



Conference on Regional Cooperation and Integration

Experiences in Asia and the Pacific

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Papers and Presentations

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BIMP-EAGA
East ASEAN Growth Area



CAREC
Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation



IMT-gt
Indonesia - Malaysia - Thailand
Growth Triangle



SASEC
South Asian Sub-Economic Corridor







Ensuring Environmentally Sustainable GMS Development

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Greater Mekong Subregion: Development Context

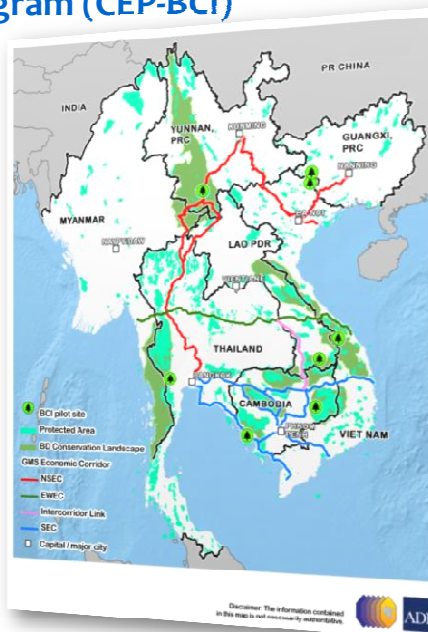
1. 5-8% GDP growth needed to halve poverty by 2015
2. Subregional infrastructural connectivity
3. \$20 - \$30 billion in productive sector investments planned
4. Two thirds of population derive livelihood from ANR sectors
5. Persistent pockets of poverty in rural areas
6. Maintaining and restoring ecosystem services critical for ensuring performance, productivity and sustainability of investments

GMS Cooperation in Environment and Natural Resource Management: Timeline

- 1995-2000: Development of Environmental Monitoring/ Information System, Training (**UNEP, Norway, Finland**)
- 1998-2002: Cooperation in the management of shared resources such as wetlands and watersheds (**Finland**)
- 1998-2005: Development of the Strategic Environment Framework (SEF) for the GMS (**Switzerland, UNEP, GEF, IGES/NIES**)
- 2005-2012: GMS Core Environment Program/ Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI) (**Netherlands, Finland, Sweden**)

GMS Core Environment Program (CEP-BCI)

1. **Vision:** poverty free and ecologically rich GMS
2. **Objective:** Enhanced capacity for environmental planning and management, focus on GMS economic corridors/priority biodiversity landscapes
3. **Structure:**
 - Strategic environmental assessments (SEA)
 - Biodiversity conservation corridors (BCI)
 - Environmental performance assessment (EPA)
 - Capacity Strengthening
 - Deploying innovative financial instruments (e.g. PES)



Impacts and Achievements (1)

The program's major achievements to date include:

- Testing, implementation and capacity development for environmental and social planning tools:
 - 5 SEAs energy, tourism, land-use planning; application of decision support tools e.g. multi-criteria analysis (SMCA);
 - Implementation of national Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA)
- Integration of SEA results into national socio-economic development plans
- Uptake and partnership with other GMS working groups and ADB sectors



Impacts and Achievements (1)

- The BCI flagship component has been successful in
 - Institutionalizing benefit sharing
 - Establishing landscape based integrated ecosystem management
 - Piloted national policy interventions: biodiversity corridor regulatory regimes
- BCI approaches are now being scaled up through three country technical assistance programs in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam under the Biodiversity Conservation Corridor (BCC) Investment Program.

Beneficiaries (households covered)	28,367
Number of villages/ communes covered	164
Area under BCI corridors (ha)	1,294,936
Area under strict protection in BCI landscapes (ha)	2,000,000
Average values of forest ecosystem services (US\$/ha/year)	\$5,136
Area reforested/ enriched (ha)	3,722
Amount disbursed to local communities/ development funds (US\$)	\$337,399
Total no. of local committees/development funds established	181
Improved land tenure rights (ha)	32,265
Participants in capacity building events	7,057

Climate Change

Intended Impact: Integrate climate change considerations into development processes in the GMS

Key Outcomes:

- Climate change impact assessment tools were applied and monitoring capacity built
- Innovative climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches were tested/piloted



GMS SF 2012-2022 – Environment embedded:

Sector	Sector Outcome	Environmental dimension	Overall Impacts
Corridor Dev/Trade	Increased trade Cross border investments	Promoting environmentally-friendly products (standards and labelling), improved env planning, green cities	Continued economic growth
Transport	Improving connectivity	Low carbon transport, Env. safeguards compliance	
Energy	Enhance energy access	Low carbon, demand side management, renewable energy	
Telecom	Access to information	Environmental monitoring and information exchange	Reduced poverty
Tourism	Increased sust. tourism	Eco-tourism, environmental safeguards and planning	Reduced GHG emissions
Agriculture	Increased sust. agriculture	Organic agriculture/certification, land-use planning, biofuels	Integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity maintained
Environment CEP-BCI	Sust. env. management	Biodiversity conservation (PA mngmnt); recognition of ecosystem services (conservation landscapes); innovative financing, policy, capacity, institutions	
Human Res. Dev	Migration/ skilled labour	Green jobs	

CEP-BCI 2012-16 – Four Components

1. Environmental planning systems, methods, and safeguards improved
2. Management of transboundary biodiversity conservation landscapes and local livelihoods improved
3. Climate-resilient and low-carbon strategies developed
4. Institutions and financing for sustainable environmental management improved

International Conference on GMS 2020:

Balancing Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability (Bangkok, 20-21 Feb. 2012)

Aims:

- (i) to benchmark economic growth (2001-2012), its impact on inclusive development and its effect on environment;
- (ii) to serve as forum for dialogue on environmental impact scenarios, and constructive dialogue among GMS countries

Scope:

- (i) Map trends to 2020, focus on food, water, energy security
- (ii) Identify climate change, degradation challenges
- (iii) Identify development challenges, opportunities
- (iv) Recommend measures to GMS stakeholders

International Conference on GMS 2020:

Major Findings & Recommendations

Issues:

- (i) **Energy:** Continued hydropower development, revisit energy planning approaches, coordinate with water mgmt., promoting EE/RE
- (ii) **Land, Water, Climate Change (CC):** water resource benefit sharing, drought risk mgmt., lack of research, governance fragmentation
- (iii) **Food Security:** low productivity, lack of rural investments, markets/ public spending do not benefit poor, diets and food safety, water mgmt.

International Conference on GMS 2020:

Major Findings & Recommendations

Suggested Actions (for GMS SF/ CEP-BCI II implementation):

- (i) **Energy:** improve energy planning, energy project assessment
- (ii) **Land, Water, CC:** monitoring programs, more CDM, improve policy and governance, institutions and research
- (iii) **Food Security:** productivity enhancement, CC adaptation and devt., efficient water use, expand markets in ecosystem services