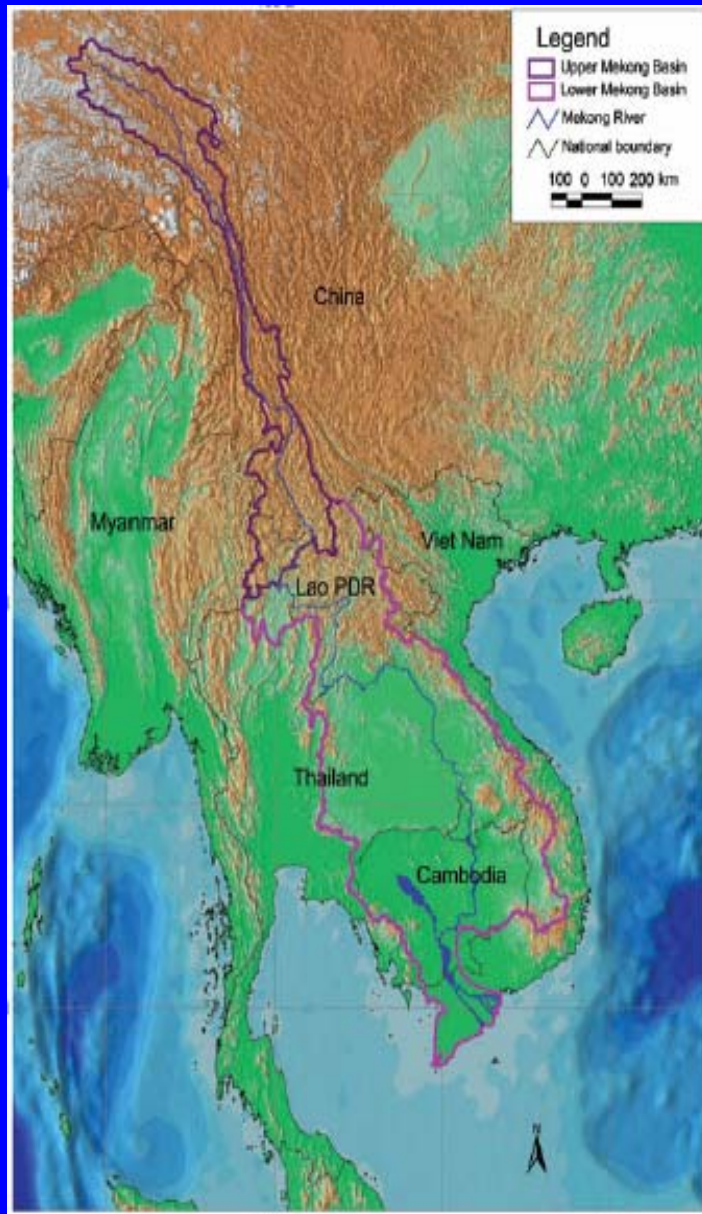


**INTEGRATED WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF
THE 1995 MEKONG AGREEMENT**

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CONCEPT OF BASIN

- **By Helsinki Rules:** a geographical area determined by the watershed limits of the system of water flowing into a common terminus (including surface and underground waters).
- **The basin is not a closed system and interacts continuously with atmosphere and the receiving waters.**
- **In the Mekong basin:**
 - + not quite clear limits in the Delta
 - + uses and users transcend basin boundary...

IWRM in the (lower) Mekong Basin:

- **During MC period (1957-1975): Indicative Basin Plan (IBP)**
- **During IMC period (1978-1992): Revision of IBP (Perspective of the Mekong Development)**
- **Current MRC: BDP with IWRM**



Advantages of and challenges to IWRM in the Mekong basin



ADVANTAGES:

❖ Political commitments by riparian countries:

- The 1995 Mekong Agreement & Mekong spirit,
- Other initiatives/frameworks (GMS, Mekong-ASEAN, Mekong-Gange, ACMECS, MDG...)
- E.g: from the 2nd GMS Summit Declaration:
“...The environment conservation and sustainable management, and the common use of natural resources in the Mekong river basin is a vital issue to the sustainable development of the sub-region. We determine to protect the natural environment and commit to reasonably use the natural resources. We reaffirm...”

❖ Many important achievements through various programmes of the MRC (BDP, WUP, EP,)

❖ Interests and supports by donor community



CHALLENGES:

❖ Externally:

- The 1995 Agreement is for the Mekong basin but the MRC does not consist of all riparian states.**
- 18 % of total water runoff is subject to uses of non-MRC members and there is a lot of upstream developments**
- Some competition or overlapping between MRC and others.**



❖ Internally:

- Interpretation of the Agreement provisions.
- National versus basin-wide projects
- Different levels of national legislation relating to waters
- National standards, criteria versus common MRC ones...



Suggestion:

The Mekong car equipped with both strong engine and effective safe system

Inside the MRC:

-BDP as a backbone/engine to move forwards the Basin vision

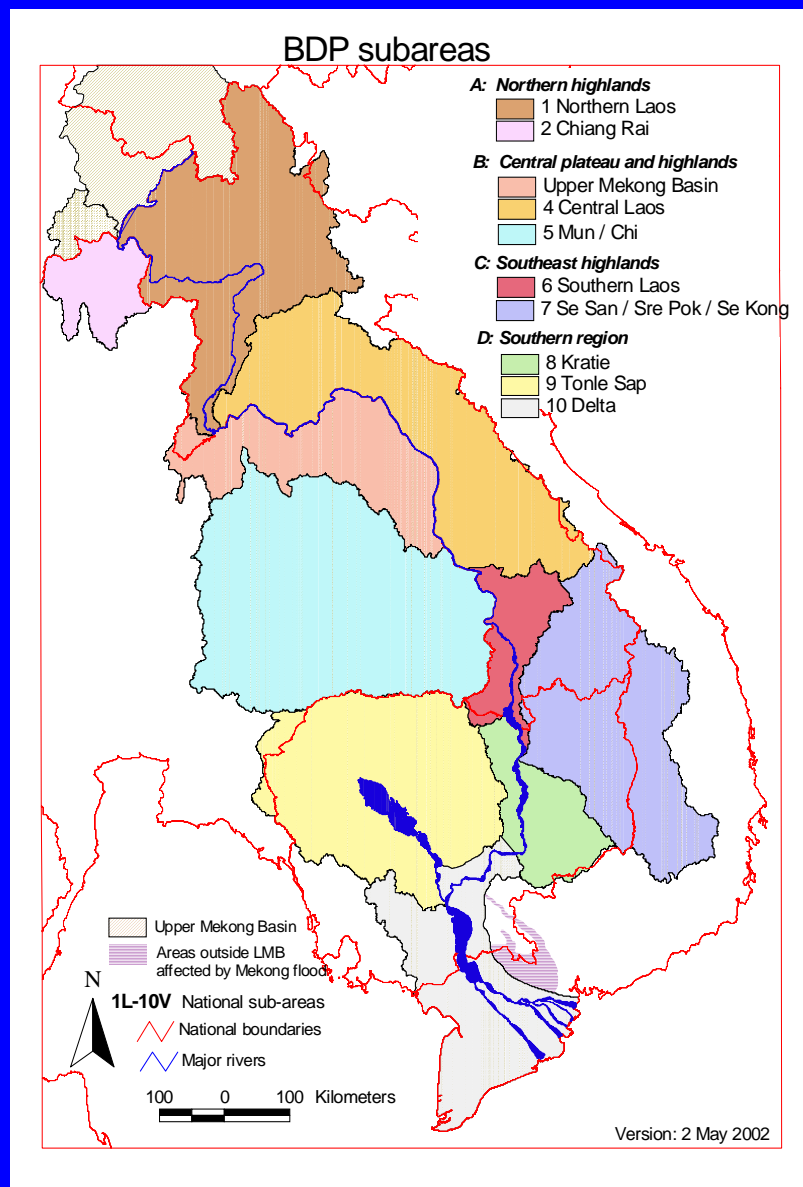
-Various rules/procedures/guidelines as a safe system for achieving the sustainability





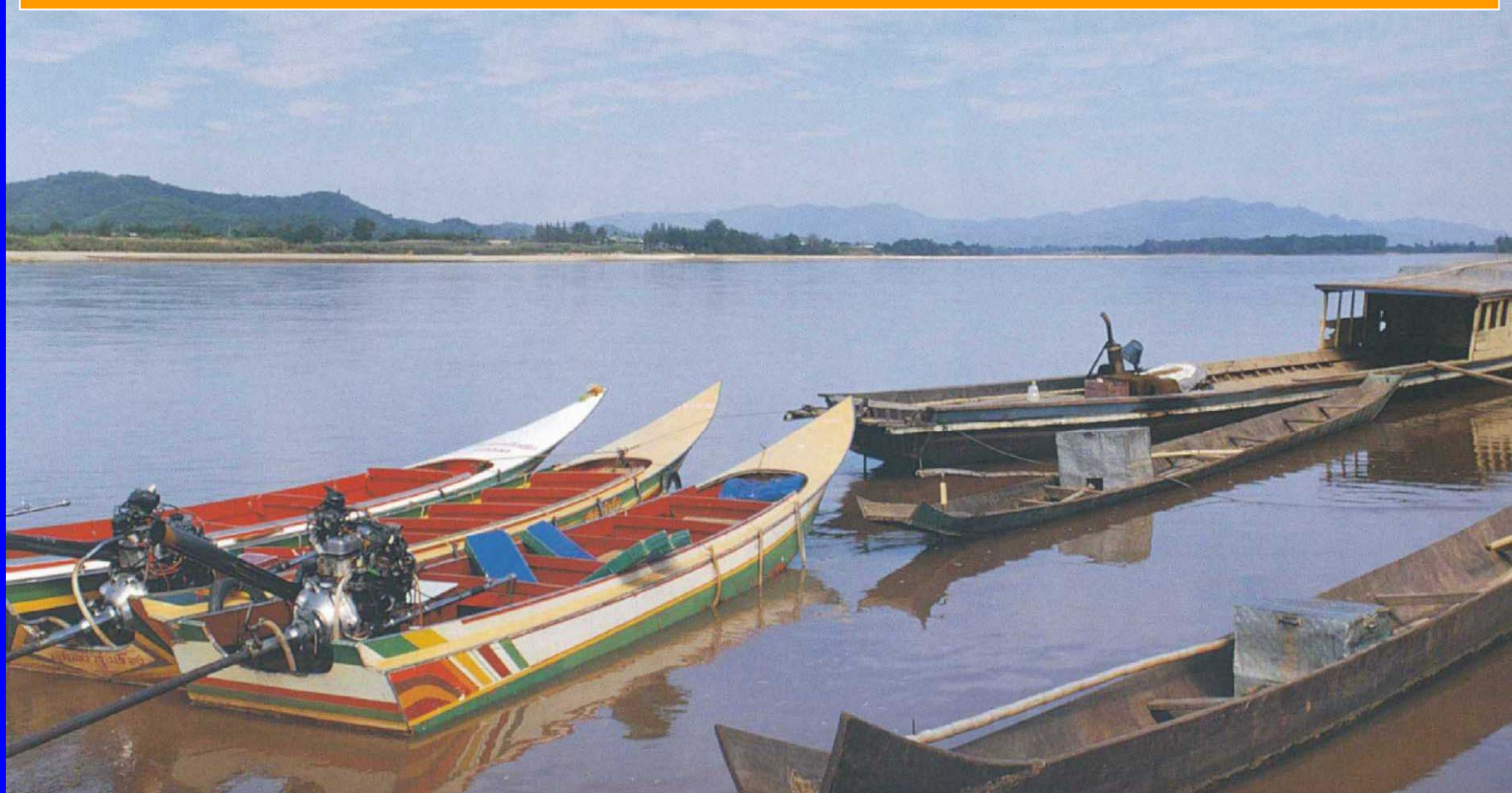
These call for:

- **more cooperation and enforcement/observation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement**



- effectively application of IWRM (including basin-wide and not basin-wide activities and their interrelations) among MRC member states (sectoral, cross-sectoral management, public participation and expertise) .
- well coordination between MRC programmes and others.

- more cooperation with upper Mekong states for maintaining better inflows (including good quality) entering the lower basin.



An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta, showing a complex network of water channels and islands. The landscape is lush green, and numerous pink blossoms, possibly cherry blossoms, are scattered across the land. The entire image is framed by a thick blue border.

Involvement of donor community



**Thank you
for your
attention**