

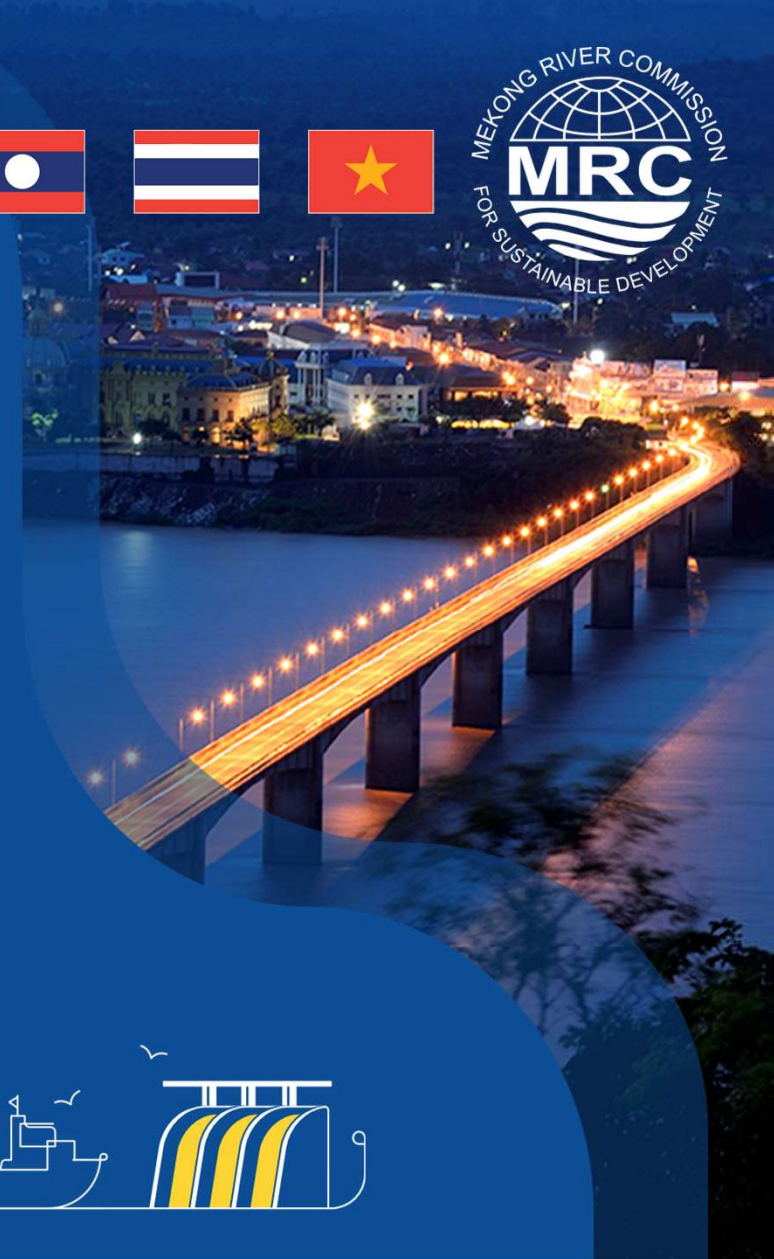
13th INBO World Basin Summit
15-19 June 2026, Rio, Brazil



BIODIVERSITY Healthy waters, resilient basins: bringing consistency to water and biodiversity policies

H.E. Ms. Busadee Santipitaks

Chief Executive Officer of Mekong River
Commission Secretariat (MRCS)



Healthy Waters, Resilient Basins: Integrating Water and Biodiversity Policies

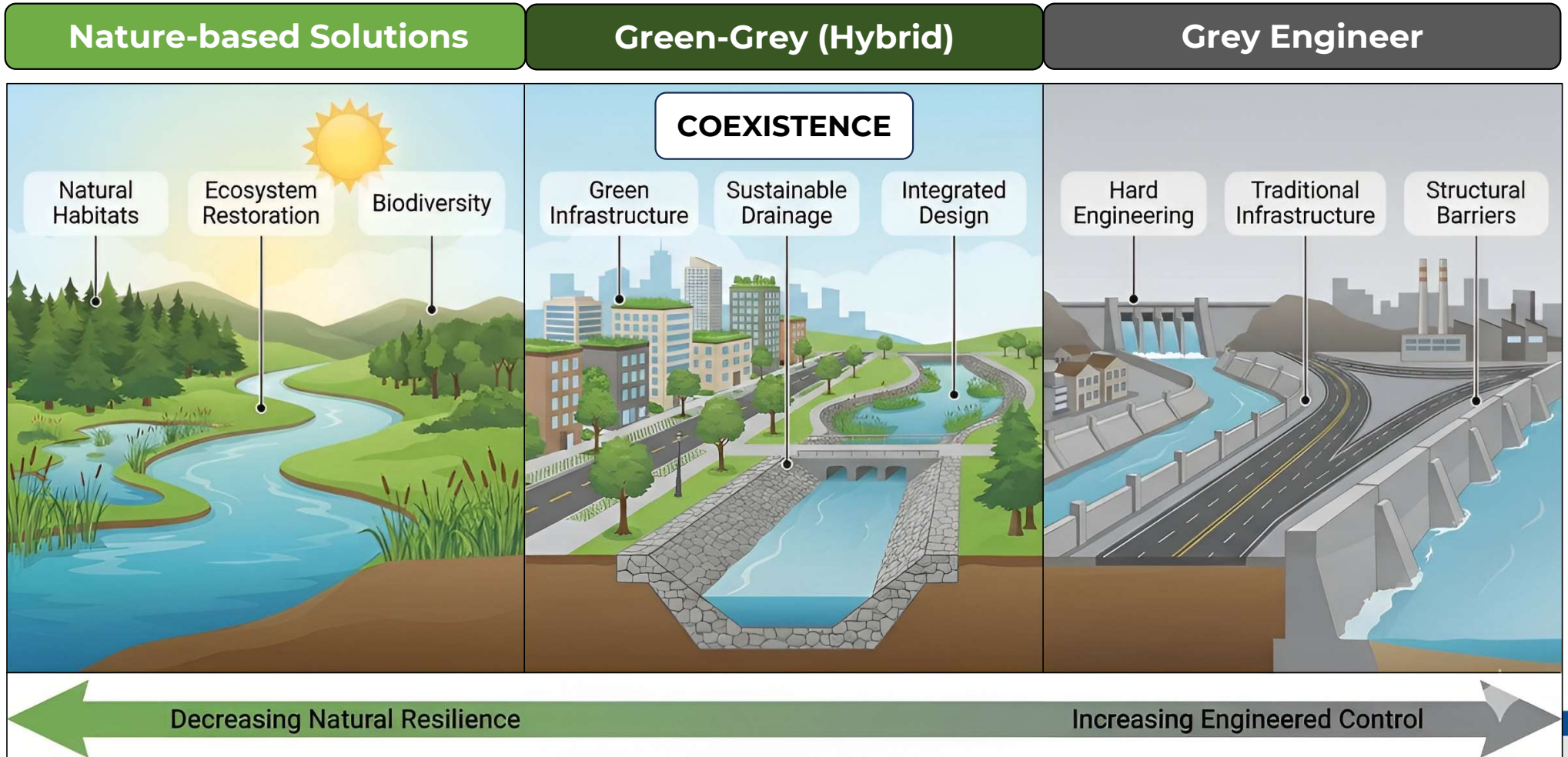


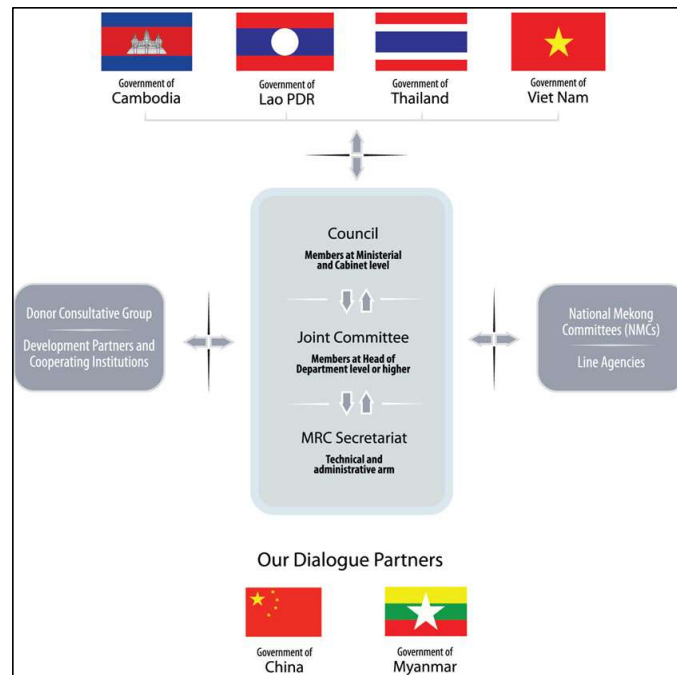
Fig 1. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Spectrum: from from fully green to hybrid to fully grey solutions
[Source:: *Water Engineering Insights*]

Transboundary Nature-Based Solutions for a Resilient Mekong Basin

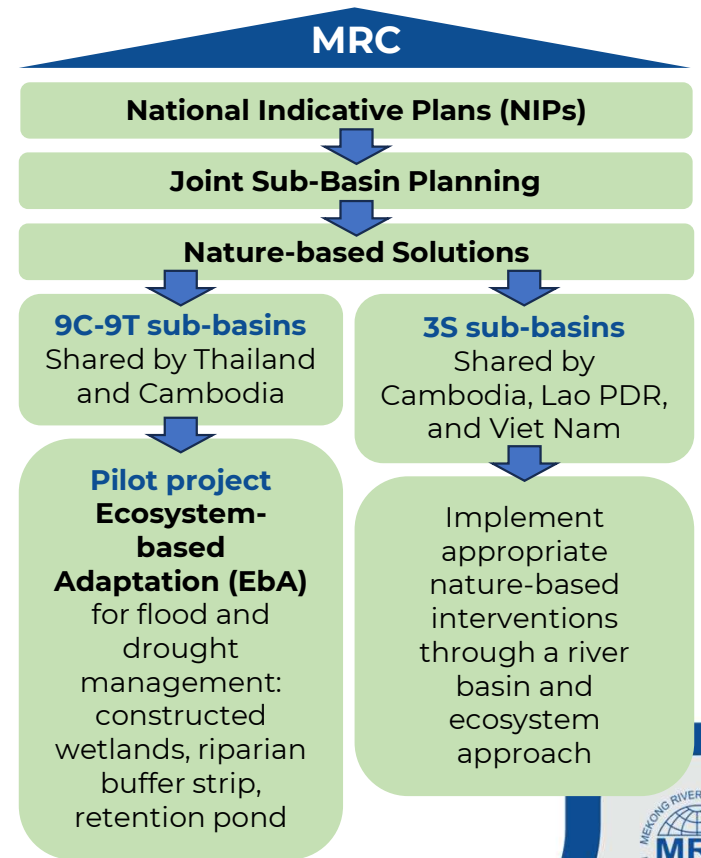
Lower Mekong Region



Mekong River Commission (MRC) Governance Structure



In the Lower Mekong Basin, we are translating these global lessons into transboundary reality



The 9C-9T transboundary sub-basin of the Mekong River shared by Cambodia and Thailand: <https://9c9t.mrcmekong.org/>





9C-9T PROJECT

A Model for Transboundary Cooperation for Water Security, Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

9C-9T SUB-BASIN: THAILAND – CAMBODIA

The 9C-9T Project, led by the Mekong River Commission, helps Thailand and Cambodia manage shared water resources, reduce flood and drought risks, and restore ecosystems for a sustainable and resilient future.



THE CHALLENGES WE FACE TOGETHER

- FLOODS**
Severe and increasing floods affect communities, infrastructure, and agriculture.
- DROUGHTS**
More frequent and intense droughts threaten water supply, livelihoods, and food security.
- CLIMATE CHANGE**
Rising temperatures and variable rainfall increase risks and uncertainties.
- ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION**
Loss of wetlands, forests and aquatic habitats reduces biodiversity and natural buffering capacity.

OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH

JOINT PLANNING & COOPERATION
Thailand and Cambodia work together through the MRC platform for shared planning and decision-making.

DATA & KNOWLEDGE SHARING
Shared hydrological data, basin atlas, climate and risk assessments, and decision-support tools inform better policies.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
Restoring wetlands, forests and rivers enhances water security, biodiversity and climate resilience.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
Communities, local authorities, civil society and partners co-create and implement solutions on the ground.

FLOOD & DROUGHT MANAGEMENT
Flood and Drought Master Plan improves early warning, water allocation, and risk preparedness.

INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT
People - Water - Nature
Resilience - Cooperation

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

- WETLAND RESTORATION**
Enhances flood storage, improves water quality and supports biodiversity.
- FOREST REHABILITATION**
Protects watersheds, reduces erosion and helps maintain river flows.
- RIVERBANK STABILIZATION**
Reduces erosion, protects communities and infrastructure.
- SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**
Strengthens resilience and promotes sustainable development.

RESULTS FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Reduced flood and drought risks
- Improved water security
- Healthier ecosystems and biodiversity
- Stronger climate resilience
- Better livelihoods and cooperation across borders



A LOCAL SOLUTION WITH GLOBAL RELEVANCE

The 9C-9T Project supports global goals and frameworks through integrated water, biodiversity and climate action.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND

UN WATER CONFERENCE 2026



MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

3S BASIN INITIATIVE

Sekong – Srepok – Sesan Basin

Transboundary Cooperation for Water Security, Biodiversity and Climate Resilience

The 3S Basin Initiative is a flagship program of the Mekong River Commission that promotes joint management of the Sekong, Srepok and Sesan river basins shared by Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam.



A SHARED BASIN

The 3S Basin is formed by three major rivers:

- Sekong River** – rises in Viet Nam and flows through Lao PDR and Cambodia
- Srepok River** – rises in Viet Nam and flows through Cambodia and Viet Nam
- Sesan River** – flows through Cambodia and into Viet Nam

These rivers connect ecosystems, support livelihoods and provide essential water resources across borders.

CHALLENGES WE FACE TOGETHER

- FLOODS & DROUGHTS**
Increasing climate variability causes severe floods, prolonged droughts and water uncertainty.
- ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION**
Deforestation, wetland loss, sand mining and pollution threaten ecosystems and biodiversity.
- WATER RESOURCE PRESSURES**
More demand for water, upstream developments and land use changes impact water availability and quality.
- LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITIES**
Communities are vulnerable to climate risks that affect agriculture, fisheries and food security.

OUR INTEGRATED APPROACH

The 3S Initiative brings countries and partners together to plan, share data, build resilience and protect our shared resources.



RESULTS FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

- IMPROVED WATER SECURITY**
Better information and planning help reduce the impacts of floods and droughts and ensure more reliable water for people and nature.
- HEALTHIER ECOSYSTEMS**
Conservation and restoration activities help protect habitats, fish migration and biodiversity.
- STRONGER LIVELIHOODS**
More resilient communities benefit from sustainable agriculture, fisheries, tourism and natural resources.
- STRONGER TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION**
Trust, dialogue and joint action create lasting benefits for current and future generations.

A LOCAL SOLUTION WITH GLOBAL RELEVANCE

The 3S Basin Initiative contributes to global goals and frameworks:



OUR PARTNERS





Thank you

