



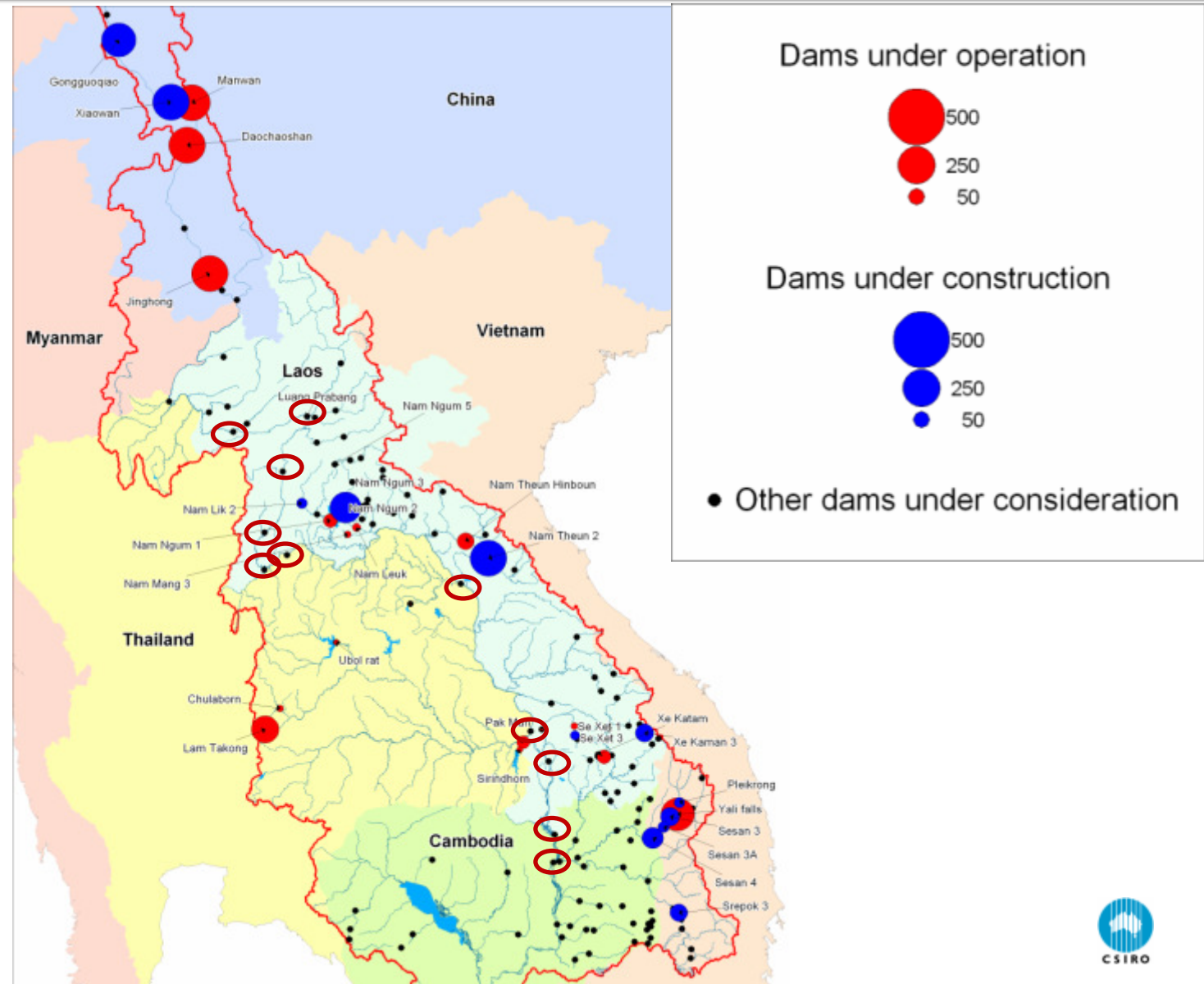
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Sustainable hydropower development Involving the Private Sector in Research Collaboration

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Timothy Wong (M-POWER Research Network, Chiang Mai)
14 September 2010



Mekong region hydropower schemes

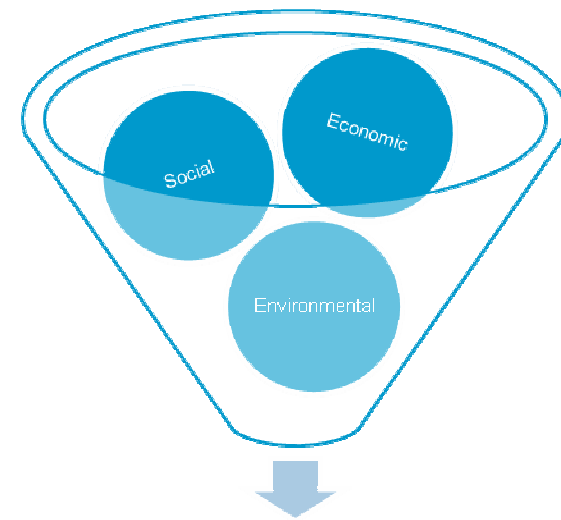


Purpose of talk

- Present initial findings
 - Governance of hydropower development
 - Capacity of state & private sector to design and finance more sustainable projects
 - Present four key sets of governance issues
- Invite your discussion & feedback
- Explore areas of potential research collaboration

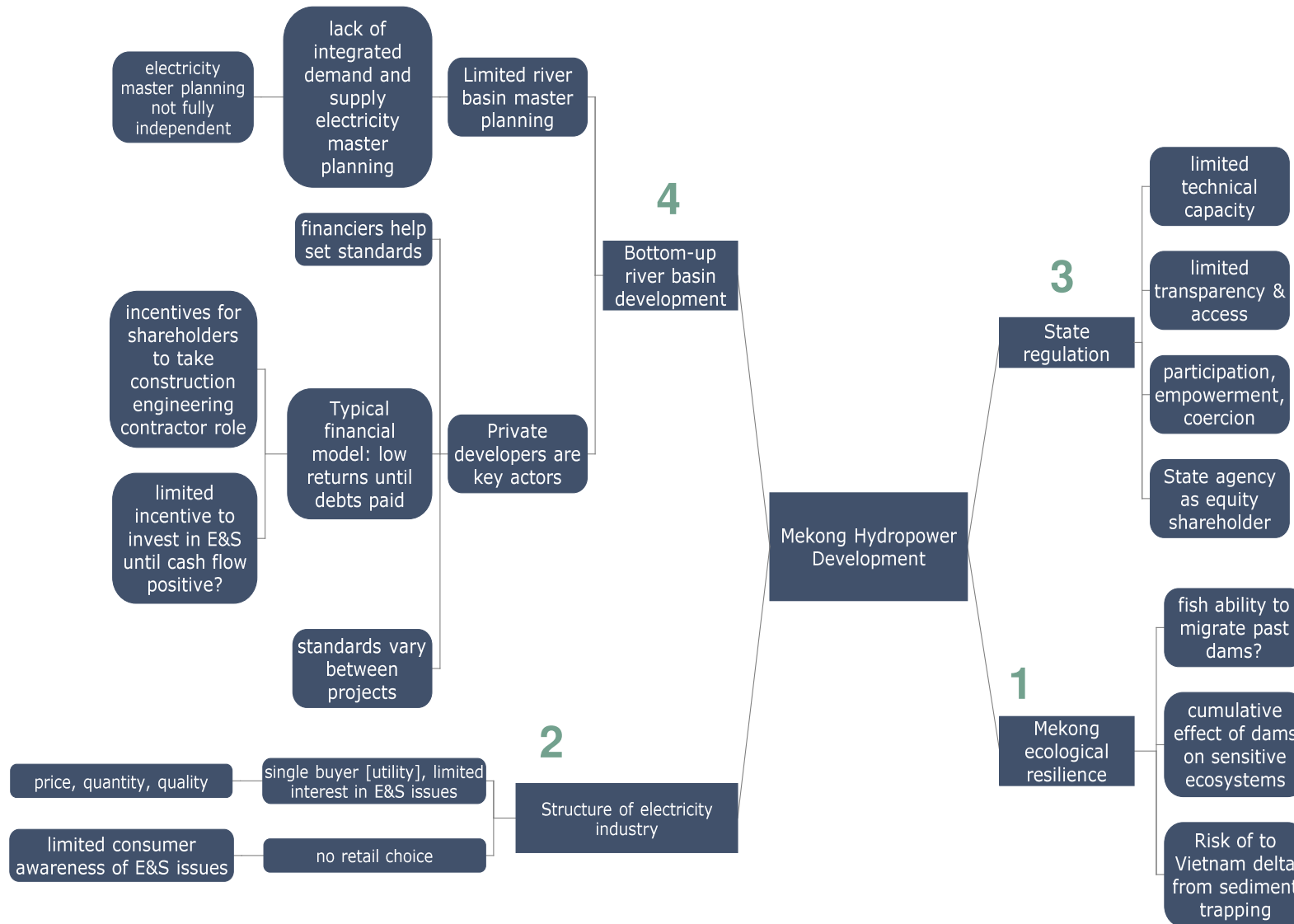
- Methods

- Lit review (80 refs)
- Expert interviews
- Public presentation of work in progress
- Follow-up interviews

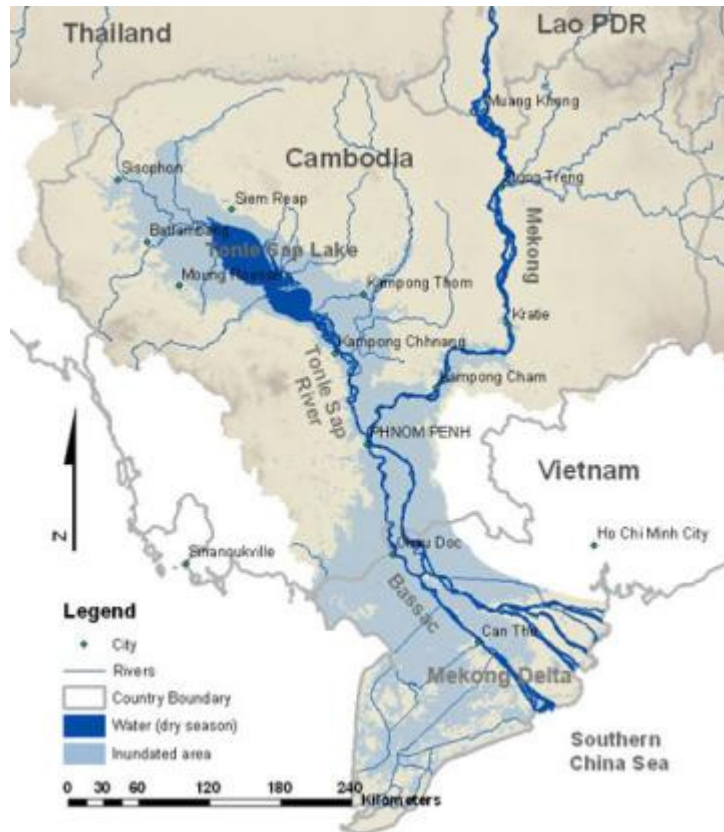


More sustainable
development?

Findings: four sets of governance issues



Issue 1: Mekong aquatic ecosystems



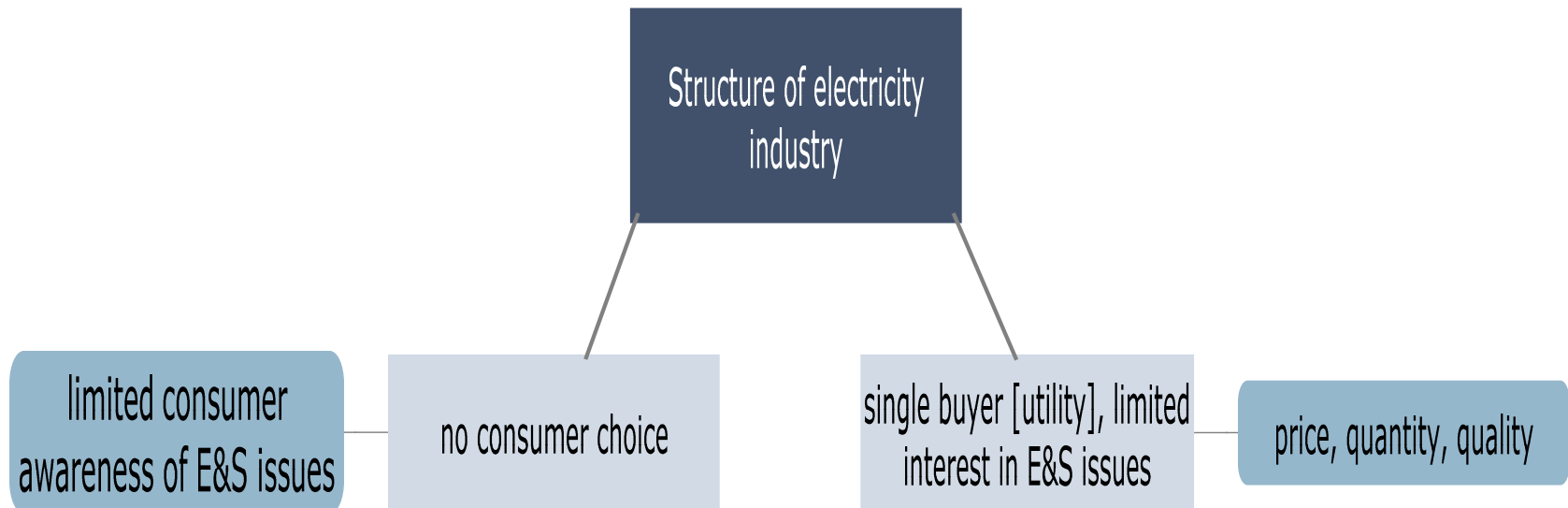
Tonle Sap wetlands & Vietnam delta especially vulnerable?

Small scale wild-capture fisheries

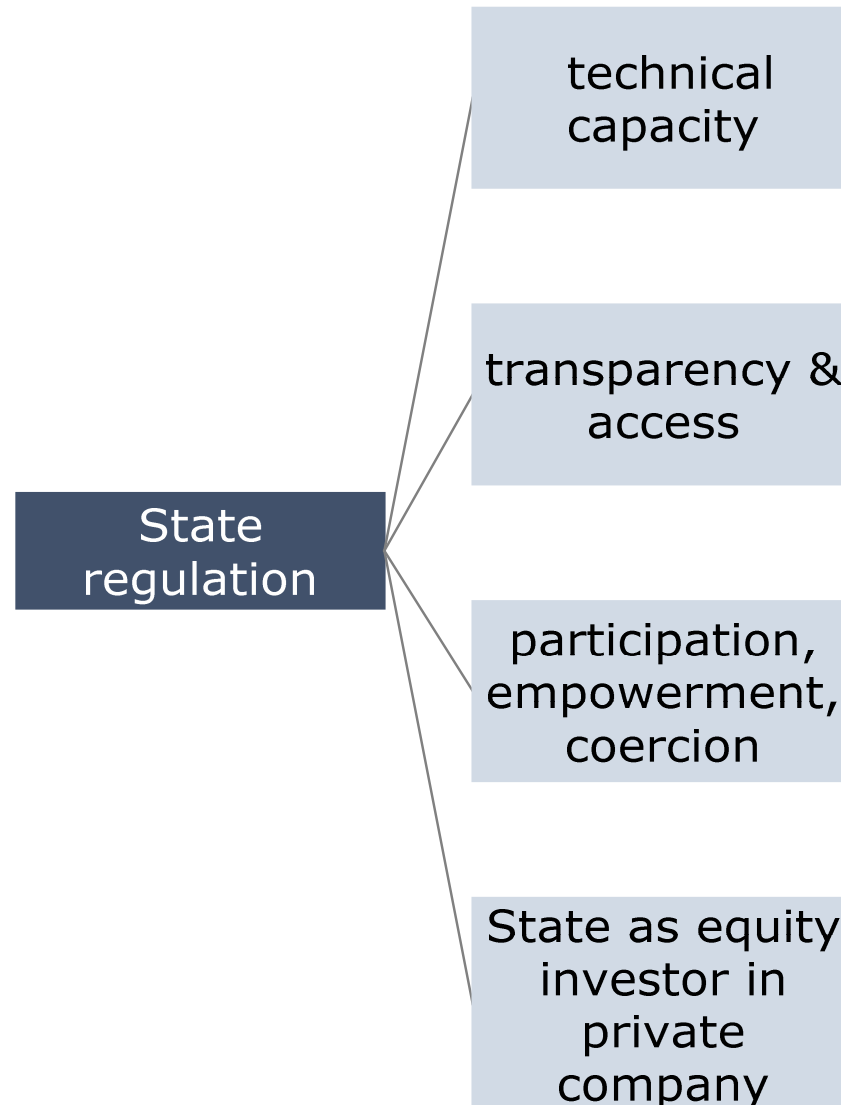


Clockwise: Mun river (Thailand); Xe Bang Fai river; Tonle Sap;
Xe Bang Fai

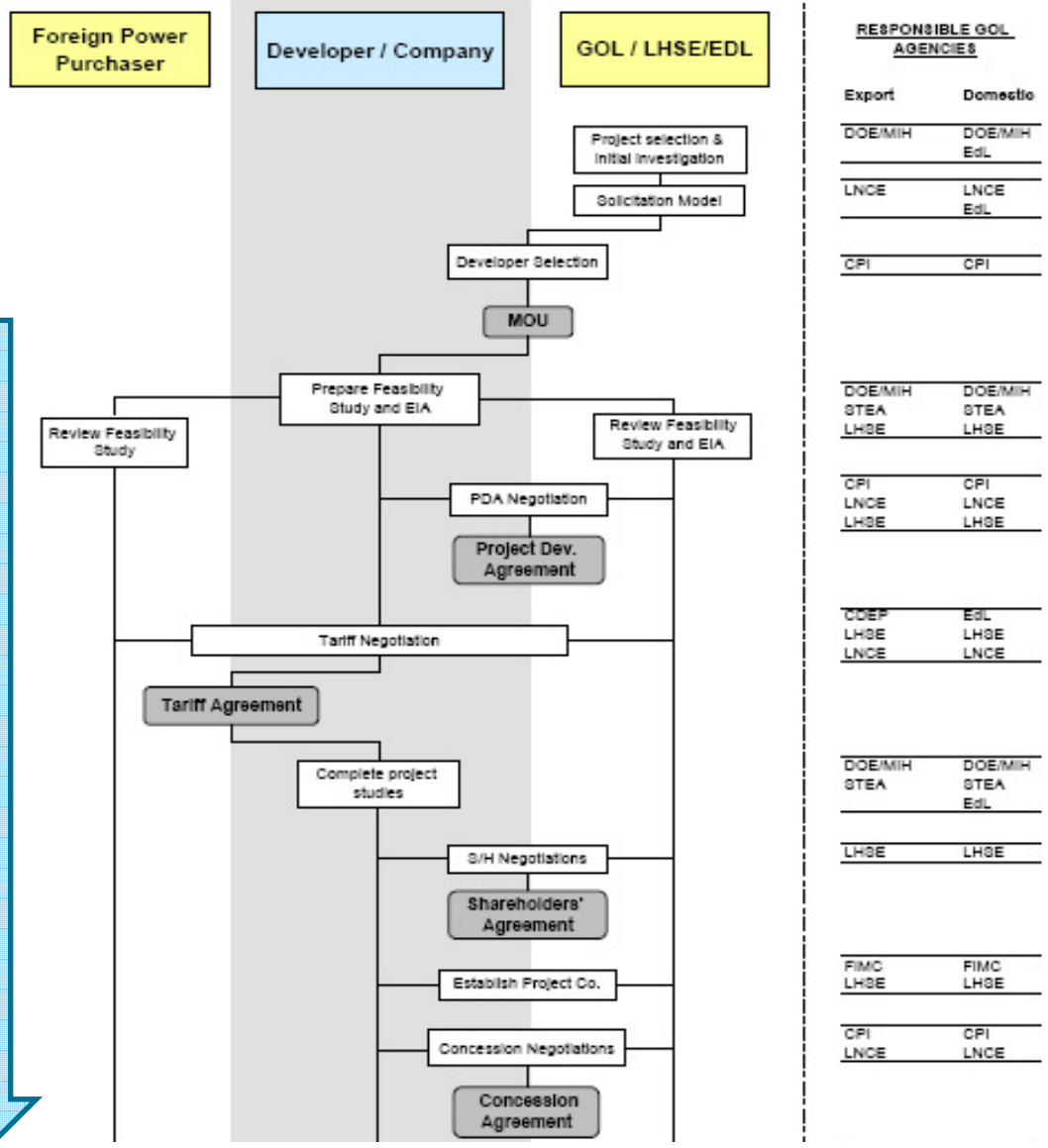
Issue 2: Structure of electricity industry



Issue 3: State regulation



Issue 4: Bottom-up development



[Screening & ranking studies]

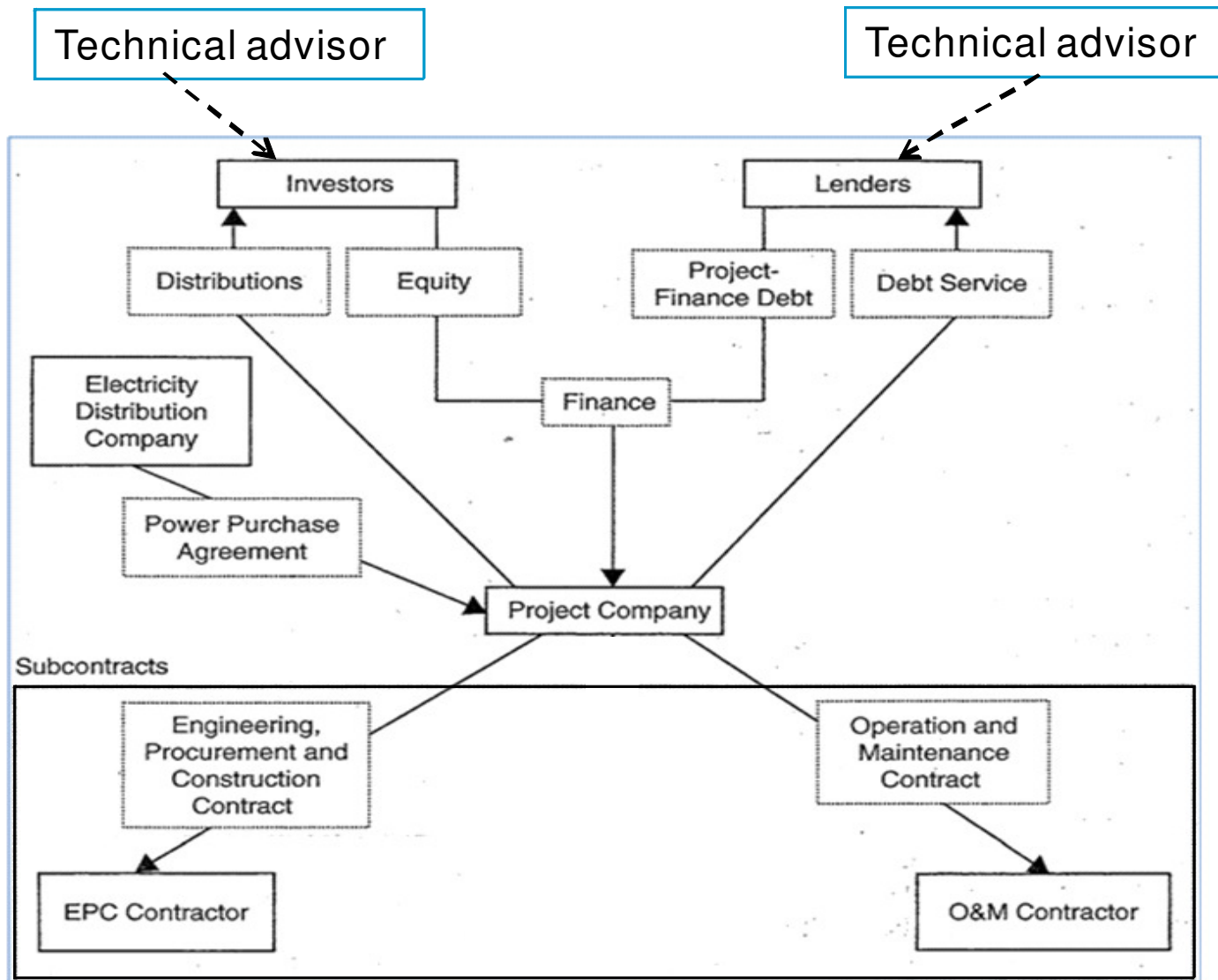
Government selects developer

Developer does feas. & EIA

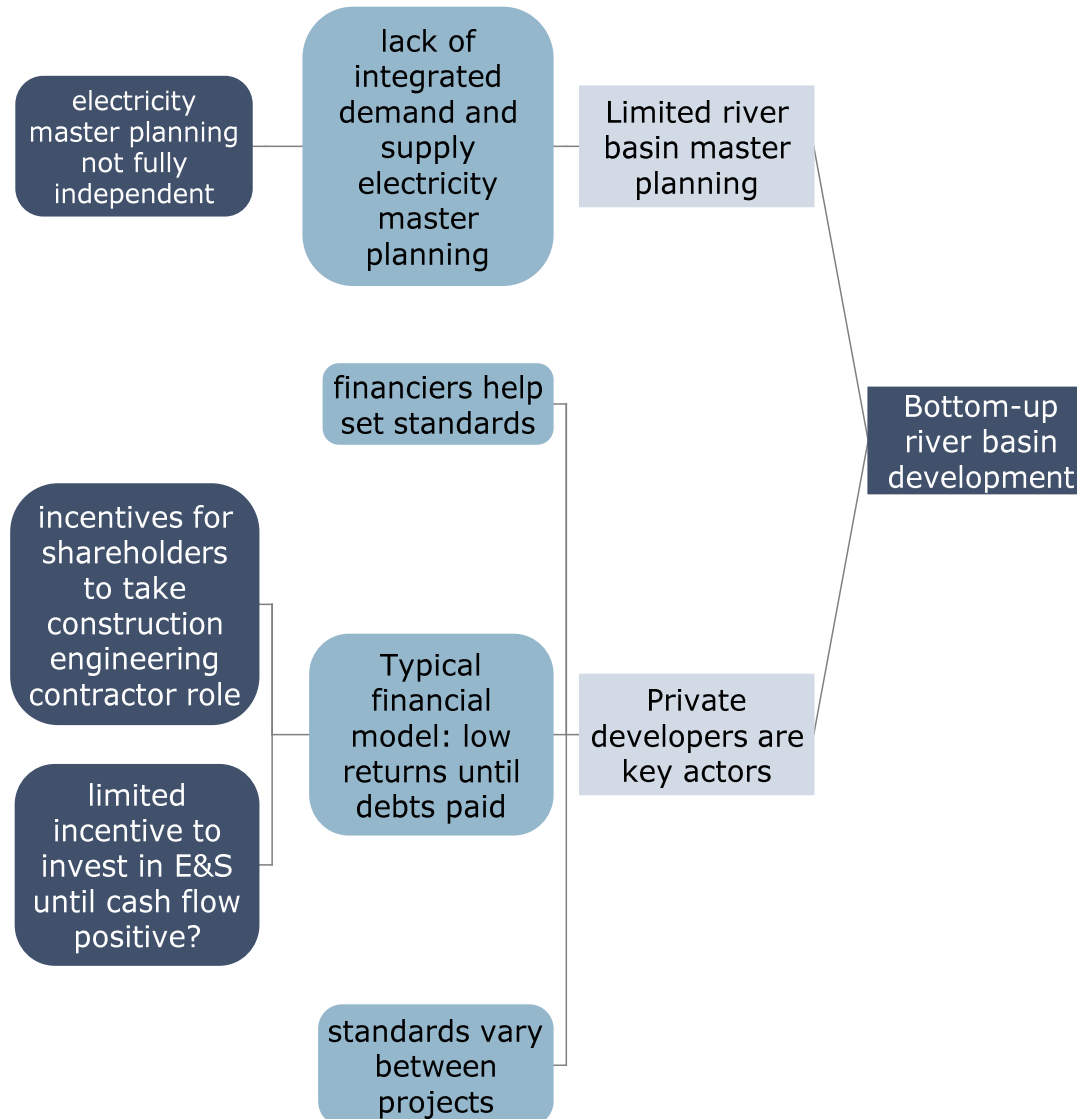
Completes studies

Establishes project company

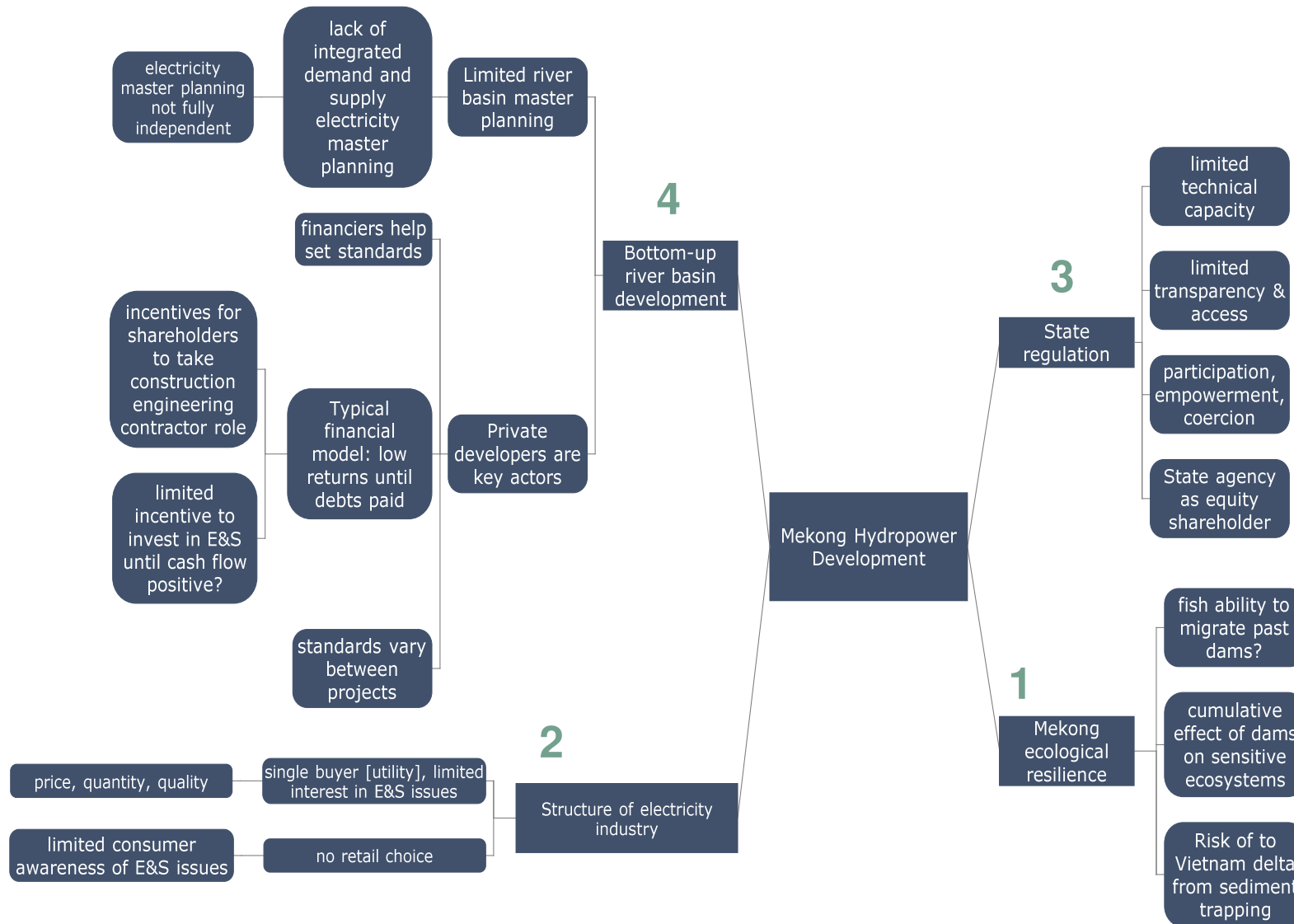
Issue 4 (cont): WHO runs and WHO finances the project company matters!



Issue 4: 'Bottom-up' pattern of development



Summary: four governance issues



Issues + *examples* of questions for discussion

1 Mekong ecological resilience

- Do we know which dam/s, if built, would cause fisheries collapse?

2 Structure of electricity industry

- Would 'green power markets' increase the level of local benefit sharing?

3 Can state regulation be improved (and how long will this take)?

- Corruption
- Capacity
- Empowered participation & representation of affected people

4 Is it time to reconsider bottom-up model of hydropower development?

- Public interest design & procurement
- Risk management

5 How can academic research inform large hydropower development?

- Ethics of research

Can we improve this model of development?

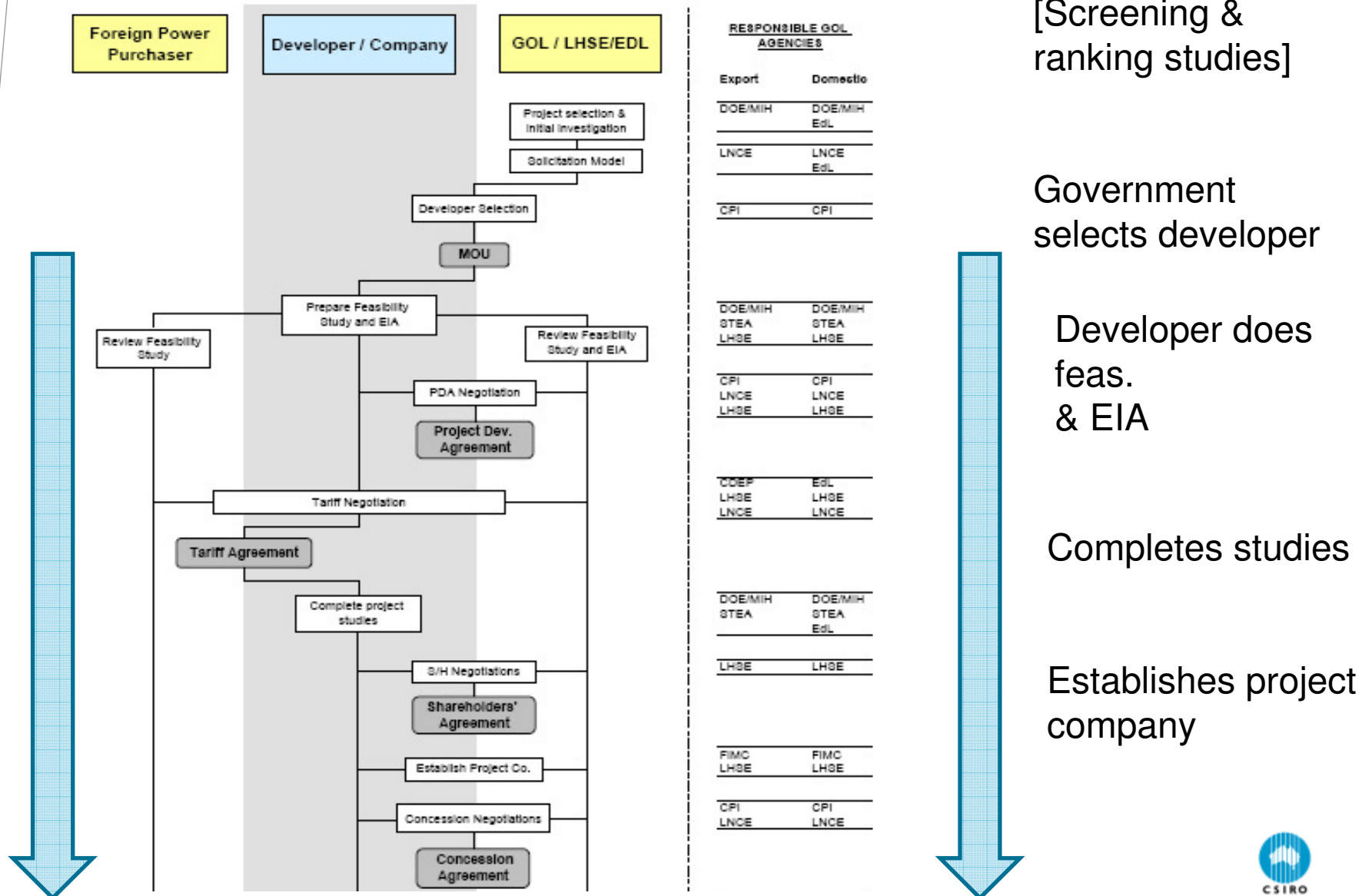


Image credits

AF-Colenco Ltd (Nam Ngum 2 project)

F. Molle (map of Mekong hydropower projects)

M. Keskinen & International Rivers (images of Lao and Khmer fishers)



Nam Ngum 2 dam wall

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Thank you

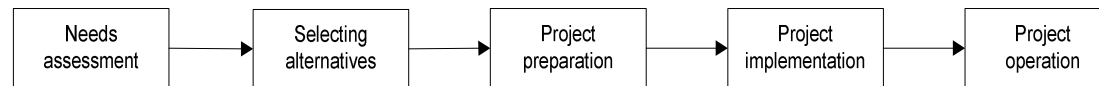
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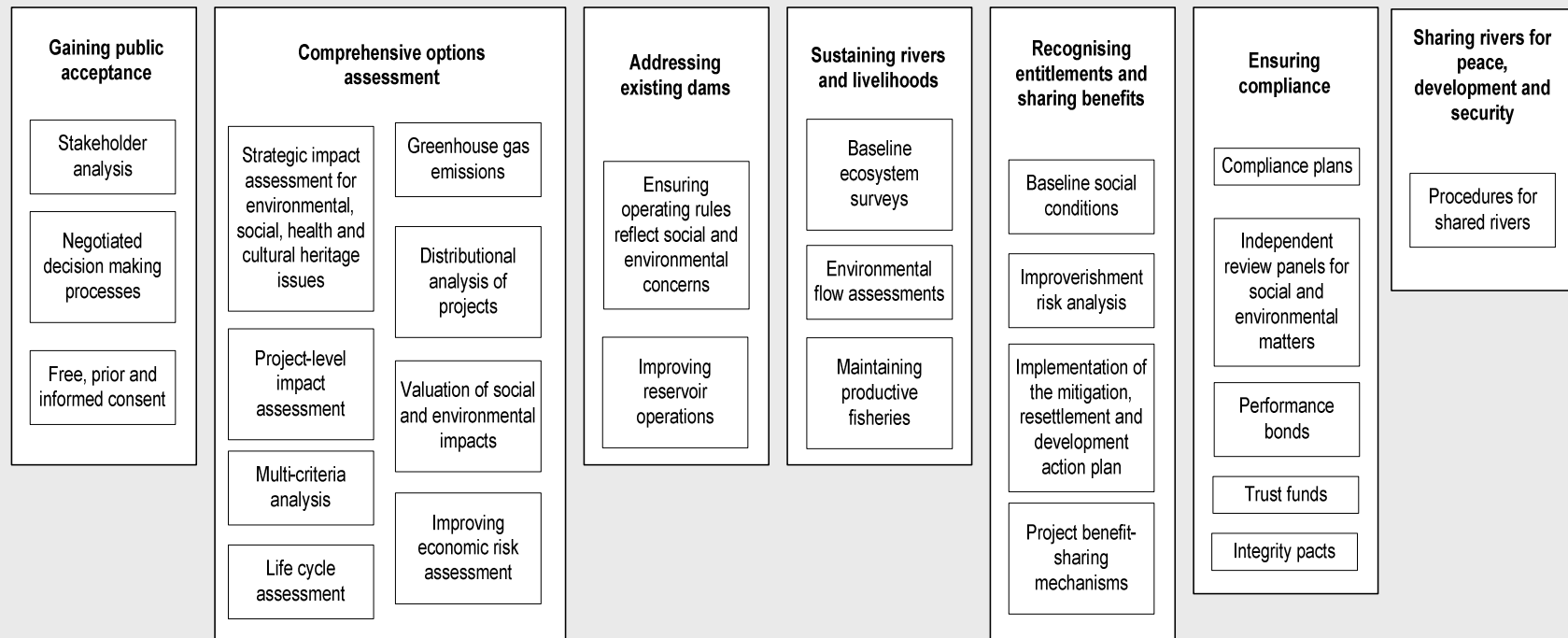


WCD sustainability framework 2000

Key Decision Points



Strategic Priorities and Guidelines for Good Practice

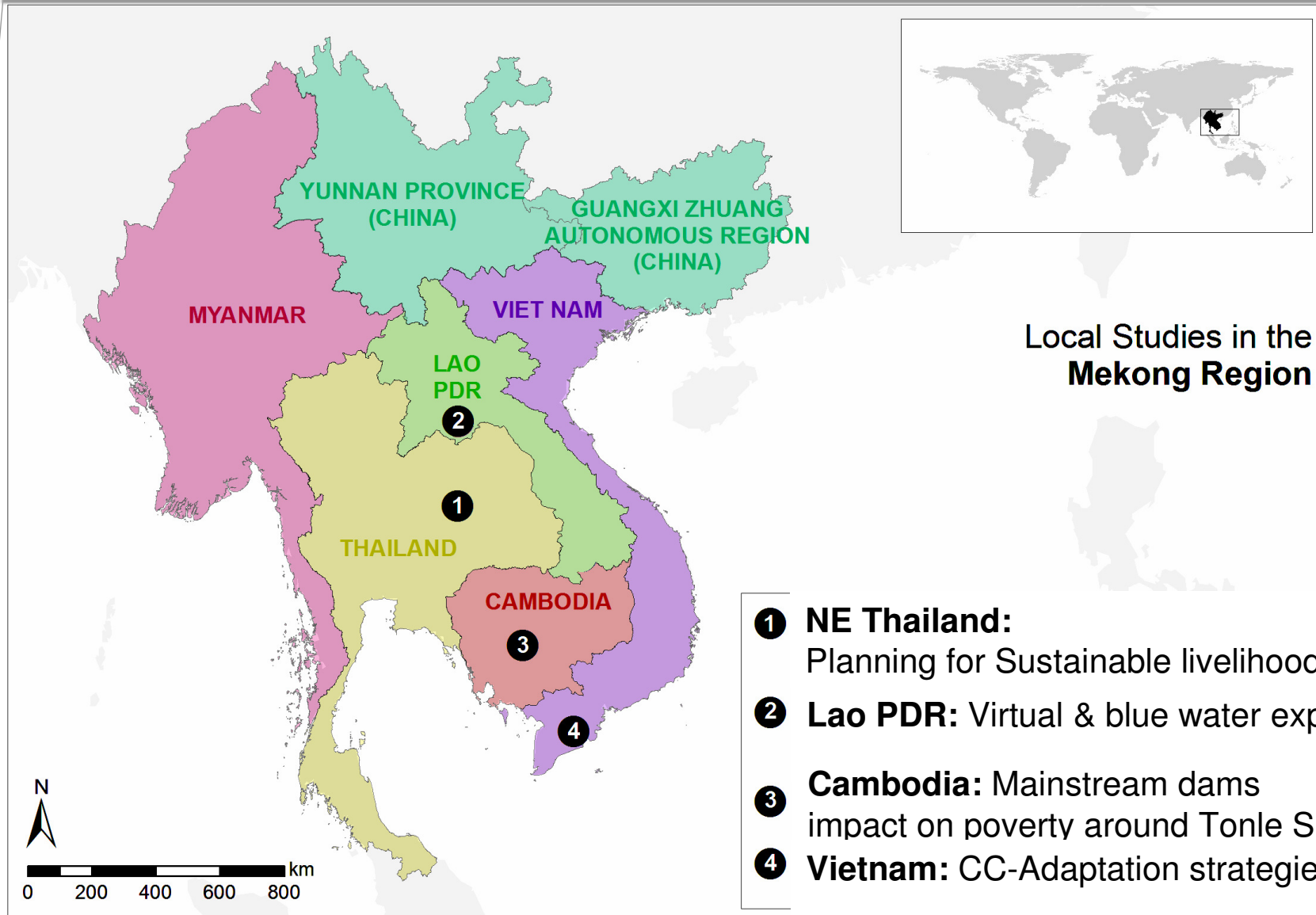


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Exploring Mekong Region Futures



Pending Decisions likely to transform Mekong Region



Local Studies in the Mekong Region

- 1 **NE Thailand:** Planning for Sustainable livelihoods
- 2 **Lao PDR:** Virtual & blue water exports
- 3 **Cambodia:** Mainstream dams impact on poverty around Tonle Sap
- 4 **Vietnam:** CC-Adaptation strategies