Open Seminar for
JICA's Study on Data Collection survey on the Basin Management and Environmental
Conservation in Mekong River Basin
9 August 2019
JICA Head Office, Tokyo, Japan

# Outline of the MRC, Its Strategy, Challenges, Relationship Status with Donors, and Expectations for further Cooperation with Japan

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#### **OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION**

- 1. The Story of Mekong Cooperation
- 2. Vision and Mission
- 3. Outline of the MRC
- 4. MRC Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- 5. Management of the Mekong River Basin
- 6. Issues and Challenges of Management of the Mekong River Basin
- 7. Recommendations for Sustainable Management of the MRB
- 8. Cooperation with Development Partners, Dialogue Partners, and other River Basin Organizations and Regional Organizations
- 9. Expectations for further Cooperation with Japan



# THE STORY OF MEKONG COOPERATION

## 62+ Years of Mekong River Cooperation



- MRC builds on long history of Mekong river cooperation dating back to 1957 the Mekong Committee, with extensive knowledge base in terms of monitoring data, studies, basin plans, etc. (62+ yrs.)
- The 1995 Mekong Agreement (MA) gives the MRC a strong legal foundation – the only one as a treaty based organization
- MRC has four members (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam) and two dialogue partners (China and Myanmar)
- The MA provides the MRC with a mandate: to promote and coordinate sustainable development and management of water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin
- This mandate has been reaffirmed at the highest levels (3 Summits of prime ministers) with increasing financial contribution from countries year by year (50% by 2021, 75% by 2025, 100% 2030)
- The mandate is also operationalized through successful implementation of the MA for the past 24 years









## **VISION AND MISSION**

#### **VISION AND MISSION**

#### **VISION for the Mekong River Basin**

☐ An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin

#### **VISION** for the Mekong River Commission

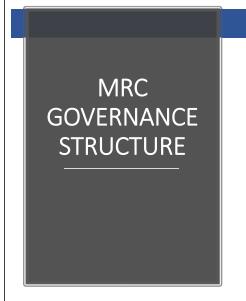
A world class, financially secure, International River Basin Organization serving the Mekong countries to achieve the basin Vision

#### **MISSION** of the Mekong River Commission

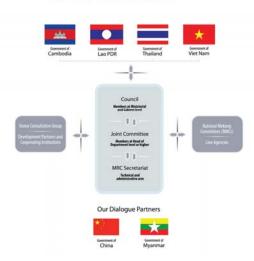
☐ To promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being

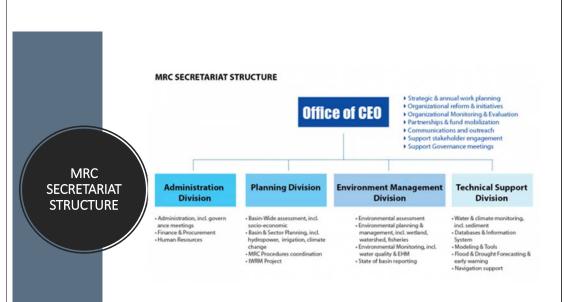


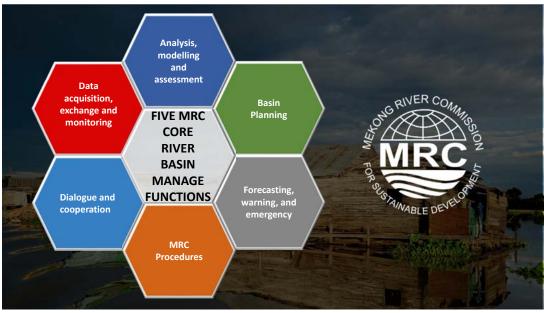
## **OUTLINE OF THE MRC**

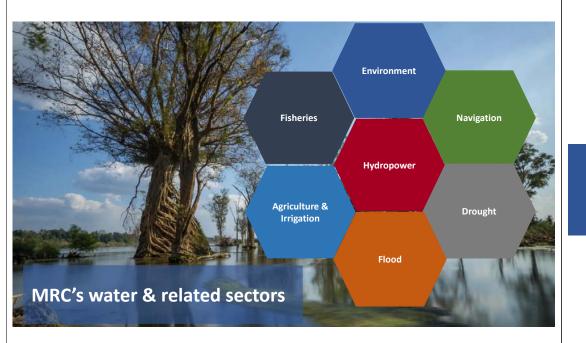


#### Mekong River Commission Governance Structure











**MRC STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020** 

#### **MRC STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020**



- The plan has been developed based on:
  - The updated IWRM-based Mekong Basin Development Strategy 2016-2020;
- MRC's organizational reform agenda; and
- Recommendations from the mid term review of the 2011-2015 MRC Strategic Plan and the 2015 appraisal mission commissioned by MRC's Development Partners.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 OBJECTIVES (1)

	Key Result Areas	Outcomes
	Key Result Area 1: Enhancement of national plans, projects and resources based on basin-wide perspectives	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Increased common understanding and application of evidence-based knowledge by policy makers and project planners
		<b>Outcome 2:</b> Environment management and sustainable water resources development optimized for basin-wide benefits by national sector planning agencies
		Outcome 3: Guidance for the development and management of water and related projects and resources shared and applied by national planning and implementing agencies

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 OBJECTIVES (2)

Key Result Areas	Outcomes
Key Result Area 2: Strengthening regional cooperation	<b>Outcome 4:</b> Effective and coherent implementation of MRC Procedures by the Member Countries
	Outcome 5: Effective dialogue and cooperation between Member Countries and strategic engagement of regional partners and stakeholders on transboundary water management

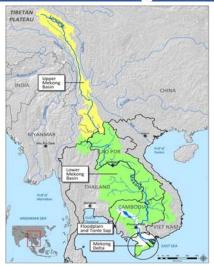
## STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020 OBJECTIVES (3)

Key Result Areas	Outcomes
Key Result Area 3: Better monitoring and communication of the Basin conditions	Outcome 6: Basin-wide monitoring, forecasting, impact assessment and dissemination of results strengthened for better decision-making by Member Countries
<b>Key Result Area 4:</b> Leaner River Basin Organization	<b>Outcome 7:</b> MRC transitioned to a more efficient and effective organization in line with the Decentralization Roadmap and related reform plans



## **Management of the Mekong River Basin**

## **The Mekong River Basin**



- The Mekong River rises in the Himalayas in PR China at an elevation of about 5,000 m, where it is known as the Lancang River.
- It is the world's 12<sup>th</sup> longest river, flowing for almost 4,763 km through Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Cambodia into the East Sea (referred to also as the South China Sea) in Viet Nam.
- It has the world's 8<sup>th</sup> largest flow, with a mean annual discharge of approximately 446 km<sup>3</sup>, and its basin is the world's 21<sup>st</sup> largest by area, draining 810,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- The Mekong River is closely linked with the culture and development of the countries through which it flows.
- For millennia, the river's abundant resources have nurtured a unique and rich ecosystem as well as sustained the livelihoods of those living in the basin.

#### The 1995 Mekong Agreement and its Procedures

- 1. The <u>1995 Mekong Agreement</u>: the Agreement for the Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Mekong Basin, signed in April 1995.; and
- 2. Its Five Sets of Rules or Procedures for water utilization
  - Procedures for Data and Information Exchange and Sharing: aim to operationalise data and information exchange among the MRC Member Countries. Technical Guidelines (TGs)
  - Procedures for Water Use Monitoring: aim to provide a comprehensive and adaptive framework and process to support effective monitoring of intra-Basin water use and diversion. TGs
  - Procedures for Notification, Prior Consultation and Agreement: aim to provide steps for the MRC Member Countries to support the establishment of the Rules for Water Utilisation and Inter-Basin Diversions. TGs
  - Procedures for the Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream: Aim to maintain minimum monthly flows in the Mekong mainstream by the 4 MCs. TGs.; and
  - Procedures for Water Quality: are designed to establish a cooperative framework for the maintenance of acceptable/good water quality to promote sustainable development in the Mekong River Basin. TGs

## **Key Relevant Strategies and Guidelines**

- 1. Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy;
- 2. Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan;
- 3. Guidelines for Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment, final version
- 4. Drought Management Strategy, final version to 49<sup>th</sup> JC Meeting;
- 5. Flood Management Strategy, being finalized;
- 6. Strategy for Basin-wide Environmental Management for Regional Important Environmental Assets, being prepared;
- 7. Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy, being updated; &
- 8. The Preliminary Design Guidance for Mainstream Hydropower Projects, being updated.

#### **Five MRC's Water and Environmental Monitoring Programmes**



Hydrology (since 1900) **HYCOS** (2008-Date) 58 stations



Discharge & Sediment **DSMP** 2009 - Date 17 sites



**Water Quality** WQN 1993 - Date 22 sites



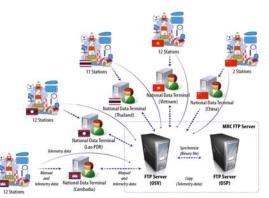
EHM

**Aquatic Ecology** 2003 - Date 41 sites



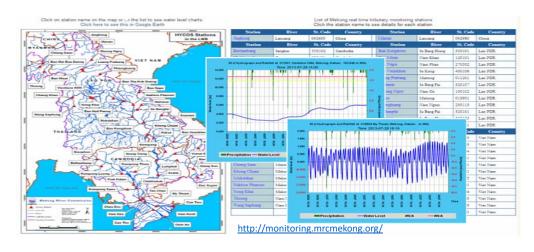
**Fisheries** FADM + others 1994 - Date 38 sites

## **Mekong-HYCOS network (15 minutes)**

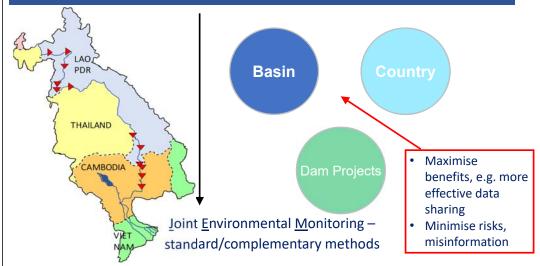


- The Hydromet system established in 2005 and updated to HYCOS telemetry system in 2008
- **58** telemetry stations: 17 on the mainstream, 30 on tributaries, 2 tidal stations in the Mekong Delta
- Parameters: rainfall and water level
- Drought management project supported by Japanese Govt. over the past 10 years added some more stations for DMF

## **Mekong-HYCOS network (15-min)**



## Joint Environment Monitoring Programme- started in 2016



## MRC Contribution to the achievement of SDGs

- Alignment of MRC IF Assessment Indicators with Goals/Targets identifying both primary and secondary linkages.
- Primary linkages are to:
  - SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
  - SDG 2: Zero hunger
  - SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
  - SDG 13: Climate action
  - SDG 14: Life below water
  - SDG 15: Life on land





# Issues and Challenges of Management of the Mekong River Basin

## **Issues and Challenges: Environment**

#### Mainstream flows:

- Increase in dry season minimum flows; and
- Flood season flows in both the upper and lower reaches of the LMB appear to be declining.

#### Water quality and sediments

- Total Phosphorous frequently exceeds threshold;
- With watch points for pesticide and fertiliser use; and
- Suspended sediment concentrations have declined considerably; erosion increase

#### Environmental assets

- · Wetland decline remains a concern;
- · Channel and riparian habitat has declined;
- Signs of over-fishing with CPUE declining and fish size getting smaller;
- Forested area has improved, although questions remain about biodiversity values given the use of plantation forests; and
- · Area affected by salinity increased: Salinity intrusion in the Mekong Delta.



- A mismatch between ambition in MRC SP 2016-2020 and resources
- Concerns by external stakeholders on the limited influence of MRC
- MRC products are not yet integrated into national systems
- Recognition of the implicit influence that MRC has had due to its existence and the evolution of basinwide thinking over the years
- **Differing perspectives** on what is meant by approval of MRC products and specific concerns that are seen as supra-national or quasi-regulatory instruments
- Communications and dissemination of material continues to improve
- Recognition of different capacities among Member Countries
- · Data and knowledge gap remains



# Key Recommendations for Sustainable Management of the Mekong River Basin

## **Key Recommendations (1)**

- ➤ Sustainable water resources development in the LMB will not be achieved by a singular reliance on unilateral investment decisions of the Member Countries.
- ➤ The transboundary connectivity, mutual dependencies, shared resources, opportunities of scale and cooperation necessities require a set of supra-national development and planning policies to advance sustainable and beneficial projects.
- ➤ The management of trade-offs between hydropower and fisheries is more efficiently achieved by cross-sector benefit sharing than by the compensation of losses between countries.
- Member Country consideration of **emerging energy technologies** that are competitive with hydropower .

## **Key Recommendations (2)**

- Continue and enhance monitoring of flow conditions and water quality.
- Develop and implement an MRC Data Acquisition and Generation Action Plan.
- ☐ Address the problem of **reduced sediment concentrations**.
- Address the need to **take urgent action to preserve and protect** remaining environmental assets, including fish and forests
- Adopt a **more proactive approach** to basin planning and the management of trade-offs between sectors and countries.



# COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

#### **MRC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Luxembourg\*

Netherlands\*

Switzerland\*

World Bank

Sweden\*

#### MRC Strategic Plan 2016-2020\$

by May 2019

- Australia\*
- Belgium
- European Union\*
- France
- Germany\*
- Japan

\$ Reduced funds by at least 50% compared SP 2011-2015

\* Basket Fund contributors





DP Troika
Germany – chair
France – past chair
Australia – next chair

## The JICA – MRC Joint Project

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and MRC co-initiated the new project on "the Study on Data Collection Survey on the Basin Management and Environmental Conservation in Mekong River Basin" since March 2018. The Project will be successfully completed by August 2019.











## COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS CHINA AND MYANMAR

### **COOPERATION WITH CHINA**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Riparian CEO, upon assuming his office, has met with the permanent representative of China to ESCAP and Chinese focal point for MRC in February 2019 on ongoing MRC-China cooperation.
- The CEO will visit Beijing officially in July 2019 to meet senior Chinese officials and follow up on the above
- China has nominated a JRP from the Lancang Mekong Water Res. Cooperation Center to work with MRCS.





Joint Research on extreme events. The draft report of the joint research on the hydrological impacts of Lancang dam cascade on extreme floods and droughts, a collaboration between MRC, China and IWMI, has been prepared, and consultation took place on 14 June 2019 at the MRC RFDMC.

**Joint reporting**: the first SOBR 2018: Upper Mekong/Lancang in China State of the Basin Report

#### **COOPERATION WITH MYANMAR**

- Myanmar (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation) had reviewed and provided comments on the State of Basin Report – Upper Mekong (Myanmar) chapter through official letter on 15 March 2019.
- Myanmar has nominated a young professional to be the JRP from Myanmar.



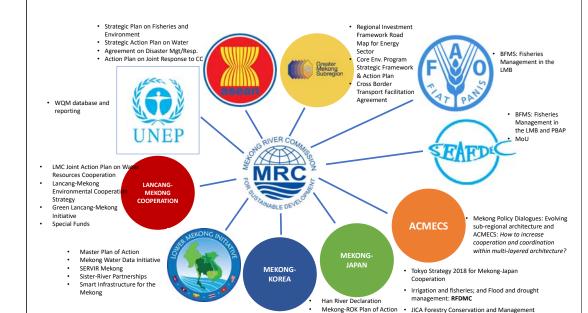
# COOPERATION WITH OTHER RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGAZATIONS

#### **Cooperation with other River Basin Organizations**

Mississippi River Commission (MiRC) and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be inviting MRC for the "Lower Water Inspection" on 12-16 August 2019. In addition, the USACE is supporting the MRC in terms of further understanding the Council Study results through shared vision planning and dam safety forum.

Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA). Australia (DFAT) and MDBA renewed their existing MOU for another five years during the Australia-Mekong Renewable Energy Dialogue hosted by Australian DFAT in early June 2019.





Knowledge sharing program project in the five Mekong countries, incl. M



## **COOPERATION WITH OTHERS**





## EXPECTATIONS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION WITH JAPAN

#### **EXPECTATIONS FROM MRC**

- New and practical technology on sustainable watershed and forest management in the LMB.
- Revision and dissemination of the blueprints or frameworks for sustainable watershed management to the relevant users in the MCs.
- Application of the MRC Strategy for Basin-wide Environmental Management (SBEM) for Environmental Assets (EAs) with regional importance in the MCs.
- Maintenance of good network of Watershed Committees (RBO/RBCs) to continue exchange experiences and lessons learnt on WSM.
- Capacity building and establishment of knowledge transfer center of sustainable watershed and forest management in national level.



#### JICA東南アジア地域メコン流域の流域管理・環境保全に 係る情報収集・確認調査一般公開セミナー

JICA's Study on Data Collection Survey on the Basin Management and Environmental Conservation in Mekong River Basin

#### プロジェクト成果報告

Reporting of the Project Accomplishment





9 August 2019 JICA Study Team (JST)

## 1. Outline of the Survey

## Project Information

#### Project Name:

Data Collection Survey on the Basin Management and Environmental Conservation in Mekong River Basin

東南アジア地域メコン流域の流域管理・環境保全に係る情報収集・確認調査

Target country: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Viet Nam and Myanmar

#### Main counterpart:

Mekong River Commission (MRC) and 4 National Mekong Committees (NMCs) メコン河委員会(MRC)および各国メコン委員会(NMCs)

#### Objectives:

- 1) To **understand forest cover areas** in **L**ower **M**ekong **B**asin (except for China)
- 2) To **clarify triggers of deforestations** and issues of forest management
- 3) To propose effective countermeasures and to recommend effective basin management policy focusing on forestry sector in LMB

Project period: Dec 2017 to September 2019 2017年12月~2019年9月

1

## Mekong River Basin (in 5 Countries: Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar)



- Cambodia, 154,730

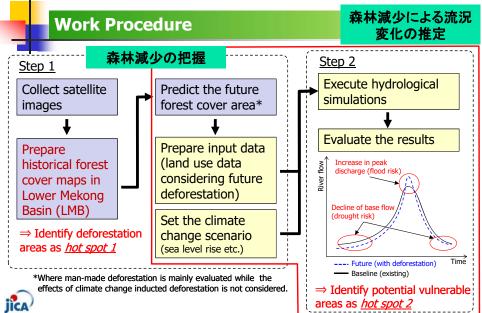
  Thailand, 184,240

  Total area: 795,000 km²
- ☐ Catchment area: 795,000 km²
- □ River length: 4,800 km
- Headwater: Tibetan Plateau
- ☐ River mouth: State of Ben Tre in
  - Viet Nam
- General issues due to deforestation: Increase of natural disasters such as flooding, drought, collapse of ecosystems, acceleration of global

warming and etc.

Data source: JICA

1. Outline of the Survey

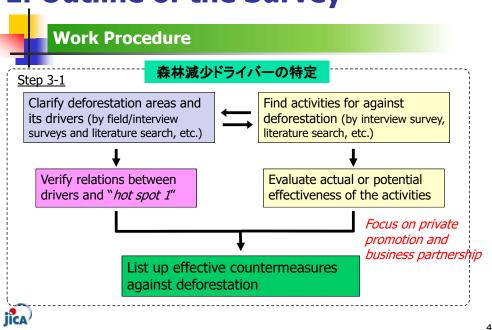


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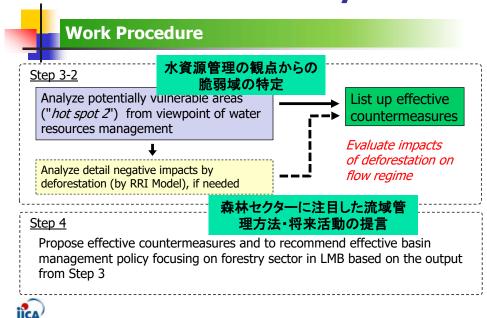
Location Map

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## 1. Outline of the Survey



## 1. Outline of the Survey



Step 1

## (1) Historical Land Cover Maps

### **Land Cover Maps**



Land Cover Classification: Total 18-class

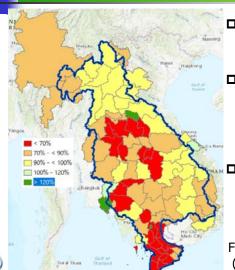
- (1) forest (6 class types)
- (2) urban area
- (3) cropland
- (4) rice paddy
- (5) others (8 class types)
- (6) unknown

Fig- Land Cover Map by ADPC

#### Step 1

## (1) Historical Land Cover Maps

#### **Result on Image Analysis (1)**



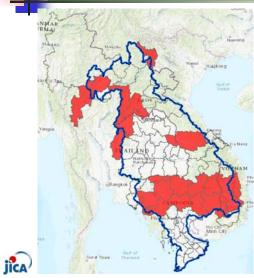
- ☐ The map indicates decrease/increase of provincial tree cover area.
- By using global observation data such as satellite images, change of forest cover area can be examined even for broad study area
- Deforestation rates and areas can be calculated.

Fig- Tree Cover Residual Rate in LMB (from 1988 to 2017)

#### Step 1

## (1) Historical Land Cover Maps

#### Result on Image Analysis (2)



- Hotspot criteria
- Forest cover ratio at province >= 50% in 1988
- ✓ Deforestation >= 0.22% / Year
- ✓ Correlation <= -0.7</p>
  - \* Forest area and Agricultural Area

Fig- Hotspot Provinces in LMB (from 1988 to 2017)

#### Step 1

## (1) Historical Land Cover Maps



Result on Image Analysis (3) – Country Level

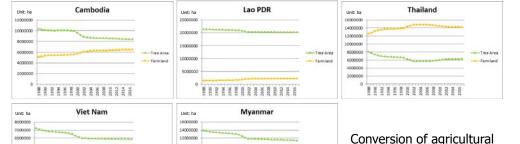


Fig- Historical Changes of Forest and Agricultural Area (Farm Land and Paddy field)

Note: Province area was not counted if out of Lower Mekong Basin



9

land deems to be one of

the reason of deforestation.

#### Step 2

## (1) Impact by Deforestation on Flow Regime



#### **Scenarios**

#### [Scenario 1]

Based on the historical forest cover maps, future deforestation in 2040 is predicted at Step-1. Most of forest areas are expected to decrease.

#### [Scenario 2]

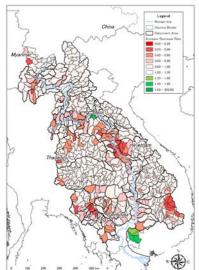
Forest cover area which will recover up to past maximum forest areas from 1987 to 2018 was prepared as ideal case (scenario 2).

#### Step 2

## (1) Impact by Deforestation on Flow Regime



## **Changes of Forest Cover Area**



■ At Scenario 1 set by historical forest cover areas, forest cover area decreases in whole LMB, especially, middle of Mekong River in Lao PDR

Fig- Increase/Decrease rate of forest cover area from baseline (scenario 1).

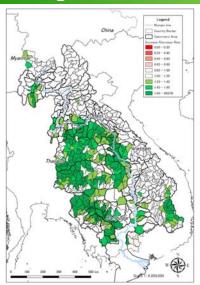


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## (1) Impact by Deforestation on Flow Regime



## **Changes of Forest Cover Area**



- At Scenario 2, forest cover area could be recovered up to past maximum forest cover area
- Forest cover areas in Thailand increases dramatically, which suggests that deforestation of Thailand in 1980's was serious.

Fig- Increase/Decrease rate of forest cover area from baseline (scenario 2).

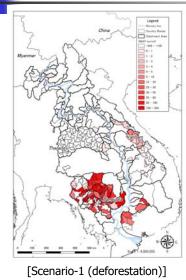
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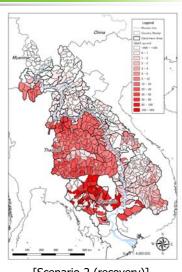
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## (2) Extraction of "Hot spot 2"



#### **Increase in Runoff volume (+% vs Baseline)**





[Scenario-2 (recovery)]

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#### Step 2

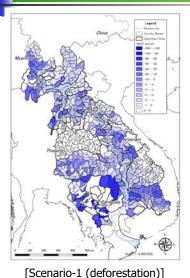
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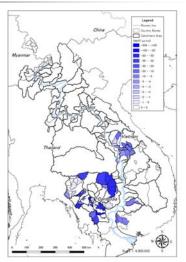
## (2) Extraction of "Hot spot 2"



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#### Decrease in Runoff volume (- % vs Baseline)





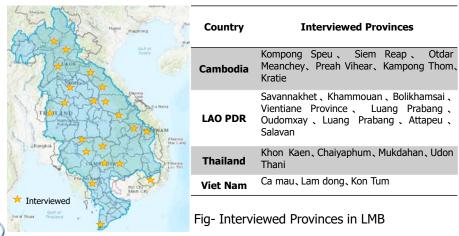
[Scenario-2 (recovery)]

#### **Step 3-1**

JICA

## (1) Mitigations of Deforestation

## **Interviewed Provinces**



Step 3-1

(1) Mitigations of Deforestation

Driver of deforestation and forest degradation in the LMB

















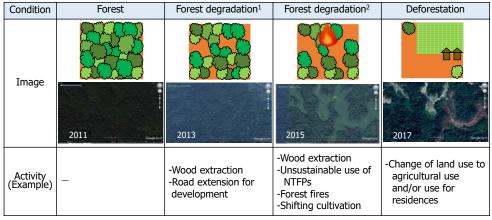


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**Step 3-1** 

(1) Mitigations of Deforestation

Driver of deforestation and forest degradation in the LMB



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Example Image: Gia Lai Province, Viet Nam

17

**Step 3-1** 

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(1) Mitigations of Deforestation

**Proposed Approach** 

- Procurement of Fund
- ☐ Strengthen of Monitoring in the LMB level
- Involving Private Sector
- □ Spread and introduction of Eco DRR
- □ Strengthening of forestry in the LMB
- Sustainable Energy use

Step 4

## 1. Draft Final Report



**Draft Final Report on Step-4** 

- (1) Recommendations for Future Watershed Management
- (2) Propose of Effective Forest Management





## Step 4 (1) Recommendations for future watershed management

As the results of examination on the impacts, the following 4 topics are concluded as the major concerns of the watershed management for the LMB.

- Securing Ecology and Morphology of Mekong River
- Securing Food Security of the LMB
- Securing Water Security of Mekong River
- Adaptation of Climate Changes



Step 4

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Step 4

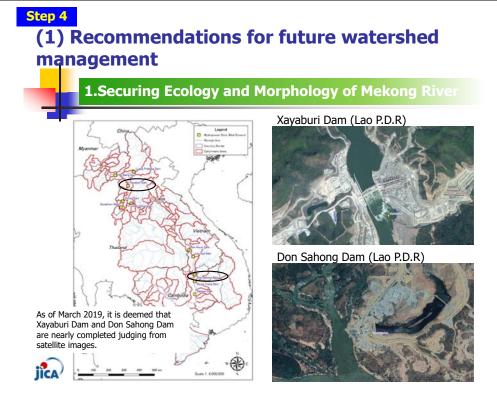


## (2) Proposal of Effective Forest Management

## **Proposed Approach**

- Procurement of Fund
- ☐ Strengthen of Monitoring in the LMB level
- Involving Private Sector
- ☐ Spread and introduction of Eco DRR
- ☐ Strengthening of forestry in the LMB
- Sustainable Energy use





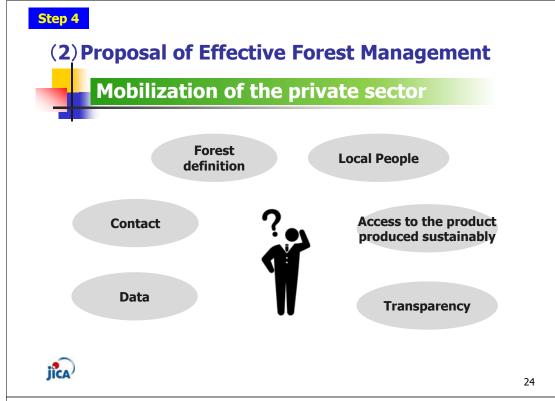
Mobilization of the private sector

NY declaration (Zero Deforestation)

(2) Proposal of Effective Forest Management

21

ESG Investing 23



Step 4 (2) Proposal of Effective Forest Management **Mobilization of the private sector** Facilitate and support **Organize** communication with information Local people **Differentiation of products** Close that are produced communication sustainably **Providing** Information data disclosure jica

Step 4

## (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership



## **Types of the Business Targeted**

- Deforestation Driver related
- Non-Timber Forest Products : NTFPS related
- Enhancing Added-Value related
- Timber Value Chain related
- Alternative Energy related
- Disaster Prevention Technology related
- Eco-Tourism related
- CSR, SDGs related
- Others

Step 4

## (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership



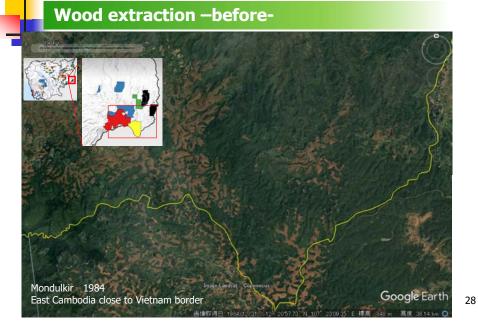
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- CSR, SDGs related
- Others

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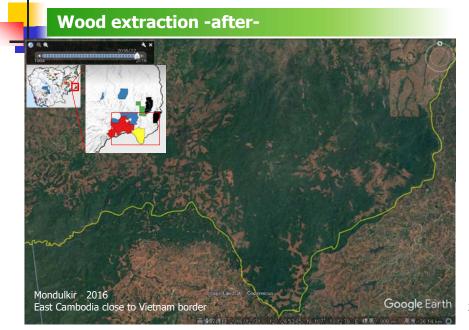


### (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership



#### Step 4

#### (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership



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#### Step 4

### (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership





Step 4

## (3) Private Promotion and Business Partnership



### **Recommendation to MRC**

 Monitoring more detailed hydrological/hydraulic condition including sediment and forest conditions in Mekong River Basins focusing more on climate change and biodiversity.

気候変動と生物多様性を更に勘案した流域の河床・森林状況を 含むより詳細な水文・水理状況の観測の実施

 Active delivering of possessed/analyzed information to public/private sector.

公共・民間セクターへの積極的な情報公開

 Conducting Campaign for enhancing the consciousness of forest.

森林への関心を高めるキャンペーンの実施