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USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change

Work Plan Year Five

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USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (USAID Mekong ARCC)

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INTRODUCTION

The USAID Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (USAID Mekong ARCC) project is a five-year program (2011-2016) funded by the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) in Bangkok. The project is implemented by DAI in partnership with the International Centre for Environmental Management (ICEM), World Resources Institute (WRI), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Asian Management and Development Institute (AMDI), and the World Food Programme (WFP). The project focuses on identifying the environmental, economic and social effects of climate change in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB), and on assisting highly exposed and vulnerable rural populations in ecologically sensitive areas increase their ability to adapt to climate change impacts on water resources, agricultural and aquatic systems, livestock, ecosystems, and livelihood options.

The **primary goal** of USAID Mekong ARCC is: *Increase adaptation capacity and resilience of communities to the negative impacts of climate change.*

Objectives of the project include:

- Increase human and institutional capacity to develop and implement climate change adaptation plans and strategies
- Strengthen policies, tools, methodologies and practices for ecosystem services valuation and climate resiliency
- Demonstrate and scale-up model actions for integrated approaches to climate change adaptation
- Support and sustain regional learning networks to share and replicate best practices

USAID Mekong ARCC is comprised of five major tasks technical tasks in addition to overarching program management. These are:

1. Regional Platform Partner and Knowledge Center;
2. Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study;
3. Ecosystem and Community-based Adaptation Initiatives;
4. Valuing Ecosystem Services in Economic Planning for the Lower Mekong River Basin, and;
5. Scaling-Up Successful Approaches.

USAID Mekong ARCC is headquartered in Bangkok with project activities carried out in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Approach

The USAID Mekong ARCC project was designed to advance the first generation of climate adaptation programming by identifying and applying methods to incorporate the best available climate science into community level planning. Like any new frontier, the climate adaptation landscape is filled with experimental methods and models that together seek to clarify *how* people can address tension between the uncertainty of climate science and the need for action.

At one end of the spectrum, scientists and researchers are generating downscaled climate models, while at the other end, development practitioners are building awareness of how weather variability impacts community assets and livelihoods.

While these approaches provide a jumping off point for adaptation programming, they do not generate a *cohesive and replicable adaptation program template* that incorporates weather and climate information in to community planning to address current vulnerability and future threats from climate change. USAID Mekong ARCC provides an *Integrated Adaptation Decision Making and Implementation* design (see graphic on page 8) contributes to filling this void; connecting cutting edge **climate science** research with community (and expert) derived technical solutions for strengthening livelihood resilience in the face of climate change. This **adaptation action** phase of the project targets the incorporation of current weather information and climate projections into community planning to address both near term vulnerability and future threats from climate change. We anticipate the next generation of adaptation programs will begin to converge around a subset of best practice design models, and that once the USAID Mekong ARCC *'proof of concept'* is fully field tested it will serve as one of these applicable models.

Prior to reaching the current field implementation stage of the project, the USAID Mekong ARCC project focused resources on the **scientific research**, which yielded a first-of-a-kind downscaled climate model that illustrates highly threatened and valuable agricultural crops, livestock, and fisheries, and natural systems (ecosystem and biodiversity) assets. The *Climate Change Adaptation and Impact Study for the Lower Mekong Basin* generated projections for a 2050 time slice of climate hazards – increases in temperature and rainfall, sea level rise – and the resultant impacts that are expected to pose to agricultural, livestock and fisheries production, ecosystems, and other community livelihoods.

The climate change impact information generated by the Climate Study is the most detailed of its kind produced to date in the LMB, and could become a seminal body of climate research for decision makers in the region. Turning this leading *'climate adaptation thinking'* in to practical on-the-ground *'climate adaptation doing'* is the next level of value add the USAID Mekong ARCC program is contributing to climate adaptation in the region.

In addition to the assessment of climate impacts, an analysis of current day **values at risk** from climate change based on data identified by the Climate Study increased understanding of the values of natural systems, crops and fisheries, and the potential monetary impacts climate change will have on these assets. **Country-specific guidelines** on ecosystem service valuation were also generated so that policymakers and planners can better integrate these values into their national development planning. USAID Mekong ARCC further developed an online ecosystem valuation tool to give decision makers a rapid estimate that can inform a broader understanding of the potential economic valuation of ecosystem-based trade-offs.

The thought leadership generated by USAID Mekong ARCC represents the beginning of a blueprint for adaptation programming under which decision making and implementation of technical resilience strengthening solutions provide a replicable adaptation program design. In practice, the *Integrated Adaptation Decision Making and Implementation* design can provide a

clear cohesive template for future USAID adaptation programming, as well as that of other donors and project implementers. While this approach will not be the only option for community adaptation in the LMB countries, it can serve as one of the ***first generation field-tested and applied adaptation blueprints*** for the region.

Year Four Summary

From the outset of the project, USAID Mekong ARCC's objective has been to move beyond sweeping predictions found in most expert climate change studies to discover practical methods of applying those scientific findings at a community level. In practice, this means helping local leaders understand the nuances of a shifting climate – the grey area in between projections of crop failure in 2050 and the next typhoon. Understanding these subtle changes – such as how an increase in average maximum temperature reduces crop yields and reproductive rates of livestock – is critical for communities to monitor, internalize, and make smart adaptive decisions. When communities begin adding these projected climate impacts into their customary decision making processes they will move beyond simply coping with change when it arrives and into the realm of longer term adaptation.

In year four, the project and its partners developed and launched community-based adaptation initiatives across five community clusters in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Selected adaptation activities were based on the participatory adaptation decision-making process implemented in year four founded on the Mekong ARCC guiding principles of merging climate science and community knowledge and engaging community members to make decisions through scenario planning and prioritizing activities to increase their resilience. The project team began gathering lessons learned in how each of the five communities approached the analysis of climate vulnerabilities, prioritized threats and options, and undertook initial adaptation actions. While the adaptation approaches taken by each community vary widely, they all reflect measures to protect important sources of livelihood and food security. Lessons are being shared with national governments and other donors through national and regional conferences and workshops and the USAID Mekong ARCC website (www.mekongarcc.net).

The project developed and produced an array of knowledge products in year four aimed at building local capacity and influencing planning and decision-making by diverse stakeholders from local farmers to national government officials. These included detailed projections of climate change impacts on specific sectors, extension guides designed to help small-scale farmers improve their production of shrimp and pigs under changing climate conditions, and values at risk economic analyses that provide national policy makers with the means for applying a climate lens to national and local economic development priorities.

Also the project began to lay the foundation for facilitating the scaling up of proven approaches by communities, local and national governments and NGOs. The strategies for scaling up, as with the community adaptation actions, are very context- and country specific. In Vietnam, the project has strong support from the national Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) to scale up tested practices to increase rice-shrimp production systems' resilience to changing weather patterns.

Whereas in Thailand, the project is taking a more bottom-up approach by engaging local/regional agriculture research centers and government extension staff in community adaptation activities and identifying ways to mainstream lessons learned into district- and provincial-level development plans and budgets. The project is also working with WFP in Cambodia to establish guidelines to institutionalize the community decision making process.

USAID MEKONG ARCC TASKS

In year five USAID Mekong ARCC will finalize adaptation activity implementation at community sites and collect lessons from stakeholders and partners. The project will work closely with partners to ensure sustainability mechanisms are in place per the adaptation plans and follow through with scaling up designs in different countries. The project will collect monitoring and evaluation data on all implementation activities across tasks and continue to achieve project targets per the Mekong ARCC theory of change. Finally the project will work with the USAID ADAPT project to identify climate financing pathways for the LMB countries to build off of lessons from community vulnerability adaptation assessments and activities.

Task 1: Regional Knowledge Platform & Knowledge Center

The tasks under USAID Mekong ARCC encompass a spectrum of activities, the results of which require packaging into a variety of documents and resources of value to different target audiences. These tasks, each of which involves multiple steps and events, have differing requirements for the capture and dissemination of knowledge. Documenting and sharing results, successes, lessons and challenges are a key input to the "scaling up" efforts of the project. A variety of tools and techniques are required to do this in order to reach target stakeholders and desired impact.

Develop and disseminate project knowledge products

Since establishment, the project website (<http://mekongarcc.net>) will remain a central repository—with links to social media sites and regional climate change adaption platforms—for knowledge management and communication products tailored for the target audiences.

For the Year Five, a key priority will be to develop and disseminate information about the unique USAID Mekong ARCC top-down science meets bottom up community knowledge approach and local level adaptation results from community pilots. Specific knowledge products will be developed to explain the technical processes utilized by the project to carry out Community Adaptation Initiatives, and ultimately for replicating and scaling up purposes. Ecosystem services estimation tool, lessons learned, recommendations, Best Management Practices (BMPs), and guidelines will be developed and disseminated at events and workshops, as well as through the project website and regional platforms to reach key stakeholders.

USAID Mekong ARCC will develop a communications strategy that engages all the implementing partners in developing stories from the field, writing up successes, preparing blogs, capturing

photos, etc. in order to generate awareness of USAID Mekong ARCC community works and to share experiences, lessons, and challenges from implementation.

Additionally, specific outcomes from technical solutions tested to strengthen livelihood resilience at the field sites will be captured through the development of guidelines and best practices and shared with targeted audiences from different levels government, practitioners, regional platforms and others.

Publications, fact sheets, summaries, graphics, maps, and short briefs will be carefully designed to provide value as project outreach and disseminated via project web tools and at events and meetings. A list of communications/knowledge products is discussed and planned during the internal Communications Working Session.

Website knowledge products and information linked to existing platforms

The project will continue employing a systematic outreach process to ensure that USAID Mekong ARCC's web-based materials—news, event announcements, blog posts, data and knowledge products, and other resources—are shared with the broader climate change adaptation communities by:

- Regular updates of website news and information;
- Sharing and tweeting links to the project website via dedicated USAID Mekong ARCC social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr;
- Periodic preparation of USAID Mekong ARCC e-newsletter for email subscribers; and
- Sharing and posting links on the sites of regional adaptation platforms such as ADB, weADAPT, APAN, CKDN, IISD, etc.

Support national government and regional platform efforts through partnership and dissemination of climate change adaptation information and approaches

USAID Mekong ARCC will seek out support and collaboration with regional actors, such as ADB GMS Core Environment Program, World Bank, and ASEAN as a means to scale project approaches and results in addressing climate change to decision-makers, national governments, and regional implementers. Particular emphasis will be placed on working with selected regional platforms to build results of climate scenarios from the Climate Study, VAR analysis, ecosystem valuation methods and tools and approaches and lessons from community activities into the knowledge products and planning across the region.

Task 1 Key Results

1. Information related to the Climate Study, values-at-risk analysis report, and Ecosystem Services Valuation, Community Adaptation Initiatives disseminated widely to target audiences in written and graphic form, via web-based media, and through presentations and meetings;
2. Implementing partners are actively engaged in communicating results, successes, stories, and lessons learned from field sites;

3. Website populated with program knowledge products, blogs, stories from the field, photos, graphics, etc. which are ready for download and linked to other web-based adaptation platforms;
4. Support provided to regional platforms, knowledge centers, and other important forums as a means of providing target stakeholders with increased access to USAID Mekong ARCC knowledge products, technical information and lessons, and models from implementation; and
5. Ensure that key generated information, knowledge products, lessons learned are maintained after the project completion.

Task 2: Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study

The *USAID Mekong ARCC Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study for the Lower Mekong Basin* has provided some of the most detailed and comprehensive climate change and impact science for the LMB to date. A team of more than 20 scientists and livelihood sector experts undertook the most comprehensive climate change assessment conducted to date for the LMB. They generated and analyzed modeling data and presented new and important research on how a 2°C global temperature rise – which climate scientists generally agree is a critical threshold – will lead to future changes to the basin's hydroclimate. They further forecasted some of the likely impacts on growing conditions and yields for major crops, and productivity of livestock and aquatic systems. The spatial approach applied in the study not only highlights areas projected to experience major changes due to climate change, but also identifies priorities for adaptation responses.

The USAID Mekong ARCC project has seen the climate science taken up and used by some of the region's most prominent environmental and development actors including the Stockholm Environmental Institute, ADB Core Environmental Program and World Food Programme.

Draft and submit articles on Study results and application at field sites to peer reviewed journals for publication and dissemination

In year four, the project submitted the first of two journal articles to *Climate and Development*. Using Chai Rai as a case study, the article focused on the Mekong ARCC process of combining scientific climate data and community knowledge. The second paper is a comparative article across the five Mekong ARCC sites.

Task 2 Key Results

6. Results of the study, both the main report and the sector vulnerability reports, continue to be widely shared in order to increase knowledge and understanding of climate impacts in the LMB; and
7. Results of study appear in peer reviewed journal and are, therefore, ready for uptake by the UN IPCC for their next Climate Assessment report.

Task 3: Ecosystem and Community-based Adaptation Initiatives

Ecosystem and Community-based Adaptation initiatives are testing *how* scientific information can be translated and used at the community level. Project partners integrated weather and climate information into community adaptation plans that address current vulnerability and future threats from climate change. In year four, partners assisted communities in implementing these plans.

Map 1: USAID Mekong ARCC Community Adaptation Initiatives Sites



Complete Implementation of Adaptation Initiatives in all Community Sites

DAI will work with the IPs in year five to complete adaptation activities and achieve scale up of activities and/or implementation process at the local, subnational and national levels. IPs will capture lessons from communities through both expert assessments and community surveys as well as part of routine monitoring and evaluation. In Lao PDR, DAI will lead the implementation of activities for small scale community water infrastructure.

Coordination and M&E with Implementing Partners

DAI will continue in supporting the IPs and providing technical assistance as required by each site. One area in particular will be managing the endline climate change awareness survey at the sites and collecting final community level and site specific indicator data. DAI will design the endline survey with review by the IPs and assist in administering the surveys in Thailand and Lao PDR. DAI will help IPs collate field indicator results and capture lessons from the information for both implementer and community use. Furthermore DAI will work with IPs and local government partners to ensure sustainability and, where applicable, uptake of the adaptation options and community process.

DAI will also support project partners in engaging local governments and institutions in understanding adaptation options through site visits and assessments. DAI will design and participate in activities to support upscale of options at community, subnational and national levels.

Management oversight to ensure implementation of field activities meets timetable and intended outcomes

DAI will continue management oversight of all partners to ensure community activities are completed by the end of March 2016. DAI will host the annual IP meeting in January to collect the results of the activities at each site to date and gather lessons learned from around the region. DAI closely manages all implementation through DAI site visits and regular meetings and quarterly reports from partners.

Draft an analysis on Climate Impacts on Women and Vulnerable Groups

Mekong ARCC is tasked with drafting an analysis on climate impacts on women and vulnerable groups. To do this, the project will first conduct a desk-top review of existing Mekong ARCC studies and partner vulnerability assessments and other reports, and undertake additional research as needed to understand the impacts of climate change on women and vulnerable groups in the Lower Mekong Basin, with a specific focus on Mekong ARCC project sites in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

Task 3 Key Results

1. Adaptation activities completed by all implementing partners to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of communities;
2. Compilation of community indicator results and endline awareness survey completed by IPs;
3. Analysis on Climate Impacts on Women and Vulnerable Groups completed and submitted to USAID;
4. Delivery of adaptation activities meets subcontract terms, demonstrates proven benefits to community resilient strengthening and meet a high standard; and
5. Options for sustainability of adaptation initiatives identified that can maintain them post project.

Task 4: Valuing Ecosystem Services for the Lower Mekong River Basin

The majority of the communities in the LMB earn much of their livelihood from fishing and farming, and as such their economies are directly dependent on the services provided by terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. However, government policies often underestimate or completely fail to value the economic contribution that ecosystem services provide for the overall health of an economy. USAID Mekong ARCC is pursuing efforts to internalize the true values of ecosystem services as economic assets in development planning.

Develop practical tool for estimating ecosystem values and conduct ESV training workshop for government officials from around the region

As part of the USAID Mekong ARCC contract under Task 4, the project will organize a workshop to train government officials on ecosystem service valuation. As part of this workshop, the project will train officials on the use of the ESV estimator, developed to provide a rapid estimate of ecosystem values. The ESV estimator was completed in year four and provides a value range of five major ecosystems based on over 500 data point values. It is user friendly and intends to inform decision makers on initial economic costs of environmental degradation, conservation and natural capital value.

Task 4 Key Results

1. Workshop conducted with government and practitioner representatives of four LMB countries to explain ESV country specific guidelines and ESV estimator and ascertain interest in policy follow-up.

Task 5: Scaling-up successful approaches

Leveraging and scale-up allows for the broadening and deepening of the effects from adaptation activities in the LMB by generating increased buy-in from local, national and

regional stakeholders, raising the visibility of the project, creating a positive feedback loop for information sharing and knowledge transfer, and increasing the prospects for long-term sustainability for USAID Mekong ARCC initiated activities. In year five, DAI will work closely with partners to gain traction on scaling up both the adaptation decision making approach and successful activities that make communities more resilient to climate threats. DAI has taken a three prong approach to scaling. DAI will continue to utilize the project website, social media tools and regional and national conferences to share approaches and lessons. In the previous years, the project has learned these are important dissemination routes. DAI will also team with national government as in Vietnam, where the project supports the Directorate of Fisheries in strengthening the resilience of the shrimp rice farming system. Finally DAI will work with regional partners and international donors to scale community approaches or activities. The project is making headway with WFP Cambodia in developing a user guide on resilience strengthening through community decision making.

Support climate change initiatives of regional platform institutions

The project will continue to actively seek out opportunities for collaboration with regional institutions in order to share results, lessons and scale impact from the Climate Study, implementation of the Community Adaptation Initiatives, Ecosystem Service Valuation, VAR analysis, and other approaches of the project. In addition to continuing to build relationships based on demand and interest of regional platform partners, the project will focus specific effort on strengthening linkages and collaboration with partners whom traction was gained in the past years; namely the ADB and ASEAN.

Collect and disseminate good practices, lessons and technical methods for scale-up to adaptation implementers, governments and regional platforms

A key objective under Task 5 is to identify and scale good adaptation practice experienced that have been tested by communities as a part of their adaptation plans. In year five, WRI will examine experiences, commonalities and lessons from the implementation of adaptation options at community sites. They will develop a questionnaire to understand whether certain adaptation options that have been implemented in the Lower Mekong Basin has (1) strengthened management of assets needed for adaptation, (2) reduced vulnerability through good development, and (3) have the potential to scale. WRI will also conduct interviews with the IPs during the Implementing Partners Meeting in January 2016 and prepare a report capturing lessons from implementation to be widely circulated.

Facilitate uptake of project's model and methods for community adaptation and successful technical solutions

As shown above in Task 3, USAID Mekong ARCC has developed a set of adaptation strategies that could also benefit communities elsewhere in the region. Additionally, research for development in the climate adaptation space could benefit from the experiences made with the engagement process and the various frameworks and methods tested by USAID Mekong ARCC IPs. Realizing such benefits requires the up-scaling of action plans or process designs or

methods. Up-scaling of actions requires the identification of communities that face similar climate change challenges in combination with having similar conditions. Conditions in this context are mainly characterized by land use and household attitudes towards adaptation options.

In year five, the project will work in Thailand with local and subnational government officials and regional study centers to first assess successful adaptation options and identify similar communities and contexts which could benefit from such activities. The project will work with the government and institutions to leverage their support in reaching those communities to share technical knowledge.

In Cambodia, the project is working with WFP to develop guidelines and training for participatory community engagement approaches. WFP intends to strengthen the inclusion of marginalized groups within the government planning process in their programs country wide.

Initiate development of pre-feasibility report for target countries

DAI will analyze climate finance opportunities for each of the target countries. A *desk review* will be completed covering the key international and bilateral adaptation finance sources that will enable scaling of good practices. This will help to identify scaling pathways that matches adaptation finance opportunities, which will be presented in 2016.

Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment Round Table products and potential training workshops

For the past three years DAI has actively participated in the ADB Roundtable to advance knowledge and learning of climate change adaptation in the region. The project has actively collaborated on key knowledge products with the ADB such as *Investing in Natural Capital for a Sustainable Future in the Greater Mekong Subregion*. In year five, Mekong ARCC will work closely with Roundtable partners to develop a Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment. This effort began in year four and aims to be completed by March of 2016. Furthermore, as support from the roundtable permits, USAID Mekong ARCC will explore the opportunity of developing and hosting a training for governments and/or practitioners on VAA guidelines.

Task 5 Key Results

1. Support provided to regional platforms to strengthen their outcomes and scale impact of USAID Mekong ARCC results;
2. Approach of each field adaptation initiative reviewed, initial interviews undertaken and a final lessons learned report prepared and disseminated;
3. Desk review completed covering key international, national and donor-based adaptation finance sources;

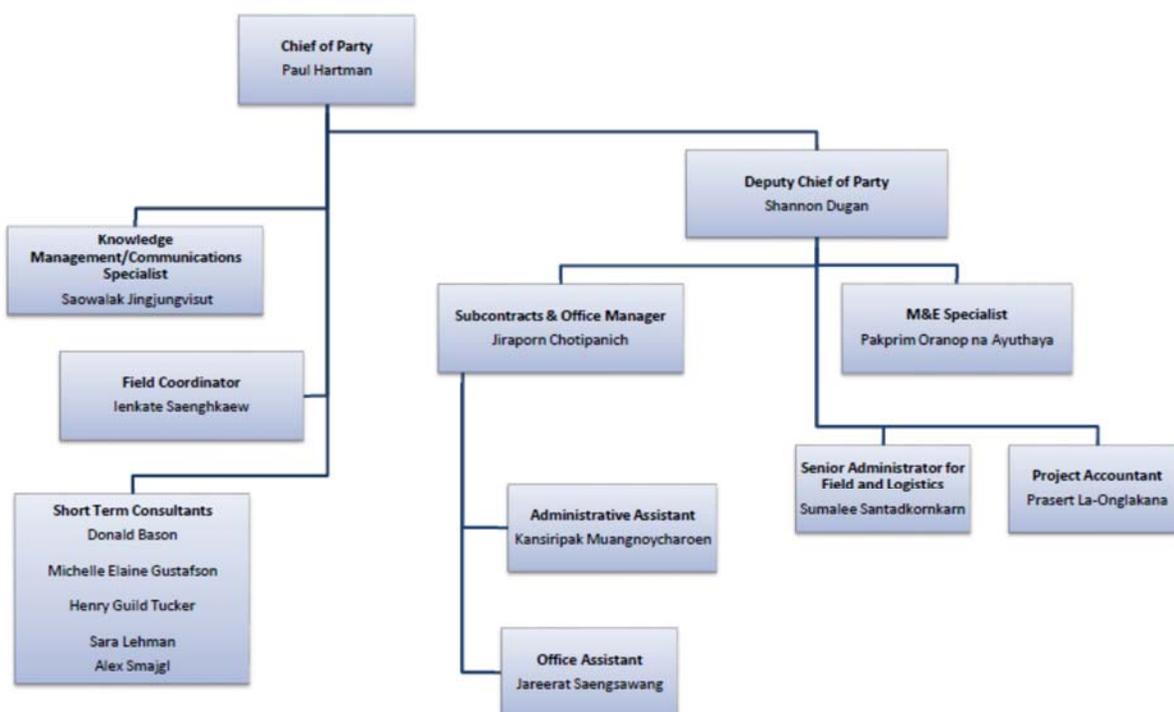
4. Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Guidelines co-developed with ADB Roundtable partners and opportunities for training of practitioners, government and other stakeholders identified.

Management Approach

Staffing and Office Management

DAI will continue to phase in technical assistance as required to support each major task, and use a core team to provide overarching technical leadership, management, and coordination. Our current organizational structure is shown in Graphic 3.

Graphic 1: USAID Mekong ARCC Org Chart—Year Four



Preparation of Regular Progress and Planning Reports

Thematic reporting, such as success stories, content for the RKP, and external communications to be used for RDMA public events, will be developed by the Mekong ARCC

Communications/KM Specialist and overseen by Mr. Hartman, in close consultation with the COR. All external communications and outreach materials will be submitted to USAID COR for approval prior to publication. Written materials and other media will continue to adhere to the USAID-approved branding and marking plan and the project Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy.

Communication and Coordination

Mr. Hartman will continue to serve as the USAID Mekong ARCC point of contact with USAID, other U.S. Government partners, and the donor community at large. Following USAID/Asia protocols, Mr. Hartman will visit and continue to establish formal relationships with each of the missions and national government counterparts. With COTR approval, USAID Mekong ARCC will distribute project reports to these contacts and ensure that each mission and the Embassy in Vientiane are up to date on project activities in their respective countries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In year four, Mekong ARCC focused on collecting midterm project results at the midpoint of the community adaptation activities and consolidating lessons learned. These results included changes on community climate change awareness and progress of adaptation implementation. During the process, we also ensured the quality of data collected through technical assistance to the IPs, regular data verification and internal data quality assessments (DQA). For year five, main M&E activities of the project include:

- Conduct a data quality assessment
- Collect and report end line climate change awareness survey results
- Collect and report final community indicator results
- Continue to collate all performance data of project indicators
- Collating final project results for final reporting to USAID

Conducting a data quality assessment

In the end of year four, Mekong ARCC has conducted an internal DQA with the IPs on all indicators under the project M&E plan, in compliance with USAID's ADS 200 series. The process will continue and be completed in early year five. Through the DQA, areas of weakness in data management and reporting will be identified and improved. The process will be timely for the USAID DQA mission on the project taking place in the beginning of year five

Collecting and reporting endline climate change awareness survey results

In follow-up to the baseline and midterm surveys conducted in year three and four to assess community awareness of climate change and adaptation strategies; Mekong ARCC will manage the collection of endline data to learn whether the project has contributed to improvements in the awareness of stakeholders to livelihood strategies to adapt to climate change. The project M&E Specialist will train the IPs on how to collect endline data and will directly supervise the fieldwork in selected sites. Data from all sites will be merged, analyzed and reported centrally by DAI.

Collecting and reporting final community indicator results

Critical aspects of adaptive capacity vary significantly across sites based upon communities' respective vulnerability profile, ecosystem characteristics, and adaptation priorities. In addition

to the USAID Mekong ARCC required indicators, the IPs developed and collected baseline data of community-specific indicators to capture results from adaptation activities undertaken in different communities. In year five, final results of these field indicators will be collected. These results will support the regional-level performance indicator data especially for *Indicator 2.1 number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to climate change impacts* and will also be used as lessons learned for other communities interested in adopting climate adaptation techniques.

Continue to collate all performance data of project indicators

In collaboration with the Field Coordinator, the Mekong ARCC M&E Specialist will use monitoring templates to track the IPs' progress and regularly check their submitted data of the performance indicators. Field visits will be conducted to obtain field information, collect success stories, and ensure data quality. On a quarterly basis, IPs will submit Mekong ARCC progress reports which will provide progress against targets and assessments of why targets were or were not met. In addition to site-specific results, the project will also monitor performance indicator outputs and outcomes at the regional level such as regional platforms strengthened and prefeasibility studies proposed.

Collating final project results for final reporting to USAID

All the data collected through all the M&E activities since the start to the end of the project; including the awareness survey, the performance indicators and the community-specific indicators; will be analyzed together to assess the impacts of the project interventions as well as extract practical lessons learned. They will be presented in a comprehensive, final report that summarizes project activities and results.

M&E Key Results

1. An internal DQA conducted and data quality issues addressed;
2. Endline climate change awareness survey undertaken and results reported and used;
3. Final community indicator results collected, reported and used;
4. Data collection of Mekong ARCC performance indicators conducted and results reported and used; and
5. All M&E results combined and analyzed for final reporting to USAID.

Annex 1 – USAID Mekong ARCC Log Frame

	A	S	TASKS, ACTIVITIES, SUBACTIVITIES	Year Five												RESOURCE	OUTPUT
				Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4				
				O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S		
1	Regional Platform Partner and Knowledge Center																
1	1		Develop and disseminate project knowledge products														
1	1	1	Develop and disseminate information products on Ecosystem Service Valuation tool												DAI	Information products on ESV tool (interview, key objective) prepared for ESV workshop	
1	1	2	Develop communications strategy to promote and support community adaptation efforts and results												DAI/IPs	Planning meeting completed that generates agreement on comms strategy	
1	1	3	Capture stories from community field sites and adaptation implementation approaches, successes and results												DAI/IPs	Stories from the field, blogs, photos, sector case studies	
1	2		Website knowledge products and information linked to existing platforms														
1	2	1	Regularly update project website/social media feeds to syndicate project information and create inbound links												DAI	Regular updates Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, etc. that are linked to the/from the website	

1	2	2	Disseminate knowledge products on Climate Study, Community Adaptation Initiatives, ESV, etc via relevant climate change web platforms														DAI	Mekong ARCC linked to and sharing news with previously identified priority climate web platforms.
1	3		Support national government and regional platform efforts through partnership and dissemination of climate change adaptation information and approaches															
1	3	1	Collaborate with regional platform partners to share project research results and analysis, models, best practice and lessons from community activities														DAI/IPs	Collaboration with regional bodies on development of materials and events, and presentation of results from Climate Study, ESV and Community Adaptation Initiatives at workshops, seminars and meetings of regional institutions
2	Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study																	
2	1		Draft and submit articles on Study results and application at field sites to peer reviewed journals for publication and dissemination														DAI	Article(s) submitted to peer reviewed scientific journal

3			Integrated Community and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Activities														
3	1		Complete Implementation of Adaptation Initiatives in all Community Sites														
3	1	1	Implementation of adaptation activities per activity plans													IP/DAI	Partners complete implementation of adaptation options and capture lessons learned
3	1	2	Undertake construction of small scale water activities in Khammouan.													DAI	Water infrastructure in place that improves supply, particularly during the dry season
3	2		Coordination and M&E with Implementing Partners														
3	3	1	Conduct the endline climate change awareness survey with the communities													IP/DAI	Endline report and related knowledge products
3	2	2	Collect final community indicator data													IP/DAI	Community indicator results generated
3	2	3	Engage with local government partners to seek upscale of adaptation options													IPs	Options for sustainability of adaptation initiatives identified that can maintain them post project
3	3		Management oversight to ensure implementation of field activities meets timetable and intended outcomes														
3	3	1	Conduct annual meeting with implementing partners to report back on implementation of adaptation activities and lessons learned													DAI/IPs/STTA	IP Meeting completed

3	3	2	Regular reporting to capture adaptation activity successes, challenges and lessons learned															IPs	Quarterly and final progress reports. Indicator roll up and reporting
3	3	3	Field visits, regular meetings, and input into deliverables to ensure quality															DAI	Delivery of outputs meets subcontract terms and are of sufficiently high standard
3	4		Draft an analysis on Climate Impacts on Women and Vulnerable Groups															DAI	Final analysis to submit to USAID
4	Valuing Ecosystem Services in Economic Planning for the Lower Mekong River Basin																		
4	1		Develop practical tool for estimating ecosystem values and conduct ESV training workshop for government officials from around the region															DAI, ADB EOC	Workshop completed
5	Scaling-Up Successful Approaches																		
5	1		Support climate change initiatives of regional platform institutions																
5	1	1	Coordinate/collaborate with regional institutional mechanisms to facilitate uptake of project analysis, models and approaches into planning and project implementation across the region															DAI	Results of research and analysis shared and incorporated into planning. Support provided to platform events, knowledge products, training, etc.

5	2		Collect and disseminate good practices, lessons and technical methods to adaptation practitioners, governments and regional platforms																				
5	2	1	Interview IPs to capture lessons learned on the implementation of adaptation activities																		WRI	Interviews completed	
5	2	2	Prepare report on experiences, commonalities and lessons from the implementation of adaptation options at community sites																			Report capturing lessons on implementation of adaptation activities submitted to USAID	
5	3		Facilitate uptake of project's model and methods for community adaptation and successful technical solutions																				
5	3	1	Engage in meetings, workshops and information sharing within and nearby current pilot communities, and with provincial and central governments																			DAI	Observation and understanding of community approach and solutions by broader range of stakeholders
5	3	2	Engage with government, academics institutions, practitioners and others to assess viability of adaptation activities conducted and field sites and identify opportunities to scale locally, nationally and regionally																			Assessments examining scaling options for adaptation activities completed	

5	4		Initiate development of pre-feasibility report for target countries																	
5	4	1	Undertake analysis of climate finance opportunities for each of the countries																Del, Shelley, WRI	Desk review covering key international and bilateral adaptation finance sources for community adaptation and barriers to entry
5	4	2	Conduct barriers to scaling and prefeasibility assessment workshop																DAI	
5	5		Develop Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment guidelines with ADB Round Table partners																DAI	VAA Round Table guidelines for Greater Mekong Sub Region developed
5	5	1	Explore possibility of preparing associated communications products around the Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment guidelines and conducting training workshops																DAI	Interest of stakeholders assessed and materials and/or trainings developed accordingly

6			Overarching Program Management and Coordination															
6	1		Submit regular progress and financial reports to USAID														DAI	
6	1	1	Amended annual work plan submitted														DAI	Work plan
6	1	2	Submit quarterly reports														DAI	Report
6	1	3	Submit financial reports														DAI	Report
6	1	4	Submit Final Report														DAI	Report
6	2		Design and implement systems to report on monitoring and evaluation of project														DAI	
6	2	1	Conduct regular monitoring and evaluate results against the PMP														DAI	Updated M&E reports from DAI IPs as appropriate
6	2	2	Provide regular M&E technical assistance to IPs														DAI	Regular calls, meetings and field trips to sites
6	2	3	Conduct a data quality assessment (DQA)														DAI	DQA conducted

6	3		Coordinate with USAID, USG partners and Donor community on opportunities to promote Mekong ARCC best practices and lessons learned														DAI	
6	3	1	Foster exchange and partnership opportunities with USAID and other development donors to showcase Mekong ARCC outputs and best practices														DAI	Invitations to speak/present, provision of resources, co-host events