
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Sixty-seventh session

Bangkok, 19-25 May 2011

Item 3(d) of the provisional agenda

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions: Environment and development

Report of the Mekong River Commission*

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat transmits to the Commission the report submitted by the Mekong River Commission for information.

Summary

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) has entered the first year of its Strategic Plan 2011- 2015. With regards to the organisation's initial strategic direction, the strategic goals have been re-orientated at a level that strives towards the more effective use of the Mekong's water and water-related resources for poverty alleviation, while protecting the environment. The emerging directions for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through the Basin Development Plan (BDP) Programme and the MRC core functions are elaborated in the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and aim to strengthen the organisation's strategic orientation. The Strategic Plan 2011-2015 was approved at the Seventeenth Meeting of the MRC Council in January 2011, whilst details of its the performance measurement and implementation were approved at the Thirty-third Meeting of the MRC Joint Committee in March 2011.

The MRC continues to raise stakeholders' awareness and engagement in water resources development in the Mekong region. The engagement at policy level includes the Regional Stakeholder Dialogue on Directions for MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in Phnom Penh in September 2010. The Forum sought stakeholders' inputs on priority issues as well as the directions of the MRC in order to strengthen their participation further at the strategy level. At the programme level, the 3rd Regional Stakeholder Forum on BDP was organised in July 2010 with more than 250 participants. The Forum built consensus among the riparian governments and stakeholders on the common directions for sustainable development and management of water and related resources.

* The report is reproduced in its original language, which is English. Any queries concerning the report should be directed to the secretariat of the Mekong River Commission.

Programme implementation and preparation for new phases of programmes are ongoing with strong support from the MRC's Development Partners. The Basin Development Plan Programme (BDP) made good progress towards the preparation of the concept of the next phase for 2011-2015, which aims at the institutionalization of the BDP process in the relevant national agencies and as a core planning function in the MRC. Additionally, the Environment Programme (EP) is now implementing its newly approved programme workplan for 2011-2015. The Strategic Framework of the MRC Climate Change and Adaptation for 2011-2025 was approved by the Council and the Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative is now ready to implement its recently approved programme document for 2011-2015. The Agriculture and Irrigation Programme (AIP) formulation is ongoing whilst the Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP) and Fisheries Programme (FP) are currently implementing their new phases. Furthermore, the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRM-P) is involving a new concept that combines regional, trans-boundary and national components is on track. Also, activities to assess potential development opportunities and risks of proposed hydropower developments in the mainstream and tributaries were completed. It is evident that there is broad support for MRC's role in providing an integrated framework for sustainable hydropower development in the Lower Mekong Basin. Under the supervision of ISH, the Final Report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was submitted to the MRC by a commissioned team of consultants on 15 October 2010. Its recommendations are views of the consultant as input to the wider MRC process; MRC view on mainstream dams has already been developed in the Council-approved IWRM Strategy.

Cooperation with MRC's two Dialogue Partners, the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar has been further strengthened through technical cooperation; the conduct of the regular annual Dialogue Meeting; follow-up meetings with MRC's focal points for the People's Republic of China at its embassy in Bangkok, the visit of MRCS Delegation to Chinese Ministries in Beijing was held in June 2010. The follow-up to the MRC Summit with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was also held in August 2010 with positive outcomes. Cooperation with both China and Myanmar in capacity building is further enhanced under the framework of the MRC Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) Programme. Currently, one JRP from China is working with the Information and Knowledge Management Programme in the Office of the Secretariat in Phnom Penh for a period of three months.

Recognising the importance of implementing the Independent Organisational, Financial, and Institutional Review recommendations of the MRC Secretariat and the NMCs, the MRC has already addressed almost all recommendations towards organisational reform. Following the implementation of recommendations, the MRC has been implementing its Communication and Disclosure Policy, enhanced stakeholder participation on MRC issues, climate change and basin development plans; and, has resolved the long-standing question of the location of the MRC Secretariat. These and other achievements all point to a stronger organisation better prepared to serve the needs of people in the Mekong region. These achievements were acknowledged and welcomed by the Development Partners at the Fifteenth Donor Consultative Group Meeting in January 2011.

1. The MRC Council at its Seventeenth Meeting in January 2011 reviewed the progress MRC had made during the year 2010 with respect to implementation of the MRC Hua Hin Declaration, donor support and cooperation with upstream countries and other partners as well as programme implementation. The Council approved the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy and the Procedures for Water Quality. The Joint Session of the Council and Development Partner Consultative Group also reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Independent Organisational, Financial, and Institutional Review of the MRC Secretariat and the NMCs Review recommendations for organizational reform of the MRC. The following report provides a brief account of activities of the MRC in 2010.

I. The Performance Measurement and Implementation Details of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015

2. The MRC Council approved the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 at its Seventeenth Meeting on 26 January 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Acknowledging the importance of performance management for the success of the Strategic Plan's implementation, the Plan's performance measurement and implementation matrix were considered and approved at the Thirty-third Meeting of the Joint Committee.

3. Regarding its Performance Measurement, the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 provides a description of the indicators and targets that should be followed to achieve the organisation's Goals and Outcomes. The performance measurements are those specific to MRC programmes, which indicate preliminary links between the Strategic Plan's monitoring and evaluation and programme monitoring and evaluation systems. The baseline for a particular indicator is a situation that is a basis for performance measurement during the Strategic Plan period. The progress made to achieve a performance target will be monitored and evaluated against a respective performance baseline. Specific indicators for Long-term Goals are designed to measure the performance of the MRC in the long-term and progressively during 2011-2015 in three aspects of water resources management as specified in the Goal statement which are "(economically) effective, (environmentally and socially) sustainable and (socially) equitable".

4. The approved IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy includes the Strategic Actions to be implemented during 2011-2015. Under a Basin Action Plan comprising a regional action plan which is largely implemented by MRC programmes, and four national indicative plans. Therefore, there is an inherent link and consistency between the Basin Development Strategy's Basin Action Plan and the Strategic Plan's implementation matrix. The Key Activities to attain the Goals as specified in the approved Strategic Plan 2011-2015 are mapped against the Strategic Actions under the Basin Development Strategy to ensure this linkage. Milestones are aggregated programme outputs with timelines, specific to MRC programmes either individually or jointly, and linked to programme documents. It is worth noting that the implementation matrix of the Strategic Plan contains only key activities and major milestones of the MRC as a whole. The implementation matrix will be reviewed and updated when the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015 is undertaken in 2012-2013.

II. The Independent Organisational Review

5. The implementation of Independent Organisational Review recommendations have been regularly monitored by the MRC Joint Committee and Council, with particular focus on the MRC Communication and Disclosure Policy, as well as stakeholder participation on climate change and basin development planning. The Review also indicated that the establishment and staffing of the Office of the Secretariat in Phnom Penh was achieved as planned in 2010 and that the two offices are now working well together. Further improvements in working arrangements and communications technology have also been initiated. The Secretariat is now successfully established in its two permanent locations. These and other achievements all point to a stronger organisation better prepared to serve the needs of people in the Mekong region. These achievements were acknowledged and welcomed by the Development Partners at the last Fifteenth Donor Consultative Group Meeting in January 2011.

III. Programme Implementation

1. Agriculture and Irrigation Programme (AIP)

6. A draft Agricultural Strategy for MRC in 2009 identified the added value of MRC's role in the agriculture sector. Starting with the key elements identified, and taking into account the objectives and outcomes of the MRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015, the formulation of the Programme document for 2011-2015 is on-going, in which the main activities focus on IWRM-based agricultural water management and planning in the institutional and policy framework of the Member Countries. Meanwhile, AIP is currently conducting projects related to water use efficiency in the irrigation sector.

7. Technical publications were launched in early 2010 such as the Multi-functionality of Paddy Fields over the Lower Mekong Basin and Guidance for Efficient Irrigation Water Use in the Lower Mekong Basin. In 2010, field surveys at each pilot site were successfully conducted on the operation and maintenance of the facilities, irrigation water management practices, drought management practices, socio-economic conditions and other factors. Results on water use efficiency are being assessed.

2. Basin Development Plan (BDP)

8. To achieve the MRC's mission, the Basin Development Plan (BDP) Programme facilitates a collaborative basin development planning process among MRC Member Countries and stakeholders to prepare, implement and regularly update the Basin Development Plan based on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles. Transparent access to information and engagement of a wide range of stakeholders are fundamental for this planning process, which is supported by regularly updating MRC's knowledge base, improving assessment tools and strengthening IWRM planning capacity of line agencies, NMCSs and the MRCS.

9. The recently approved IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy is a very important part of the future direction of the MRC. The Basin Strategy for development sets out the initial identification of the development opportunity space and the strategic priorities for both

developing and managing the basin. The Strategy also sets out areas of strategic importance such as water resources management, and sector guidelines, to support its priority implementations.

10. The Third BDP Stakeholder Consultation, organized in July 2010, has built consensus among the riparian governments and stakeholders on the common directions for sustainable development and management of water and related resources.

3. Environment Programme (EP)

11. The Environment Programme aims to assist Member Countries execute the articles in the 1995 Agreement that relate to the protection of the environment and the prevention and cessation of harmful effects on the river system. The programme also supports the other programmes through cross-cutting initiatives such as the provision of environmental data and development of tools for environmental planning and management. EP is now implementing its activities as per the recently approved programme document (October 2010).

12. Through the EP activities completed in 2010, environmental monitoring including biological monitoring and the monitoring of peoples' dependence on aquatic ecosystems has been advanced. These monitoring activities addressed social issues with strong linkages to peoples' dependence on aquatic resources and to implications on poverty. Pilot studies and training programmes have strengthened national capacities for regional environmental management. For example, a transboundary environmental impact assessment, an ecological risk assessment, and an environmental conflict management and environmental flows assessment were conducted with national teams. This process assisted with their technical capacity building efforts. In addition, EP successfully held the Mekong Environment and Climate Symposium in April 2010 with more than 200 participants.

4. Fisheries Programme (FP)

13. The current phase of Fisheries Programme for 2011-2015 was built on the achievements of earlier phases, specifically with developing Member Countries' scientific understanding of the Lower Mekong Basin's fisheries. Under the endorsed Fisheries Programme Document for 2011-2015, the goal is for Member Countries and stakeholders to sustainably and effectively utilize the Mekong's fisheries resources to alleviate poverty while protecting the environment.

14. The FP is focusing considerable effort on providing information to Mekong communities on the sector. Several articles and publications, such as Catch & Culture newsletters, Mekong-biophysical Environment of a Tropical River Basin, were produced over the year 2010. FP activities also focused on the preparation of a Concept Note and programme document for the next phase of 2011-2015. FP also made available the improved information on status and trend of fisheries ecology, valuation and mitigation. More effort has been put in the continuation of awareness raising on fisheries management and governance, for instance, a transboundary Fisheries Management Pilot Project in Lao PDR and Thailand was developed.

5. Flood Management and Mitigation Programme (FMMP)

15. The objective of the FMMP is to prevent, minimize or mitigate people's suffering and economic losses due to floods, while preserving their environmental benefits. The operation of the FMMP for 2004-2010 was successfully completed in December 2010 and the Programme Document for 2011-2015 was recently approved by the Member Countries in March 2011.

16. The 8th Annual Mekong Flood Forum on an integrated approaches to flood risk management and mitigation in the Mekong Basin was successfully conducted with over 120 participants in May 2010. The Annual Flood Report for 2009, contributing to the better understanding of Mekong mainstream floods and flooding, was published in 2010. FMMP has steadily improved its flood forecasting and monitoring on the river in the medium term and is regularly sharing information on the hydrological condition of the mainstream and the meteorological conditions through its quarterly bulletins. Through the Regional Flash Flood Guidance System, Member Countries have moved toward a community-based flash flood monitoring and warning system, which allows timely data collection, analysis and dissemination. In 2010, FMMP continued its efforts in capacity building on disaster management and flood preparedness planning for the Member Countries at the national and provincial levels.

6. Information and Knowledge Management Programme (IKMP)

17. The overall development objective of the IKMP is to build a regional hub for data, information and knowledge products, systems and services. IKMP provides fundamental data and information services and integrated information and knowledge products, services, systems and tools to the MRC's Member Countries as well as other research institutes around the region. Access to and use of this data, information and decision support tools are necessary to promote and co-ordinate the sustainable development of water and related resources in the Mekong Basin.

18. The Appropriate Hydrological Network Improvement Project (AHNIP) was implemented and completed. The project improved 17 hydrological stations along the mainstream of the Lancang/Mekong River that are now able to report near to real time data to the MRCS and the MRC Member Countries. These mainstream stations are operational and maintained by MRC Member Countries. In addition, 32 hydrological stations under the Mekong HYCOS project were finalised and fully functional in 2010 including the civil construction and installation of equipments. A relational hydro-met database system was finalized to store, manage and analyse the data for different purposes.

19. In 2010, the MRC Information System was improved in order to provide internal and external users with more information and data on water and water related resources management. The portal is fully operational and is maintained by the MekongInfo and Document Management System as well as the MRC Documentation and Learning Center.

7. Integrated Capacity Building Programme (ICBP)

20. The overall objective of the ICBP is to improve the capacity of the MRC to implement its mission: to take a leading role in coordinating the

development and use of the basin's water resources, with the goal to balance these resources with stakeholder expectations. The key outcomes of the ICBP 2009-2013 include: (i) to assist Member Countries have the necessary technical competencies to integrate IWRM principles into policy making, planning and implementation; (ii) to support the MRC and the National Mekong Committees with the necessary organizational capacities to effectively coordinate and support the achievement of the MRC objectives; (iii) to integrate gender mainstreaming within the MRCS and to assist line agencies integrate gender aspects more effectively into their IWRM activities; and (iv) to assist with the development of an effective integrated and sustainable capacity building mechanism to support the MRC's work.

21. In 2010, ICBP continued to support a series of capacity building activities namely training courses, workshops, excursions and exchange visits. In addition, the programme also addressed capacity needs that involve a regional process with training plans tailor-made to the needs of the MRCS, the NMCs and line agencies in the four MRC Member Countries. ICBP has also focused its efforts in the preparation of building capacity for the decentralization of the seven river management core functions. The aim of the decentralization is to enhance countries' ownership by increasing the implementation of the river management functions at the national level. In addition, under the Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) Project, 28 JRPs from Member Countries have graduated and returned to their respective line agencies.

8. Navigation Programme (NAP)

22. The NAP's objectives are to promote freedom of navigation and increase international trade opportunities for the MRC Member Countries' mutual benefit, and to assist in the coordination and cooperation of developing effective and safe waterborne transport in a sustainable and protective manner. The Programme addresses issues as diverse as regional transport planning and the comparative advantages of waterborne transport, frameworks for Mekong navigation, measures to strengthen safety and environmental protection, improved information and coordination systems and institutional development through capacity and partnership building within the navigation sector.

23. In 2010, the final Report on the Condition Surveys of Dangerous Areas for Navigation Improvement was completed. Topo-hydrographic measurements along the Tonle Sap River designed for a system of aids to navigation were also completed. National consultation meetings and a regional consultation meeting were held with Thailand and Lao PDR in October 2010 discussing a legal framework for cross-border navigation on the stretch of river downstream of Luang Prabang. The start-up of the project on Risk Analysis of Storage, Handling and Carriage of Dangerous Goods along the Mekong was successfully completed in November 2010. Additionally, installation of aids to navigation on selected stretches along the Mekong Delta was completed with a handover ceremony to line agencies in November 2010.

9. Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)

24. The MRC Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) has been formulated in response to a call by the MRC Council at its Fourteenth Meeting to develop a cooperative regional initiative to provide knowledge,

tools and capacity building and other assistance to the MRC Member Countries to better adapt to climate change. The Initiative's immediate objective is climate change adaptation planning and implementation guided by improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin. This objective may be achieved by applying climate change adaptation planning processes to improve strategies and to build the national capacities. Key outcomes for the CCAI include: (i) climate change adaptation planning and implementation; (ii) improved capacity to manage and adapt to climate change; (iii) strategies and plans for climate change adaptation; and (iv) regional exchange, collaboration and learning.

25. The Initiative's activities in 2010 focused on a publication that reviewed climate change databases and a review report on climate change adaptation methods and tools. Consensus has been reached with Member Countries on the implementation of one local demonstration project for each country and two possible basin-wide assessments were identified. CCAI also continues its efforts to improve capacity building with Member Countries. For instance, regional training on climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning and national workshops for demonstration projects' teams on risk assessment modeling and data inputs have been initiated and are underway. Moreover, the Strategic Framework of the MRC Climate Change and Adaptation for 2011-2025 was recently approved by the Council in January 2011 and the Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative is now implementing its recently approved workplan for 2011-2015.

10. Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower (ISH)

26. The overall goal of the MRC's Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower for 2011-2015 is to support cooperation among Member Countries with regards to sustainable forms of hydropower. The Initiative aims to offer Member Countries with national development policies, consistent with the implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement. Key outcomes of the ISH include awareness raising on sustainable hydropower and supporting multistakeholder dialogue; knowledge management and capacity building; imbedding sustainable hydropower considerations in regional planning and regulatory systems; and developing a hydropower sustainability assessment and good practice adoption.

27. A series of national and regional workshops in 2010 has brought National Mekong Committees, their Secretariats, line agencies and regional stakeholders together to discuss the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA). The SEA process featured multi-stakeholder engagement and structured dialogue. The final SEA Report and the process attracted considerable media interest from local to regional and international levels. In 2010, ISH in collaboration with other programmes, continued the development and trials of hydropower sustainability assessment tools that Member Countries could benefit from and could apply at the project and basin and sub-basin levels.

11. Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRMP)

28. The Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRMP) supports the strengthening and enabling of water resource

management principles at the national level throughout the Lower Mekong Basin. The project also strengthens the MRC's role as a facilitator of significant water resources development projects, guided by IWRM principles. In 2010, the project's main activities focused on the preparation and submission for approval of its Inception Report, Work Plan and Project Implementation Plan. This approval by Member Countries at the Steering Committee level in July 2010 paved the way for the full implementation of the project. The MRC and its Member Countries will be primarily responsible for the implementation of the regional and transboundary components.

29. In 2010, regional water resources planning and management tools and knowledge base have been refined and developed for basin-wide IWRM implementation. Water utilization procedures and technical guidelines have been finalised and implemented at all LMB levels. Capacity for IWRM implementation is in place on both the national and MRC Secretariat levels. Regarding the transboundary component, dialogues have taken place between Cambodia and Viet Nam, Cambodia and Lao PDR, Thailand and Lao PDR. Momentarily, a transboundary project proposal is being prepared with close interaction with Member Countries.

12. Drought Management Start-up Project (DMP)

30. The objective of the Project is to establish effective drought planning and management mechanisms in the Lower Mekong Basin supported by the best available tools and technical expertise. The Project also facilitates the implementation of high priority national and regional programmes and multi-purposes projects related to drought management.

31. A regional expert on drought management was recruited to implement the Drought Management Start-up Project (DMP). Drought Management Project Document for 2011-2013 was recently approved by the Member Countries in March 2011 for submission for funding support whilst the Programme Document for 2011-2015 is under formulation.

13. Watershed Management Project (WSMP)

32. The Watershed Management Project (WSMP) aims to strengthen the planning, coordination and piloting for replicable sustainable watershed management development solutions that integrate water resources management principles. This project applies the IWRM principles and addresses the Mekong respective challenges by promoting the implementation of IWRM at the regional and watershed level.

33. Major activities of WSMP in 2010 covered the preparation of the Project Inception Report and the organization of the International Conference on Watershed Management which was recently organized in March 2011. The goals of the Conference are to address challenges and their possible solutions for watersheds and river basins, to learn from international, national and local experiences, and to make recommendations for the Mekong River Commission (MRC), and river basin organizations/committees and other relevant actors in the Mekong Basin.

14. Tourism Programme (TP)

34. The objective of the Tourism Programme is to promote tourism within the Mekong River Basin in a balanced manner, which also ensures necessary protection of the environment against adverse effects of tourism. The formulation of the Tourism Programme is pending subject to the availability of funding.

IV. Donor Support

35. Development Partners' support to MRC remains strong. In 2010, the MRC received a number of funding pledges made available for the realization of its activities beyond the last Strategic Plan period. The cumulative financial support from Development Partners for the period of 2006-2010 amounted to approximately US\$ 84.02 million. As of January 2011, for the new Strategic Plan 2011-2015, twelve Development Partners will be supporting MRC with the amount of US\$ 56.53 million.

V. Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

36. Since last year, the MRC has significantly increased the level of regional cooperation between the MRC and the Dialogue Partners, China and Myanmar. As agreed under the implementation plan of the agreement to share hydro-meteorological data with the People's Republic of China, real time hydro-meteorological data has continued to be provided on a daily basis. China has also enhanced cooperation by providing the MRC hydrological data from two hydro-meteorological stations during this year's dry season. An assessment of this cooperation is being jointly established and is expected to lead to more concrete discussions on possibly expanding the data sharing agreement, thus information may be shared all year round. Similarly, the discussion on the possibility of improving hydro-meteorological coverage in Myanmar is being undertaken.

37. Cooperation with the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been further strengthened through the regular annual Dialogue Meeting, the follow up meetings with MRC's focal point for People's Republic of China at Chinese Embassy to Bangkok, the visit of MRCS Delegation to Chinese Ministries in Beijing in June and November 2010 and a follow-up meeting with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in August 2010.

38. Cooperation in capacity building perspectives has also been further enhanced under the framework of the MRC Junior Riparian Professional (JRP) Programme. Currently, the first JRP from China is working with the Information and Knowledge Management Programme in the Office of the Secretariat in Phnom Penh for a period of three months.

VI. Communications and Cooperation with Other Partners

39. MRCS enjoyed increased cooperation with other regional development partners. Similarly, the trend towards increasing dialogue and engagement with Non-Governmental Organizations, the academic world and civil society has been maintained and the MRC is working on further improving these networks and relationships.

40. Regarding the MRC's cooperation with ASEAN, an MOU between MRC and the ASEAN Secretariat was signed in 2010, whilst the implementation plan is being prepared. On 17 July 2010 during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, there was a celebratory signing ceremony witnessed by high-level US officials and the four Ministers of Foreign Affairs of MRC countries to mark the enhanced cooperation between the Mekong River Commission and the Mississippi River Commission. Discussions on implementing the two Commissions' cooperation look promising.

41. The MRC is also planning to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to cooperate in a range of areas including groundwater management. Another intended cooperation between IKMP and the German Remote Sensing Data Centre, will exploit the synergies on IWRM related scientific work, data dissemination and acquisition techniques and capacity building measures. The MoU with the Murray Darling Basin Authority will be signed in mid-May 2011.

42. MRC has also been actively involved in major international and regional events, such as the NGOs' Public Forum on Sharing the Mekong River Basin on 1 April 2010 in Thailand; and the Mekong Environment and Climate Symposium on 26-27 April 2010 in Viet Nam; the Annual Mekong Flood Forum in Vientiane in May 2010; Sustainable Hydropower Financing in the Mekong River Basin in September 2010 held in Bangkok, Thailand; the Deltas and Climate Change Conference in October 2010 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands; ADB's Water Crisis and Choices meeting in October 2010 in Manila, the Philippines; preparations for the Bonn Conference 2011 on the subject of Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus - Water Recourses in the Green Economy ; and the recent Forum on Hydropower and Mekong Basin Sustainable Development in February 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. The MRC's international visibility was also enhanced through co-organisation of the International Watershed Conference on 9-11 March 2011 in Chiang Mai, Thailand, which was also a demonstration of MRC's outreach efforts to work closely with other regional partners.
