

*The MRC Regional Stakeholder Forum*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

*Vientiane, Lao PDR*



# **Review and Update – Preliminary Design Guidance (DG2018)**



# Outlines of Presentation

- 1. Background**
- 2. Contents of Current PDG**
- 3. Scope, approach and timeline of the PDG Review and Update**
  - The MRC BDS and SP 2016-2020
  - ISH0306 Mitigation Guidelines
  - Consideration of additional sections in PDG 2018
  - Scope of Review
  - Overall Progress in 2017
  - Work plan and timeline for 2018



# 1. Background

## ❖ Context in 2008 with Mekong Hydropower

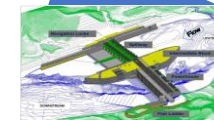
- **11 large hydropower schemes** proposed on mainstream in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand
- Projects will inevitably be accompanied by **major impacts** and other development risks in four MRC Member Countries

## ❖ Principles and Approach for PDG 2009

- PDG is *preliminary* and *advisory* in nature
- *Avoidance* over mitigation,
- Water as an *economic good*,
- *Adaptive* management,
- *Good* practice and *safe* operations



**Pakbeng HPP**



**Xayaburi HPP**



**Don Sahong HPP**



# 1. Background

## ■ *Why PDG is termed “Preliminary”?*

- Urgent need to move ahead with proposed mainstream dams
- Provide developers with *Preliminary Guidance* so that they can *adapt their design to comply with the guidance* for sustainable HP development in the context of MA 1995
- Stresses on **performance targets, design and operating principles** for mitigation measures, compliance monitoring and adaptive management



## 2. Contents of Current PDG

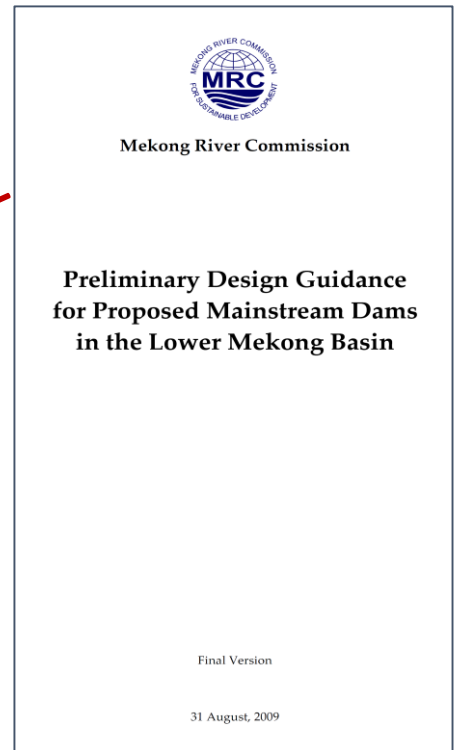
### PDG coverage: 5 aspects/disciplines:

1. Navigation
2. Fish Passage on Mainstream Dams
3. Sediment Transport and River Morphology
4. Water Quality and Aquatic Ecology
5. Safety of Dams

### PDG does not cover:

- Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TbEIA)
- Socio-economic impacts

*Hydrology and  
Hydraulics appear as  
cross cutting in all  
aspects/disciplines*

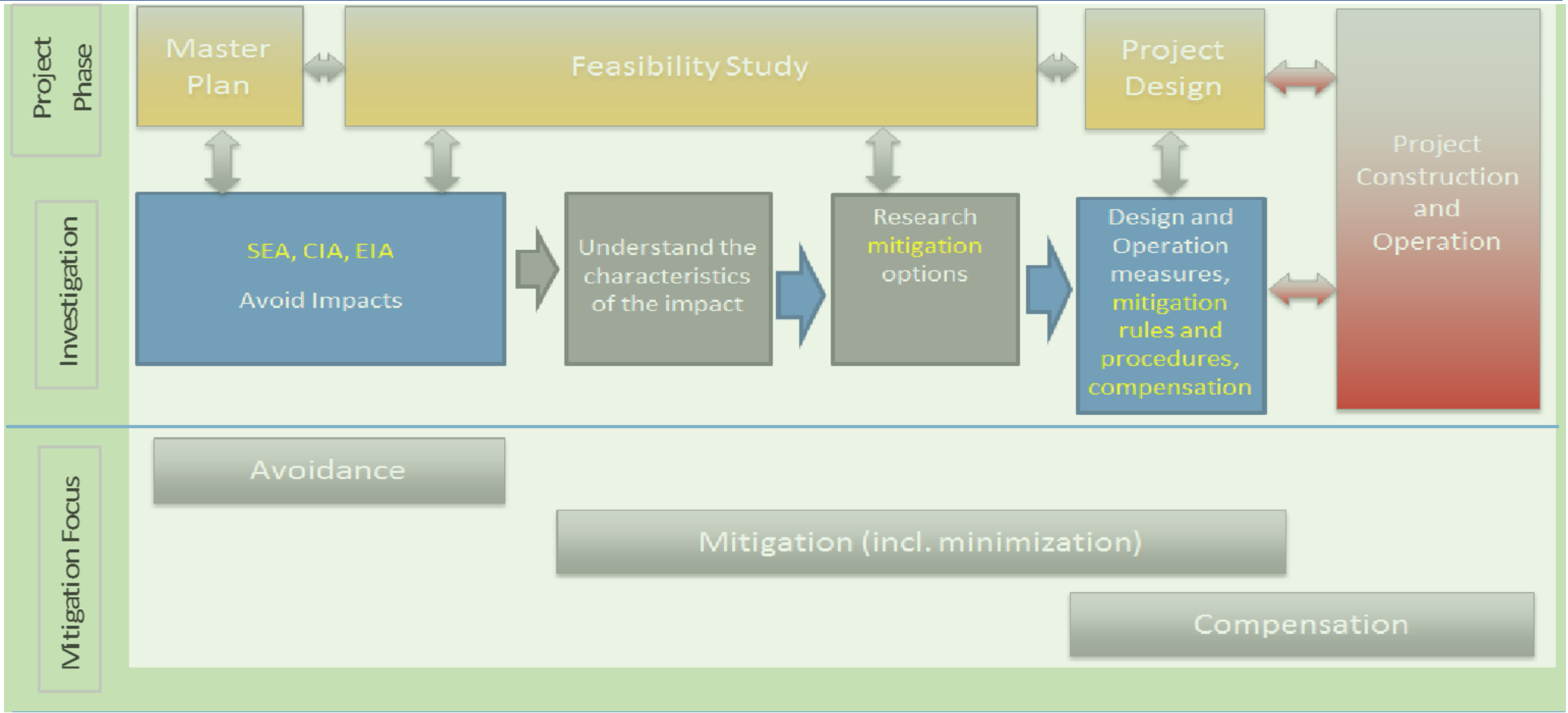


## 3.1. MRC-BDS and SP for 2016-2020

- ❖ **Outcome 3:** Guidance for development and management of water and related projects and resources shared and applied by national planning and implementing agencies
  - **Output 3.1:** *PDG for mainstream dams reviewed, updated and implementation supported*
  - **Objective:** “Updated DG for Proposed Mainstream (and Tributary) Dams on LMB (DG2018) provides: contemporary, research based **performance standards, design and operating principles**; which also covers **compliance monitoring and adaptive management**”



## 3.2. ISH0306 Mitigation Guidelines – across cycle



## 3.3. Lessons Learnt from PNPCA Implementation

- **Guidance** on *minimum primary data requirements*;
- Elaborate on *Adaptive Management*;
- Emphasis on the **avoidance** of impacts (through strategic planning);
- **Guidance** as to *quality of the EIA* to avoid delays in provision of adequate information for assessment;
- *Operating rules* for projects are often not provided in PNPCA documents;
- *Inclusion of the need for Trans-boundary CIA requirements* – with reference to current MRC preparation of guidance for TbEIA.





## 3.4. Consideration of Additional Sections in DG2018



- 1. Hydrology and Water Flow:** Dealt separately in PNPCA (*ramping rates, hydropeaking, operational mode, baseline hydrological data - flow variation, minimum flows etc.*);
- 2. Socio-economics and Livelihoods:** Considered in PNPCA but no guidance, focus on *transboundary*, and take *account of national standards*;
- 3. Transboundary EIA:** Currently under preparation by MRCS through WB funds, will *allow separation of local and Tb impacts to be fully set out.*

## 3.5. Scope of Review and Update PDG

**Common understanding** reached among MCs on how to proceed:

- ✓ **All sections** of PDG2009 will be reviewed and selectively updated;
- ✓ **“Performance Standards”** rather than **“Prescriptive Designs”** – same philosophy to be retained;
- ✓ **New sections** will be added to fill identified areas with gaps (*hydrology, TbEIA; Socio-economics*);
- ✓ **Clear links** to **Risk & Mitigation Guidelines** (ISH0306);
- ✓ **Stakeholder opinions/suggestions** will be taken into account;
- ✓ **Consultation** and **active participation** of MCs will be vital in DG2018 update.



## 3.6. Overall Progress by December 2017

- ✓ Concept Note (CN) prepared, discussed and finalized through national and regional consultations:
  - **Cambodia:** 18<sup>th</sup> September
  - **Thailand:** 20<sup>th</sup> September
  - **Lao PDR:** 25<sup>th</sup> September
  - **Viet Nam:** 13<sup>th</sup> October
  - **Regional:** 6<sup>th</sup> November, HCM City
- ✓ Overall confirmation of **high priority** by MCs in 2018
- ✓ JC **took note** of Concept Note to guide the preparation of TOR and implementation in 2018 (24<sup>th</sup> MRC Council Meeting)



## 3.7. Work Plan and Timeline

- **Agree objective, scope; inform stakeholders** *Nov. – Dec. 2017*
- **Gather inputs (developers, experts) & update** *Jan. – Mar. 2018*
- **First draft of DG2018** *by April 2018*
- **National Consultation** *by May 2018*
- **Regional Consultation** *by July 2018*
- **MRC JC's consideration and approval of *DG2018*** *by August 2018*



# Thank you

