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**ONE MEKONG | ONE SPIRIT**

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# **IMPORTANCE OF JOINT ENVIRONMENT MONITORING AND TRANS-BOUNDARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE MEKONG BASIN**

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# BACKGROUND (1)



CÁC ĐẬP THUY ĐIỆN TRÊN DÒNG CHÍNH MÊKÔNG



(Ghi chú: Đánh giá chỉ thực hiện cho 11 đập từ Sambor lên đến Pak Beng)

- ❑ Mekong River Basin offers development opportunities for all countries, but at the same time, the development will potentially pose negative impacts on the environment (MRC BDS).
- ❑ 1995 Mekong Agreement (MA) requires to make every effort to avoid, minimise and mitigate harmful effects.... from the development and use of the Mekong River Basin water resources....

## BACKGROUND (2)



- ❑ To fulfill the requirements of 1995 MA, **information on trans-boundary environment impacts (TbEI) of the water development projects is required.**
- ❑ However:
  1. National EIA does not require TbEA
  2. PNPCA does not explicitly indicate the requirement of TbEIA
  3. To date, no Guidelines on TbEIA exist
- ❑ As results:
  1. No TbEA were conducted for Xayaboury and Don Sahong HPPs, so there were a difficulties to conclude the consultation process (PNPCA).
  2. TbEIA was available for Pak Beng HPP, but was prepared by the developer independently without involvement of potentially impacted countries.



***Development of the MRC TbEIA Technical Guidelines is urgently needed to support and reinforce the implementation of the PNPCA.***

## BACKGROUND (3)

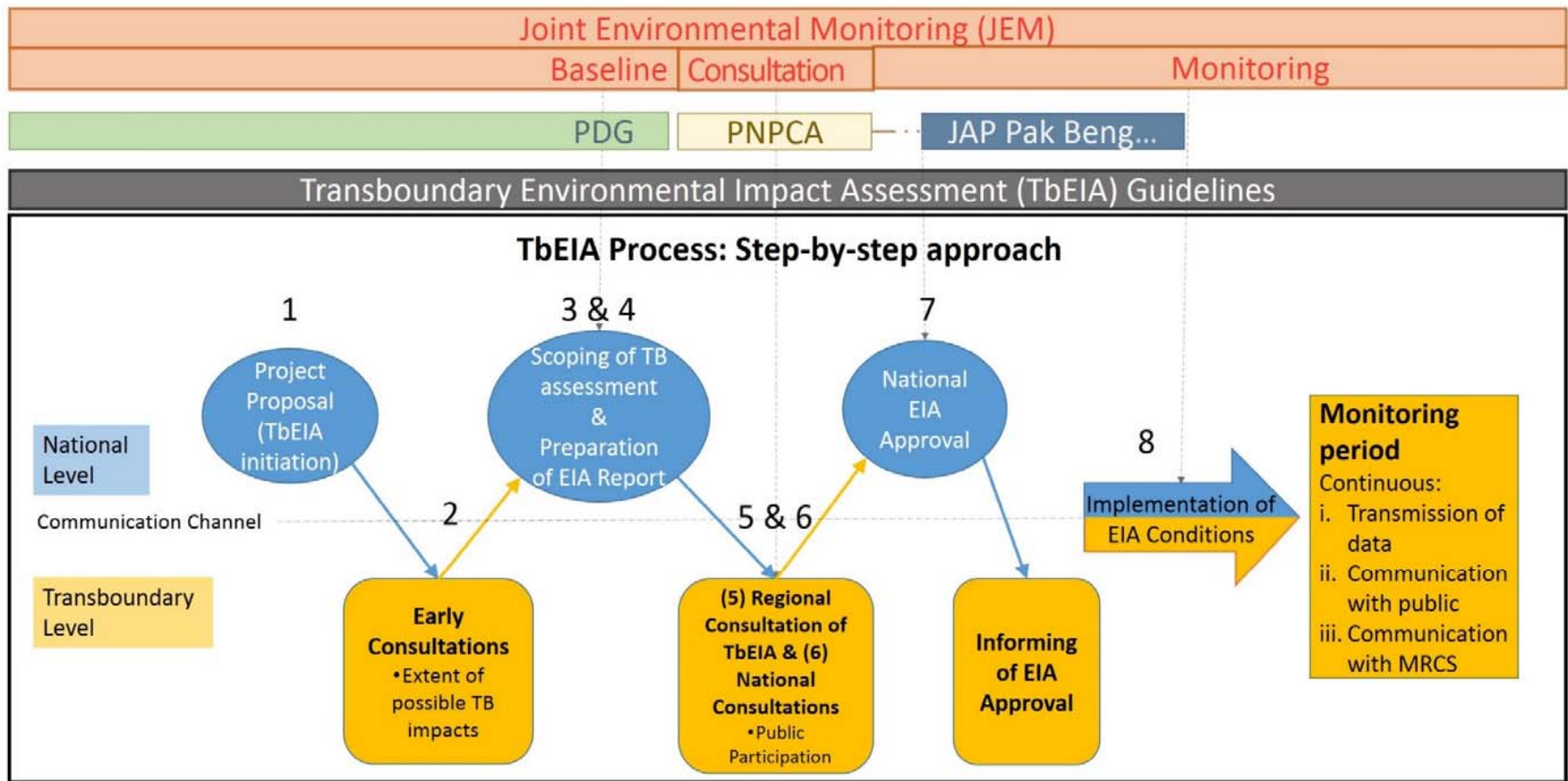


❑ Magnitudes of the TbEI estimated during the planning stages are often different from those happened during the operation period.



❑ *So, there is a need to develop joint environmental monitoring (JEM) of the adverse impacts of the projects during construction and operation periods.*

# TbEIA PROCESS IN RELATION WITH OTHER PROCESSES



Timeline for Project Development with possible transboundary impacts and Implementation

# IMPORTANCE OF TBEIA ND JEM



1. Involve all countries and relevant stakeholders since beginning (planning, design, construction and operation).
2. More opportunities for developers to collect more data and information.
3. Build trust and strengthen the cooperation among the countries.
4. Reduce efforts to implement the PNPCA and more chance to get consensus.
5. Along with EIA information, the results of TbEIA will be supplemented as valuable inputs for decision making process.



**All these will ensure the sustainable development of the Mekong river basin.**

# PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MRC TbEIA TGs



- ❑ **2002:** Official development of TbEIA Technical Guidelines (Framework, Technical Guidance and Institutional Support) was started.
- ❑ **2006:** Draft TbEIA Framework for Mekong was completed.
- ❑ **2009-2011:** Two pilot studies on bank erosion in Bokeo (Lao PDR) and in Chiang Rai (Thailand) were conducted to test and revise the Framework.
- ❑ **2011:** Development of Technical Guidance and Institutional Support was initiated.
- ❑ **2015-2018:** A pilot study (Sesan River between Cambodia and Viet Nam) was agreed by the Member Countries to verify the Technical Guidance.



# PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MRC JEM



- ❑ **July 2016:** Proposal on establishment of the joint monitoring programme for the Mekong mainstream hydropower projects initiated and finalized on **October 2017**.
- ❑ **2018:** Design of the Joint Monitoring Programme.
- ❑ **2019-2020:** Implementation of the pilot project for Xayaboury and Don Sahong HHPs with financial support from the German Government.





**THANK YOU!**