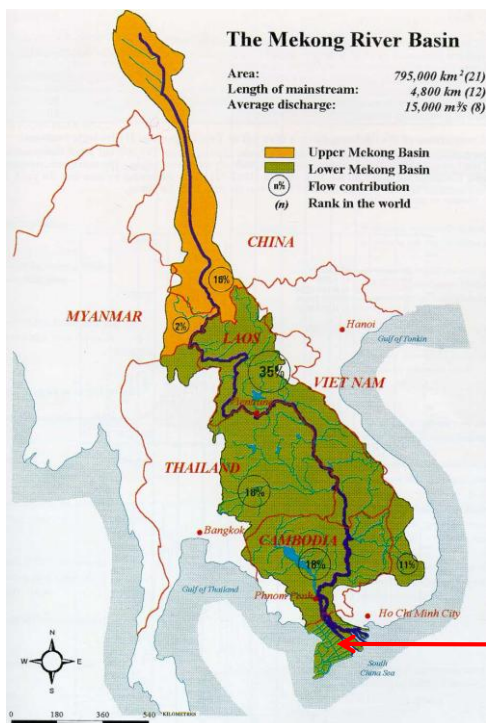


The Challenges in the Mekong basin

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The Mekong River basin

Mekong river begin from China and flows through Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and ended at Vietnam.

Total length is 4,350 Km

10th river of the world in length
(4350 km = 2700 mi)

14th river of the world in discharge,

...but first in hydrological variability
1,250 - 67,000 m³.s⁻¹

Population in the river basin is ~60 Millions

The Mekong Delta is about 50,000Km²,
Cambodia: 10,000Km², VN:40,000 Km²)

Story-1 at Lao PDR

“Last year I tried every 10 minutes. But now I have to waiting for more than 20 minutes!”



Story-2 at Cambodia

“Last year we got 10Kg fish in this pond, but now it is lesser than 2Kg!”



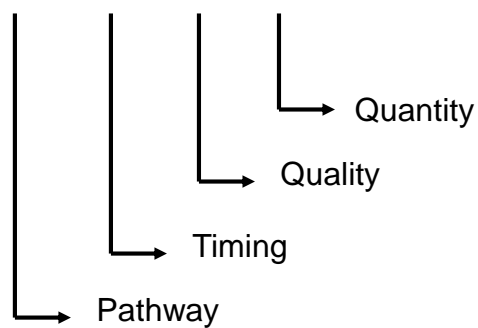
Story-3 at Vietnam

“I living 80 years in this area and it's never happen!”

The Mekong Delta of Vietnam lost 700,000 ton rice in 2015-2016 by salinity and drought



They recognizing: Water source is changing!

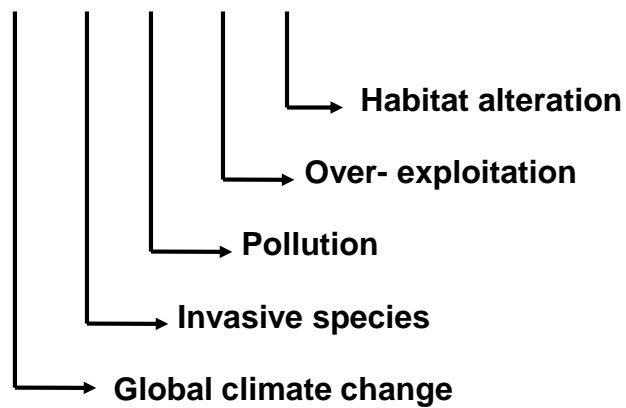


Whatever factors that made water source changing but Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia & Vietnam has a same impact: Loss! (human life, money, biodiversity, environment) **NOT** in this generation **BUT** to many generation in the future!

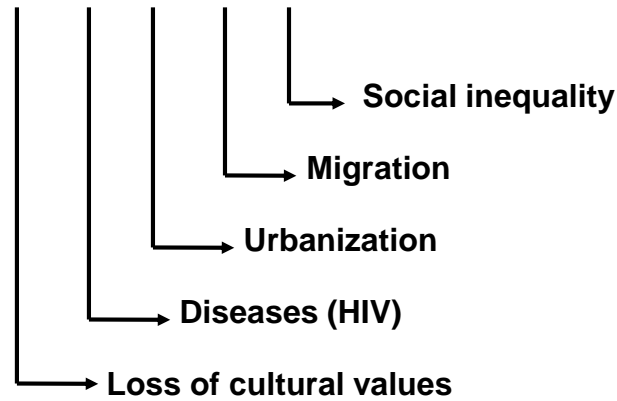
Remark

Who can tell them “**before**” they recognize it’s change?

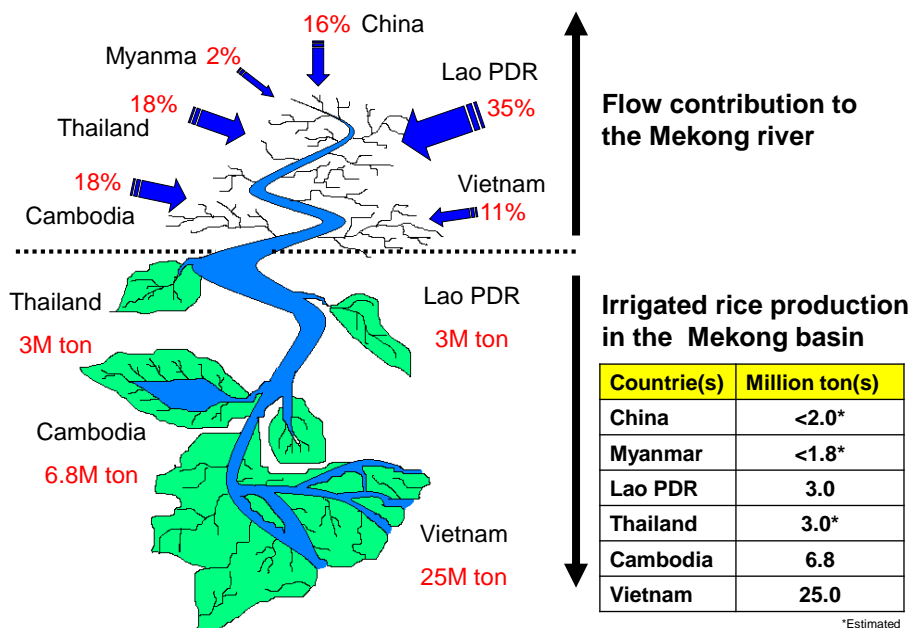
Causes of changes:



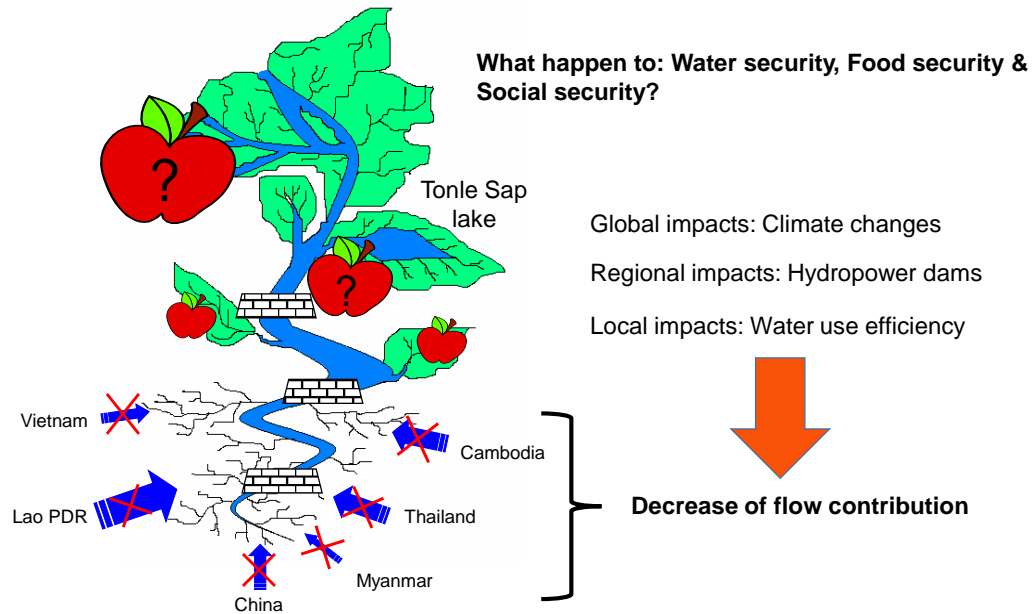
Impact of changes:



Flows contribution and rice production of the Mekong basin



Causes of uncertainty water resources



Conclusions

- Mekong basin is a **living body**, where Tonle Sap lake is it's heart and rivers is it's blood channels. It does not need a bigger heart, it need a **beating heart!** It does not need more blood, it need **blood flows!**
- Any development in the Mekong basin should concern about the **change of water resources** (quantity, quality, timing, pathway) rather than only the quantity!
- Impact of hydropower dams on **sediment** is more seriously than water volume!
- Impact of environmental changes will **force** communities to migrate.