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The Challenges of Integrated Management of Mekong River Basin in Terms of People' s Livelihood

PDF (Size: 294KB) PP. 61-68 DOI: 10.4236/jwarp.2010.21007

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ABSTRACT

Mekong River Basin is a life for many people in six south East Asian countries. The river basin is very productive and has crucial activities like: fishing, agriculture, hydroelectric power, transportation, biodiversity and so on. However, due to mismanagement, political intentions and one way interest only for development, the river basin has already started experiencing complications. The major challenges found out were, huge hydroelectric dam constructions and other projects, high population pressure, lack of cooperation among riparian states (especially upper Mekong region and lower one), and lack of proper management system. This leads to inequitable resource use, impact on water quality, biodiversity loss, and disasters like flooding. It is a high time to make a joint venture among riparian countries for sustainable use of the resource. Multi lateral cooperation and commitment among user countries by consulting all stakeholders will benefit all to use this precious resource equitably without major ecological impacts on the river basin.

KEYWORDS

Challenges, Ecology, IWRM, Livelihood, Mekong River, Sustainability

Cite this paper

A. Abebe BELAY, S. Md. Atiqul HAQ, V. Quoc CHIEN and B. ARAFAT, "The Challenges of Integrated Management of Mekong River Basin in Terms of People' s Livelihood," *Journal of Water Resource and Protection*, Vol. 2 No. 1, 2010, pp. 61-68. doi: 10.4236/jwarp.2010.21007.

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