GCCA+
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE

Funded by the European Union

Case Study Nr. 19 – Lower Mekong Basin

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

LOWER MEKONG BASIN

ADDRESSING ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGES THROUGH SUPPORT TO THE MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION'S CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION INITIATIVE (CCAI)

CRIS CODE: DCI-ENV/2011/023-089

MARCH 2021

www.gcca.eu

List of Acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
ARCR	Agricultural Research Center for Climate Change Resilience
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BDP	Basin Development Plan
BDS	Basin Development Strategy
CA	Contribution Agreement
CBP	Capacity Building Plan
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAI	Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative
CNMC	Cambodia National Mekong Committee
CRIS	Common Relex Information System
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DCC	Department of Climate Change
DLF	Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Laos
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EP	Environment Programme
ER	Expected Results
EU	European Union
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GCMs	Global Climate Models
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ISIS	Water flood simulation model
IQQM	Integrated water quantity and quality simulation model
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JC	Joint Committee
LARRC	Living Aquatic Resources Research Centre (Laos)
LMB	Lower Mekong Basin
LNMC	Lao PDR National Mekong Committee
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MASAP	Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOWRAM	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
MPCC	Mekong Panel on Climate Change
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MRCS	Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NAFRI	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Laos)
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
NMCs	National Mekong Committees
NMRC	National Mekong River Commission

NERI	National Economic Research Institute (Laos)
NTS	Nanyang Technological University
OO	Overall Objective
PMU	Project Management Unit
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SimCLIM	Climate simulation model
SO	Specific Objective
SWAT	Soil and Water Assessment Tool
SWOT	Strengths – Weaknesses – Opportunities – Threats
TNMCS	Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

I. Project Details and Outputs Delivered

PROJECT TITLE: Global Climate Change Alliance in the Lower Mekong Basin (GCCA-LMB) – Addressing Ecosystem Challenges through Support to the Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) of the Mekong River Commission (MRC)[1] CRIS CODE: DCI-ENV/2011/023-089		
AAP YEAR: 2011	DURATION: 78[2] months starting with the signature of the Contribution Agreement (CA) [3]	DATE OF COMPLETION: 06/2017
TOTAL PROJECT COST:[4] 11,550,000 EUR (Action Fiche) Joint co-financing. Other donors included: the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) with 1,640,000 EUR; the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) with 650,000 EUR; Luxembourg with 1,885,000 EUR; the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) with 1,415,000 EUR; in addition the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Finland contributed to CCAI implementation through other ongoing MRC programmes for a total of 830,000 EUR.	GCCA ALLOCATION: 5,000,000 EUR with ▪ 4,950,000 EUR to the MRC for CCAI implementation (43% of the total project cost) ▪ 50,000 EUR for centrally managed service contracts (mid-term evaluation).	
AID MODALITY: Project approach	MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS: ▪ Contribution Agreement with the Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) (DCI-ENV/2012/293-779) for 4,950,000 EUR	

[1] The Mekong River Commission's Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI) was formulated and established during 2008 - 2009 (Preparatory Phase) as a long-term regional initiative running until 2025, in response to a request from the MRC Council to support the Lower Mekong Basin countries in adapting to the new challenges posed by climate change. The CCAI was designed with an 18-month Intermediate Phase for the period 2009-2010 and three consecutive Five-Year Implementation Phases for the periods 2011-2015, 2016-2020 and 2021-2025. Following an MRC strategy review in 2015, however, the last two phases (2016-2020 and 2021-2025) of the CCAI were cancelled. In fact, the strategy review envisaged a shift in the MRC operations from a programme-based approach to a Results/Outcomes-based approach, which was incompatible with the CCAI design. The new Results/Outcomes-based approach would pool donors' contributions into a Basket Fund that would finance the priorities of the LMB Development Strategy.

[2] Initially a duration of 60 months was envisaged, consisting of an operational implementation phase of 48 months and a closure phase of 12 months. To complete the execution of the EU/GCCA contribution, two no-cost extensions were approved: a first one of 6 months from January to June 2016, and a second one of 12 months from July 2016 to June 2017.

[3] The Contribution Agreement was signed in January 2012.

[4] The CCAI started its Preparatory Phase in 2008 with support from AusAID and completed the Intermediate Phase during 2009-2010 with additional support from Sweden (through the MRC Environment Programme - EP). By the end of 2012, the CCAI was fully funded with the support from seven (7) Development Partners: Australia, Denmark, Luxembourg, Sweden, Finland, Germany and the European Union. While the other development partners completed their support by the end of 2015, the EU continued until June 2017.

	▪ Direct centralised management for 50,000 EUR

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

The project covers the four Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam. The nine field demonstration projects target specific areas within these four countries.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES:

- The Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission (MRCS) as main contracting and implementing agency, with the CC Adaptation Office of the MRCS' Environment Division in charge of CCAI coordination and day-to-day implementation. With the reform of the MRC in 2015, CCAI management moved from the Environment to the Planning Division.
- Key implementing partners included other ongoing MRC Programmes having joint activities or shared outputs with the CCAI, the National Mekong Committees (NMCs), and climate change focal agencies, line agencies, local authorities and local communities in the four member countries.
- The main beneficiaries of the CCAI were the national line agencies, local authorities, local communities, river basin organisations/committees, research institutions and other related organisations. The ultimate target groups were the people of the LMB, especially the poorest and most vulnerable communities living along the riverbanks and floodplains of the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries and depending on the river for farming, fishing and collection of other aquatic animals.

GCCA PRIORITY AREA(S):

Mainstreaming; Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction (link to flooding and drought)

MAIN SECTOR(S):

Overall Development & Poverty Reduction, Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security, Natural Resources Management, Water and Sanitation (hydrology)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change. (according to the logframes of the GCCA Action Fiche and the CCAI project document)

As mentioned in the project's completion report, the OO can also be read as "Member countries manage water and related resources of the Mekong Basin in an effective, sustainable and equitable way, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change".

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S):

Climate change adaptation planning and implementation is guided by improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin. (according to the logframe of the GCCA Action Fiche)

Or "Member countries guide climate change adaptation planning and implementation by applying improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin" as slightly

re-formulated in the CCAI Design and Monitoring Framework (which was used for monitoring and reporting during project implementation).

EXPECTED RESULTS [5]:

The four CCAI outcomes or expected results defined the areas in which the programme was expected to improve member countries capacities:

- ER1: Member countries and the MRC pilot and demonstrate adaptation planning and implementation[6] throughout the region, drawing lessons learnt from existing practices and demonstration projects with feedback to improve performance and influence strategies and plans.
- ER2: Member countries have improved capacity to manage and adapt to climate change at different levels, including the use of tools for different adaptation planning stages and methods.
- ER3: Member countries and the MRC have strategies and plans for adaptation at various levels in place which are regularly updated and integrated into appropriate development plans, with implementation monitored and reported on a regular basis.
- ER4: Member countries and the MRC implement regional cooperation, exchange and learning through partnerships in a fully gender responsive initiative with a developed long-term sustainability strategy.

OUTPUTS DELIVERED:

RELATED TO ER 1, ACTIVITY 1: METHODS AND TOOLS FOR ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION PLANNING ARE DEVELOPED AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE DATABASE FOR THE MEKONG BASIN IS ESTABLISHED.

- Historical climate database established with data from 1980 to 2010 for the 4 LMB countries
- Report on the analysis of historical trends, variability and changes in hydro-climatic conditions for the LMB (based on data from the historical climate database)
- Future climate change scenarios for LMB produced, under different GHG emission scenarios and following Global Climate Models (GCMs), using SimCLIM software
- Database established with relevant policies and strategies on climate change adaptation in each Member Country
- Database of adaptation projects and programmes in LMB countries established
- A CCAI Climate Change Atlas produced (Volume 1 on Climate Change and Volume 2 on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation) and made available on the MRC Data Portal
- Improved models at basin level (SWAT, IQQM, and ISIS) for the MRC's Decision Support Framework
- A working paper on methodologies and tools to conduct trend, variation and frequency analyses of historical climate data and extremes and detecting changes
- Paper on methods and tools for identifying and prioritising adaptation options produced
- Paper on methods and tools for assessing CC impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity produced
- A CCAI set of methods and tools (non-modelling) for adaptation planning developed

RELATED TO ER1, ACTIVITY 2: LOCAL DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS FOR CC ADAPTATION ARE ESTABLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED.

- 9 local demonstration projects completed (first batch of four and a second batch of five projects). The titles of the first batch projects were:
  - Demonstration Project in the Prey Veng Province with a focus on the four districts: Peam Ro, Peam Chhor, Me Sang, and Preah Sdach. Cambodia.
  - Demonstration Project in the Champhone District of the Savannakhet Province. Lao PDR.
  - Project for Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector in the Young River Basin, with a particular focus on the Sai Na Wang and Wang Luang communities. Thailand.

[5] As per final evaluation report of the project.
[6] "Implementation" in the sense of putting in place the agreed adaptation measures.

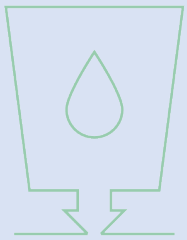
- Demonstration Project in the Kien Giang Province with a particular focus on the Binh Giang commune. Viet Nam.

The titles of the second batch (2014-2016) projects were:

- Building capacity of local communities in flood and drought prone areas to adapt to climate change in the Prey Veng and Battambang provinces. Cambodia.
- Small holder livelihood improvement through a variety of CC adaptation options in the Champhone district, Savannakhet province. Lao PDR.
  - Up-scaling Climate Change Adaptation practices in drought prone areas of the Young River Basin. Thailand.
  - Local Demonstration for Climate Change Adaptation in the Surin Province, with a focus on land use practices. Thailand.
  - Technical assistance for implementation of the provincial and local action plans to respond to climate change in a transboundary context in the Soc Trang Province in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam. Viet Nam.
- National policy reviews conducted in 4 countries
- Regional policy analysis report produced

Outputs delivered by the demonstration projects as extracted during the field phase from project reports, interviews and site visits:

- 2 community ponds constructed for the harvesting of drinking water (Cambodia)
- Provincial adaptation plan developed (Cambodia)
- An extended irrigation channel of 1000m (Lao PDR)
- Flood-tolerant rice varieties introduced and adopted (Lao PDR)
- Weir of 170m length constructed (Lao PDR)
- 310 m of riverbanks stabilised (Lao PDR)
- 2 Provincial Climate Change Action Plan developed (Viet Nam)
- 1 Communal Climate Change Action Plan developed (Viet Nam)
- CropWat Model installed at the provincial and district offices (Thailand)
- Provincial and district staff trained in the use of the CropWat model (Thailand)
- Local climate change champions trained and equipped (Thailand)
- Telemetering system facility installed (Thailand)



RELATED TO ER1, ACTIVITY 3: BASIN-WIDE SECTORAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY ADAPTATION PLANS/GUIDES ARE PREPARED AND PILOTED.

- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on the region's hydrology (water level, flow and salinity intrusion)
- Database and catalogue of biological traits of 574 species, including 109 range maps for 6 taxa developed
- Four reports on the status of ecoregions in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam completed
- Basin-wide assessment report of the vulnerability of local species to climate change
- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on food security and adaptation options
- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on hydropower production
- Technical report on the basin-wide socio-economic conditions and vulnerability

RELATED TO ER1, ACTIVITY 4: LESSONS AND OUTCOMES OF THE CCAI DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES FOR ADAPTATION ARE REPLICATED AND UP-SCALED THROUGH LOCAL, SECTOR AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

- Report on the lessons learned from the 1st batch of demonstration projects ("Evaluation and Lessons Learned from the 1st Batch of MRC CCAI Local Demonstration Projects 2010-2013").

- Checklist for Replication, Upscaling and Mainstreaming of Climate Change Adaptation Activities

RELATED TO ER1, ACTIVITY5: ANALYSIS OF LONG-TERM FLOOD MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN TO RESPOND TO GROWING PRESSURES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE, SEA LEVEL RISE, LAND DEVELOPMENT AND UPSTREAM DEVELOPMENT PLANS IS CONDUCTED

- Basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on flooding behaviour

RELATED TO ER1, ACTIVITY 6: ANALYSIS OF CC-RELATED DROUGHT RISK AND VULNERABILITY IS CONDUCTED AND OPTIONS FOR ADAPTATION ARE DEVELOPED

- Basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on drought behaviour

RELATED TO ER 2, ACTIVITY 1: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY IN POLICY MAKING AND PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE LMB COUNTRIES IS STRENGTHENED AND ACTIVITY 2: TOOLS FOR ADAPTATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ARE DOCUMENTED AND CAPACITIES ARE BUILT IN THEIR APPLICATION.

- People trained in “Understanding climate change and adaptation – Capacity Building Plan (CBP) 1”; “Impact and vulnerability assessment - CBP3.1”; “Adaptation and mainstreaming adaptation into development planning - CBP4”; “Transboundary adaptation - CBP5”; “Gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation - CBP6”; and “Training of Trainers (ToT) on methods and tools for adaptation planning - CBP7”. (in accordance with the regional component of the CCAI Capacity Building Plan - CBP)
- 25 representatives of the Bung Kong Long Working Group, the DWR Regional Office Nr. 3 (Udon Thani), the Office of Natural Resources and Environment of Bung Kal Province, TNMCS and MRCS (CCAI) trained in Report Writing
- 14 persons trained in “Climate downscaling and its applications in assessing impacts on agricultural production and flooding”
- 16 high level officials of the MRC countries trained in “Transboundary adaptation to climate change”
- 17 persons trained in “Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change and CC Adaptation”
- National capacity building plans developed and implemented

RELATED TO ER 3, ACTIVITY 1: POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO FACILITATE AND GUIDE ADAPTATION ARE IN PLACE.

- The Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP) formulated and approved
- Report on international experiences with regional and transboundary climate change adaptation strategies

RELATED TO ER 3, ACTIVITY 2: A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION IN THE MEKONG REGION IS IMPLEMENTED.

- Report on the Status of Climate Change and Adaptation in the Mekong River Basin

RELATED TO ER 3, ACTIVITY 3: A CCAI COMMUNICATIONS PLAN IS PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED

- 200 people from the communities involved in the local demonstration activities and district officials sensitised on CC adaptation
- Awareness raising, knowledge management and communication materials produced and widely disseminated

II. Analysis of impact

2.1. Impact expected as per logframe objectives and their indicators:

The Overall Objective: An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change. Or alternatively: "Member countries manage water and related resources of the Mekong Basin in an effective, sustainable and equitable way, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change".
No indicators were defined.

The Specific Objective: Member countries guide climate change adaptation planning and implementation by applying improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin.
In the CCAI Design and Monitoring Framework (used in the completion report), the following two indicators were defined at SO level:

1. The level of influence of the CCAI in improving national strategies and plans.
   Target: The MRC Joint Committee (JC) and Council recognise the influence of the CCAI in improving strategies and plans. CCAI generated information, data, tools, guides are used in transboundary, national and subnational adaptation planning and implementation.
2. The number of replications and up-scaling of CCAI demonstration and pilot activities and approaches in the member countries.
   Target: At least one case in each member country in which CCAI demonstration activities and approaches are replicated and up-scaled.

Quality of indicators: The first indicator is not SMART: it is not very specific and cannot be measured objectively. The second indicator is well-formulated but has a target which lacks ambition.

2.2. Direct and indirect impact as reported in the available documents (desk phase):

- **From the CCAI completion report, 2018:**
  - The specific objective of the CCAI project was that member countries guide climate change adaptation planning and implementation by applying improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin. Based on the fairly positive achievement levels of the 4 envisaged outcomes (outcomes 2 and 4 fully achieved and outcomes 1 and 3 partially achieved), one can state that also the specific objective has been achieved to a great extent, with climate change adaptation planning and implementation effectively and continuously benefitting from the project's outcomes. In addition, the approval of the Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP), which was considered as the ultimate CCAI product, could be seen as an achievement of the specific objective, or at least as a clear recognition by the member countries of the importance of CC adaptation planning. The MASAP covers 20 activities, including the mainstreaming of regional CCAI findings at the national levels.
  - On the achievement of the specific objective indicators:
    1. ***The first indicator was considered as being fully achieved.***
       The MRC Joint Committee and Council recognise the influence of the CCAI which is felt – as they say - through the improvement of strategies and plans. The MASAP, for example, was a major achievement and was approved by the Council based on its quality and potential. The CCAI data, tools and guides were transferred to the member countries' agencies and there is evidence of their use. For instance, the future CC projection data were used in demonstration projects in Viet Nam and Thailand. In Cambodia, the SimCLIM tool together with the CCAI dataset had been used in a study on CC impacts on irrigation. Finally, a comprehensive work

plan to mainstream CCAI products into the national levels was included in the MRC Annual Work Plan 2018 and will be implemented.

2. ***The second indicator was considered as being partially achieved.***
The demonstration projects and approaches were replicated to a certain extent. For example, in Viet Nam, methods and techniques tested in the demonstration project had been replicated in an IUCN project in the neighbouring community and in other projects involving the CCAI's project implementing partners. However, overall replication of the pilots faced difficulties due to budget constraints.

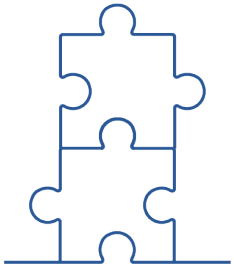
- **From the final evaluation report, 2018:**
  - <u>On the improvement of the member countries' capacity to manage Climate Change Adaptation by the availability of the tools and methods developed with programme support</u>:
    The CCAI's contributions to improving member countries' capacities to manage CCA are still incipient. At present, these contributions can be assessed in terms of learning rather than of using the sophisticated assessment, planning, monitoring and reporting methods and tools that were transferred by the project to the line agencies and their partners at national levels. Progress has been made especially in building technical skills of the line agencies' staff.
    Mainstreaming of the lessons learnt into the member countries' climate change strategies and plans is progressing slowly and unevenly. Political decisions that support CCA and that are informed by knowledge created through the project are still very limited. The CCAI has contributed to the formulation of the Cambodia Climate Change policy, the Lao PDR Water Resource Strategy, and the Mekong Delta Plan of Viet Nam. Thailand and Viet Nam are preparing project proposals for submission to the Adaptation Fund. The Viet Nam National Mekong Committee is forecasting to employ the trained staff for the implementation of internationally funded development actions. In Thailand, the collaboration with academia, private sector and other local development initiatives has enhanced the opportunities for the effective use of acquired capacities. In Cambodia and Lao PDR, the line agencies are plagued by the lack of resources. They have difficulties with employing persons that were trained under the CCAI and with keeping pace with technological progress.

    Overall, the transition from building capacities to effectively addressing CCA needs is weak and the linkages between these two phases have been insufficiently addressed by the project. This has negatively affected the appropriation of the CCAI assets by line agencies and other development actors in the member countries.

  - <u>On real benefits for the member countries that are implementing improved strategies and plans in Climate Change Adaptation:</u>
    During project implementation, the participating line agencies performed CCA assessments, simulations, planning and monitoring as an on-the-job learning exercise. Yet, most of the senior managers are insufficiently aware of the practical benefits and opportunities of integrating CCA into e.g. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programmes. The approval of the MASAP should trigger decisions leading to better CCA. However, the provisions of the MASAP are very qualitative and its future implementation is expected to depend on the following conditions (1) evidence of concrete benefits of the promoted CCA approaches for large sectors of the population; and (2) the available budgets.
    A Strengths – Weaknesses – Opportunities – Threats (SWOT) analysis that was conducted for the 4 countries revealed several challenges for the integration of CCAI achievements into the member countries' development planning. Differences across countries mostly related to differences in enabling conditions. Most of the challenges already existed at the time of project identification and were not well addressed during project design. This weakness in the CCAI design identification has negatively affected the effective use of the CCAI knowledge products and tools after the closure of the project.

Overall, limited and uneven creation of national capacities in the line agencies and the limited sharing of technical skills with the private sector and academia, have limited the potential impact, and even the continuation of the CCAI results (sustainability).

- On how the tools and methods that were developed, have contributed to overall development of the Mekong River Basin and to eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in the member countries:
  The CCAI has transferred innovative CCA planning and operational capacities to the member countries' line agencies in charge of IWRM of the MRB. The knowledge created through sector studies and reports has generated potential to enhance the quality of development planning in the area, espacially when it comes to addressing the negative impacts of climate change. The demonstration projects have allowed to test a variety of techniques, methods and tools at pilot level and to establish coordination mechanisms between the line agencies on one side and the local authorities and communities on the other. For example, water users benefited from awareness raising sessions and participated in the implementation of the supported IWRM actions. Such initiatives, however, have in most cases not surpassed the piloting stage and the influence they might have had on major decisions supporting the mainstreaming of CCA into development planning and monitoring was mostly negligible. Several representatives of the line agencies that were interviewed during the evaluation field survey emphasised the dependence on external aid for the continuation and expansion of CCA activities. In fact, the development, installation and adoption of innovative CCA methods and tools should have been part of a larger undertaking, also addressing the needed restructuring of the organisation and the operations of the line agencies. This approach was clearly beyond the scope of the first phase of the CCAI (2011-2015). With the subsequent cancellation of the CCAI after this first phase due to an organisational reform of the MRC, the resources and modalities needed for the proper completion of the demonstration projects and for the appropriation of the outcomes of Phase I were drastically reduced and resulted to be insufficient.
  Still, some of the new methods and tools have contributed to local improvements at the demonstration sites, e.g. in the area of IWRM. They have been able to contribute to mitigating the consequences of floods and droughts on the rural livelihoods. Their limited scope, though, reduces the chances that their outputs might influence political decisions.
  Neither has the programme envisioned opportunities for improving regional, transboundary approaches to CCA which should have been an essential part of the response to climate change effects at the national level.



2.3. Findings from the desk phase and specific issues that were further explored during the field phase:

While the evaluation was positive on the generation of knowledge, tools, methods and capacities, it was less positive on the effective use and adoption of the achieved outputs in terms of dissemination and use of knowledge products, regional integration, development of transboundary approaches, and scaling-up of the country-based demonstration projects, and hence on the impact being generated.

During the field phase, the consultant verified with the MRC Secretariat whether data (outputs, results, signs of impact) were collected for the 9 demonstration projects.

With the project having a relatively weak logframe at the level of the objectives, the impact analysis during the field phase went beyond these logframe elements (objectives and their indicators) and also focused on:

- Assessing whether and to what extent the CCAI-generated knowledge, tools, methods and capacities to analyse the impacts of CC and to address CC challenges were put into practice in the 4 LMB countries.
- Assessing whether and to what extent the 4 LMB countries were able to successfully adapt to CC effects.

- Assessing whether and to what extent the 9 supported demonstration projects have been replicated in the region.
- Assessing the existence and effectiveness of transboundary and regional initiatives and approaches.

2.4. Achievement of the logframe indicators at overall and specific objectives levels (direct impact)

INDICATOR	LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT	EXPLANATORY NOTES
SO.1: The level of influence of the CCAI in improving national strategies and plans. *Target:* The MRC Joint Committee (JC) and Council recognise the influence of the CCAI in improving strategies and plans. CCAI information, data, tools, guides are used in transboundary, national and subnational adaptation planning and implementation. *Baseline:* A baseline is not explicitly specified in the project document but, given the context, it should be "no CCAI influence recognised; no use of CCAI products in adaptation planning and implementation".	60%	The MRC Joint Committee and Council have approved the MASAP which was developed with CCAI support. A number of CCAI-developed datasets, tools and guides were transferred to the relevant national agencies of the 4 member countries and are now being used by them. Some examples include: ▪ The use of CC projection data in the demonstration projects in Viet Nam and Thailand. ▪ In Cambodia, the SimCLIM tool is used in a study on impacts of CC on irrigation. ▪ The MRC Annual Workplan for 2018 included the mainstreaming of CCAI products into national level policies, strategies and programmes. The project has been successful in raising awareness on the relevance of climate change adaptation (CCA) at regional level. The development and subsequent approval of the Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP) finds its origin in this enhanced awareness. Further, CCA was mainstreamed in some high level policy documents of the MRC, such as the Council Study, the new Basin Development Strategies and several sectoral strategies (fisheries and hydropower). On the other hand, the influence of the CCAI project on national and sub-national adaptation planning and implementation is less apparent. There are some indications that the studies and models have been used by the member countries, but the overall uptake was limited and there is only little evidence of their use in decision making. The original assumption that piloting adaptation measures in selected rural settings would result in a number of best practices and lessons learned and that these in turn would inform the development of national and sub-national policies and strategies only materialised to a limited extent. Comment on the indicator: The definition of the indicator is not very specific and does not provide clear criteria to assess the degree of influence of CCAI on the

		improvement of national strategies and plans. It is also focusing on CCAI outputs and performance rather than on the effects of the various supported CC adaptation measures at regional and national levels.
SO.2: The number of replication and up-scaling of CCAI demonstration and pilot activities and approaches in the member countries *Target:* At least one case in each member country in which CCAI demonstration activities and approaches are replicated and up-scaled *Baseline:* A baseline is not explicitly specified in the project document but, given the context, it should be "zero cases of replication or up-scaling of CCAI demonstration activities and approaches".	50%	The demonstration projects and approaches were replicated to a certain extent. For example, in Viet Nam, certain methodologies were replicated by an IUCN-supported project in the neighbouring communities; interviewees testified they were also aware of some cases of replication in Thailand. It seems that replication has been common in projects where previous CCAI implementing partners were involved. However, these are in fact isolated cases and one cannot conclude from the documents and testimonies that widespread replication or substantial up-scaling have taken place. Budget constraints seem to be the main reason for the limited spreading. Comments on the indicator: The indicator is not fully relevant; it only refers to the number of replications without assessing quality or relevance, not even the "magnitude" of the replication. Secondly, the target of only one case of replication per member country definitely lacks ambition.

2.5 Achievement of the overall and specific objectives (direct impact, exceeding the scope of the indicators)

OVERALL OBJECTIVE (OO): An economically prosperous, socially just and environmentally sound Mekong River Basin, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change. Or alternatively: "Member countries manage water and related resources of the Mekong Basin in an effective, sustainable and equitable way, responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change".

Achievement: "2" (between 50% and 75%)

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

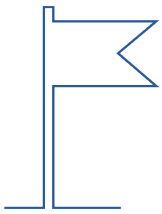
The OO statement encompasses aspects that were largely outside the scope of the project. For the dimension that was directly related to CCAI ([..] responsive and adapting to the challenges induced by climate change), there is clear evidence of improvements in terms of inclusion of climate change in key regional policy documents (Council Study, State of the Basin Report, Basin Development Strategy 2021-2030, MRC Strategic Plan 2021-25, Mekong River Basin Indicator Framework). Evidence of actual use of climate change considerations in decisions related to river basin management at national at sub-national levels is, however, still limited or only partially attributable to CCAI.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE (SO): Member countries guide climate change adaptation planning and implementation by applying improved strategies and plans at various levels and in priority locations throughout the Lower Mekong Basin.

Achievement: "2" (between 50% and 75%)

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

The SO statement does not specify what constitutes an improvement in the strategies and plans. According to the project document, improvement of national and sub-national strategies and plans involves progressive mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into development planning and gender responsiveness. The rationale for the scoring of the achievement of the SO is similar to the one described for the OO (i.e. good evidence of progress in regional policy documents, but more limited evidence of progress at national and subnational level beyond the demonstration projects).



In addition, and as suggested by the desk phase findings (see box 2.3), the following 4 dimensions of impact were analysed and assessed:

1. **CCAI-generated knowledge, tools, methods and capacities to analyse the impacts of CC and to address CC challenges have been put into practice in the 4 LMB countries.**

   Score: 2 (between 50% and 75%)

   According to the interviews with relevant agencies in member countries, the CCAI-generated data, tools and knowledge products have been useful or very useful resources in developing national and subnational strategies and plans. They also confirmed a continued use after the project's completion, for instance when conducting trend, variation and frequency analyses of historical climate data; when identifying priorities amongst various adaptation options; when assessing CC impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity; and when developing sectoral climate adaptation plans at national as well as sub-national levels. In Cambodia, CCAI-generated data were used to inform the development of sectoral climate change strategies and action plans for agriculture, water and irrigation as well as for the development of their National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). Lao PDR reported that projection models were used for the development of their National Adaptation Plan. In Viet Nam, climate scenarios developed by CCAI are regularly used by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

   On the other hand, there are some limitations in the usability of the data produced by CCAI due to their large scale. For applications at sub-national level, downscaling is needed. Also, the levels of the technical capacities are different in the four countries, with Thailand and Viet Nam being more advanced. Different institutional capacities of the member country institutions largely explain the uneven use of the methods and tools developed by the project.

2. **The 4 LMB member countries developed or improved policies and/or institutional arrangements for CC Adaptation at national or subnational levels**[7]

   Score: 3 (between 25% and 50%)

   CCAI indirectly contributed to improving sectoral adaptation strategies at national level in some of the member countries, mostly through studies and data that were used as resource. Also the development of capacities for adaptation planning through training and learning-by-doing within the demonstration projects contributed to improving the adaptation planning processes. For example, the demonstration projects in Viet Nam were directly linked to existing national adaptation efforts at provincial levels and reportedly they were helpful in improving these. In Thailand, there were also indications that sub-national adaptation

[7] This dimension was reformulated as the statement of the desk report "Assessing whether and to what extent the 4 LMB countries have been able to successfully adapt to CC effects" was too broad to be meaningfully assessed.

planning in the areas of the pilots had benefited from the CCAI experience and the practices tested with the support of the project.

Further, the project contributed to raising awareness of policy makers on climate change issues and to strengthening the dialogue and cooperation for transboundary basin management. According to one of the interviewees, "it provided a good platform to coordinate regional and national activities and improved thereby institutional arrangements at national level".

The MASAP – one of the CCAI products - provides a broad strategic framework to support member countries' adaptation planning and cooperation. One of the seven priorities of the MASAP is mainstreaming the regional dimension of climate change management into national strategies and plans. Efforts have continued after project completion by reviewing national policies and identifying possible entry points, although with limited resources and unclear results. The progress towards developing transboundary initiatives, the inclusion of the climate change dimension in the Mekong River Basin Indicator Framework and in the Basin Development Strategy (BDS) for the Mekong River Basin (2021 – 2030) all directly or indirectly contributed – and still contribute - to influence national policies and plans.

The Final Evaluation highlighted limitations in terms of engagement with high level decision makers and an excessive focus on the technical dimension of capacity building. While this is a valid observation, subsequent work on MASAP together with a successful integration of climate change into regional policy documents, enhanced direct outreach to the decision makers in the member countries, which in turn influenced to some extent the adaptation planning processes at national level. In this respect, the capacity of the MRC to develop proposals for transboundary projects and to mobilise resources for their implementation will be critical to deliver tangible benefits to member countries and retain the interest of high level decision makers. The recent droughts in the area have sensitised the politicians and have made them more receptive for undertaking actions for CC adaptation.

All in all, it can be concluded that the impact of the CCAI in this area is less than one would expect from the original project design. As discussed in sections 2.7 and 3.5, the initial project design suffered from a bias towards trying to fulfil the national adaptation needs of member countries without being well equipped for this while the main focus should have been on the regional dimension. It was only after the project ended that the MRC fully realised the added value of a regional focus. Recently, this translated in efforts to integrate regional and transboundary approaches to basin management into the national processes, policies and strategies.

3. The adaptation practices and measures that were introduced by the 9 demonstration projects have been replicated and up-scaled in the 4 LMB member countries.

Score: 3 (between 25% and 50%)

The aspect of replicating and up-scaling good practices and measures that were tested in the demonstration projects, is also covered under the indicator SO.2 and discussed in section 2.4.

It must be highlighted that the demonstration projects had very limited budgets[8] and very short durations. The effects of the short durations (envisaged to be 1 year appr.) were exacerbated by local capacity constraints. At the same time, the ambitions were high and – given the conditions – unrealistic.

[8] Though it had not been possible to obtain detailed information on the budget levels for all 9 demonstration projects, it could be figured out that the batch 2 projects in Lao PDR and Cambodia were both allocated 125,000 USD. It can be assumed the the budgets of the other projects were in the same order of magnitude.

As a consequence, there is little evidence of actual contributions of the demonstration projects in addressing climate change issues at an appropriate scale through up-scaling and replication of adaptation measures demonstrated. There are some indications though of methodological improvements that can be attributed to the project; it concerns methodological improvements in sub-national and national level planning in Viet Nam and Thailand, and to a lesser extent in Cambodia. The only member country where some degree of replication of adaptation measures was found, is Thailand.

Still, the demonstration projects have played an important role in strengthening member countries' ownership of the initiative and have provided very valuable opportunities for capacity building, especially through learning by doing.

All in all, this component of the project has had a limited catalyst effect compared to what had been foreseen in the project design and has therefore not delivered impacts at scale. This is mainly due to the very limited resources that were allocated and to the lack of follow up by the MRC Secretariat.

4. Existence and effectiveness of transboundary and regional CCA initiatives that have materialised as a result of CCAI

Score: 2 (between 50% and 75%)

After CCAI ended, the MRC has included in its workplan activities for the implementation of the MASAP, including the joint development of transboundary climate adaptation initiatives. The MRC has organised consultations and workshops with the member countries to identify a set of priority projects. During the regional consultation meeting which was held in Viet Nam in November 2019, six projects were selected, including the GIZ-supported project already under implementation. As next steps, the MRC will develop project concept notes and identify possible funding sources, with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund amongst the options.

The GIZ-supported initiative that was mentioned in the previous paragraph is the "Transboundary Water Resource Management in the Lower Mekong Basin" project that started in 2018 with a one year scoping phase and a budget of around 500,000.00 USD. The intervention area covers a shared river sub-basin between Cambodia and Thailand with a total area of 14,952 km^2. Phase 2 of the project started mid-2019, with a duration of 2 years and a budget of around 2.5 M USD. The project mainly addresses issues related to the recurrent floodings and droughts and builds thereby on the data, tools and capacities developed by CCAI. The PMU is hosted by the Planning Division of the MRC Secretariat and closely cooperates with the MRC Adaptation specialist.

A second transboundary project that is currently implemented by the MRC is the "Sustainable Groundwater Use and Management for enhancing Agricultural Productivity project". The implementation started in June, 2019 with financial and technical support from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Another transboundary initiative was developed as a continuation of the CCAI demonstration projects in Thailand. It concerns the project "Mekong EbA South: Enhancing Climate Resilience in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Context of South-South Cooperation". The project proposal had been submitted to the Adaptation Fund (AF) and was very recently approved and granted an amount of 7 M USD. UNEP is the main implementing entity with IUCN and the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment of both Viet Nam and Thailand as implementing partners.

So, considerable progress has been made in the area of transboundary and regional initiatives for CC adaptation. It is due to highlight that these initiatives are effectively consolidating and amplifying the incipient impact of the efforts of the CCAI project in strengthening regional cooperation in designing and implementing adaptation measures in view of a sustainable management and use of the LMB's water resources.

2.6. Signs of indirect impact

No relevant indirect or unintended impacts have been identified.

2.7. Conclusions on direct and indirect impact generated by the project and discussion on factors for success and failure

With the impact indicator targets (section 2.4) achieved for resp. 60 and 50%, with achievement levels between 50 and 75% for both the overall and specific objective (section 2.5), achievement levels between 50 and 75% for two of the four impact elements that were additionally analysed and assessed and between 25 and 50% for the other two additional impact elements (section 2.5), one can conclude that about half of the expected impact has been generated.

The factors that were conducive to generating impact were:

- Development of robust data sets and studies, providing the necessary resources for adequate regional, and to some extent, national adaptation planning.
- Engagement of member countries through pilot projects, capacity development and active involvement in the preparation of the MASAP.
- Integration of climate change in regional strategies and policy documents, opening opportunities for a trickledown effect into national policies.
- Raising awareness on the important regional dimension of climate change adaptation.
- Continuity of engagement and activities after the end of the project with a clear re-orientation towards the regional added value.

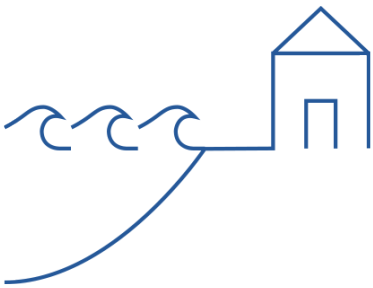
The main barriers to achieving impact were:

- Local demonstration projects with weak designs, short implementation periods, budgetary constraints and poor follow-up.
- Local demonstration projects that were fully focused on national adaptation needs of the member countries without having due attention for the regional, transboundary options.
- Partial approach to capacity development, focusing on building individual capacities and neglecting the much needed institutional capacity building.
- Change of CCAI project duration from 15 to 5 years and a drastic reduction in staff after the MRC reform.

III. Analysis of sustainability levels

3.1. List of services, systems and products that were established/delivered under the project and that should have been maintained (based on the outputs delivered):

- The different databases (historical climate database, policy & strategy database, adaptation projects database, biodiversity database) and studies that were developed with CCAI support, are still available at the MRC Secretariat and in the 4 LMB countries, regularly updated and effectively used
- The Climate Change Atlas is still available on the MRC Data Portal
- Agencies (public, civil society, private) are applying the methods and tools that were developed by the project to conduct trend, variation and frequency analyses of historical climate data and extremes and detecting changes
- Agencies (public, civil society, private) are using the methods and tools developed by the project to identify and prioritise adaptation options
- Agencies (public, civil society, private) are using the methods and tools developed by the project to assess CC impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity
- Trainers that were trained in methods and tools for adaptation planning are still training other people and using the skills/knowledge acquired during the CCAI-supported training
- Extent to which the MASAP is implemented
- Community ponds (2) in Cambodia still functional
- Extent to which the Provincial Adaptation Plan is implemented (Cambodia)
- The irrigation system in Lao PDR still functional
- Farmers in Lao PDR still growing the new flood-tolerant rice varieties
- Weir (170m) in Lao PDR still functional
- Stabilisation works to the riverbanks (310m) in Lao PDR well maintained and still functional
- Extent to which the 2 Provincial Climate Change Action Plans are implemented (Viet Nam)
- Extent to which the Communal Climate Change Action Plan is implemented (Viet Nam)
- CropWat model still in use in the provincial and district offices in Thailand
- Local climate change champions still active in demonstrating adaptation measures (Thailand)
- Telemetering system still functional (Thailand)



3.2. Information and comments on sustainability aspects from the available reports (desk phase)

♦ **From the project's completion report, 2018:**

Sustainability aspects were duly taken into account during project design and implementation. Specifically, the project had identified a number of "sustainability factors" and had developed for each of these factors one or more "CCAI approaches" that should increase the potential sustainability of the CCAI outcomes. These sustainability factors, the related approaches and an assessment of the achievements by June 2017 are presented in the next paragraphs.

In general, the levels of sustainability of the outcomes of CCAI were significant. Further enhancement in this respect would depend on the future status of the CCAI within the MRC following the ongoing decentralisation process.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 1: EMBEDDING ADAPTATION IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY.

Approaches to enhance sustainability:

- Emphasis is given to working with line agencies and the national climate change focal points, and with local planners in demonstration areas
- Replication, upscaling and mainstreaming into national policy and strategies are emphasized in all activities

First achievements:

- A Stakeholder Engagement Framework was developed to guide both regional and national levels in stakeholder participation
- Involvement of line agencies and national climate change focal points, local planners are ensured in all activities

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 2: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING THE LMB GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN ADAPTATION.

Approach to enhance sustainability:

- The backbone approach of the CCAI is its implementation through partnerships with technical organisations that have a permanent or long-term commitment to supporting LMB governments and communities in adaptation.

First achievements:

- A partnership was built with IWMI and CSIRO was mobilised for the 1st assessment of the impacts of climate change on the water flow regime in the basin (Technical Report no. 29)
- Partnerships were built with universities and local NGOs for the implementation of the local demonstration projects in the member countries.

It is important to note that there have been several challenges in relation to these partnerships, caused by the complexity and diversity of the partner arrangements and by the failure of some core implementing partners to deliver and maintain the commitment.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 3: PROMOTING ADAPTATION TOOLS AND OPTIONS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE REGION.

Approach to enhance sustainability:

- The adaptation planning and implementation methods and tools and the adaptation options demonstrated are to be tailored to local Mekong conditions with intensive capacity building for local organisations in their use. The use of demonstration sites and pilots and learning processes for replication and up-scaling of proven approaches will support this.

First achievements:

- The 9 local demonstration projects were completed and provided the opportunity for piloting impact assessment and adaptation planning at local level.
- Reviews of existing methods and tools for the assessment of ecosystem and socio-economic changes due to climate change and the identification and prioritisation of adaptation options appropriate for the LMB were completed in 2013 in preparation for the development of manuals and training.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 4: BUILDING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Approaches to enhance sustainability:

- The organisation of high-level awareness raising roundtables in connection with the Regional Climate Change Forums and the publication of the 3-yearly Status Report on Climate Change and Adaptation.
- Integration of the regional adaptation strategy (MASAP) in the Basin Development Plan (BDP) / Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Strategy to emphasize the need to regard climate change adaptation in a development context.

First achievements:

- A capacity needs assessment was completed in 2013 and a capacity building plan was developed and its implementation initiated.
- High level roundtable discussions on transboundary CC adaptation were organised in 2012 for a number of transboundary river basins.
- The Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP), which addresses a.o. its integration into the BDP / IWRM Strategy, has been approved by the member countries. This shows the common political commitment of all MCs to deal together with the effects of climate change.
- The Siem Reap Declaration of the MRC summit in 2018 re-affirmed the existing challenges related to climate change and acknowledged the region-wide approval of the MASAP.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 5: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEKONG PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (MPCC) AS A PERMANENT DIALOGUE FORUM.

Approach to enhance sustainability:

- The MPCC and its task forces are intended to bring experts from LMB countries together in view of jointly defining strategies and approaches to address the climate change challenges that the Mekong Basin is facing.

First achievement:

- The intention of establishing an MPCC was abandoned during the MRC reform process. Alternatively, a similar MRC Expert Group for basin-wide planning has been established. This Expert Group will provide technical advice to the MRC's Planning Division, also in relation to climate change adaptation matters.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 6: BUILDING CAPACITY OF COUNTERPARTS TO ENSURE A CONTINUED USE OF THE OUTPUTS

Approach to enhance sustainability:

- This factor is targeted by the capacity building component of the CCAI.

First achievement:

- A capacity needs assessment targeting CCAI stakeholders at national level was completed in 2013, a capacity building plan was developed and its implementation was initiated.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 7: ADEQUATE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE MRC SECRETARIAT TO ALLOW A CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTPUTS.

Approach to enhance sustainability:

- The CCAI is conceived as a long-term commitment and addresses sustainable financing, specifically through a study on the potential to establish a Mekong Climate Change Fund and through dialogues with member countries and donors.

First achievements:
- The CCAI has been fully funded by the end of 2012.
- A study on the potential to establish a Mekong Climate Change Fund was planned for 2014 but has been set aside.
- MRC's Annual Workplan 2018 is allocating resources to the implementation of MASAP.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MRC CORE FUNCTIONS DECENTRALISATION ROADMAP

Approach to enhance sustainability:
- Devolution of appropriate CCAI activities to national and local partner governments and technical organisations as part of the implementation of the MRC Core Functions Decentralisation Roadmap.

First achievement:
- No decentralisation tasks were assigned to CCAI

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 9: EMPHASISING THE BENEFITS OF ADAPTATION

Approach to enhance sustainability:
- Underpinning all other CCAI approaches to sustainability is the emphasis on demonstrating the development benefits of adaptation measures to local communities and organisations so that there are strong incentives for their implementation.
- First achievements: nothing reported

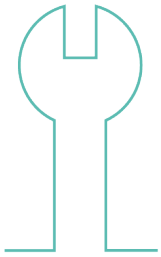
Following MASAP's approval by the member countries in November 2017, a number of MASAP activities were included in the MRC's workplan and budget to ensure MASAP implementation from 2018 onwards.

Main activities related to climate change adaptation that were included, are:
- Development of climate proof MRC sectoral strategies (2016-2020) and the next Basin Development Strategy;
- Promotion of mainstreaming basin-wide assessment findings and MASAP's adaptation strategic priorities at national level;
- Promote and facilitate exchanges of good practices on CC adaptation between member countries;
- Strengthen and/or institutionalize partnerships between MRC and international climate change communities;
- Consolidate the existing MRC transboundary projects with climate change adaptation measures and develop further initial ideas of new transboundary adaptation projects;
- Identify approaches/mechanisms to access climate change adaptation finance by the member countries and MRC;
- Regular reporting on status and trends of climate change adaptation indicators;
- Enhance early forecasts and early warning on extreme events;
- Promote and support at national level the application of MRC methods and tools such as the climate change scenarios and the climate change impact and vulnerability assessment approach;
- Formulate and implement capacity building activities;
- Maintain and update the MRC CCAI website, data portal and social media;
- Disseminate MASAP and other CCAI products at relevant events including the Mekong Forum.

♦ **From the final evaluation report, 2018:**

The MASAP, if implemented, will be a key element in the creation of sustainability. MASAP's strategic priority is: "supporting access to adaptation finance and mechanisms for mobilising local resources available in the member countries' development budgets". Its execution implies - and will certainly improve - the continuation of the use of the methods and tools developed and promoted by CCAI. In fact, they are

essential in ensuring the proper planning and monitoring underlying the allocation of funds to undertake CCA actions. For instance, planning capacities should be connected to the capacity to identify resources available for implementing the CCA plans, i.e. to their budgeting. In practice, the use of CCA technology in national planning is still limited. The strict mandate of the MRC Secretariat exacerbates the problem. The MRC Secretariat is a service provider for the member countries and focuses on technical issues, while avoiding dealing with managerial aspects of CCA planning and implementation in the national line agencies. Consequently, the Secretariat has transferred technologies to the line agencies without considering the facts (1) that their use requires changes in organisational structures and operational management and (2) that these changes should be promoted through an intense process of communication and collaboration of the MRC Secretariat with the politicians and senior managers of the national line agencies. *The weak linkage between the MRC Secretariat and the member countries' decision-making mechanisms is a structural hurdle to the local adoption of the MASAP strategy and to the effective use of the capacities created by the programme*.



The main challenge for the sustainability of the project outcomes resides in the mainstreaming of the methods and tools for CCA into the national development strategies (which is actually the project's specific objective). This strategic weakness is apparent in all member countries. The community of users of the methods and tools are public sector officers. Until the member countries approve the MASAP, it is unlikely that these technologies will be used in a strategic way to develop and implement development policies. The MASAP approval would anyhow not be sufficient if its implementation is not fostered by concrete results appealing to the politicians. As shown in the answers to the evaluation survey questionnaires, the lack of appreciation of this institutional problem is at the basis of a continued dependency on external funding. This situation is an obvious threat to the sustainability of the project results. It confirms the appropriateness of the project assumption that 3 phases / 15 years were needed to achieve structural changes in CCA.

In fact, numerous assumptions (as shown in the reconstructed Theory of Change) should be fulfilled to scale up the use of the simulation, planning and monitoring technologies to make them a strategic – and not an occasional – instrument for shaping the member countries' development policies.

3.3. Summary findings from the desk phase and specific issues that were further explored during the field phase:

While the MRC Secretariat was quite positive on the sustainability of the project outcomes, the external evaluation report was rather critical, mainly based on insufficient institutional support given to the national line agencies.

During the field phase, the consultant verified with the MRC Secretariat whether data (outputs, results, signs of impact) have been collected for the 9 demonstration projects.

3.4. Results of the sustainability analysis (as per table)

18 items were checked for their sustainability. Information could be collected for only 8 items. This low figure is caused by the lack of data available on the local demonstration projects and the lack of time to visit all projects during the field mission. Actually, 11 items (out of 18) were related to outputs delivered by the field demonstration reports, and only one of these could be assessed and assigned a score.

The sustainability scores of the 8 items assessed are as follows:

- 4 items (50%) scored 2, meaning that they were fully sustained in a "status quo" situation
- 3 items (37.5%) scored 3, meaning that they still exist/continue but with quality and/or coverage issues
- 1 item (12.5%) scored 4, meaning that it disappeared or lost functionality

Evidence was found through direct observation (D) for 1 item (12.5%), through reporting by reliable sources (R) for 4 items (50%), through reporting by an unreliable source (U) for 1 item (12.5%), and through a mixture of methods (D/R) for 2 items (25%).

Further analysis indicates that:

- Data and studies produced by the project were consistently used to inform regional level policies and strategies. At national level (member countries), the CCAI products were used to some extent to inform national and sectoral level adaptation planning.
- The effects of awareness raising and capacity building are still visible. According to interviewees, MRC staff members are applying skills that were acquired through the project, in particular the competences related to adaptation assessment and planning. At national levels, the use of more advanced tools and methods is likely to be limited due to the capacity gap that still exists in government agencies, particularly in Lao PDR and Cambodia.
- The MRC Secretariat continued to support the implementation of the MASAP with resources from its core funding with good progress in some areas.
- Though it has not been possible to find structured data regarding the sustainability of the products and services that were delivered by the 9 demonstration projects, information collected through the survey points towards a good level of sustainability for the outputs in Thailand and Lao PDR, and to some extent in Viet Nam. The NMRC focal points that were interviewed[9], mentioned the lack of funding for proper follow-up as main reason for the absence of data, monitoring and continued support to the demonstration projects. Thailand is the only country where, according to some sources, a budget was allocated to continue some of the activities. In Viet Nam, the demonstration projects focused on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning in support of ongoing government processes; it is therefore likely – but not confirmed - that activities were continued to some extent.

In addition to the table in annex, a sustainability assessment was done against the 9 sustainability factors that were selected by the project:

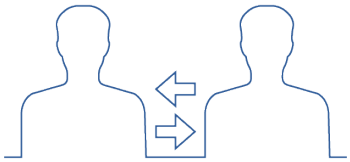
SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 1: EMBEDDING ADAPTATION IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY.

This was done through the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation (regional dimension) into national strategies and policies, in line with the MASAP strategic priority 1. Yet, due to much reduced financial and human resources, there is a lack of capacity within the MRC Secretariat for a continued engagement with national and local authorities. To make up for MRC S' limited capacities, national consultants were mobilised in the 4 member countries to carry out this activity. The effectiveness of the mainstreaming effort is so far relatively limited as member countries do not see a clear added value of this type of support.

[9] The NMRC focal points and staff of other relevant line agencies were interviewed and specific questions were asked regarding the sustainability and replication of specific outputs, but in most cases they did not have any information.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 2: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING THE LMB GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN ADAPTATION.

The partnerships with the actors that are listed in the strategy, were not continued. Long-term partnerships with academia, NGOs and the private sector did not materialise. On the other hand, other partnerships have been developed, for example with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for the development of climate and information services.



SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 3: PROMOTING ADAPTATION TOOLS AND OPTIONS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE REGION.

This factor was supposed to leverage upon the outputs of the local demonstration projects. But, given their relative weakness and the absence of strategic linkages, these projects were not the appropriate vehicle to produce a basket of tested adaptation tools and options for wider dissemination and replication in the region.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 4: BUILDING POLITICAL COMMITMENT

Though the Final Evaluation of the project highlighted limitations in terms of engagement with high level decision makers and an excessive focus on the technical dimension of capacity building, subsequent work on MASAP together with a successful integration of climate change into regional policy documents, enhanced direct outreach to the decision makers in the member countries. Also external circumstances, notably the recent droughts in the area, have sensitised the politicians and have made them more receptive for undertaking actions for CC adaptation. To date, climate change has significantly risen on the political agendas in the member countries, also due to the global attention and mobilisation for climate change action.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 5: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEKONG PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (MPCC) AS A PERMANENT DIALOGUE FORUM.

This was not operationalised.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 6: BUILDING CAPACITY OF COUNTERPARTS TO ENSURE A CONTINUED USE OF THE OUTPUTS.

As already discussed, capacity building was done but a considerable gap remained between the complexity of the tools developed and the actual capacities available in the relevant agencies. The capacity development strategy mostly focused on building individual capacities and paid less attention to addressing institutional weaknesses. Arguably, this was beyond the scope of the first phase of CCAI. As highlighted by the final project evaluation, the MRC mandate made it difficult to engage in larger institutional reforms in the member countries required to sustainably address the capacity gaps.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 7: ADEQUATE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE MRC SECRETARIAT TO ALLOW A CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE OUTPUTS.

With the completion of the CCAI, the resources available for continued implementation of MASAP and for providing the technical assistance required by the member countries were drastically reduced. Compared to the available resources though, good progress has been made on the priority areas of the strategy. As the current level of allocation from MRC's core funding will only allow limited action, they should be strategically used in view of leveraging additional external resources. Accreditation of the MRC Secretariat to the GCF and the AF will be a crucial in this respect; a successful accreditation will also increase the importance and role of the MRC for the member countries.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 8: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MRC CORE FUNCTIONS DECENTRALISATION ROADMAP

Given the limited resources and capacities in most member countries, the decentralisation of MRC's core functions might not be the best approach to enhance sustainability.

SUSTAINABILITY FACTOR 9: EMPHASISING THE BENEFITS OF ADAPTATION

Progress seems to be limited to the integration of some climate change adaptation options in MRC strategic documents.

3.5. Conclusions on the sustainability aspects and discussion on factors for success and failure

Overall, the data and knowledge dimensions of the project proved to be sustainable. They were instrumental for raising policy makers' awareness of climate change and for informing regional policies and strategies.

An important sustainability and impact factor - uptake of data and knowledge products by member countries – is assessed as sub-optimal due to poor targeting and packaging of the information. The MRC Secretariat is aware of this weakness and is trying to actively address it. The other reasons for this poor uptake are the limited resources and capacities in the member countries agencies.

As discussed in the previous sections, the piloting component of the project suffered from design issues (very short implementation periods), insufficient funding and poor follow-up, resulting in an unsatisfactory level of sustainability. On the other hand, the demonstration projects had a merit in providing local stakeholders a first experience with climate change adaptation and – for the second batch - the opportunity to apply in the field tools and methodologies that were developed by the project at regional level. Finally, through the direct involvement of local stakeholders during formulation and implementation, there was a good level of ownership.

If the project had continued as initially foreseen, it is likely that the overall sustainability would have been higher. But also an extensive implementation of the MASAP at regional as well as national levels still has the potential to increase the levels of sustainability. In particular, the development of transboundary initiatives and the mobilisation of international climate finance are promising key aspects of the MASAP.

Most of the success factors and barriers identified in section 2.7 for the generation of impact, are also relevant for sustainability aspects.

IV. Additional elements

4.1. M&E Practice

M&E ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE:

Two external reviews/evaluations have taken place:
- A learning oriented evaluation of the first batch of demonstration projects[10]
- A final independent evaluation of the CCAI, commissioned by the EU

% OF BUDGET ALLOCATED TO M&E THAT HAS BEEN USED: Information was requested but not available.

ADDITIONAL M&E REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN COLLECTED:

- The report on the learning oriented evaluation of the first batch of demonstration projects.[11]

4.2. Contributions to GCCA+ knowledge management and communication

PROJECT-SUPPORTED RESEARCH AND RESEARCH FINDINGS / LINKS WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY:

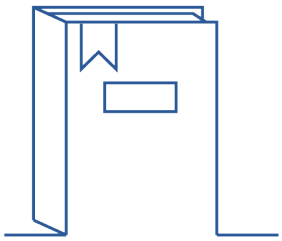
Though not really to be qualified as “research” and “research findings”, the project has produced several studies (baselines, assessments) in the Lower Mekong Basin, providing essential background information for proper adaptation planning. Major study reports include:
- Climate Change Analysis in the Lower Mekong Basin: Review of Availability of Observed Meteorological Data
- Report on the analysis of historical trends, variability and changes in hydroclimatic conditions for the LMB (based on data from the historical climate database)
- Future climate change scenarios for the Lower Mekong Basin under different GHG emission scenarios and following Global Climate Models (GCMs), using SimCLIM software
- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on the region’s hydrology (water level, flow and salinity intrusion)
- Database and catalogue of biological traits of 574 species, including 109 range maps for 6 taxa
- Four reports on the status of ecoregions in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam
- Basin-wide assessment report of the vulnerability of local species to climate change
- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on food security and adaptation options
- Basin-wide assessment report of climate change impacts on hydropower production
- Technical report on the basin-wide socio-economic conditions and vulnerability
- Basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on flooding behaviour
- Basin-wide assessment of climate change impacts on drought behaviour

Links with the scientific community were established through the local demonstration projects where in a number of cases local universities acted as main implementing partner. Findings from the demonstrated adaptation measures and lessons learned were compiled and published.

[10] MRC, 2014. Demonstration Project Series Nr. 1 “Results and lessons learnt from the first batch of local demonstration projects 2010-2013”.
[11] Idem as above.

COMMUNICATION MATERIALS:

- The CCAI Leaflet
- Lessons learned from pilots in the report: Results and Lessons Learnt from the first batch of Local Demonstration Projects 2010-2013
- Quotes and testimonials from farmer adaptation champions are included in the final report of the Local Demonstration Project in Thailand (1st Batch)



4.3. Opportunities for scaling up (future GCCA support activity)

With the CCAI, the EU has invested in the conduct of many comprehensive studies and, more general, in the generation of information and knowledge, which theoretically allow for a better and more sustainable management of the Lower Mekong Basin area. These studies, in combination with an extensive region-wide consultative process, have provided the basis for the formulation of the Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP). In addition, climate adaptation mainstreaming of regional MRC policies and strategies had been done. Currently, the MASAP is under implementation but the resources allocated to climate change activities remain limited and are insufficient to provide the Member countries with the support required to achieve the objectives of the MASAP. The EU has continued its support to the MRC through a contribution to the basket fund. A decision on the further continuation of this support is due soon. It should be noted that these basket fund contributions are in principle not earmarked for specific sectors or activities and that strengthening the MRC's capacity for climate action would require additional and dedicated financial resources.

With the drastic acceleration of development activities in the Mekong River Basin and the growing negative effects of climate change in that area, supporting reinforced climate action by the MRC Secretariat would be a highly strategic investment. The MRC is the only treaty-based institution in the region and is therefore in the best position to ensure consolidation and extended impact of the CCAI achievements. The current stock of project concept notes available at the MRC Secretariat could contain relevant ideas for future GCCA support.

In the short term, GCCA+ could consider providing technical assistance:

- To support the development of more climate-related project concept notes, and the further development of the concept notes into full project proposals; and
- To support MRC's accreditation process to the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund

Eventually, provision of funding or co-financing for selected projects could be considered.

4.4. Climate Finance – evidence of funding mobilised from public and/or private local sources

According to some sources, Thailand mobilised resources from its national budget to up-scale and replicate some of the activities that were tested under the demonstration projects. Unfortunately, it was not possible to get a confirmation and additional details from the TNMC.

V. Sources of Information

DOCUMENTS COLLECTED AND CONSULTED FOR THE DESK PHASE ANALYSIS:

- **Programming documents**
  - Action Fiche, 2011
  - Logical framework, 2011
  - CCAI Programme Document for the period 2011-2015, MRC, July 2011 (as attached to the Contribution Agreement)

- **Progress reports**
  - Annual Outcome Report (January – December 2015), MRC Secretariat, June 2016
  - CCAI Completion Report to the EU, 01 January 2011 - 30 June 2017, MRC, August 2018

- **Monitoring and Evaluation reports**
  - Final Evaluation of the Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (CCAI), AECOM, February 2018. (Service Contract 2017/386-287)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS COLLECTED AND CONSULTED DURING THE FIELD PHASE:

- **CCAI Demonstration project reports**
  - Final reports of all 9 local demonstration projects.
  - Results and lessons learnt from the first batch of local demonstration projects 2010-2013.
  - Demonstration Project Series Nr. 1. MRC, 2014.

- **MRC technical reports**
  - International experiences on the formulation and implementation of transboundary climate change adaptation strategies, 2014
  - Climate Change Analysis in the Lower Mekong Basin: Review of Availability of Observed Meteorological Data, 2014
  - Basin-Wide Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Hydropower Production, 2019
  - The Council Study: Key Messages from the Study on Sustainable Management and Development of the Mekong River Basin, including Impact of Mainstream Hydropower Projects, 2017
  - Enhancement of Basin-wide Flood Analysis and Additional Simulations under Climate Change for Impact Assessment and MASAP Preparation, July 2019
  - State of the Basin Report, 2019
  - Mekong River Basin Indicator Framework, June 2019

- **MRC policy documents**
  - Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action plan (MASAP), 2018

- **Internal documents and ad-hoc data collected for the study**
  - Basin Development Strategy for the Mekong River Basin 2021 – 2030, Complete Second Draft of Part I and First Draft of Part II (not public)
  - MRC Indicator Framework – Technical Document (not public)
  - MRC-IS Data Portal Access Statistics
  - Matrix of MRC Indicator Framework
  - Policy Brief - Climate Change and Basin Development - Dec 2019 (not public)

- Summary Report on the Joint Project for Transboundary Cooperation on Flood and Drought Management in the Cambodian-Thai Border Area.
- Minutes of the Regional Consultation Meeting on the Development of Transboundary Adaptation Projects, 18 November 2019, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Presentations on: MASAP Implementation; Operationalisation of CCAI's monitoring system; Project Idea Notes; Review of the MRC Indicator Framework Structure; Roadmap for MRC accreditation to as climate fund manager; MASAP mainstreaming at regional level: approach and progress; MASAP mainstreaming at national level: approach and progress.

♦ **Member countries policy documents**
- Plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, Vietnam
- Prime Minister Resolution 120 on Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Development of the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam, 2017
- The Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, 2014-2023

♦ **Publications related to CCAI**
- Case Story 2. Ensuring Food Security in the Lower Mekong Basin. Nguyen Dinh Cong.
- Examining Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia: The Case of the Lower Mekong River Basin. Margareth Sembiring, NTS Insight, Nr. IN 18-03, April 2018

RELEVANT WEBSITES:

- http://www.mrcmekong.org/
- http://portal.mrcmekong.org/interactive-climate-change-atlas
- http://www.mrcmekong.org/about-mrc/completion-of-strategic-cycle-2011-2015/climate-change-and-adaptation-initiative/climate-change/about-ccai/[12]

CONTACTS OF STAKEHOLDERS COLLECTED DURING THE DESK PHASE:

♦ **EUD to Thailand:**
- Mrs. Jenni Lundmark, Programme Officer, Jenni.LUNDMARK@eeas.europa.eu

♦ **Implementing partners and institutional beneficiaries[13]:**
- Dr. An Pith Hatda, CEO, MRCS
- Mr. Bounthieng, Director of Planning Division, MRCS
- Dr. Cong Nguyen Dinh, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist of Planning Division, MRCS, cong@mrcmekong.org.

PERSONS CONTACTED DURING THE FIELD PHASE:

♦ **MRC Secretariat, Vientiane, Lao PDR**
- Anoulak Kittikhoun, Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, Office of the CEO
- Boutieng Sanaxonh, Director, Planning Division
- Cong Nguyen Dinh, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, Planning Division
- Thim Ly, Chief River Basin Planner, Planning Division
- Ms. Chamaporn, Planning Division
- Soukaseum Phichit, Information System and Database Specialist, Technical Support Division
- Mr. Rattykorn, Technical Support Division

[12] Contains the final reports of the four local demonstration projects from the first batch
[13] Additional relevant contact persons can be found in the CCAI completion and CCAI final evaluation reports, though without providing the e-mail addresses.

- Benjamin Docker, International Consultant, Basin Management Strategy

- **GIZ**
  - Sopagna Set, Regional Technical Advisor, MRC-GIZ Programme

- **Cambodia**
  - Kol Vathana, Deputy Secretary General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)
  - Mr. Suos Bunthan, Director of the Department of Planning and International Cooperation, CNMC
  - Mr. Sin Samnang, Director of the Department of Human Resources Development and Staffing, CNMC
  - Mr. Am Phirum, Deputy Director the Department of Land Resources Management, General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
  - Yin Savuth, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)
  - Heng Chan Thoeun, National Council for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment (MoE)
  - Yem Dararath, Consultant for the Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)

- **Lao PDR**
  - Ignacio Oliver-Cruz, Attaché (cooperation), EU Delegation Lao PDR
  - Oudomsack Philavong, Deputy SG, Lao PDR National Mekong Committee (LNMC)
  - Phousavanh Fongkamdong, Head of Division, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)
  - Vorlachith Sisouvanthong, Department of Irrigation
  - Boummang Agmadcam, Deputy Head of Division, NRERI
  - Kamphoni Sivongxay, Head of Division, Department of Water Resources
  - Cahmseng Phongperchit, Deputy Director, ARCR/NAFRI
  - Sakovnsit Sengkhamyong, Technical Staff, DCC, MONRE
  - Kaviphane Phouthon, Director, LARRC
  - Sompnone Khamphanah, Deputy director of Division, LNMC
  - Tavanh Mittiphance, Deputy Head of Division, Department of Climate Change, MONRE
  - Oudone Khansavan, Deputy of Aquaculture Management Section, DLF
  - Vilakone MANIPHOUSAY, Climate Change Adaptation Division, Department of Climate Change, MONRE
  - Daovinh SOUPHONPHACDY, Deputy Director of Division, Department of Climate Change

- **Thailand**
  - Jenni Lundmark, Programme Officer, EU Delegation, Thailand
  - Ms.Puttikul Tongnuesook, National Focal Point, Technical Division, Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat (TNMCS)
  - Yanyong Inmuong, Professor at the Mahasarakham University

- **Viet Nam**
  - Cecile Leroy, Programme Manager, EU Delegation Viet Nam
  - Nguyen Dinh Dat, National Focal Point, Viet Nam National Mekong Committee
  - Nguyen Anh Duc, Deputy Director General (in charge of science and technology matters), Water Resources Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Note: In view of the challenges encountered in organising face to face interviews, a questionnaire was prepared to complement data collection. This questionnaire yielded 15 additional replies (9 on paper + 6 online through the online survey https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/GCCA-IA-Study-Asia; 12 from Lao PDR; 1 from Thailand; 1 from Cambodia; and 1 from Viet Nam). In Lao PDR, the higher response was due to the fact that a

paper questionnaire had been disseminated and completed at the end of a meeting with the NMRC and staff from relevant line ministries.

Annex to the report: Sustainability Analysis

NR	DESCRIPTION OF SYSTEM/SERVICE/PRODUCT TO BE SUSTAINED	SCORE	EVIDENCE	EXPLANATORY NOTES
1	The different databases (historical climate database, policy & strategy database, climate scenarios, adaptation projects database, biodiversity database) and studies that were developed with CCAI support, are still available at the MRC Secretariat and in the 4 LMB countries, regularly updated and effectively used	2	D/R	The databases and studies are still available at the MRC Secretariat and some are regularly updated (e.g. the historical climate database). There is clear evidence of their effective use by the MRC Secretariat. They are particularly used to inform the development of regional policies and strategies as well as sectoral studies. Availability and usage in the 4 countries was difficult to ascertain. Interviews confirmed that some studies and databases are being used by the member countries.
2	The Climate Change Atlas still available on the MRC Data Portal	2	D	The Climate Change Atlas is still online on the MRC Data Portal. Tracking of the numbers of visits to the atlas started in June 2019. Since then, there have been 614 views. Interviewees also confirmed that the Atlas is used by staff of several line agencies.
3	Agencies (public, civil society, private) are applying the methods and tools that were developed by the project to conduct trend, variation and frequency analyses of historical climate data and extremes and detecting changes	3	R	Interviewees confirmed the continued use of methods and tools in some cases. However, as highlighted in the final evaluation report, there are capacity barriers in the line agencies at national and sub-national level that limit their actual use.
4	Agencies (public, civil society, private) are using the methods and tools developed by the project to identify and prioritise adaptation options	2	R	Interviewees confirmed that in some cases the methods and tools were used. For example, they were used for NAP development in Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Cambodia.
5	Agencies (public, civil society, private) are using the methods and tools developed by the project to assess CC impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity	3	R	Interviewees confirmed the continued use of methods and tools in some cases.

6	Trainers that were trained in methods and tools for adaptation planning are still training other people and using the skills/knowledge acquired during the CCAI-supported training	3	U	The interviews provided indications that trainers are still using the knowledge acquired and still training other people, but there are no concrete data that can substantiate this statement. In most cases, the organisation of new trainings depends on the availability of external resources/projects. Often there is a preference to rely on external expertise.
7	Level of MASAP implementation	2	D/R	Considering the limited resources available, there is good progress in the implementation of the MASAP. Yet, there is no formal monitoring and reporting system in place for the implementation of the MASAP.
OUTPUTS RELATED TO THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS[14]				
8	Community ponds (2) in Cambodia still functional	5		
9	Extent to which the Provincial Adaptation Plan is implemented (Cambodia)	4	R	The plan was not implemented due to lack of resources.
10	The irrigation system in Lao PDR still functional	5		
11	Farmers in Lao PDR still growing the new flood-tolerant rice varieties	5		
12	Weir (170m) in Lao PDR still functional	5		
13	Stabilisation works to the riverbanks (310m) in Lao PDR well maintained and still functional	5		

[14] Data on outputs extracted from the demonstrator projects final reports. The NMRC focal points and other relevant line agencies were interviewed and specific questions were asked regarding the sustainability and replication of specific outputs, but they did not have any detailed information.

14	Extent to which the 2 Provincial Climate Change Action Plans are implemented (Viet Nam)	5		
15	Extent to which the Communal Climate Change Action Plan is implemented (Viet Nam)	5		
16	CropWat model still in use in the provincial and district offices in Thailand	5		
17	Local climate change champions still active in demonstrating adaptation measures (Thailand)	5		
18	Telemetering system still functional (Thailand)	5		

This **Impact and Sustainability Assessment of addressing ecosystem challenges through support to the Mekong River Commission's Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative (CCAI)** (2011/023-089) is one of the 22 case studies that were conducted to feed into the overall **EU GCCA/EU GCCA+ Impact and Sustainability Study**.

This case study report provides a summary list of outputs delivered, a detailed analysis of ex-post impact and sustainability levels as well as additional information on the project's M&E practices, on the available knowledge and communication products, on scaling-up opportunities and on ex-post climate finance mobilised from local public and private sources.

All reports are available on www.gcca.eu/resources

THE ALLIANCE FOR A CHANGING WORLD

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (EU GCCA+) is a European Union flagship initiative helping most vulnerable countries respond to climate change. It started in 2007 and has become a major climate initiative with over 80 programmes in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Pacific region.

Join our community

https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/gcca-community

www.gcca.eu

#GCCAPlus #EUClimateAction #EUGreenDeal

GCCA+

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE

Funded by the European Union