

Preliminary Concept Note for preparing the MRC Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Background

The Basin Development Strategy (**BDS**) is a basin-wide strategy for the lower Mekong basin and is applicable for all water and related sectors and will be implemented by all relevant stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

The **MRC Strategic Plan** (MRC SP) is the action and corporate operational plan of the MRC as an organization to implement the Basin Development Strategy at the regional level.

Content and methodology

The BDS and MRC SP (especially the strategic elements) will be integrated in accordance with the streamlined basin/strategic planning framework launched in 2015 as well as best international practice (most major RBOs in the world have only one basin/strategic document). The BDS and SP will be in one strategic document.

The BDS will contain:

Part 1: BDS 2021-2030

- Summary of state of basin and scenario assessment
- Basin-wide vision
- Challenges, risks and opportunities
- Strategic priorities and outcomes for 10 years for all relevant actors in the basin, with monitoring framework for all actors

Part 2: Strategic Plan 2021-2025

- Outputs and indicative activities (linked to SDGs) for 5 years for MRC
- Indicative budget for the MRC

➔ Due by April 2020. Endorse by JC. Approved by Council out of session. Then can be used for fund raising.

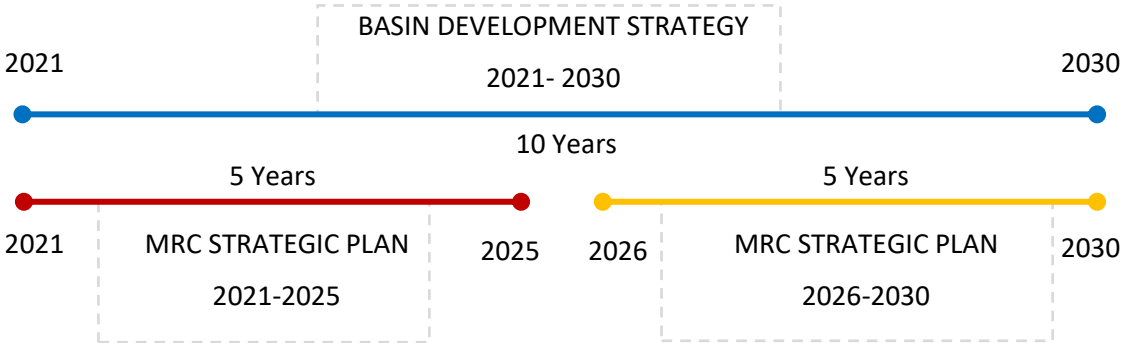
MRC Multi-Year Work Plan (replaces the Annual Work Plan) to implement the SP

➔ Due by Nov 2020. Endorsed by JC and approved by Council.

Why this integrative approach?

1. **One strategic document.** There is one coherent strategic document for the basin and MRC. It fully realizes the vision of the streamlined planning process launched in 2014-2015.
2. **No duplication.** There is no duplication (like in the past) with BDS priorities/actions and SP outcomes/outputs.
3. **Increased implementation and accountability.** It increases engagement and responsibilities of all relevant actors in the basin with “activities” and “indicators” assigned to them in the BDS. The MRC can coordinate and facilitate. Increases the likelihood of the BDS being implemented. It reduces the attribution gap between MRC strategic plan and BDS.
4. **Better monitoring and reporting.** Better monitoring and evaluation of the BDS with enhanced mutual accountability framework
5. **Cost saving.** It saves resources and time to prepare one document together instead of two.
6. **Fund raising.** It meets the need to have the document (SP) for fund raising by April 2020.

Basin Development Strategy and MRC Action Plan Approach



The Basin Development Strategy sets the strategic directions and areas of focus for the Lower Mekong Basin development for 10 years and the MRC Strategic Plan is a 5-yearly detail actions about how to get there.

		RESULTS CHAIN	PLAN	M&E	REPORT	
PLANNING	BASIN LEVEL	Area of Focus / Priorities	Basin Development Strategy	State of the Basin Indicators	State of the Basin Report	ATTRIBUTION
	Outcomes (SDGs)	MRC Indicators & Others Key Actors				
MRC LEVEL	Outputs	MRC Strategic Plan	MRC Indicators	Annual Report		
	Activities (CRBMFs)					
	Tasks				Multi-year Work Plan (5 Years)	Mid-Year Report Card

The results chain is plan from Basin level to MRC level (Top down) and attribution is from MRC to Basin level (Bottom Up). Using the above results chain, there will not be an MRC/organizational level outcome, only Basin level outcomes. These outcomes are then attributed through identifying outputs, activities and tasks at the organizational (MRC) level in the MRC SP, which are produce on a 5-yearly basis with budget. A 2 years Multi-year Work Plan with annual tasks and budget are prepare for Budget Committee and JC approval.