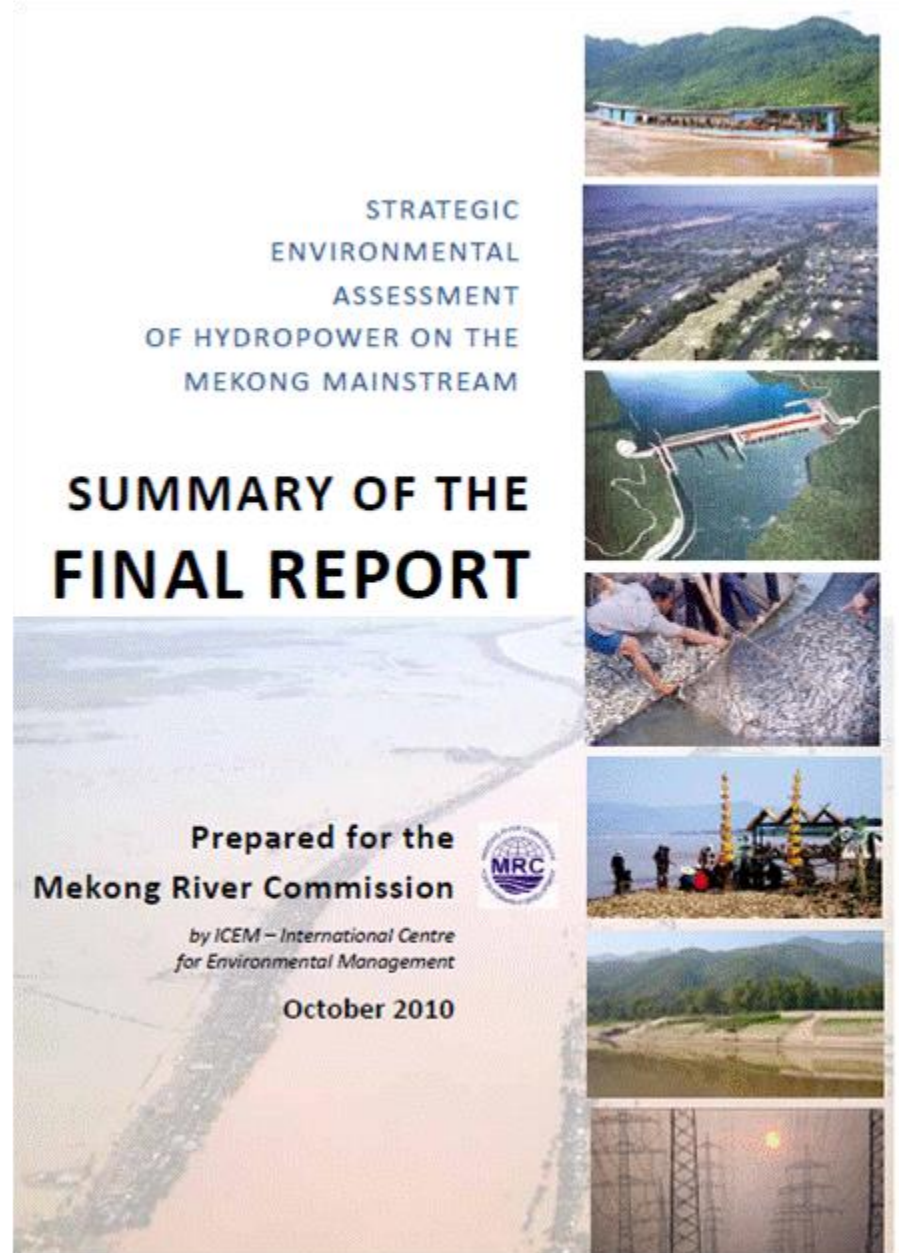


Past experience

- ❖ SEA of hydropower dam in 3S basins
- ❖ SEA for Vietnam Hydropower Master Plan in the Context of PDP VI (2009)
- ❖ SEA of Mekong mainstream hydropower dam (2010)
- ❖ ADB SEA: Ensuring Sustainability of GMS Regional Power Development (2012-2013)



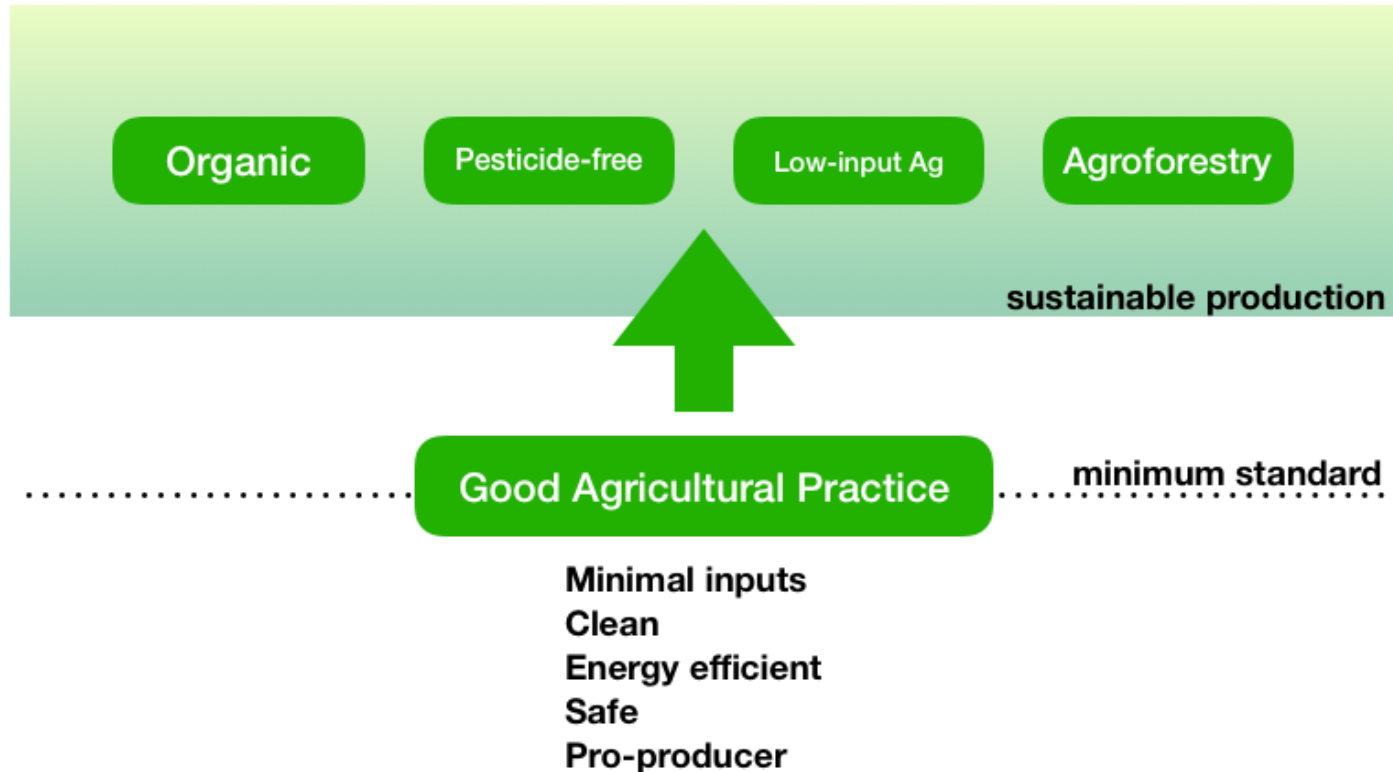
MRC SEA of hydropower on the Mekong mainstream (2010)



Regional Experience with SEA

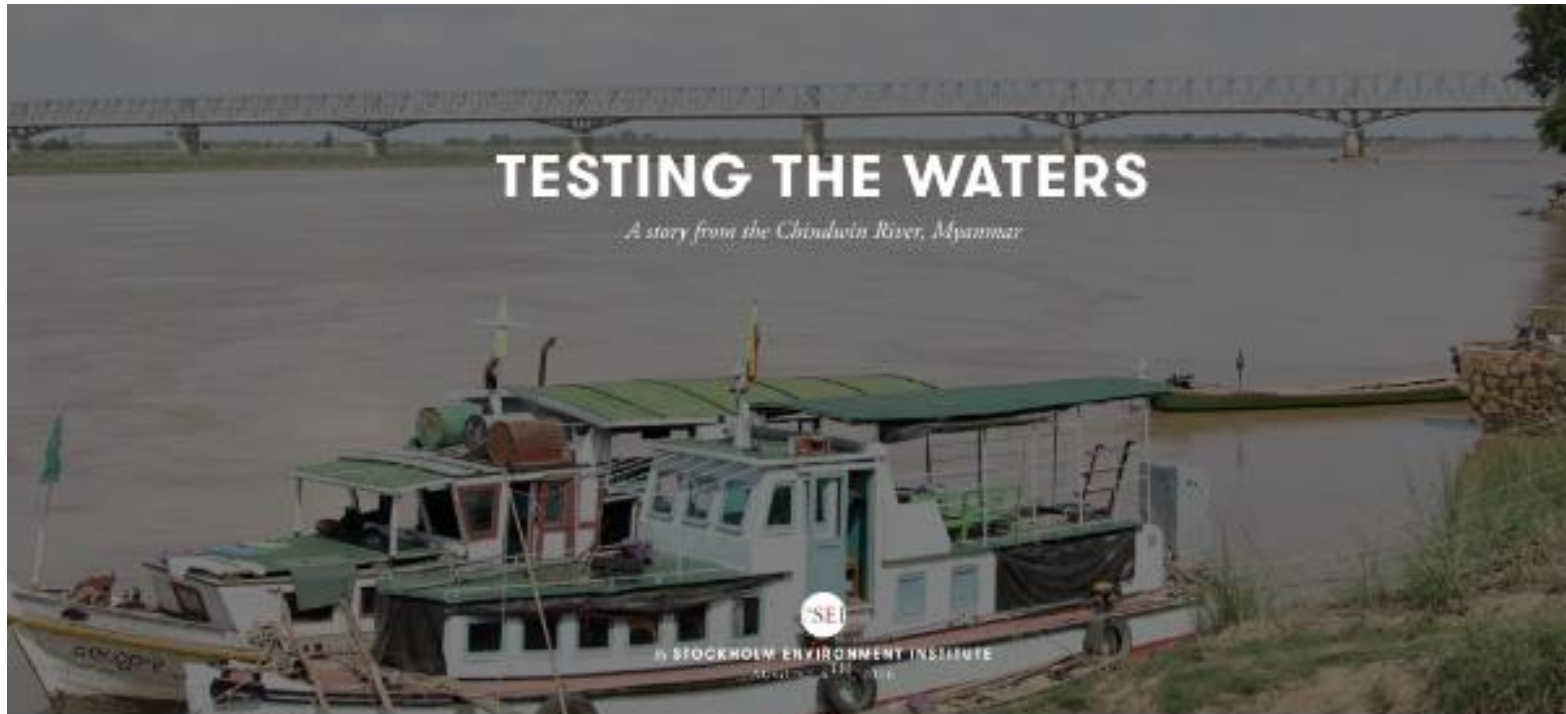
Country	Experience with SEA
Cambodia	While there are no legal requirements to carry out SEAs, some methodological approaches and elements of SEA were incorporated in the recently completed Master Plan Study for Hydropower Development in Cambodia . The study, sponsored by JICA, assembled an environmental and social baseline database, and assessed potential cumulative environmental and social impacts.
Lao PDR	A CIA of the Nam Theun 2 (NT2) hydropower project in 2004 , sponsored by ADB, looked at the effects other hydropower projects in the area would have on NT2 impacts as well as the induced impacts of NT2 on other sectors of the economy. In another more recent CIA, also sponsored by ADB and also in connection with an individual project investment, the Nam Ngum 3 hydropower project , the cumulative socio-environmental impacts of developments featuring up to 9 hydropower projects in the Nam Ngum basin were analysed.
Thailand	While there are currently no formal requirements for SEA, national guidelines have been distributed, initial capacity building initiatives have been undertaken and some sector SEA have been conducted on a voluntary basis (e.g. Strategic Energy Lanbridge 2003 , Petrochemical Industrial Development Master Plan Phase III 2004 ; Strategic Development of the Thailand Border Economic Zone of Chiang Rai)
Vietnam	A number of pilot projects have been conducted, among them the SEA of the Quang Nam Province Hydropower Plan for the Vu Gia-Thu Bon River Basin, sponsored by the ADB, and the SEA of Sustainable Hydropower in Viet Nam (2009) in the context of the National Power Development Plan VI, conducted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) under the ADB-GMS Initiative.
Lower Mekong Countries	MRC Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of hydropower on the Mekong mainstream (2010) conducted by International Center for Environmental Management (ICEM) for the Mekong River Commission Secretariat. At that time, one mainstream project (Xayaburi dam) has reached the stage of notification and prior consultation required under the Mekong 1995 Agreement.

Green & Sustainable Agriculture in Lao PDR



The aim is to focus on two-step approach: (1) minimum standard GAP and (2) exploration of more sustainable forms of production.

Communications for influence and outreach



**CHINDWIN RIVER:
SUPPORTING LIVES AND
LIVELIHOODS**



