



***Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Climate
Change Adaptation in Environmental Impact
Assessment in Asia***

**Perspectives from the
Asian Development Bank
Greater Mekong Subregion
Environment Operations Center**

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Presentation outline



- Core Environment Program Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (CEP-BCI) environmental assessment and climate change activities in the GMS
- Mapping of climate change risk and vulnerability
- Environmental assessment as a means to integrate climate change considerations into policy and planning processes
- Encouraging sustainable transportation through promotion of policy, program and project-level interventions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Application of vulnerability / resiliency assessment in managing climate change impacts on agrarian communities
- Strengthening policies, governance and environmental assessment capacity

Current CEP-BCI environmental assessment and climate change programming



- Since 1995, ADB has provided technical and financial support to addressing emerging environmental concerns and challenges in the GMS
- In 2005, previous sub-regional environmental initiatives were consolidated under the CEP-BCI
- CEP-BCI is one of the flagship programs of the GMS Environmental Cooperation Program (ECP)
- Pilot phase of CEP-BCI (2006-2011) encompassed 5 components, with **climate change** added as a cross-cutting component during supplementary phase

Components of CEP-BCI (2006-2011)

Economic Corridors and Sector Environmental Assessments

Biodiversity conservation

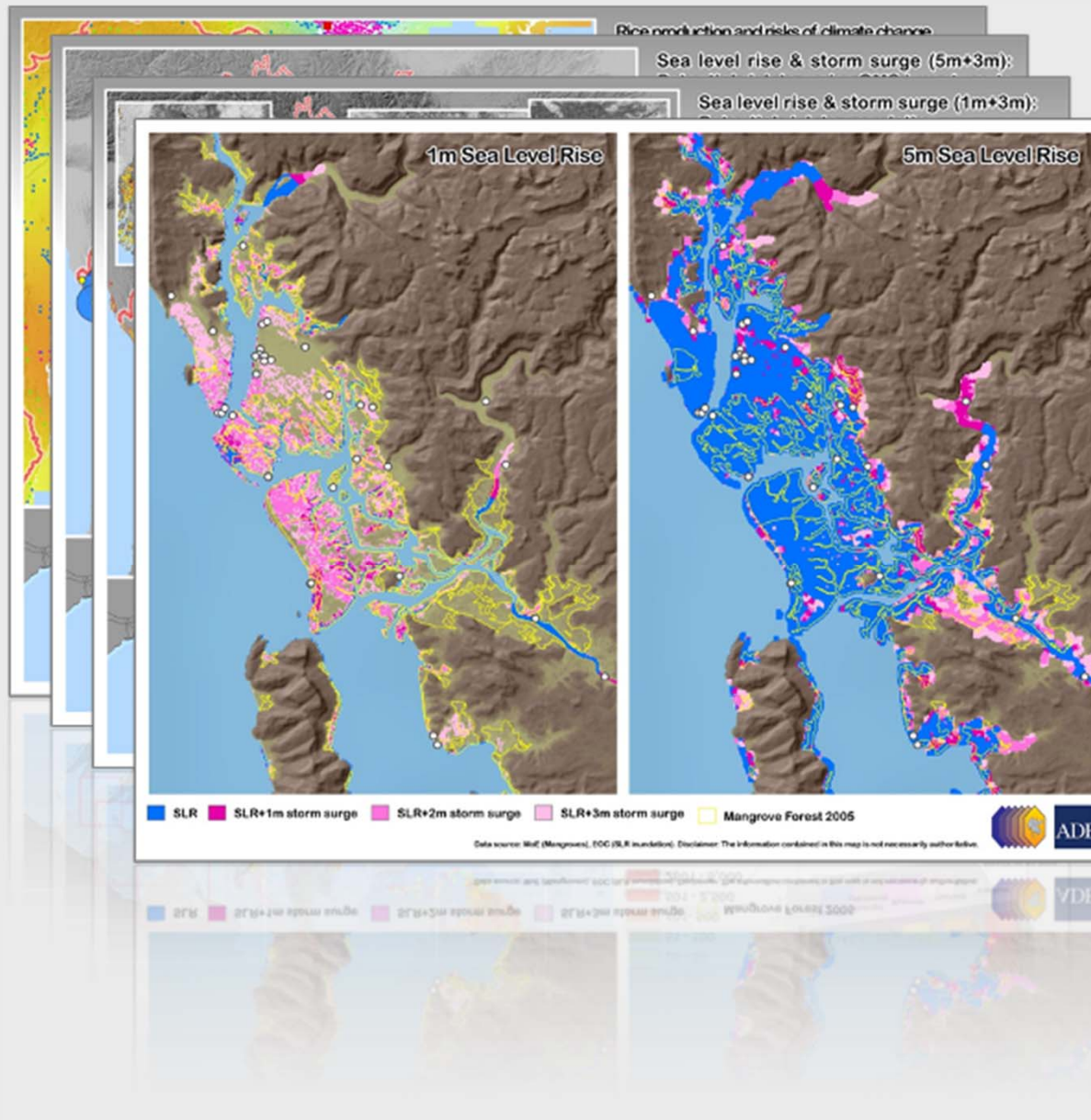
EPA institutionalized

Regional environmental management capacity development

Program development, delivery, and sustainable financing

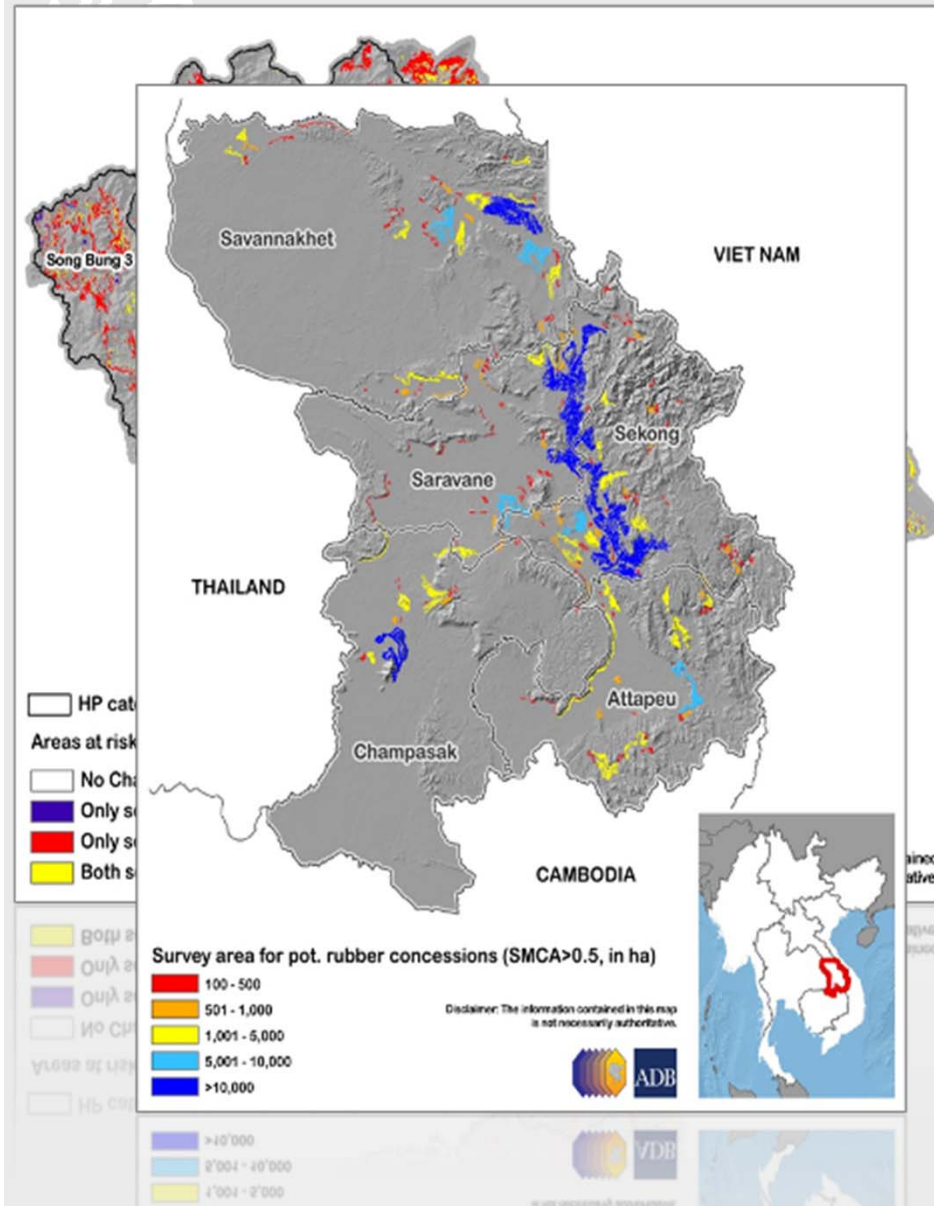
Raise awareness: Mapping climate risk

ADB



- CEP-BCI has **continuously raised awareness** on the risks of climate change
- Emphasis on highlighting the **implications on development** and growth targets
- Maps help national planners **put climate change risk into context** with strategic planning, including: (i) sector investments (transport infrastructure, hydropower); (ii) food security; and (iii) social security (disaster preparedness)

Climate-proofing plans and investments: Spatial modeling in SEA



- Besides awareness raising, CEP-BCI has incorporated climate change concerns into analytical components of ex-ante planning / assessment processes
- **Strategies and plans:** Land demand allocation modeling considered landscape resilience to climate change as an input into alternative land demand scenarios (SEA NSEC, SEA LUP)
- **Investments:** In several SMCA exercises (SEA NSEC SAP – road; SMCA Lao PDR – Rubber; SMCA Cambodia – *Jatropha*), CC vulnerability layers were included to provide a realistic assessment on target areas for environmentally sound and climate proof investments

SEA example: Integrating GHG costs into power planning



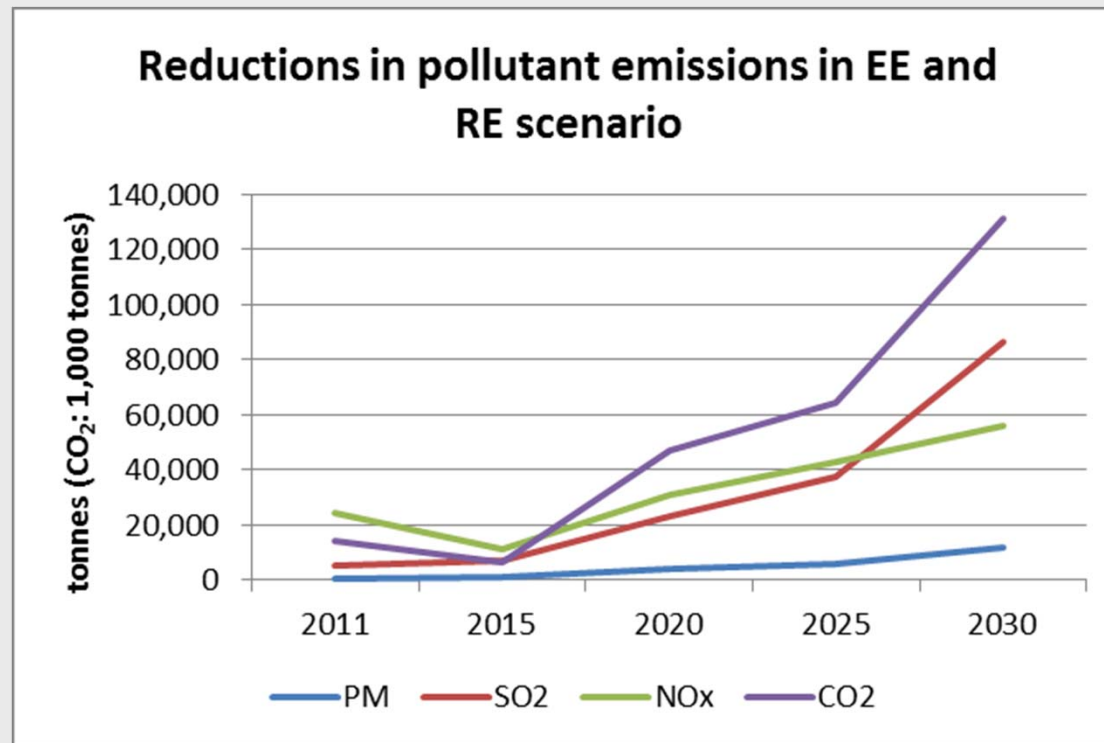
SEA of PDP7 in Viet Nam: 1st time that full range of social and environmental issues have been integrated into PDP preparation

Objectives:

1. Internalized social and environmental costs and benefits into PDP7
2. Key GoV policies (i.e., on issues like renewable energy, climate change, benefit sharing) reflected in PDP7
3. Identifying mitigation and compensation measures

Milestones:

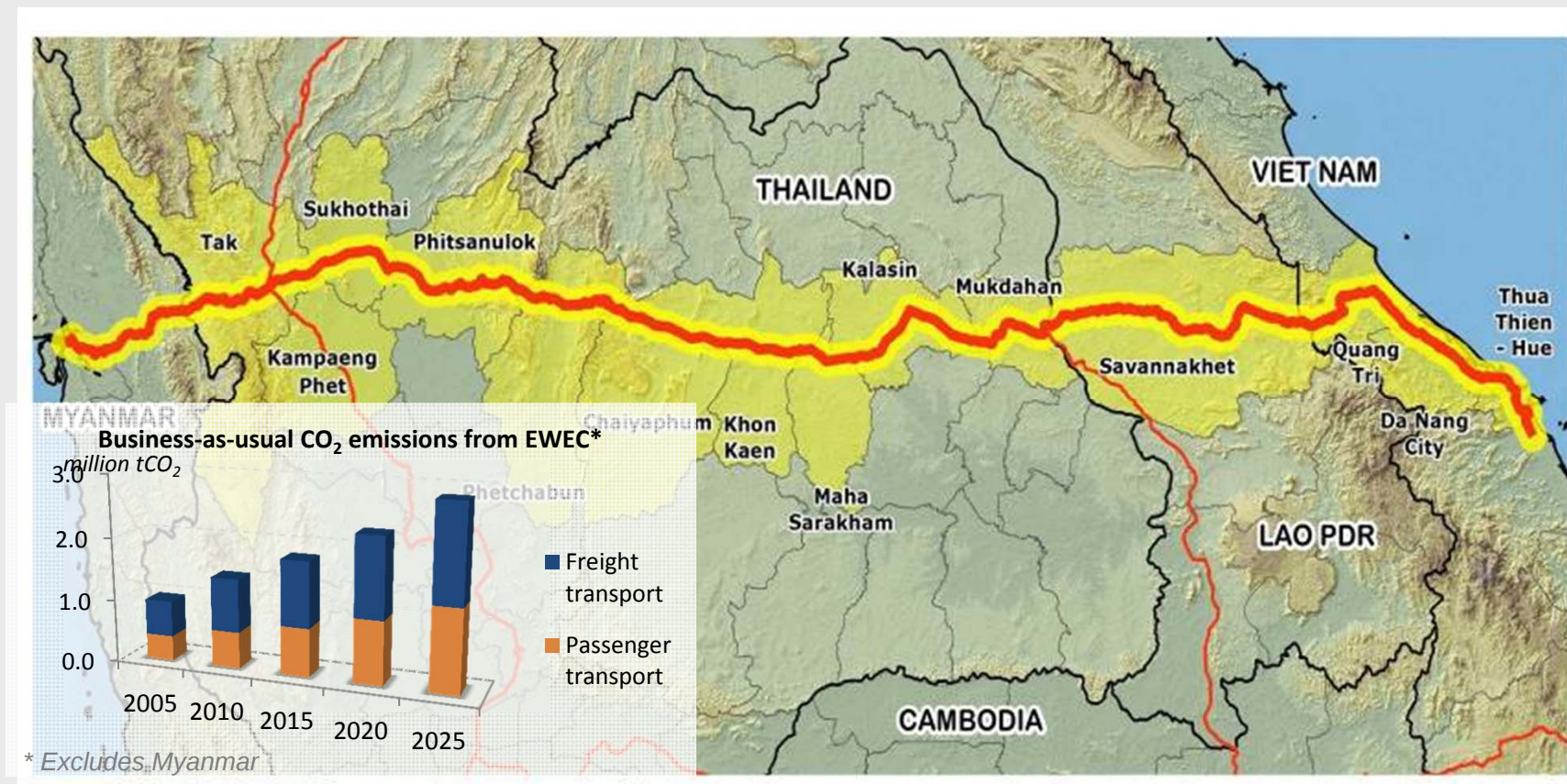
- Highlighting the benefits from increased energy efficiency and renewable energy
- National institution took lead to successfully complete the SEA with active participation of government agencies and other relevant stakeholders; strengthening national SEA systems
- SEA recommendations now taken up in PDP7



Reducing GHG from roads: Carbon neutral transport corridors



CEP is investigating feasibility of CNTC approach to reducing GHG emissions from a transport corridor



Dual focus - The aim is to reduce emissions by targeting the freight transport sector (fuel efficiency in freight operators) and the forestry sector (enhanced protection and natural carbon sequestration)

Increasing local coping capacity to climate change



CEP-BCI is developing an approach to assess and manage risks from climate change at a local level, focusing on agrarian communities living in biodiversity conservation corridors areas

Objectives

- Identification of climate change adaptation options as a part of local risk management strategy
- Development of local vulnerability / resiliency assessment framework with sound scientific underpinning
- Capacity development
- Initial adaptation options

Indicative adaptation options

- Investment in small irrigation projects, channels, check dams / dikes
- Diversification of agriculture practices
- Reforestation to ensure healthy ecosystem and services
- Increase access to finance and insurance



Strengthening policies, governance and environmental assessment capacity



- ADB and CEP-BCI are encouraging and promoting increasing use of SEA, and strengthening of GMS country safeguard practices
- ADB sourcebook on Environmental Safeguard provides for consideration of CC impacts early in project scoping (i.e., CC vulnerability now covered in Rapid Environmental Assessment Checklists)
- Climate change adaptation is increasingly reflected in climate resilient project designs (e.g., road design and construction)

Sub-regional safeguards strengthening



CEP-BCI is seeking to strengthen national sector-specific safeguard systems, supporting GMS country efforts to improve environmental and social performance

- Harmonizing country and ABD safeguard requirements
- Supporting development of new regulations and guidelines (e.g., SEA decree, SEA and EIA technical guidelines)
- Building country capacity to conduct environmental assessments
- Building capacity in utilization of decision support tools (e.g., GIS, SMCA) and management information systems (MIS) to improve data acquisition
- Assisting countries in construction and operational phase compliance monitoring and supervision, and post-evaluation



Future CEP-BCI environmental assessment and climate change programming



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Regional environmental management capacity development

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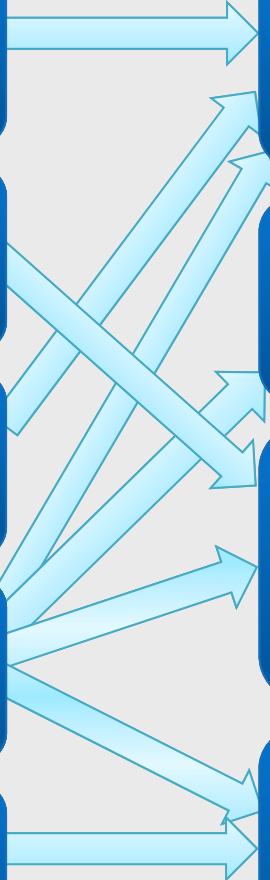
Components of CEP-BCI (2012-2016)

Environmental planning and safeguards strengthened

Conservation landscape management and livelihoods improvement

Climate resilience and low carbon development

Institutional strengthening and sustainable financing



CEP-BCI (2012-16): Improved environmental planning systems and safeguards



- Key focus will be on improved environmental planning systems and safeguards involving the application of planning tools such as SEA, and spatial and economic analysis to selected sectors (i.e., agriculture, energy, tourism, transport) and economic corridor development strategies and plans
- Assessments will support internalizing environmental risk management strategies and environmental and climate friendly alternatives (e.g., resource efficiency and low carbon measures) in these strategies and plans
- Environmental safeguard capacity of same sectors will also be strengthened through learning-by-doing training, and sharing of good practice and supporting twinning arrangements among countries
- Increased emphasis on SEA in ADB country partnership strategies in identifying programs and projects

CEP-BCI (2012-16): Climate resilient and low-carbon strategies developed



Promote climate-friendly development within the GMS through integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations in plans and programs of key development sectors, through:

- Low carbon strategies and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems developed for transport and energy sectors
- Accounting and monitoring of project-specific GHG emissions for large projects (GHG emissions > 100k ton CO₂e) in accordance with ADB and other guidelines
- Promoting technically and financially feasible alternatives to reduce or offset project GHG emissions (e.g., enhancement of energy efficiency, increased use of renewable forms of energy, emissions recovery and/or limitation, biodiversity offsets)
- Application of CC models and downscaling in conduct of vulnerability assessments for rural communities (e.g., livelihoods based on agriculture and tourism) and in project- or activity-level EIA



Thank you!

Questions, Comments,
Discussion

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