

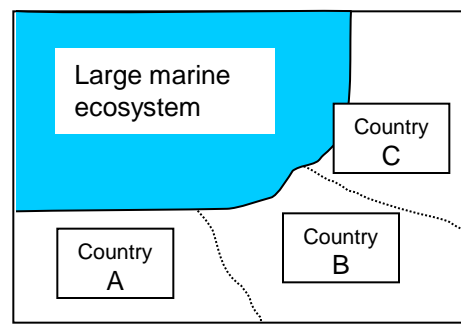
# Building Trust and Space :Regional Perspective on Upper Lower Riparian

Ganesh Pangare,  
Coordinator, Regional Water and Wetlands Program, IUCN,  
Asia

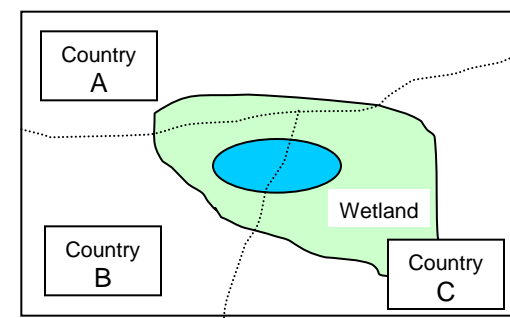


# EXAMPLES OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

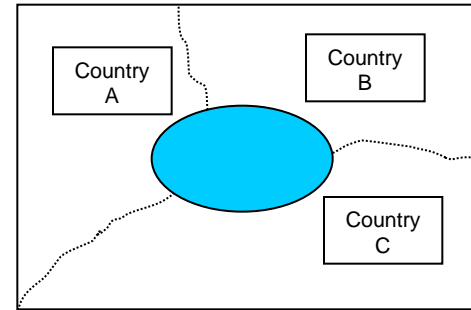
### Marine



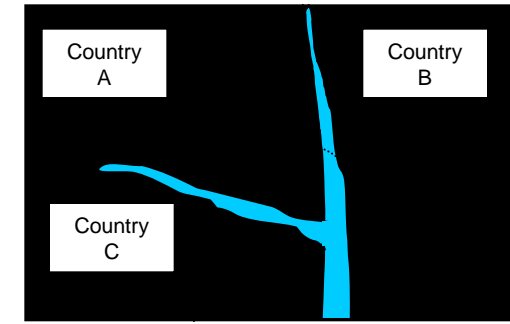
### Wetland



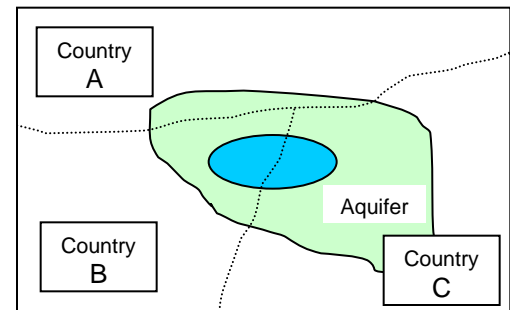
### Lake



### River



### Aquifer





# INTERNATIONAL RIVERS PROVIDE 60% OF THE WORLD'S FRESHWATER FLOWS

- 260 International River Basins in the world
- Cover half the earth's surface
- Home to 40% of the global population

## **Nations need to develop these shared resources**

- Demand from increasing populations and economic growth
- Needs for drinking water, agriculture, energy, industrial production
- Risks of overuse, ecosystem degradation and conflict



# Issues in River Basin Management in Asia

- Water scarcity
- Water quality
- Fragmented sector-based management of water resources
- Under performance of assets
- Important to implement reforms at all levels: local, basin, national and transboundary
- Increase water governance capacity
- Incorporate the needs of ecosystems in water governance, to benefit both people and nature.
- Improve environmental flows



## Emerging Issues

- Meeting Rising Demands
- Managing Disaster Risk
- Reducing Water Pollution
- Increasing Water Efficiencies
- Improving Basin Governance
- Managing Water-Food-Energy Nexus
- Ensuring Equity
- Supporting Human livelihoods
- Adapting to Climate Change
- Restoring Healthy Rivers
- Conserving Biodiversity
- Managing Water Allocation
- Sharing Benefits
- Reducing Conflicts





# STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN THE NILE BASIN



## Nile Basin Discourse – network of civil society organisations

- Independent from, but with formal access to influence NBI
- Umbrella for national CS organisations in each basin country
- Brings the voices of primary and secondary stakeholders to NBI

- Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) – 10 States cooperative action for equitable use of and benefit from common Nile Basin water resources
- Wide range of stakeholders – policy and decision makers, small businesses, farmers, fishers, religious and youth groups involved at regional programme level and individual project level



# INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF THE SENEGAL RIVER

- Senegal River Basin Development Organisation established by Mali, Mauritania and Senegal in 1972
- Built and operates multi-purpose dams with agreed formula for sharing costs and benefits

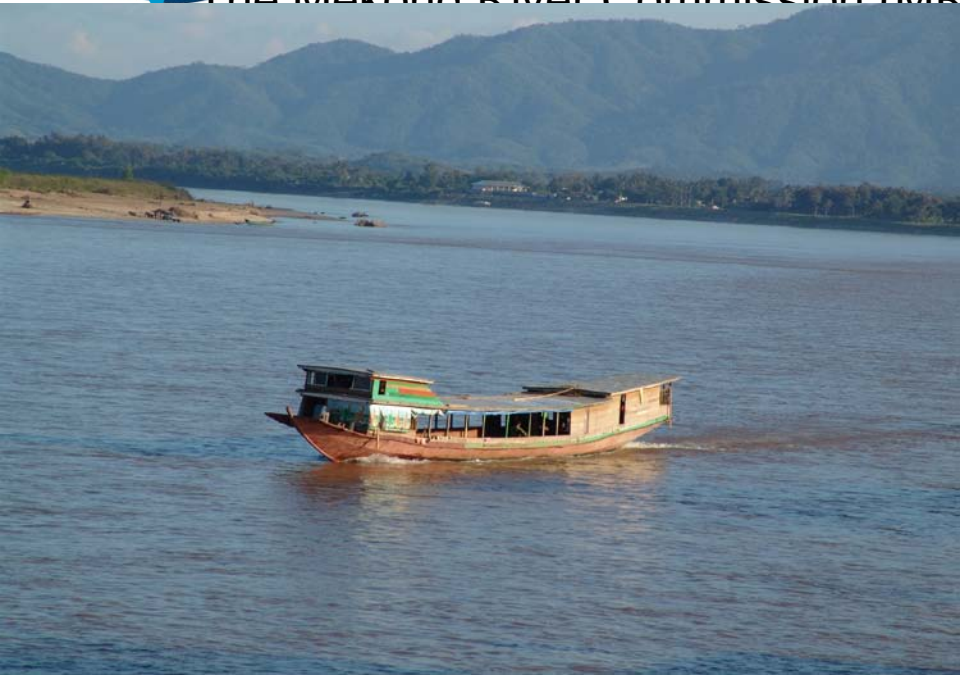
## Water Charter adopted in 2002

- Dam operations must guarantee baseline environmental flows
- Water releases from Manatali Dam must mimic annual flood pulse to meet needs of downstream floodplain agriculture and ecosystems





# Mekong River Commission (MRC)



The Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established in 1995 by an agreement between the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

*for the Sustainable Development of the Basin* as the four countries saw a common need to manage their shared water resources and developing

MRC mandate is

- *"to cooperate in all fields of sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin"*.





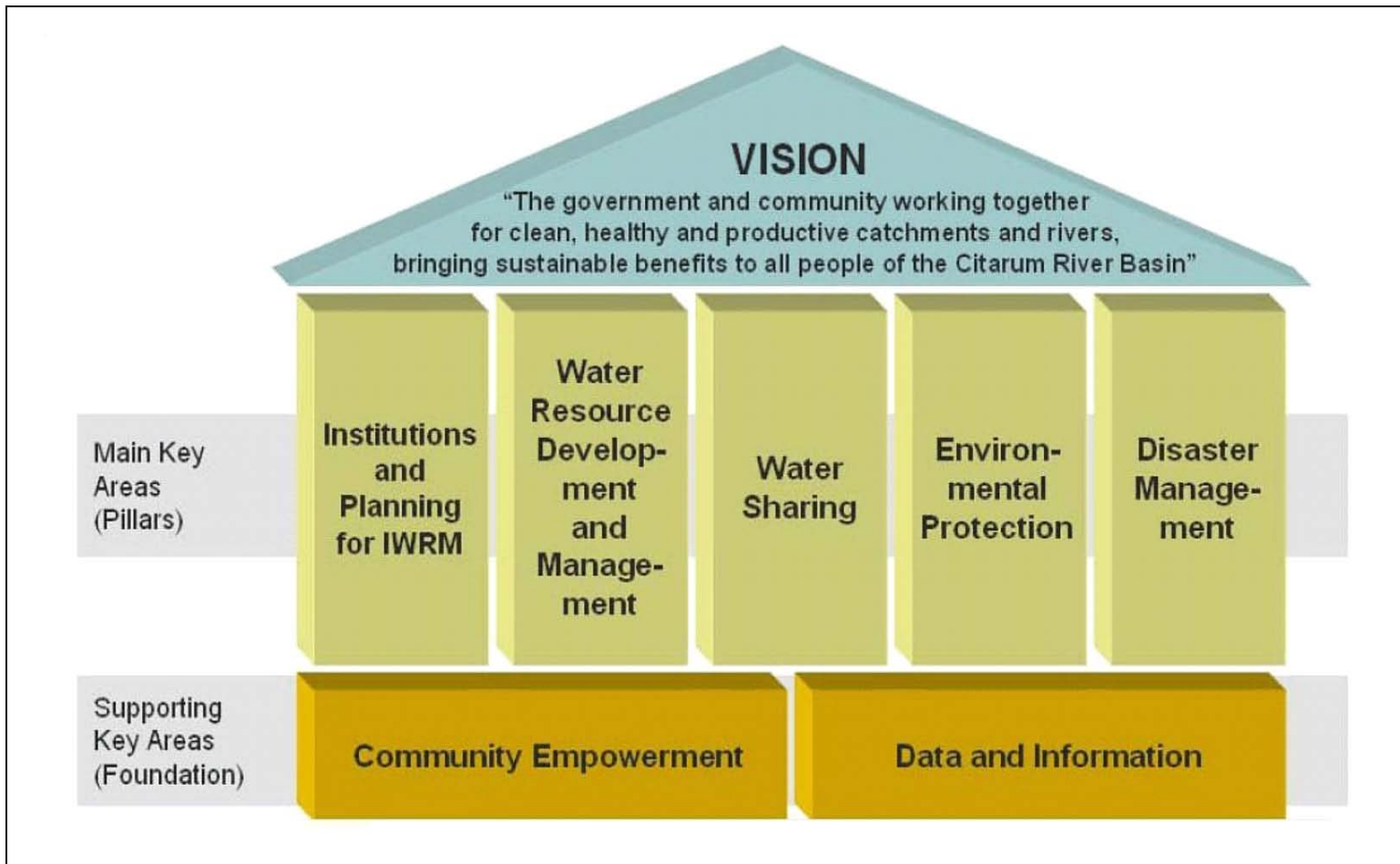
## The MRC is also involved in:

- fisheries management
- promotion of safe navigation
- irrigated agriculture,
- watershed management
- environment monitoring
- flood management and
- exploring hydropower options





# Structure of a river basin development roadmap (ADB)





## Multi-stakeholder Dialogues as a tool for Transboundary Water Governance and Cooperation

- Increases the participation of water users in decision making,
- Build consensus on how to manage water resources to achieve sustainable development goals.
- Mobilize stakeholders and build partnerships to facilitate a common understanding of issues and solutions
- Address issues of policy, law, strategy and technology at national, trans-boundary (bi-lateral) and regional (multi-lateral) level.
- Provide science-based and reasonable policy recommendations for bridging gaps between policy makers and grass root issues.
- Create opportunities for stakeholders to discuss, share and exchange their perspectives at national and regional level and identify water governance issues.



# Mekong Region Water Dialogues

**Improved awareness and participation of stakeholders in water-related decision-making processes for sustainable livelihood security, human and ecosystem health**





# ECOSYSTEMS FOR LIFE: A BANGLADESH-INDIA INITIATIVE



## Project Facts

**Project Duration**  
2010 to 2014

**Budget : USD 6,817,134**

ARO : USD 831,265

Bangladesh : USD 3,533,147

India : USD 2,452,726

## Support

Minister for Development Cooperation  
The Kingdom of The Netherlands



## PROJECT RATIONALE

*IUCN intends to promote a better understanding of the water regimes in Bangladesh and India to address food, livelihood, biodiversity and climate change concerns.*



## THEMES

- Food security, water productivity and poverty
- Impacts of climate change
- Inland navigation
- Environmental security
- Biodiversity Conservation





# WATERWEALTH

INVESTING IN BASIN MANAGEMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC



INTERNATIONAL UNION





**WATERWEALTH**, a new book, highlights how people work together to secure water for all through innovative approaches in basins\* across the Asia-Pacific



\*Basin area is defined as the catchment belonging to rivers, lake, wetlands, groundwater, coastal areas.



## Challenges and opportunities

- Find opportunity for collaboration
- Find equitable solutions
- Identify best alternatives for all countries
- Harmonise short term and long term plans for development
- Implement IWRM
- Engage in cross-border research, monitoring and exchange of data
- Share infra-structure and jointly finance development
- Coordinate across sectors and interest groups on different scales and different levels
- Set up, manage and strengthen River Basin Organisations





## River Basin Organizations can be

- Negotiation platforms (for example between countries or states of a same federation);
- Basin development agencies (in charge of overall planning, construction, and management);
- Regulatory or management bodies (water-sharing, data collection, master plan, registration of users and granting of licenses, sectoral allocation plans...);
- Stakeholder forums (forum for negotiation, access to information, confrontation of viewpoints, conflict-resolution, etc).



**Finally.....**

- To create opportunities for trust building and collaboration
- To promote science based apolitical public perception regarding riparian issues
- To facilitate civil society dialogue amongst the relevant countries for a balanced approach towards river basin issues
- To set up knowledge exchange mechanisms among the riparian countries



Rustam



WE LOOK TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE...



.....our children

**THANK YOU!**