WLE GREATER MEKONG

WHAT IS WLE?

The CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems is a research-for-development (R4D) program that works across the developing world, including the Greater Mekong, the region that includes Cambodia, China’s Yunnan Province, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. WLE promotes the idea that a healthy functioning ecosystem is seen as a prerequisite to agricultural development, the resilience of food systems and human well-being.

OUR GOAL

To improve the governance and management of water resources and associated land and ecosystems in the Greater Mekong by generating and sharing the knowledge and practice needed to do so.

OUTPUTS

- Research-generated knowledge
- Tools and strategies
- Fora & Dialogues

OUTCOMES

- Fairer and better informed water governance
- Water governance that accounts for downstream users and uses
- Improved capacities to govern and manage water
- Ecological functions and river health accounted for

MORE INFO

WLE Greater Mekong is based in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
WHAT?

WLE Greater Mekong’s research focuses on:
• What the benefits of water development are, and how these can be fairly distributed
• How the negative impacts of water development can be minimized
• How water and its ecosystems can be better monitored and managed
• Valuing ecosystem services from healthy river land systems
• How water development affects food and nutrition
• How decision-making can be strengthened and improved with the knowledge we generate

In addition, we aim to:
• Implement dialogues and partnerships that improve the capacity for water governance
• Compare and learn from experiences across the region
• See gender and inclusivity factored into decision-making

WHERE?

We work in the Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong and Red River Basins.

HOW?

We use a tried and tested, adaptively managed R4D model implemented entirely through partnerships. Communications play a central role in our fostering of knowledge sharing. Dialogues, partnerships, fora, and neutrality are essential to the process.

The program is led by a Coordination and Change Project, which supports the program’s projects through its communications, leadership, convening, partnering and coordination responsibilities.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

WLE Greater Mekong currently has a portfolio of 14 projects (three in the Irrawaddy, three in the Salween, two in the Red, and six in the Mekong River Basin). In addition, we convene the annual Greater Mekong Forum on Water, Food and Energy, the largest forum of its kind in the Greater Mekong.