

Strategic Options	About the options	Regional	National
Option 1: Not to proceed	All impacts totally avoided but opportunity for tapping mainstream power for Laos and Cambodia forgone	Support Laos and Cambodia to diversify alternative energy sources and economic development alternatives	Withdrawal of Vietnamese investment in building mainstream dams
Option 2: Defer decision...	to fill the information gaps to set up institutions to build capacity	Studies and analysis to fill gaps or reduce uncertainties relating to key strategic issues Institutional innovation at regional level Laws, regulations and procedures, including scope of impacts and who is responsible for implementing & monitoring avoidance & mitigation measures Project specific EIAs More focused SEAs? Regional communications program Agreements on standardised monitoring indicators such as water quality	Studies and analysis to fill gaps or reduce uncertainties relating to key strategic issues Institutional innovation at national and delta level Laws, regulations and procedures, including scope of impacts and who is responsible for implementing & monitoring avoidance & mitigation measures
Option 3: Proceed on a phased basis	This option doesn't mean less impact than option 4 This option also includes a deferment	Ranking of projects in terms of feasibility and impacts Regional and national decisions on phasing and groups of individual projects MRC prior notification and consultation procedures MRC hydropower guidelines Institutional innovation at regional level Capacity building program Communication program Transboundary agreement on monitoring indicators and grievance procedures Establish rules under which projects will be developed and operated Prepare a model of the operation of mainstream dams that can represent, in hourly detail, the operation of the plants with different configurations of projects in place Require all interested parties in development of projects to apply the model under the guidelines of flow modification to determine the performance of their respective projects	Monitor impacts Set up institutions to carry out mitigation measures Capacity building Secure compensation payments from developers for mitigation measures (see list of potential impacts) Shift the economy of the Mekong Delta away from Agriculture and Fisheries Develop food supply sources in other part of the countries to ensure food security Plan to cope with social impacts if migration away from the delta is necessary To secure a long-term power purchase agreement at prices lower than those of energy supply alternatives such as oil-based electricity within the country (\$70/MWh) Make sure that there are no unilateral suspension of energy deliveries resulting from domestic shortages in the exporting country. (In 2001 Argentina suspended gas deliveries contracted by Chile to mitigate public outcry during an energy crisis. Chile, which had become highly reliant on Argentine gas is still recuperating from the shock and the relations between the two countries were severely strained)
Option 4: Proceed with rapid development of all 12		similar to option 3, except ranking	Shift the economy of the Mekong Delta away from Agriculture and Fisheries Develop food supply sources in other part of the countries to ensure food security Strengthen and build capacities of institutions, knowledge, and skills to identify and carry out specific mitigation measures New institution arrangements to carry out mitigation measures Secure compensation payments from developers for mitigation measures (see list of potential impacts) Plan to cope with social impacts if migration away from the delta is necessary To secure a long-term power purchase agreement at prices lower than those of energy supply alternatives such as oil-based electricity within the country (\$70/MWh) Make sure that there are no unilateral suspension of energy deliveries resulting from domestic shortages in the exporting country. (In 2001 Argentina suspended gas deliveries contracted by Chile to mitigate public outcry during an energy crisis. Chile, which had become highly reliant on Argentine gas is still recuperating from the shock and the relations between the two countries were severely strained)