

Management response to the recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action plan	If practical, please specify timeframe here
Bring implementing partners together to agree on a common definition and understanding of policy, policy influencing, and dialogue.	Agree	Having a common understanding and definition of policy, policy influencing and policy dialogue would allow consistency amongst partners and more effective approach. Each partner however has its own objectives and approach to policy, which needs to be acknowledged.	DFAT will work with all implementing partners to agree on a common understanding of policy, policy influencing and dialogue, noting each partner has its own agenda to pursue.	Agree on common definition and understanding by the next annual partners' meeting (exact date TBC).
Political economy analyses should be annually updated by implementing partners and for the program as a whole.	Partially Agree	DFAT and implementing partners have in the past used the annual partners' meeting to have in-depth discussions about the political economic situation in the region. However, more could be done to embed political economy analysis into partners' annual work plan (possibly to be revised on a 6 monthly basis).	Allow more time for discussion at the next partners' meeting to make sure all partners are fully aware of the importance of ongoing political economy analysis in their daily work.	Use annual partners' meeting as a platform for this exercise and discussion.
In consultation with implementing partners, focus on a few policy issues on which GMWRP could exert some influence, and convene a series of dialogue events on these issues.	Agree	DFAT agrees on focusing on a few strategic policy issues where we can exercise some influence. The program should nonetheless remain flexible and able to respond opportunistically to emerging policy priorities.	DFAT will continue to work closely with partners to identify specific issues they are best placed to focus on.	Reflect this in annual work plans with a limited number of indicators and policy issues.

Revise M&E frameworks for GMWRP and for each partner to ensure clearer evidence of influence of policy dialogue (i.e. procedural change, policy content, and behaviour change).	Agree	Policy dialogue outcomes insufficiently captured in whole of program (and individual partners') M& E framework.	Identify additions to M&E framework that would assist DFAT and each partners to better capture their contribution to meaningful policy dialogue.	Agree addition to M&E framework for each partner by the next annual partners' meeting.
Review lessons learned from other policy dialogue initiatives (i.e. SEI/SUMERNET, IUCN Mekong Water Dialogues, IUCN BRIDGE, etc.).	Agree	Perceived deficiency in policy dialogue outcomes led study authors to offer examples of other initiatives that DFAT could learn from.	DFAT to request partners to reflect on the examples provided and discuss at next annual partners' meeting.	Include a session on lessons from other policy dialogue initiatives at next annual partners' meeting.
Ensure right balance of participants at Greater Mekong Forum on Water Food and Energy (i.e. more policy makers).	Agree	Extensive representation at the Forum from the six Greater Mekong countries is already achieved however, we agree that there could be greater engagement and participation from public policy makers (i.e. Government officials). The Forum does attract a large number of policy shapers including members of National Mekong Committees who actively engage on policy dialogue during the Forum.	Ensure Forum structure demands all participants in attendance to articulate their policy advice, and pathway to influence. DFAT will ensure a greater attendance by Government officials by requesting the Team Leader of Water, Land and Ecosystem (WLE) to invite each participating government through the Forum organiser, to expand the invitation to target ministries in Greater Mekong region. GMWRP management team will also contact DFAT water focal points in posts of the region asking them to	Evidenced at next Forum set for 25-27 October 2017 in Yangon.

			generate interest within their networks.	
Implementing Partners need to give gender issues greater priority and visibility, and strengthen their own internal organisational gender capacity.	Partially Agree	DFAT believes all partners currently give gender issues priority with IFC's work on Women in Water in Myanmar, Oxfam's work on Gender Impact Assessment of hydropower projects and WLE's research activities that specifically look at gender issues are practical examples of that. However, these efforts need to be sustained. Further efforts could be made by all partners to invest more resources in gender mainstreaming across their portfolio of work.	Check whether M&E Frameworks are sufficiently capturing contribution of partners to progressing gender equality. Encourage MRC in particular to allocate more resources to gender mainstreaming.	Monitor progress from partners' progress reports and discuss with partners at steering committee meetings.
Implementing partners should work with DFAT Mekong Water Team to develop whole-of-GMWRP communication products to raise the profile of the program as a whole.	Agree	Communicating on impact of the program as a whole remains a priority. Each partner already has their own communication products but the GMWRP would benefit from developing new communication products for both external and internal (DFAT) audiences. DFAT commissioned a communications consultant to develop a brochure, banner for GMWRP to better communicate how DFAT is supporting water resources management through different partners in Greater Mekong region.	Update the 2016 brochure, by including flavour of the work of all key partners. Review communications plans for coherence of messages for target audiences and develop specific GMWRP Communication Plan.	Develop and use products at upcoming events.

Foster meaningful collaboration between GMWRP partners to overcome the existing silo mentality and materialise the promised actions and collaborations.	Partially agree	Implementing partners are already collaborating with different pillars. However, more could be done to ensure accountability to commitments made between partners.	DFAT collects and shares quarterly calendar of key events amongst implementing partners to promote collaboration opportunities.	Organise quarterly teleconferences between partner leaders, convened by DFAT.
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