

Nam Xe Banghieng Lao PDR–Nam Kam Thailand M-IWRM Transboundary Projects

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Abstract

The Mekong River flows for almost 4,800 km from its source in Tibet through China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam via a Delta into the East Sea. The Mekong River and its tributaries form a dynamic hydro-ecological system supporting unique biodiversity and providing energy security and food security for more than sixty million people in the region.

In 1995, four countries in the Lower Mekong Basin including Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam had signed Agreement for the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. This agreement established the Mekong River Commission (MRC), which would serve to coordinate the development of the basin’s resources, in a sustainable manner and ensuring the reasonable and equitable utilization of water between the LMB countries.

Transboundary cooperation and projects in the M-IWRMP framework are designed to link the regional and national levels; showing how the principles of the Mekong Agreement can be applied at sub-basin levels – in recognition of the Dublin Principles.

However, there are few transboundary tributaries between Lao PDR and Thailand as the Mekong River forms the border between the two countries. There are nevertheless significant opportunities for these two countries to cooperate around shared experiences in establishing local water management institutions, planning and managing sub-basins using IWRM principles. Moreover, the two countries can share common interests and problems in sub-basins, which not directly transboundary in nature. The transboundary project aim Lao PDR and Thailand will gain more experiences of water and related resources management and application of IWRM through cooperation and coordination to support sustainable basin development which make a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of both countries and overall benefit to healthy of the Mekong River and its tributaries.

Keywords: Nam Xe Banghieng, Nam Kam, M-IWRM project