



World Water Forum 5th 2008

Summary of Contribution

Session 3.1.4: Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation:
Efficient and Sound Cooperation: Operational Tools.

Mekong River Basin Transboundary Waters Management: Innovative Tools for Collaborative Decision-making

Regional cooperation is central to effective operations of the Mekong River Commission (MRC). One goal of the MRC Strategy is to “develop dispute resolution and compromise mechanisms such as co-management, public participation, stakeholder involvement, and institution building.” As a result, in partnership with the MRC, the USAID Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia) project is working to develop tools for addressing transboundary issues through collaborative decision-making.

Tools and mechanisms include: (1) an inventory of potential transboundary issues; (2) pilot mechanisms for mobilizing stakeholders to address potential issues via collaborative decision-making; and (3) capacity tools to expand to a range of issues across the watershed. MRC developed the inventory through consensus of all member countries, and is piloting a mechanism for collaborative decision-making. Capacity tools include a comprehensive training program and a glossary of conflict management terms and definitions.