Applying Environmental Flows in the Mekong Region: Opportunities and Challenges

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Applying E Flow in the Mekong Region: Challenges and opportunities

- IBFM
- Songkram River Basin, Thailand
- Huang River Basin, Vietnam

Different conceptual foundations and eflow approaches

Background, methodologies, lesson learnt, challenges, politics
Integrated Basin Flow Management

- 2003-2007
- E Flow is minimum flow/maintenance of flow
- supporting IWRM and basin development plan
- Multidisciplinary
- River zone & hydrological analysis
IBFM

• Assess water resources development scenarios

• **What will happen to the river flow, biophysical condition of the river and people livelihood in each scenario?**

• River changes and livelihood impacts

• Too green too complex

• Not understood by decision makers and stakeholders outside the MRC

• Engage stakeholders in the beginning

• Integrate e flow into water resource decision making
Songkram River Basin

Huang River Basin
E-Flow in the Songkhram River Basin, Thailand

- 2005-2007 IUCN
- Use e flow for negotiation acceptable flows between competing users
- Interdisciplinary
- Intermediate EFA and dialogue
- Robust and participatory
- Challenges
E-Flows in the Huong River Basin, Vietnam

- VN: include e flow in national policies
- Entire river flows to one province
- In 2003-2004 IUCN+IWMI
- IWRM strategy: Huong River Projects Management Board (HRPMB), IWMI, IUCN and local government
- Rapid E-flows assessment
- Challenges:
Key messages: Opportunities and Challenges

- E-Flows should not be seen as a one-size fits all approach: context specific, culturally embedded
- Attentive to lessons from past experiences
- Integrating various stakeholders and their knowledge
- Engage river dependent communities in scenarios assessment right in the beginning
- Outcome of e flow exercise is integrated into water resource/river basin planning
Look for us! 30 Nov 2011

Book Chapter-Accepted for publication

Politics and Development in a Transboundary Watershed: The Case of the Lower Mekong Basin
Öjendal, Joakim; Hansson, Stina; Hellberg, Sofie (Eds.)

Negotiating Flows in the Mekong
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What next?

- E flow in context of Mekong mainstream dam, possible dream?

- Translating complex concept into crucial process that enable people to participate effectively is necessary, how?
Translation of “Flow” to Mekong language

E flow translation in six languages; Chinese, Burmese, Thai, Lao, Khmer, Vietnamese

Source: Kate Lazarus (MPOWER)