

Pre-Summit International Conference

2c) Strategic studies to support hydropower planning in LMB as to optimize hydropower development opportunities and minimize uncertainty and risks associated with them

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The MRC's Initiative for Sustainable Hydropower (ISH)

ISH supports the MRC Basin Development Strategy through two mutually supportive objectives:

1. Decisions concerning the management and development of hydropower in the Lower Mekong by applying IWRM principles.
2. MRC and key stakeholders actively cooperate to bring sustainable hydropower considerations into their planning systems and regulatory frameworks

Planning and management framework



ISH01: Identification of ecologically sensitive sub-basins for tributary development

- Easy to apply framework for decision making
- Identification of ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs)

Planned and existing hydropower



Mitigation measures to decrease impacts



Activities to protect and conserve ESAs



Economically feasible alternatives



Multi-criteria decision making tool



ISH02: Development of guidelines on the multi-purpose evaluation of hydropower projects

- Valuation of the assessed socio-economic and environmental costs and benefits

Direct costs and benefits: power, irrigation, fisheries, recreation, flood control. Resettlement and mitigation costs.

External costs and benefits: Environmental and social impacts

Indirect costs and benefits: Development impacts including regional and macroeconomic impacts

Informing sustainable hydropower planning



ISH11: Improved environmental and socio-economic baselines

- Guiding Framework for MRC Basin-Scale Information for Hydropower Planning and Management
- New improvement proposals have been identified addressing the disciplines below:

Fisheries



Aquatic ecology



Water quality



Socio-economics



Sediment



Hydrology



Sharing the benefits of hydropower



ISH13: Benefit sharing options for hydropower on Mekong tributaries

- Comparison of benefit sharing mechanisms (BSM) in the Mekong with international ‘best practice’
- **ISH13 Guidance Package** and **12 step process** to evaluate National to local (NTL) and transboundary (TB) mechanisms
- Regional BSM workshop in April 2014 to finalise **Draft Regional Synthesis** and **National Discussion** papers

Rapid Basin-wide Assessment Tool (RSAT)



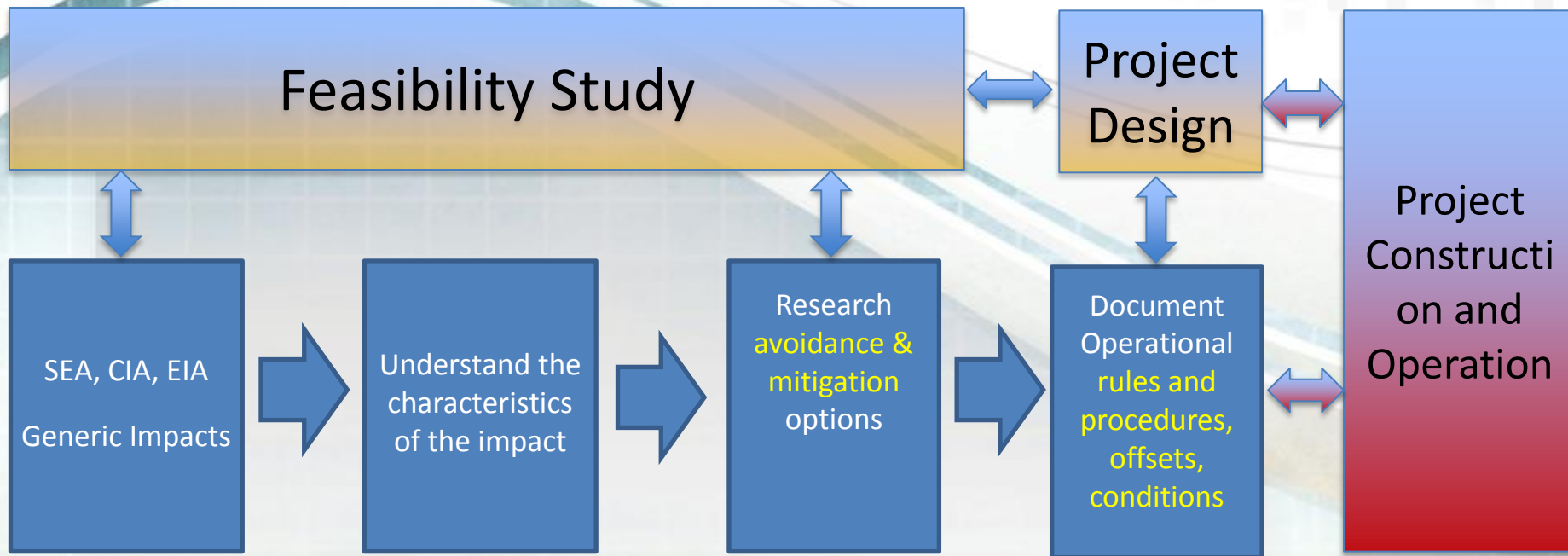
- Topic 1** Institutional setting
- Topic 2** Options assessment, siting and design
- Topic 3** Financial and economic viability of hydropower
- Topic 4** Equitable sharing of hydropower costs and benefits
- Topic 5** Social issues and stakeholder consultation
- Topic 6** Environmental management and ecosystem integrity
- Topic 7** Flows and reservoir management
- Topic 8** Erosion, sediment transport and geomorphological impacts
- Topic 9** Management of fisheries resources
- Topic 10** Dam and community safety



Mitigation Options and Design Guidance

- ISH0306: Development of relevant measures and guidelines for hydropower impact mitigation and risk management in the Lower Mekong mainstream and tributaries
- Implementation: July 2014 to December 2015
 - Incorporates RSAT, ISH01, 02, 11 and 13
 - Update the Preliminary Design Guidance and the knowledge base on mitigation options
 - Links to Vietnamese Delta Study will be explored

Where does Mitigation Fit in to the Project Cycle?



Thank you!

