



# Lower Mekong Initiative: Environment and Water Pillar

June 2013

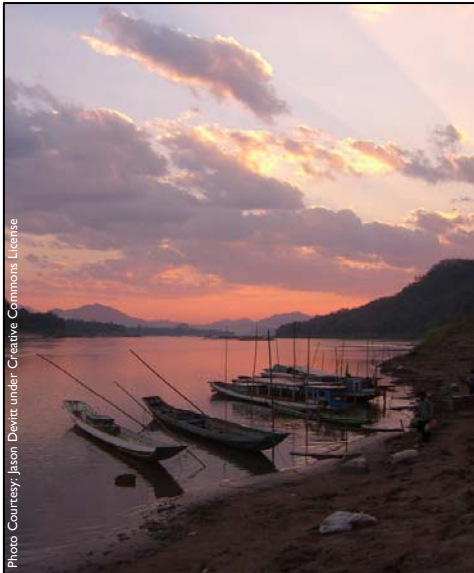


Photo Courtesy: Jason Devitz under Creative Commons License

The banks of the Mekong River at sunset

***The LMI Environment and Water Pillar supports transnational policies and programs designed to improve the management of water and natural resources in the Lower Mekong sub-region***

**Contact: LMI Coordination Hub**

Athenee Tower, 63 Wireless Road  
Bangkok 10330 Thailand  
Office: +66-2-257-3367  
Fax: +66-2-257-3099  
E-mail: [lmihub@gmail.com](mailto:lmihub@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.lowermekong.org/](http://www.lowermekong.org/)  
Twitter: @LMI\_Hub

## BACKGROUND

The Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) is a multinational effort to foster integrated sub-regional cooperation and capacity building among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Under the LMI Environment and Water Pillar, the United States is working with the LMI partner countries to develop a regional approach to sustainable environmental management and strengthen capacity to manage shared water resources. The pillar is co-chaired by Vietnam and the United States.

## APPROACH

The LMI Environment and Water Pillar promotes dialogue and information exchange between LMI partner countries to encourage policies and programs that support the sound management of natural resources, with an emphasis on cross-cutting and transnational issues through:

1. **Disaster Risk Reduction:** understanding and mitigating the risks associated with water-related extreme events;
2. **Water Security:** increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation and improving the productivity of water (for food and energy) in a reliable and sustainable manner.
3. **Natural Resources Conservation and Management:** maintaining the integrity of ecosystem services and sustainable economic growth.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities under the LMI Environment and Water Pillar promote sustainable and equitable economic development in a manner that protects environmental goods and services. Examples include:

- Lower Mekong Disaster Management Workshop: A series of annual workshops that develop the collective capabilities of Lower Mekong Initiative partner countries to respond to disasters through dialogue, information exchanges, and training activities.
- The Mekong Partnership for the Environment (MPE) is a multi-year collaboration with LMI partner countries to advance innovations and international standards in infrastructure development to mitigate environmental and social impacts of major investments.
- Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST): This five-year USAID program that combats illegal wildlife trafficking in Asia by reducing consumer demand, strengthening law enforcement capacities, and strengthening regional cooperation and anti-trafficking networks, including the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network.