

MEKONG BASIN
(THAILAND, LAO PDR, CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM)

Enhancing hydrological knowledge and more effectively managing resources and risks

AFD and FFEM are supporting the creation of a hydrometric measurement network in the Lower Mekong Basin (Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam).

CLIMACTION

Adaptation and water



KEY INDICATORS

GDP PER CAPITA
USD 2,586 (average for the 4 countries)

HDI
121/187 (average for the 4 countries)

POPULATION
70M

BACKGROUND

The Mekong Basin (China, Burma, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam) feeds 80 million inhabitants via fishing and agriculture.

Economic and population growth, the resulting increase in energy demand (hydropower), and climate change give cause for concern in terms of the consequences on biodiversity, fishing and coastal erosion.

Since 1995, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) has been promoting cooperation between riparian countries of the Lower Mekong for a sustainable management of the waters of the river. The aim of one of its work programs is to improve and share knowledge of the river.

Indeed, access to reliable information on the state and evolution of water resources (surface water and groundwater, quantity and quality) will play a major role in the socioeconomic development of the countries.

THE PROJECT

The Mekong-HYCOS (Hydrological Cycle Observation System) project, developed with support from the World Meteorological Organization, aims to improve knowledge of the hydrological regime of the Lower Mekong Basin and the associated management of resources and risks.

AFD and FFEM have contributed to the implementation of a reliable system to collect and transmit hydrometeorological data in real time in order to forecast flood risks. The dissemination of hydrological information to users and the national treatment and data archiving systems have been improved.

The capacities of member countries in terms of the related subjects have been strengthened in order to ensure that the exploitation of the system will be sustainable over the long term. Improved decision-making concerning the main hydropower facilities will make it possible to meet electricity demand, while preserving the ecosystem balance of the river.

- Financial tool: **grant**
- Amount committed: **EUR 1.5M (AFD) + EUR 1M (FFEM)**
- Beneficiary: **Mekong River Commission**
- Date granted: **2005**
- Project status: **complete**

IMPACT

- **32 stations built and 17 improved for flood risk prevention.**
- **Sustainable development of the basin and development of water resources.**
- **Enhanced cooperation between countries in the region and water issues addressed.**

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