

BEYOND THE MEKONG: A LITMUS TEST FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

- Shikha Vasishta*

Abstract

This study looks into the complex truth behind transboundary environmental cooperation in relation to the Mekong River Basin and is a good indicator for testing whether such governance frameworks are possible anywhere. Built on political ecology, environmental policy, and international relations. It analyses from a multidisciplinary perspective the problems faced by nations along the Mekong River. Taking a comparative analytical approach, it examines cooperation for environmental problems on the part of China with Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. There are rival interests between nations and levels of cooperation that differ according to circumstances--and water is the most carefully contested area. A framework for the study analyses a few links in practical applications: how political forces and power structures define environmental governance or how national policies interrelate with geopolitical interests and regional cooperation institutions. Generalising international experience and making full use of existing case studies in dam building not only furthers theoretical understanding but also provides a set of practical proposals on how to improve collaboration and resolve conflicts while preserving the natural environment.

Keywords: Transboundary Environmental Governance, Mekong River Basin, Political Dynamics, Environmental Cooperation, Political Ecology

* Research Scholar @ Bennett University, Greater NOIDA

INTRODUCTION

The Mekong River Basin, a vast and intricate piece of thread connecting six countries – China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam is, on the one hand, the lifeline that provides water to some fifty million people. It also serves as an example of how difficult transboundary governance can be. This study, titled “Beyond the Mekong: A Litmus Test for Transboundary Environmental Governance,” is an intricate analysis of the forces determining cooperative environmental activities in this significant area. Located at the nexus of political science, environmental policy and international relations, our research aims to peel back layers of complexity in transboundary cooperation over tensions related to the Mekong River Basin’s waters.

It is during a period when the entire world grapples with global environmental issues that call for cross-border collaboration; Mekong serves as an excellent case study in revealing the complexities and potential of transboundary governance frameworks. The concerns over water management, the build-up of dams and ecological interests are not just crucial to those living in communities near its territory but also represent a way forward for countries around the world on how to similarly manage their own resources sustainably.

This study employs a comparative analytical method to analyse the cooperative endeavours, or lack thereof, among the riparian states. Through an analysis of the policy frameworks, geopolitical motivations, and power dynamics that are at play, we seek to reveal several factors that either impede or facilitate successful transboundary environmental governance. In order to get into the details of national interests, political science gives us a lens where we can consider how these divergent agendas intersect or collide in the field of environmental policy.

This study is not just looking at the Mekong’s environmental problems or issues but represents a bigger picture, extrapolating lessons and insights that are applicable to transboundary governance of the environment anywhere in the world. In order to provide some contribution towards the theoretical comprehension of transboundary environmental cooperation, an in-depth analysis of selected case studies (e.g., In addition, this research seeks to provide practical recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders in addressing similar challenges with a view towards establishing sustainable ways of managing those resources coupled with an atmosphere of cooperation.

THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS

This study is based on fundamental theoretical frameworks in political science, environmental governance, and international relations. Therefore, this analysis is based upon the principle of environmental diplomacy; hence, it suggests that finding a solution to ecological problems requires diplomatic effort beyond national borders. In this framework, the study also blends regime theory to look at the formation and effectiveness of international agreements and cooperative structures.

Also, the research relies on theories of power balance and imbalance, acknowledging that the management of shared resources often reflects greater geopolitical realities. Political ecology provides insights into the socio-environmental impacts of policy decisions, while institutionalism allows an inquiry into the influence regional organisations and agreements play on shaping transboundary cooperation.

Theoretical lenses are chosen carefully in order to scrutinise how state interests, power disparities and institutional frameworks come together within the Mekong River Basin. By combining these theoretical foundations, the study aims to provide an in-depth understanding of such complexities associated with transboundary environmental governance so as to enable a subtle analysis of how collaborative efforts are attempted and what consequences that is likely to be reflected upon global environmental diplomacy.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

This research utilises a mixed-methods study design, combining qualitative and quantitative analyses to provide for an overall investigation of transboundary environmental governance in the Mekong River Basin. Qualitatively, the study looks at policy documents, international agreements, and geopolitical narratives to understand political dynamics. Quantitatively, ecological statistics will be run on data pertaining to biodiversity, water quality and dam impact.

Particular case studies involve the impacts of dam building in Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake, water management policies affecting both the Laos Mekong Section and the Vietnamese part of Vietnam, which involves its ecological consequences due to the changed flow of water. By triangulating cases of diverse nature, this research seeks to offer a nuanced perspective into the complex dynamics that influence transboundary environmental governance in the Mekong region.

UNDERSTANDING THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN

The Mekong River Basin spreads across six countries, China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, and it houses a vibrant amalgam of geopolitical complexities and ecological

significance. In order to unravel the intricacies of transboundary environmental governance, an overall comprehension of the region is essential.

The Mekong River Basin stretches over 8,00,000 square kilometres and interconnects with the socio-economic framework of its riparian nations. China, the highest riparian state, contributes to Mekong's headwaters and holds significant control over the water flow in this river. From this point on, the Mekong meanders through other nations, contributing to their geopolitical relationships as a lifeline for trade, agri-business, and cultural interactions. The environmental history of the Mekong is no less complicated. Known for its biological diversity, the basin sustains various ecosystems, such as Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia - a vital source of biodiversity. However, the region has many environmental problems that are intensified by the growing number of dam constructions. It disrupts the delicate equilibrium of Mekong's ecosystem, impacting fisheries, water quality and livelihood from resources.

To understand the present dynamics requires going back to the past. The Mekong River has been an artery of civilisation for thousands of years, providing pathways to trade, communication, and cultural exchanges. However, historical interactions were not free of controversy. Throughout the history of the river, territorial disputes and power struggles have ebbed and flowed along its course, shaping the geopolitical landscape. The modern period saw a boom in dam-making; this was one of the signs that showed where the region wanted to go. China's large dam network along the Mekong in its upper regions changed the natural flow of the Mekong, raising concerns downstream. Rivalry and alliances among riparian states are also largely determined by the geopolitical impact of such projects.

As environmental issues became a global issue, the Mekong River Basin emerged as an area of transboundary governance. Nations were at a crossroads, seeking to reconcile economic development with ecological sustainability. Collaborative efforts were developed, including the Mekong River Commission, which made attempts to form agreements and frameworks for joint management.

Navigating through the elaborate labyrinth of the Mekong River Basin, one can see that its geopolitical and environmental aspects cannot, therefore, be separated from each other. The history underscores what happens today, which serves as a backdrop for cooperative or contrasting initiatives. Managing the balance between developing this basin's resources and maintaining its ecological integrity poses a daunting task. Over the course of this study, we aim to peel back these interrelated threads, exposing the geopolitical and environmental complexities that lie beneath transboundary environmental governance in the Mekong River Basin.

ANALYSIS OF COOPERATION EFFORTS

■ Cooperation Initiatives

The Mekong River Basin's collaborative landscape has changed over certain years, with major initiatives determining transboundary environmental governance. In 1995, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) was established as a key pillar of cooperation between Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. This capacity has facilitated dialogue and information sharing over the years and culminated in the development of the Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plan.

However, the effectiveness of the MRC is still an important topic for evaluation. The MRC has the challenge as of the mid-2000s on how to make policy recommendations an enforceable regulation since it does not have binding authority. While Agreements within the MRC have fostered regional cooperation, there are complexities as national interests and levels of commitment among member states vary greatly.

The year 2015 saw the debut of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism emerging as a wider regional cooperation among China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. This mechanism represents a changing field of collaboration centred on water resources, connectivity, and sustainable development. However, its efficacy depends on being able to manoeuvre complicated geopolitical dynamics and equate economic disparities among participating nations.

As of the latest available statistics, these initiatives form an energetic background for such a transboundary environmental governance evaluation in terms of the Mekong River Basin. The inability of agreements to be legally binding and the impact that other influential actors have created a host of challenges for effective joint governance. In the following analysis, this study will look into details of these initiatives, analysing development and cooperative patterns over time to evaluate their effectiveness during respective periods with insights on delicate balances between cooperation pitfalls and challenges that are inherently present within any such environmental governance system.

■ Challenges and Hurdles

Navigating transboundary cooperation within the Mekong River Basin is a labyrinth nation of challenges that are intricately interwoven with geopolitical, economic, and environmental dynamics.

Persistent obstacles are territorial disputes, various national priorities, and economic asymmetries. Historical disputes such as the conflict between Cambodia and Thailand over Preah Vihear temple are examples of territorial complexities. Such territorial issues not only make the negotiation more difficult but, at the same time, highlight a broader challenge of managing nationalist interests in order to fit into these cooperative frameworks.

Mekong nations' diverse levels of economic development add to the complications in collaboration. Economic disparities influence negotiation dynamics making it difficult to find even bargains that consider the varying abilities of member states.

Different political dynamics significantly contribute to the determination of collaborative efforts. There are power imbalances among nations, which shape the negotiation process, which often traces back to history and geopolitical considerations. China brings another dimension to the cooperative field owing to its upstream standing and massive dam initiatives. The willingness to pursue joint efforts is also influenced by the political priorities of each nation, leading to a delicate balance between national interests and collective regional objectives.

The collaboration milieu is complicated by external actors, such as non-basin countries and economic stakeholders. National policies may seem to deviate from a certain trajectory due to investments made outside the country, misaligning environmental goals, and proving difficult for cohesive collaboration.

Even as of the latest appraisals, these challenges have remained in place and are reflected in difficulties in producing cohesive policies for environmental sustainability within the Mekong River Basin. the dynamics of cooperation are always changing with geopolitical shift, economic development and even changes to environmental priorities.

CASE STUDIES: WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEKONG RIVER BASIN

- **Case Study 1:** Lancang-Mekong Cooperation and Upstream Dam Construction 2010 – Present

They investigate the case of extensive dam construction in China on the Lancang River, an upper stretch of the Mekong, from 2010 to date. China's large-scale dam projects have raised questions downstream due to changes in water flow and sediment transport and their potential ecological impacts. 2015 saw the establishment of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism as a collaborative platform to address these concerns and enhance regional cooperation. Balancing China's developmental dreams and environmental interests, as well as socioeconomic events with

downstream nations, is a challenge. This case examines the problem of such a mechanism in reducing environmental impacts during upstream construction and operation of dams, promoting fair water allocation, and developing guidelines for environmentally friendly cooperation beyond borders within the Mekong River Basin.

▪ **Case Study 2:** Mekong River Commission's Procedures for Water Use (1995 - Present)

Since its creation in 1995, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) has been central to facilitating cooperative efforts among Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam for appropriate water management within the ambit of the Mekong River Basin. The MRC's principal aim is to help in discussions and negotiations concerning water utilisation. It seeks to strike a balance between the developmental interests of its member states, and that requires managing resources sustainably.

This case study deals with issues concerning the implementation of water use agreements. The fact that MRC makes use of non-binding regulations also poses questions regarding the functionality of its practices. This complication arises from varying levels of commitment among member states. Thus, it calls for a sophisticated analysis of how the MRC manages these challenges to foster equitable water use in an environmentally sustainable manner within the basin. The purpose of this case is to untangle the peculiarities of MRC's operations, revealing how cooperation and disputes play a role in transboundary water governance.

▪ **Case Studies 3:** Ecological Concerns

The biodiversity hotspot and lifeline to millions, the Mekong River Basin faces essential ecological challenges that must be keenly investigated. This section focuses on selected case studies, presenting particular ecological dilemmas for various regions and demonstrating the primacy of transboundary environmental governance. In the north of Laos, major development projects and hydropower present a danger to unique biodiversity hot spots. Dam construction on the Nam Ou River, one of its main tributaries, is affected by increased flow changes, causing multiple problems for species inhabiting these ecologically delicate grounds. There is habitat destruction that threatens endangered species of flora and fauna in order to shift the precarious balance within this ecosystem.

The Tonle Sap, the largest lake in Southeast Asia, is of great economic and ecological importance to Cambodia. The creation of dams on the river Mekong, especially in China and Laos, has interrupted the natural process of flood for this very reason. In turn, this interference influences fish migration routes and spawning schedules, which impede the rich aquatic diversity of Tonle

Sap. In their dependence on fisheries, local communities are subject to economic insecurity that magnifies their socio-ecological impacts. The Mekong in Vietnam, the “Rice Bowl”, faces ecological degradation as a result of modified river flows caused by dams upstream. This affects the natural replenishment system of the delta, resulting in saltwater intrusion, soil erosion and less productivity of agriculture. The Mangrove forests that are important for coastal ecosystems get invaded and biodiversity is negatively affected, increasing vulnerability pertaining to climate change. These case studies together highlight the complex inter-relationship between transnational environmental choices and localised ecological outcomes. The hurdles transcend the boundaries of geography and politics, which necessitate a broad but collaborative initiative for an effective effort against them. The impacts on biodiversity, water quality, and local communities are representative of the challenges facing environmental issues in the Mekong River Basin that signifies an urgent need for transboundary collaboration as well as sustainable management systems in order to preserve this ecosystem.

POLITICAL DYNAMICS AND POWER IMBALANCES

The Mekong River Basin is a scene where political processes and structural imbalances have been key in determining transboundary environmental governance. This part bears the complicated dynamics between national policies, geopolitical interests and cooperative organisational mechanisms that enhance or thwart efficient environmental management. The underlying policies implemented by the Mekong River Basin nations contribute to transboundary cooperation. The socioeconomic priorities and political agenda of each country determine the kind of environmental policy it formulates, which often seeks to promote national interest instead of efforts towards collaboration. The conflict between these policies, especially issues related to dam construction and water management, reveals the dilemma of connecting various national goals for more significant environmental benefits. The highly variable policies of the countries in the Mekong River Basin are important for guiding transboundary cooperation. This is because every country, guided by its socioeconomic priorities and political agenda, designs environmental policies geared towards furthering its national interests rather than a united effort. The conflict in policies, especially regarding dam making and water control, illustrates the difficulty of reconciling different national goals for a more significant collective gain. There are regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Mekong River Commission (MRC), but their effectiveness is limited by imbalances in power among member states. Larger nations’ influence can weaken the issues of small riparian countries. Decision-making processes typical for these mechanisms may not always correspond with the requirements of ecological balance across the entire basin, thus drawing attention to

difficulties associated with a sustainable and all-inclusive transboundary environmental governance framework.

A further complication is added in the pursuit of hydropower projects as a means of energy security. In the sense that they are motivated by energy and economic independence, upstream countries usually focus on building dams. On the other hand, downstream nations are worried about the ecological and social impacts of dams that they rely on for their needs, including electricity generation. Negotiations over hydropower projects often prove to be sites of power imbalances, which affect the volume and speed at which transformations come about. In the case of the Mekong River Basin, political phenomena and uneven power relate, in turn, to considerable challenges characterising efficient transboundary environmental governance. These consequences go beyond ecological issues to influence the socio-economic stability of the nations involved.

To overcome such challenges, creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, shared responsibility, and inclusive decision-making is necessary. To achieve sustainable and fair management of the environment in the Mekong River basin, initiatives that take account of every country's needs while aligning with a framework for cooperation are crucial. Future prospects should focus on consensus, power relationships, and principles of transboundary environmental governance that are in line with regional stability and sustainability.

INSIGHTS FOR GLOBAL TRANSBOUNDARY GOVERNANCE

The complications of transboundary environmental governance in the Mekong River Basin provide valuable lessons for extrapolation to a wider international context. This section generalises lessons and insights that go beyond localities, offering a wider lens to policymakers and researchers engaging in border governance across the globe. The Mekong experience is characterised by the interrelatedness of environmental threats. Water management and dam construction are some of the issues that transcend boundaries, and so are ecological issues. Hence, global transboundary governance frameworks need to consider the complex interactions of various environmental issues across continents affecting many countries. In the Mekong, power disparities have undermined good governance. This highlights the need to promote inclusivity in global governance structures. Having a deep understanding of the different interests and capacities in nations encompassed by transboundary initiatives is essential to develop frameworks that are objective and transparent, as well as allow for responses from all stakeholders. Although regional bodies such as the Mekong River Commission have their share of problems, they show that collaborative

platforms are capable. Global governance frameworks should be based on regional building blocks that suggest transboundary cooperation. Regional cooperation may lead to increased efficiency, sharing information and consequently offering specialised services that are in line with the specifics of each region. However, the challenges encountered by the Mekong Basin in developing hydropower point to the need for a delicate equilibrium between sustainability and economic aspirations. Efforts in global transboundary governance should promote a sustainable practice that preserves the environment but does not interfere with economic development. This entails support for cleaner technologies, advancing green economies and linking development paths to long-term ecological resilience. The histories of Mekong region communities highlight the importance of adopting local knowledge and involving community membership in such processes. The emphasis of global transboundary governance should centre on community engagement to have local outcomes contribute towards the development and implementation of policies and initiatives. This strategy makes transboundary environmental governance more effective and sustainable. By applying an integrated approach, we can draw on experiences from the Mekong River Basin. Global transboundary governance initiatives emerge as beneficiaries of these insights. It is imperative that policymakers and stakeholders focus on collaboration, acknowledge the connected nature of environmental problems, and strive towards solutions that are inclusive as well as community-focused. With global environmental intricacies on the rise, regional learning from case studies such as one for the Mekong becomes essential to support building strong international frameworks that seek sustainable and fair transboundary governance.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides practical approaches stemming from the Mekong River Basin to support cooperation, resolve conflicts and promote sustainable utilisation of shared natural resources under transboundary environmental governance.

- **Establish a Collaborative Platform:** Support the establishment or improvement of a regional collaborative forum, such as that provided by the Mekong River Commission, to enable riparian states to continue engagement and cooperation. This platform should be flexible enough to cater for the differing needs and capacities of each country while incorporating key stakeholders, such as local communities and non-governmental organisations.
- **Enhance Data Sharing and Transparency:** Reinforce transparency in information sharing about environmental conditions, projects implemented and potential impacts.

Establish a uniform process of information transfer enabled by technology to facilitate real-time updates and effective decision-making.

- **Incorporate Adaptive Management Strategies:** Adopt adaptive management approaches that involve ongoing assessment and adaptation of environmental regulations to emerging risks. Promote the malleability of governance structures as science continues to evolve and technology advances.
- **Promote Basin-Wide Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA):** Require Environmental Impact Assessments for significant projects to analyse the cumulative impact of development on ecosystems and local communities across an entire basin. Make sure all EIAs are cross-border implemented, with participation from representatives of every riparian state and consideration for potential transboundary effects.
- **Invest in Sustainable Alternatives:** Highlight investments in environmentally friendly alternatives to dam constructions, renewable energy sources, and other eco-friendly infrastructure projects. Support collaboration for research and development projects of sustainable technology capable of covering all nations' energy needs but having minimal impact on the environment.
- **Prioritise Community Involvement and Capacity Building:** Focus more on fostering the participation of local communities to influence decision-making processes based on their unique knowledge and perspectives. Develop capacity-building programs to equip communities with the relevant skills and resources required to contribute actively towards sustainable environmental practices.
- **Implement Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** Set up adequate conflict resolution mechanisms that provide a procedure for dealing with such minor issues as transboundary environmental disputes. Promote the practices of mediation, negotiation and international arbitration as peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms to avert conflicts.
- **Monitor and Enforce Agreements:** Establish a strong monitoring and compliance mechanism that will ensure the implementation of environmental regulations agreed upon in the collaborative initiatives. Penalties for non-conformance and mandates that nations be accountable to their environmental commitments should also occur.

These pragmatic measures require common initiative, political determination, and uniform accountability from all riparian states. The Mekong River Basin nations, as well as other countries that face similar challenges globally, should adopt a cooperative and adaptive model to move towards a resilient transboundary environmental governance framework.

CONCLUSION

In the final stage, transboundary environmental governance The issues that emerge in this region exhibit the need for developing efficient governance frameworks to strike a balance of development and conservation with power imbalances as well as encourage participatory decision-making.

The Mekong's transboundary governance experience focuses on the interdependence between environmental problems and politics, which disregards political boundaries. This region's insights serve to emphasise the need to consider diverse challenges, linking issues related to water management and dam building with environmental interventions that require regional planning. Immediate practical recommendations informed by these insights present a cooperative future in which nations within the Mekong River Basin and beyond can resolve environmental challenges together. Main among the recommended measures is the formulation of cooperative interfaces where there remains an unending dialogue between riparian states. Through promoting openness, these platforms encourage shared understanding and collaborative problem-solving. Another important recommendation is improving the sharing and transparency of data. This includes developing protocols for information sharing, which would allow for better-informed decisions and increase the level of trust among nations. The use of Basin-wide Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) also promotes transparency and collaborative decisions, which ensures that there is a thorough assessment that identifies any potential transboundary impacts. The adoption of adaptive management approaches is crucial for dealing with the dynamic nature that environmental threats exhibit. This approach promotes the adaptability of governance structures which allows for constant evaluation and re-evaluation depending on new developments in scientific knowledge or technological advancements. Recommendations also place emphasis on sustainable alternatives to dam construction, investments in renewable power sources and community participation. Being aware of the particular beliefs and facts held by local communities is necessary to develop resilience and achieve effective environmental sustainability programs. A comprehensive approach that incorporates diplomacy, conflict resolution tools and geopolitical dialogues is necessary in order to address imbalances of power. Such mechanisms are designed to ensure that all riparian states hear their voice, reduce tension and work together for the wider nature's benefit. Indeed, the Mekong River Basin case demands a novel approach towards transnational environmental management. It promotes a vision of the future in which common natural resources are collectively managed according to ethical standards, such as equity and sustainability. With the application of these down-to-earth recommendations by and in Mekong

countries, not only they but also all humanity can contribute to a better, more sustainable living with our shared natural environment.

References

1. Kansal, M. L., Sridhar, V., & Mwanga, E. E. Transboundary Issues of Water Governance in Mekong River Basin. In World Environmental and Water Resources Congress 2019, 130–143 (American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, VA).
2. Brühl, H., & Waters, M. Transboundary cooperation in action for integrated water resources management and development in the lower Mekong basin. *Management in Practice* 189 (2012).
3. Rieu-Clarke, A., & Moynihan, R. Transboundary water governance and climate change adaptation: International law, policy guidelines and best practice application (UNESCO Publishing 2015).
4. Costa-Cabral, M. C., Richey, J. E., Goteti, G., Lettenmaier, D. P., Feldkötter, C., & Snidvongs, A. Landscape structure and use, climate, and water movement in the Mekong River basin, 22 *Hydrological Processes: An International Journal* 1731 (2008).
5. Douglas, I., The Mekong River Basin, in *The Physical Geography of Southeast Asia*, 193-218 (Oxford University Press 2005).
6. Ratner, B. D., The Politics of Regional Governance in the Mekong River Basin, 15 *Global Change, Peace & Security* 59 (2003).
7. Öjendal, J., & Jensen, K. M., Politics and Development of the Mekong River Basin: Transboundary Dilemmas and Participatory Ambitions, in *Politics and Development in a Transboundary Watershed: The Case of the Lower Mekong Basin* 37-59 (Springer Netherlands 2011).
8. Fox, C. A., & Sneddon, C. S., Political Borders, Epistemological Boundaries, and Contested Knowledges: Constructing Dams and Narratives in the Mekong River Basin, 11 *Water* 413 (2019).
9. Mitchell, M., The Political Economy of Mekong Basin Development, in *The Politics of Environment in Southeast Asia* 85-104 (Routledge 2002).
10. Pearse-Smith, S. W., 'Water War' in the Mekong Basin?, 53 *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* 147 (2012).
11. Sneddon, C., & Fox, C., Rethinking Transboundary Waters: A Critical Hydropolitics of the Mekong Basin, 25 *Political Geography* 181 (2006).

12. Laohasiriwong, S., & Oishi, M., Managing the Mekong River Conflicts: Political Stability at the Cost of Local Communities, in *Managing Conflicts in a Globalizing ASEAN: Incompatibility Management through Good Governance* 143-163 (2020).
13. Weatherbee, D. E., Cooperation and Conflict in the Mekong River Basin, *20 Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 167 (1997).
14. Woods, K., & Worby, E., Transboundary Environmental Governance in the Mekong River Basin: Civil Society Spaces for Transboundary Participation, in *Politics of the Commons: Articulating Development and Strengthening Local Practices,* Chiang Mai, Thailand (2003).
15. Sithirith, M., Transboundary River Basin Governance: A Case of the Mekong River Basin, in *River Basin Management - Sustainability Issues and Planning Strategies* (2021).
16. Wells-Dang, A., Soe, K. N., Inthakoun, L., Tola, P., Socheat, P., Van, T. T., ... & Youttananakorn, W., A Political Economy of Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mekong Region, *9 Water Alternatives* 1 (2016).