

Required Conditions for Proposed Activities

In order to be considered eligible for SIM assistance:

- The activity must be located within an LMI partner country or countries: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- The activity must seek technical assistance to support climate-smart, environmentally sound and socially equitable infrastructure, clean energy development, and land and/or water resources use in the Mekong Basin.
- The activity may be proposed by any relevant LMI government ministry, but must include written endorsement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additional Considerations

Once the U.S. Government receives a Concept Note for an activity that meets the required conditions above, a multi-disciplinary team of U.S. Government experts will evaluate it. Though not required, successful Concept Notes will also demonstrate as many of the following favorable considerations as possible, such as:

- Requesting support jointly, among two or more LMI countries, for assistance with a common need or shared resource
- Creating a large net positive benefit to landscapes within the LMI countries
- Having trans-boundary benefits
- Supporting activities that include meaningful public participation
- Supporting activities that advance climate change adaptation or assist climate-vulnerable populations
- Supporting clean energy activities that promote greenhouse gas mitigation (see below)
- Supporting land use activities that aim to slow, halt, and reverse emissions from land use and promote low-emission development strategies in the land-use sector
- Leveraging funds from government, other donors and/or the private sector
- Demonstrating implementation commitment from government to cover support costs associated with technical assistance requests, such as visas, work permits, translation services, office space, in-country transport, conference space, etc.
- Supporting a project that aligns with or directly supports national or regional (ASEAN, LMI, Mekong River Commission, etc.) development plans or strategies
- Strengthening the capacity of governments to implement smart infrastructure
- Representing a geographical equity among LMI partner countries
- Not duplicating efforts of other donors

The Smart Infrastructure for the Mekong program will select projects across a wide range of technical and regional areas in the Lower Mekong region. The program reserves the right to make selection decisions in order to balance its portfolio across sectors, countries, and projected outcomes. Other considerations that the program will take reviewing requests include:

- Merit of the proposed project against the evaluation considerations as described above
- Availability of funds
- Relevance of the proposed project in relation to regional program priorities including geographic diversity and coverage of underserved areas

¹ Technical assistance activities may not facilitate, enable, or support new large-scale (>50 MW) hydropower development. Support for sustainable large-scale hydropower should improve the technical performance of existing dams only and must identify and remedy outstanding environmental and social issues.