



BASIN VISION TO 2040 AND RESULTS CHAIN TO 2030

THE 9TH MRC REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM

DAY 2: PREPARATION OF BASIN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2021-2030 AND MRC STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025

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Basin Development Pathways (BDS Chapter 5)

Considering the strategic needs and responses in BDS Chapter 4, the Basin Development Pathways set out:

- sustainable development opportunities (covered in the preceding presentation)
- **a results chain directed at achieving the shared Mekong River Basin Vision to 2040**

Shared Basin Vision to 2040

***An Economically Prosperous, Socially Just, Environmentally Sound
[and Climate Resilient] Mekong River Basin***

Narrative of the Mekong River Basin Vision to 2040 (BDS Section 5.1)

- The Vision is a shared long-term aspiration for the future; it is enduring
- The draft is based on MRC Member Country inputs and the content of the SDGs
- The purpose of the narrative is to support a common understanding of what the Vision means by 2040:
 - It reflects the importance of the Vision in support of peace, security and societal well-being, and the equal importance of each dimension of the Vision
- **The Vision and the follow-on results chain are structured around the five dimensions of the Mekong River Basin Indicator Framework (MRB-IF):**
 - Four dimensions are reflected in the Vision itself – Environment, Social, Economic, and Climate change
 - The fifth dimension, Cooperation, underpins the achievement of the Vision in the other four dimensions

BDS results chain to 2030 (BDS Section 5.3 to 5.5)

In each of the 5 dimensions of the MRB-IF (environment, social, economic, climate change, and cooperation) the results chain comprises:

- **The SDGs** with targets that are most directly relevant to regional water resources management and development in the Mekong River Basin
- **Strategic Priorities** directing BDS Outcomes and Outputs towards improving the Mekong State of Basin and contribute to the SDGs
- **Outcomes** describing the resulting end state that the basin countries would like to see by 2030:
 - They are aligned with the Strategic Indicators of the State of Basin Report and MRB-IF, and their achievement will be evaluated using the Assessment Indicators of the MRB-IF
- **Outputs describing** the immediate results and deliverables necessary for producing one of the Outcomes through an impact pathway
 - Each Output will be produced by one or more actors implementing one or more activities

The five Strategic Priorities

- **Environment:** Maintain the ecological function of the Mekong River System
- **Social:** Enable inclusive utilisation of the basin's water and water-related resources
- **Economic:** Enhance sustainable development by increasing regional benefits and decreasing regional costs
- **Climate change:** Ensure water security by mitigating mainstream floods and droughts
- **Cooperation:** Strengthen cooperation among all basin countries and stakeholders

All Strategic Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs are described in the BDS so that there is no confusion of what is meant

BDS results chain elements: Refer to handout with description of the draft Vision and results chain

| Results chain | Environment | Social | Economic | Climate change | Cooperation |
|---------------------------|---|--------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| Vision to 2040 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Relevant SGGs | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Outcomes to 2030 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Outputs to 2025 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Activities to 2025 | In the strategic plans and workplans of MRC and other organizations, initiatives and programmes | | | | |

Many elements of the results-chain are inter-dependent or related to other elements, as can be expected in basin-wide IWRM

For example:

- The limits of acceptable change for key river and connected wetland habitats (Environment Output 1.3.1) will inform the assessment of basin-wide alternative development scenarios under the proactive regional planning approach (Economic Output 3.1.1)
- The results of the regional proactive planning approach (Economic Output 3.1.1) will inform the activities under various Outputs of the results chain:
 - Economic Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.2.1 to 3.2.5
 - Climate Change Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.2.1
 - Environment outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1

The cooperation between MRC and MLC Water is important to achieve 14 of the 33 Outputs, including

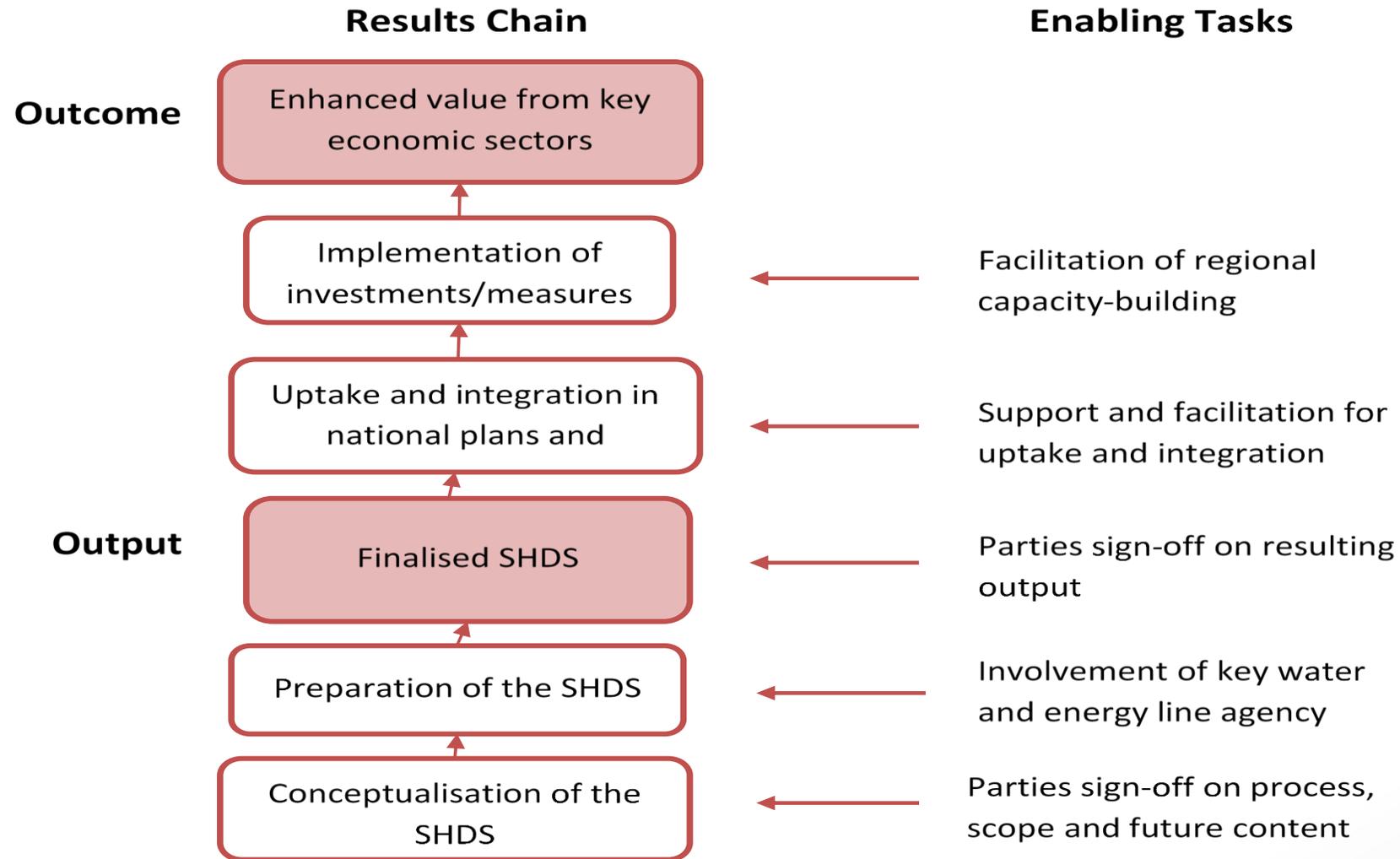
- 1.1.1: Water flow conditions in the mainstream managed within agreed limits
- 1.2.1: Basin-wide sediment management plan developed and implemented
- 3.1.1: National plans are informed by the findings of a proactive regional planning approach
- 4.1.1: Significant joint projects and national projects of basin-wide significance to adapt to climate change by reducing the impacts of flood and drought, identified and assessed
- 4.1.2: Coordinated reservoir operations for flood and drought mitigation
- 4.2.2: Integrated basin-wide early warning and emergency response system implemented
- 5.1.1: Consensus on the future institutional arrangements for basin management
- 5.3.4: Harmonised basin-wide stakeholder platform

Some of these Outputs are common to the BDS and the Action Plan of MLC Water

Impact pathways

- One of the key recommendations of the 2018 MRC MTR is to build **'Uptake' into the workplan** with activities and tasks:
 - since many of the MRC products (strategies, assessments, guidelines) are not (sufficiently) considered or used in national governance, decision-making and planning processes
- The BDS 2021-2030 identifies impact pathways for each Output. The impact pathways will be incorporated as an 'enabling task' in the MRC Strategic Plan and multi-year workplans
- In particular, the first step of the impact pathway – the sign off by national implementing agencies on an informative concept note – is often forgotten, which makes the relevance and uptake uncertain from the start
- The next slide gives an example of an impact pathway

Impact pathway example for development of a Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy (SHDS)



Introduction to parallel discussion

- Three groups:
 - Environment dimension and Climate change dimension
 - Social dimension and Economic dimension
 - Cooperation dimension
- Ninety minutes for discussion. Each group receives a handout with guiding questions
- Report back to plenary after lunch

Thank you

