Regional cooperation is central to effective operations of the Mekong River Commission (MRC). One goal of the MRC Strategy is to “develop dispute resolution and compromise mechanisms such as co-management, public participation, stakeholder involvement, and institution building.” As a result, in partnership with the MRC, the USAID Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) project is working to develop tools for addressing transboundary issues through collaborative decision-making.

Tools and mechanisms include: (1) an inventory of potential transboundary issues; (2) pilot mechanisms for mobilizing stakeholders to address potential issues via collaborative decision-making; and (3) capacity tools to expand to a range of issues across the watershed. MRC developed the inventory through consensus of all member countries, and is piloting a mechanism for collaborative decision-making. Capacity tools include a comprehensive training program and a glossary of conflict management terms and definitions.