



# **Mekong River Basin Transboundary Waters Management: *Innovative Tools for Collaborative Decision-making***

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## Mekong River Commission and Regional Cooperation

- Regional cooperation central to effective operations of MRC
- MRC Strategy: “*develop dispute resolution and compromise mechanisms such as co-management, public participation, stakeholder involvement, and institution building*”
- Developing tools for addressing transboundary issues through collaborative decision-making



## Tools and Mechanisms

1. Develop inventory of potential transboundary issues
2. Pilot mechanisms for mobilizing stakeholders to address potential issues via collaborative decision-making
3. Build capacity tools to expand to a range of issues across the watershed



## Inventory of Potential Transboundary Issues

- Member countries meet to develop inventory of priority transboundary critical areas/issues
- Identify issues through consensus of representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam
- Agree on pilot site:  
Strung Treng –  
Champassak wetland
- Issues: dolphin pool management, tourism, waste management, fisheries



## Mechanisms for Collaborative Decision-making

- Preparation, issues assessment, stakeholder analysis, process design, process implementation, evaluation
- Include all four member countries in pilot activities
- Engage stakeholders at all stages
- Ensure tangible outcomes through improvements in policies and infrastructure
- Adapt pilot approach to other Mekong issues



## Building Capacity Tools

- Established training program on collaborative decision-making for Member Country agencies, stakeholders and MRC Secretariat
- Developed glossary of conflict management terms
- Expand approach across MRC to other uses/issues – hydropower, navigation, flood management, irrigation, etc.

