



MEKONG CONNECTIONS

SUPPORTING GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND LOCAL VOICES



The Mekong-U.S. Partnership (MUSP) strengthened community actors' roles in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam through Mekong Connections. The three-year program, funded by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by Pact, focused on three key areas:

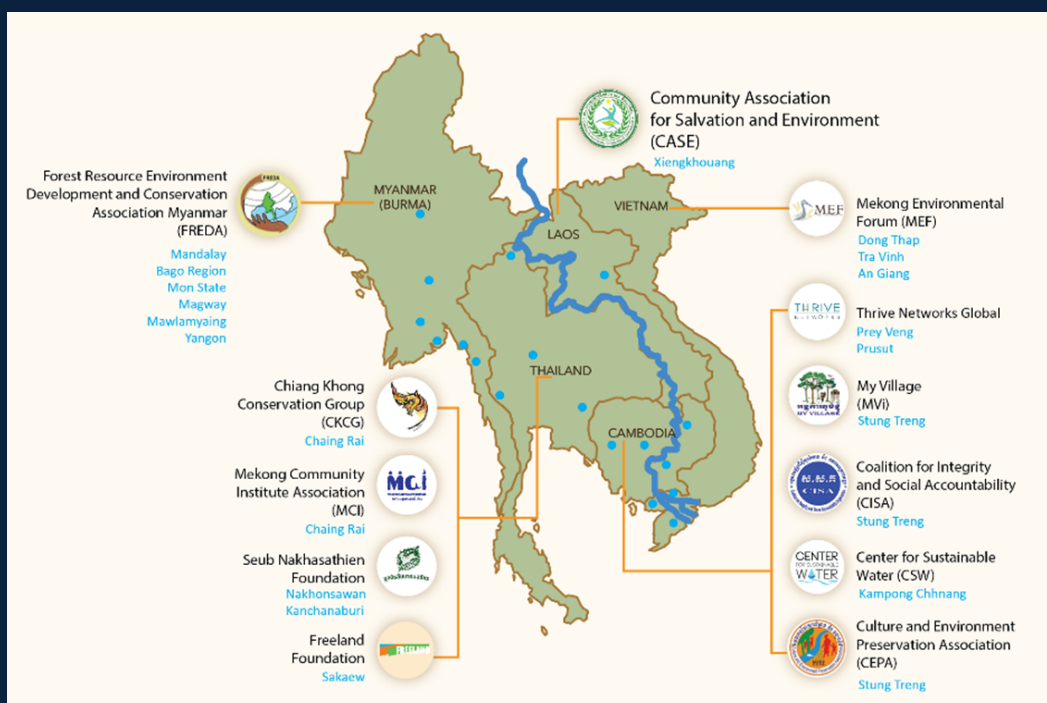
1. Analyzing water and water-related ecosystems
2. Combatting conservation crimes
3. Improving health security



HIGHLIGHTS:

- 11 Mekong policies and strategies developed in active consultation with CSOs, academia, and non-state actors
- 18 policy recommendation submissions by project trained CSOs
- 2 regional workshops for small-grant awardees
- 40% of women attended regional workshop
- 14 small grants awarded to support governance and transparency projects in the Mekong region
- 8 best practices and lessons learned documented
- 3 local and national news stories on small grant awardees' impact in the Mekong sub-region

Map of Grantees & Implementation Sites



YEAR 1: 2020-2021

12 Mekong Connections grants were issued to:

- Empower citizen scientists to collect, gather, and analyze water data
- Increase youth and community member engagement in local governance
- Develop guidelines to improve forest management practices

YEAR 2: 2021-2022

Mekong Connections awardees implemented projects through activities such as:

1. Raising awareness of youth participation in health security
2. Completing a data needs assessment and mobile app development
3. Preparing for forest awareness and community assistance activities

YEAR 3: 2022-2023

Mekong Connections awardees continued vital work in the region. For example, the Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) held a virtual meeting and 6 in-person sessions in Myanmar with civil society organizations (CSOs) on environmental conservation, watershed management, and soil erosion.