Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Climate Adaptation in the Mekong Region

Fathima T. Doole, Shelley Littin, Samuel A. Myers, Gowri Somasekhar, & Jennie C. Steyaert – The University of Arizona

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®

Introduction

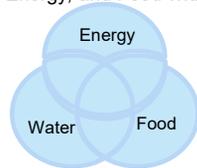Region of Interest: Lower Mekong river basin countries

- Cambodia
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Vietnam

What is Science Diplomacy?

1. *Science in diplomacy* – informing foreign policy objectives with scientific advice
2. *Diplomacy for science* – facilitating international science cooperation
3. *Science for diplomacy* – using scientific cooperation to improve international relations between countries

Issue: Compound Climate Stressors impacting Lower Mekong - Precipitation variability, higher temperatures, rising sea levels

Project Goal: Provide recommendations to U.S. DOS on solutions for Water, Energy, and Food with dissemination plans

Methods

Focused Research Teams

Identify Priorities

DIPLOMACY LAB

Water
Food
Energy

Make Recommendations

Dissemination

Results: Policy Recommendations

Mekong region & SDGs

Key recommendations:

- Improvements to Regional Water Quality.
- Monitoring of Groundwater Resources to Support Sustainable Use.
- Support Gender Equity in Water Management.
- Localize & Empower Rural Disaster Response Planning.

- Enhancing Multilateral Collaboration: Offer matched financial incentives, technical assistance, and mediation.
- Energy Supply: Invest in non-hydropower renewable energy projects.
- Managing Energy Efficiency and Demand: Improvements in public energy efficiency and decrease in energy demand.

- Climate impacts from and on the AFOLU sector.
- Sustainable farming and climate adaptation.
- Food security and adequate nourishment.

Results: Dissemination Strategies

Local Partners

Traditional Media

Social Media

#Mekong&ME

Conclusions

Food Nexus: Devise a comprehensive climate mitigation strategy for agriculture, forestry, and other land use for the region.

Water Nexus: Promote eco-friendly farming practices to reduce pesticides and organic pollutants.

Energy Nexus: Fund micro grants for businesses and individuals to upgrade to more energy-efficient appliances.

Acknowledgements

References

[1] Diplomacy Lab website, https://diplomacylab.org/
[2] Experiential learning for training future science policy and diplomacy experts Fathima T. Doole, Shelley Littin, Samuel A. Myers, Gowri Somasekhar, Jennie C. Steyaert, Kevin Lansey I Manuscript submitted.

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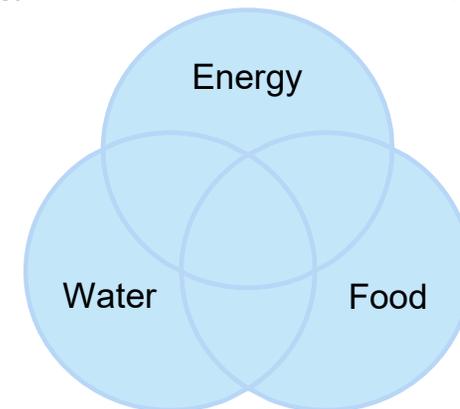
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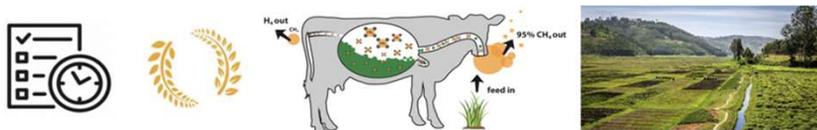
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References

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